

C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - MONDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 6:30 am, depart at 6:45.

September 24 - Quail/Rainbow/Dysart/Toothaker Loop (Estrella Mtn Regional Park). Rating C. This is a 6.5 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 750 ft. The trail goes from the Nature Center and wanders through the front portion of EMRP with distant views to the north. It then goes south into more typical desert areas. Trail condition - a very good hiking trail. There are restrooms at trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.

October 1 - Granite Mountain Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Scottsdale). Rating C. This is a 7.3 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 500 ft. It passes through three different "forests" - Saguaro, Jumping Cholla, and two types of Yucca. There are excellent views of the surrounding mountains as well as numerous granite rock formations. You get nice views from the Balanced Rock formation on the second half of the hike. Balanced Rock is a gigantic granite boulder balancing on its pointy end. This is one of the most scenic trails within an hour of Pebble Creek. Trail condition - Great hiking trail. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Granite-Mt-North>

October 8 - Peralta Trail #102 (Superstition Mountains). Rating C+. This is an in and out hike of about 6 miles (add .5 to go to GC) with an elevation gain of 1,500 ft - a steep, continuous climb. But it is one of the most beautiful hikes we do - Weaver's Needle will be in front of you at the top. We also go to a lone tree with terrific close-up views of Weavers Needle. An optional addition is to hike to Geronimo's Cave, which provides great views of the valley just hiked and points East. The Peralta Road turnoff is located 8.5 miles past Apache Jct. on Hwy 60 east. The trailhead is about 9 miles north on this road - the last 8 miles of which are dirt (a car usually has no problems getting through). Restrooms are available at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approx 140 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/Peralta-Trail>

October 15 - Quartz Mine/Tortuga/Old Road/Lost Creek/Turnbuckle Loop (Skyline Regional Park). Rating C+. This is a 7 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. The trail goes through typical desert terrain and provides views of Buckeye as it works its way up to some nice viewpoints. Trail condition - average hiking trail. There are restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

October 22 - Black Canyon Trail – Copper Mountain Segment. Rating C. This is an 8 mile C in-and-out hike with elevation change of 1000 ft. This version goes up to a series of colorful rock formations with views of the surrounding area. Trail condition - a good biking trail. There are no restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 160 miles RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/BCT-Copper-Mountain-Loop>

October 29 - Verrado Deadhead Pass Loop (White Tank Mountains). Rating C. This is a 7.5 mile loop hike with about 1000 ft of elevation gain. This hike follows trails heading northwest from the trailhead. In the Spring, there is a large area of poppies towards the far end of the loop. Lots of rock formations with the chance of assorted wildflowers in the Spring. Trail condition – Good hiking trail. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.