

THURSDAY B – MARCH 2019

. Meet/depart times for March are 6:45/7:00. Out of town hikes times are 6:15/6:30. ALWAYS check the weekly emails for any changes.

March 7

La Barge Canyon Loop (Superstition Mountains). Rating B. This is a lollipop loop hike of about 11.5 miles with an elevation gain of over 1000 ft.

52 / 96

It is 11.5 miles long with a total ascent of over 1000 ft. The trail surface is a typical trail with some rocks, gravel, and sand with some streambed boulder hopping and scrambling in La Barge Canyon itself.

Follow First Water Trail for about 0.4 miles to the junction with Second Water Trail. Turn left onto Second Water Trail and follow it approximately 3.3 miles down into Boulder Canyon and the junction with Boulder Canyon Trail. Turn right on Boulder Canyon Trail and follow it for approximately 1 mile as it crosses back and forth over Boulder Creek to a cairn on the left that takes you up a faint trail to the back spine of Battleship Mountain to a saddle. Follow the trail down the other side into La Barge Box. (In warmer weather, this is a great spot to jump in the main pool and cool off). This section is a great spot to take a break and just explore part of this beautiful canyon.

After the break we then head down La Barge Creek, boulder hopping on what are initially some large boulders. As you make your way down La Barge Creek, you have an incredible view of Battleship Mountain on your left. La Barge Creek connects to Boulder Canyon and from there it is approximately 0.7 miles back to the junction with Second Water Trail. Then it is 3.3 miles back to the trailhead. Trail condition - half is on established average trail and half is a bushwhack through a rough canyon. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 124 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/La-Barge-Canyon>

March 14

Go John Trail to Maricopa Trail (Cave Creek Rec. Area). Rating C-B. This is a 6-10 mile hike with an elevation change of 500 ft. The trail is marked, and is in good condition. The trail starts out with a 400 ft climb over a ridge, before descending back down to meet the Maricopa trail. On the return from the Maricopa trail you can turn left and add a mile plus to the hike passing 3 Saguaros the look a lot like the PCHC symbol. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. There is a park entrance fee of \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 93 miles R

March 21

Caterpillar Hill Loop (Verrado). Rating C+/B. This is an 8 to 10.5 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 800-1600 feet. For the C+ version, the first 2 miles are fairly flat, rising only 100 ft. Then the hike goes up the 9% grade Caterpillar Hill (700ft) over the next 1 3/4 miles. You then come back down the 11% grade road you see from Pebble Creek. Finally, you

skirt the hill between the two trails and return on the 2 mile flat portion of the trail. For the B version, you would go to the top of the hill before coming down the 11% grade road. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

March 28

Picketpost Mountain Summit (Superior). Rating B. This is an 6 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 2000+ ft. This is an interesting hike to the top of Picketpost Mountain. There are lots of interesting views of the surrounding area. Trail condition – part is an average hiking trail and the route to the summit is a rough, poorly marked climb to the top. Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 160 miles

RT.<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Superior/Picketpost-Mtn-Arizona-Trail/Picketpost-Summit>