

D LEVEL HIKING GROUP – Tuesday

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

April 2 – Verrado/Skyline Loop (White Tank Mountains). Rating D+.

This is a 5 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 600 ft. The hike goes from the Lost Creek Trailhead in Verrado and does a loop of trails in Skyline Regional Park – Lost Creek, Quartz Mine and Tortuga trails with a section of old road with a couple of rocky sections connecting back to Lost Creek Trail. Trail condition - average hiking trail. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Skyline-Park/B-HikeLynnW2016-2017>

April 9 – Petroglyphs/South of Border (SOB) Loop (Verrado). Rating

D+. This is a 5.3 mile loop hike with elevation change of 500ft. Turn left .1 miles past the trailhead sign. Then turn right just before a rocky wash, following the road about 1.3 miles to see a large rock with petroglyphs. Just past the petroglyphs turn left and go up to the saddle. Turn right at the intersection at the saddle and follow the SOB trail for 2.8 miles. The trail will intersect the old road at this point. Turn right and go .4 miles back to the trailhead. There are nice rock formations as well a short hike through a steep sided wash. Trail condition - A very good hiking surface. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountains-Verrado/Petroglyphs>

April 16 – Black Canyon Trail – Skyline Segment (Rock Springs Trailhead - I-17 Exit 242) Rating D.

This is a 3.7 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of about 430 feet. You hike to the Agua Fria River at about the 1.5 mile point. This section has great views of the river valley as you descend down to the river. You can walk along the river in both directions. The main climb is on the way back as you ascend from the river to the top of the ridge. There is a restroom at the trailhead. Trail condition - a good biking trail with one steep section just before getting to the river. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 100 miles RT - the last .25 miles are on a gravel road. The Rock Springs Café (great pies) is .8 miles from the trailhead and you will pass it to get back on I-17.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/BCT-Skyline-Segment>

April 23 - Dog Bone Wilderness Area. Death Wish/Bird/Madd Bird/Highways & Byways Minors/Roller Coaster/ Turtle Rock Loop.

This is a 4.5 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 350 ft. This is a new hike just south of Buckeye that passes through typical undulating desert by a hill discovered this summer. This hike passes an old mine shaft that was occupied by an owl during our previous two exploratory hikes. There are some interesting rock formations. There are no facilities at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approx. 30 miles

[RT.http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Sonoran-Loop](http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Sonoran-Loop)

April 30 - Fat Man's Pass from the West (South Mountain). Rating

D+. A 4.5 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of about 600ft. It follows the National Trail starting at the Buena Vista lookout, looping at Hidden Valley through boulders and rock tunnels, and returning on National Trail. Interesting, fun hike, with a few large boulders to climb over and slide down. An optional extra half-mile hike with an elevation change of 130 ft can be added by taking a side trail to the right at marker #18. This trail goes to the top of the ridge giving hikers a 360-degree view of the surrounding area. A second optional addition is a 1 mile out and back hike (150 ft elevation change) going west from the parking lot to the China Wall, a natural rock formation that looks like a manmade wall from a distance. Trail condition - mostly an uneven surface of rock so you need to keep your eyes on the trail. Restrooms are at the park office. No park fee. Driving distance is 60 miles RT. [SCG=5.0/750/2.6].

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Fat-Mans-Pass-West>

For those interested, the Tuesday and Thursday will continue throughout the summer with a monthly summary and weekly schedule continuing.