

C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - MONDAYS

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

September 25 - Wild Burro/Pipeline trails to floating Bridge area (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating C. This is 7 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 800 ft. The hike starts out at the Beardsley Trailhead parking area and goes north to what's left of a floating bridge. The Wild Burro trail goes along the lake around a small cove before rising up to the Pipeline Trailhead and then on to where a floating bridge was before 2017 Monsoon rains destroyed it. 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>

October 2 - Estrella Foothills Park SR/PA/RR/GR/SU/BJ/JL/SR Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating C. This is a 7 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 810 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. 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 t the trailhead. Driving distance is 27 miles RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Estrella-Foothills>

October 9 - Goldfield Ovens Trail (Goldfield Mountains). Rating C. This is a 7 mile hike with an elevation change of 900 ft. This is a double in-and-out hike. The hike starts out at the Blue Point Trailhead and goes 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. We will then return to the trailhead for our break before driving down the road about 2 miles to the second trailhead (Water Users). From this trailhead we will go up river and under the road via a giant culvert. On the far side of the culvert there is a lone palm tree at a micro-oasis. We then go up to the top of a ridge. On top there are views of Saguaro Lake, 4 Peaks, and behind you Carefree & Cave Creek. 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>

October 16 - Cathedral Rock Trail (McDowell Sonoran Preserve).

Rating C. This is a 8.4 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of about 800 ft. 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. An optional side trip is to the Balanced Rock formation to the east. There is a nice restroom at the trailhead and no park fee. Trail condition - great hiking trail. Driving distance is 100 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Cathedral-Rock>

October 23 - Willow Springs Trail/Mesquite Canyon (White Tank Mountains). Rating C+.

It is a 6.1-6.7 mile round trip hike with an elevation gain of 1100-1500 ft. The basic trail goes to the base of Willow Springs/falls with an option to go around to the top of the waterfall. The trail starts on the Mesquite trail in area #7 just off of Ramada Way. Mile one is very steep and rocky, around 1.8 miles the trail then turns north and drops into Mesquite Canyon and then over a ridge into Willow Canyon. The trail follows the wash up to Willow Springs where the remnants of a cabin, stock tank and corral once stood at the steep walled end of the canyon. The spring usually has some water, though it might be only a trickle. Trail condition - average hiking trail with a couple of steep climbs. Restrooms and water fountain are at the trailhead. Park entrance fee is \$6.00 per car. Driving distance is approx 30 miles RT. [SCG=6.6/1700/3.8].

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Mesquite-Willow-Springs>

October 30 - Aspen Creek Trail (Prescott). Rating C. This is a 7 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 900 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. [SCG=7.0/1800/4.0].

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