

"B" LEVEL HIKING GROUP - FRIDAYS

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

September 29 – Second Water-Black Mesa-Dutchman Loop (Superstition Mountains). Rating B-. This is a 9.2-mile loop with an elevation change of about 1300 feet. Starting from the First Water trailhead, this hike crosses a creek several times and provides great views of rocky cliffs. During the latter part of the trail going out, there are interesting views of weaver's needle in front of you, as well scenic views of the surrounding valleys. Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 124 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/Garden-Valley-Loop>

October 6 - Black Canyon Trail - Glorianna Trailhead South (I-17 Exit 248). Rating B-. The "C" version is a 7-mile hike with an elevation gain of 1000 ft.; the "B" version will be about 20% more. This segment of the Black Canyon Trail heads south along the upper edge of Black Canyon, just north of Black Canyon City itself. It has typical desert vegetation with views up and down Black Canyon. Trail condition - a good biking trail. No park fee. No rest rooms (Sunset Point Rest Area is 4 miles further up I-17 with easy return). Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

October 13 - Joshua Tree Central (Highway 93). Rating B-. This hike is across the Tres Alamos Wilderness, an area of open desert full of Joshua Trees. The hike can go from 4 miles to 12 miles with elevation gain of 200 ft to 900 ft.; the "B" hike will be approximately 8.5 miles and 800 ft. There are more and larger Joshua Trees here than in Joshua Tree National Park. This is a true Joshua tree forest and there are several saguaros in the area; it is unusual to see both species together as they live in different deserts - Saguaros in the Sonoran desert and Joshua Trees in the Mojave Desert. Trail condition - this is mostly an open desert bushwhack hike with a few boulders to step around. No park fee. No restrooms. Driving distance is 150 miles.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Hwy93/Joshua-Tree-Central-Joshua-Tree-Forest>

October 20 - Competitive Track – Technical Loop + Grandpa. (Estrella Mountains). Rating B. This is a 10-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1200 ft. A short ½ mile detour takes you to Grandpa, the 4th largest Saguaro cactus (over 49 ft tall). It was looking sickly in early 2015. The trail wanders through typical desert terrain with many bushes and Saguaro cactus. There is a porta-john at the trailhead. Trail condition - average hiking trail. Park fee is \$6.00. Driving distance is 26 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Competitive-Loop-Long>

October 27 - Boulders BLM Trails A+LP8+LP7. (Hwy 74, MM 11.5). Rating B-. This is a 6-mile in-and-out hike on BLM land with an elevation change of 900 ft. Overall the hike goes through typical desert terrain. The highlight of the hike is the wreckage of an early 1950's Buick; the chrome is still shiny but the rest of the car has heavy rust. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 90 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Boulders-BLM-LPA-LP8-LP7>