

**C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - WEDNESDAYS**

**Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 7:15 am, depart at 7:30.**

**December 5 - \*\*\* NEW HIKE \*\*\* Dog Bone West Loop (Buckeye). Rating C.** This is a loop hike of about 7 miles with an elevation gain of 700 ft. The Dog Bone trail system is a sister bike trail system to FINS. This hike combines several trails to the east side of the Dog Bone biking area on the west side of Buckeye. While the overall hike is through typical desert terrain, there are several interesting rock formations as well as views of the surrounding mountains. Near the beginning of the hike, there are 3 Saguaros that look like old versions of our club logo – a subtle reminder that we ourselves are no longer young. Trail condition – while this is a biking area, the surface is somewhat rough in places. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 50 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Buckeye-Dog-Bone-Trails>

**December 12 - Fat Man's Pass from the West (South Mountain). Rating D+/C.** A 4.5 to 6.2 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of about 600-1080 ft. 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>

**December 19 - SOB/Skyline Crest/Lost Creek Loop (White Tank Mountains). Rating C+.** This is a 7-8 mile figure eight loop hike with an elevation gain of 1500 ft. The hike goes from the Lost Creek Trailhead in Verrado, goes on the SOB trail to Lost Creek trail. It then goes along the Skyline Crest trail before looping back on Quartz Mine into Verrado. There are Lots of great views of Buckeye and points east. Trail condition - an average hiking trail, but steep and edgy along the Skyline Crest trail. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

**December 26 - Fantasy Island North Singletrack (FINS) loop (Estrella Mountain Ranch).** Rating C+. This is a 7.5 mile double loop hike with an elevation gain of 1250 ft on several trails of the FINS bike trails system. The trails meander through several desert hills with many rock formations. There are also a couple of interesting areas - an enchanted forest of stuffed animals and a boneyard of dozens of cow bones. Trail condition - overall, this is a good biking trail. No park fee. No restrooms at the trailhead. Driving distance is 30 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRanch/Fantasy-Island-North>