

B LEVEL HIKING GROUP - MONDAYS

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

9/25/17: Wild Burro, Pipeline Canyon, Yavapa Point trails. (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating B. This is an 11-mile hike with an elevation gain of 1,650 ft. The Wild Burro trail goes along the lake around a small cove before rising up to the Pipeline Trailhead and then on to a floating bridge. There is a good chance to see wild burros on this trail. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$6.00. Driving distance is 80 miles.

[https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Wild-Burro-Trail-DougJ-Photos.](https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Wild-Burro-Trail-DougJ-Photos)

10/2/17: Estrella Foothills Park SR/PA/RR/GR/BJ/UT/GR/JL/SR Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating C+. This is a 7.9-mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 1030 ft. The hike starts at the parking lot of the Estrella Foothills High School and goes up to a high saddle. It then goes up and across the highest ridgeline in the area and makes a small loop around the top. This part of the trail offers outstanding views of the entire southwest valley. The hike is in typical desert terrain. Trail condition - mostly an excellent hiking trail with one section of edginess across the ridgeline. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 27 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Estrella-Foothills>

10/9/17: Goldfield Ovens Trail (Goldfield Mountains). Rating B. This is an 8.8 miles loop hike with an elevation change of 640 ft. The rating is due to the 4+ miles of sanding wash you hike through on this hike. The hike starts out next to the Salt River (which is always flowing). At ½ mile, the trail goes up a wash. .3 miles into the wash is a very large & unusual Saguaro on the right as you go left around a bend. At 1.7 miles is the trail's namesake oven - a manmade oven used for firing bricks. The hill opposite the oven offers very nice views of the surrounding area. At 4 miles, on top of a ridge, there are views of Saguaro Lake, 4 Peaks, and behind you Carefree & Cave Creek. At 5.5-miles there is a lone palm tree at a micro-oasis just before going under the road through a giant culvert. You then go back to the river for a short distance (great views) before crossing the Water Users trailhead parking lot and continuing on the trail. A 7-mile C level hike can be done by doing 2 in-and-out hikes - one from this trailhead (Blue

Point) to the oven and back and another from Water Users Trailhead (2.2 miles further down the road) going to the ridge and back. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$6.00 (Tonto pass - but free with a Senior Parks Pass). Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Oven-and-Water-Users-Trails>

10/16/17: Brown Mountain (McDowell Sonoran Preserve). Rating B. This is a 9.2-mile loop with an elevation gain of 990 ft. We combine two C level hikes (i.e. Brown Saddle and Cathedral Rock) into one B level hike. There are great views of the surrounding mountains (Weaver's Needle, Four Peaks, Tom's Thumb, etc.) as well as great rock formations along the trail. There are many different cacti species here and late spring could be very colorful after good winter rains. There is a nice restroom at the trailhead and no park fee. Driving distance is 100 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Brown-Mountain>

10/23/17: Mesquite Trail + Ford + Willow Springs Trail (White Tank Mountains). Rating B. This is an 8.7-mile round trip lollypop hike with an elevation gain of 1490 ft. The Mesquite Trail trailhead marker is at picnic unit number six. The trail goes west through a rocky section for 1.8 miles to a junction with the Willow Canyon Trail. Continue west on the Mesquite Trail for another 2.4 miles to the Ford Canyon Trail. Take the Ford Canyon Trail to the right for .9 miles to the other end of the Willow Springs Trail. About .3 mile into the Willow Springs Trail there is an old corral and a spring feed water tank - Willow Springs. This is a good place for a lunch stop. Continue on the Willow Springs Trail another 1.4 miles to the Mesquite Trail. Turn left and to back to the parking lot. Trail condition - average hiking trail, but steady uphill on Mesquite trail. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. Park fee: \$6.00 per vehicle. Driving distance is approx. 30 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Ford-Canyon-Mesquite>

10/30/17: Aspen Creek Trail (Prescott). Rating B. This is an 8 to 10 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1,000+ ft. This hike takes you through the forest in Prescott. You get views of the valley around Prescott. The highlight is the gigantic Alligator Juniper trees along the trail. Trail condition - good hiking surface. No restrooms. No park fee. Driving distance is 210 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Prescott-1/Aspen-Creek-Trail>