

C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - WEDNESDAYS

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

September 27 - Whiskey Bottle/Turpentine/Black Hill Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve). Rating C. This is an easy loop hike of 7 miles with an elevation gain of 500 ft. It goes through typical Scottsdale desert with nice views of the distant mountains. A highlight is a pair of Saguaros, one a perfect specimen and one with lots of curved arms - A Felix & Oscar pair. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 105 miles

RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Fraesfield-Trailhead-Loop>

October 4 - Watson Lake Loop Trail (Prescott). Rating C. This is a 7 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1000 ft. Part of the trail is an old railroad track that has been smoothed out for hiking and biking. The trail also goes through a cluster of large Cottonwood trees. There are great views of Watson lake dam from both sides of it and many granite rock formations. The trail goes close to the lake and then up, over, and through the Granite Dells rock formations. Trail surface - mostly on bare granite rock (trail is marked with painted white dots). Very scenic - bring your camera! Restrooms are available at the trailhead. Park fee is \$2.00 (free on Wednesdays). Driving distance is 210 miles RT - on paved road, with dirt parking off Granite Dells road.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Prescott-1/Watson-Lake-Loop>

October 11 - SOB/Skyline Crest/Quartz Mine Loop (White Tank Mountains). Rating C+. This is a 8 mile figure eight loop hike with an elevation gain of 1400 ft. The hike goes from the Lost Creek Trailhead in Verrado on the SOB trail to Lost Creek trail. It then goes up to and then along the Skyline Crest trail before looping back on Quartz Mine into Verrado. Lost of great views of Buckeye and points east. Trail condition - an average hiking trail, but steep along the Skyline Crest trail. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

October 18 - Cave Creek Trail #4 (Seven Springs Rec Area). Rating C. This is a 7 mile out and back hike, with an elevation gain of about 880 ft. At about .8 miles the trail splits: Cave Creek (#4) to the right, Skunk Tank (#246) to the left across a small creek. At 1.8 miles we encounter a gate (fence). At 1.9 miles we encounter the first creek crossing - you step across

via a number of large rocks. At 3.0 miles we encounter the second creek crossing. A quarter mile further up the trail is the second crested Saguaro cactus, just off the trail. A little further along the trail is a nice waterfall and shaded area where we will turnaround. You have to drive on a 10 mile dirt road with 2 possible creek crossings to reach the trailhead, but a 4WD is not needed. Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is no park fee for hiking. Driving distance is 140 miles RT.
[SCG=6.5/1100/3.2].<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SevenSpringsRecreationArea/Cave-Creek-Trail>

October 24-25 - Overnight Hiking Trip to Sedona - C & D levels of hikes will be available - the D hike will be adjusted (shorter) than the C version.

Day 1 - * NEW HIKE *** Loop hike of several trails in Red Rock State Park (Sedona). Rating C.** A 7 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 500-700 ft. There are numerous views of well known Sedona rock formations as well hiking through a riparian area along Oak Creek.

Day 2 - West Fork Tail #108, Oak Creek Canyon (Sedona). Rating C. A 7.0 mi. round trip with an elevation gain of about 700 ft. This easy, almost level trail extends about 3 miles upstream through the narrow canyon of West Fork, a major tributary of Oak Creek. Sheer canyon walls rising hundreds of feet, luxuriant vegetation with beautiful fall colors, and the clear stream make this an idyllic spot. The stream, which you'll be crossing many times, usually only requires a little rock hopping. The trailhead is off the back of a day use parking area on the west side of US89A midway between mileposts 384 & 385 (10 mi north of Sedona). The trail crosses Oak Creek, then a dirt trail continues past the ruins of Mayhews Lodge and into West Fork Canyon. Restrooms are at the trailhead. \$10.00 per car entrance fee (half price with Golden Age Pass). Driving distance is approx 270 miles RT.