

C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - WEDNESDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 6:45 am, depart at 7:00.

March 6 - Hassayampa Arch Trail (Morristown). Rating C. This is an in and out hike of 7.5 miles with an elevation gain of 800 ft. While the overall trail surface is pretty good as it follows old roads, the short by steep section up to the arch is mostly gravel and larger stones. The hike starts out by crossing the usually dry Hassayampa River. The arch is large - we can easily walk through it and there is room for many hikers to be shaded for the snack break. There are excellent views of the surrounding area and you can see as far as the White Tanks and beyond. Trail condition - mostly on old roads, with a short steep climb up to the arch. No restrooms. No park fee. Driving distance is 68 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Wickenburg/Hassayampa-Arch>

March 13 - Coachwhip/Cholla/Arrowhead Point Loop (Thunderbird Park - Glendale). Rating C. These are three summit trails ranging from 2.5 mi to 3.9 miles. We will combine 2 of them to create a hike of 5.9 miles. The three summits have elevations of 500, 500 & 350 feet respectively. All three offer 360 degree views of the surrounding areas and have different primary vegetation from each other. Elevation gains are 590, 500 & 400 feet respectively. Arrowhead Point Trail provides a view of a housing development wrapped around a series of canals (water, water everywhere). Arrowhead, Lake including this development, was built on former citrus orchards and is considered one of the Valley's most affluent neighborhoods (a 2001 survey found that the area's 85308 zip code had more millionaires, 1011, than any other in the valley). The Cholla trail includes views of some large custom homes. The Coachwhip trail provides views of another housing development and golf course. Trail condition - as of January 2018 it is mostly a rough hiking trail with lots of imbedded rocks and loose stones. There are restrooms at the trailheads. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approx 50 miles RT - on paved roads.

March 20 - Quartz Ridge Trail (Piestewa Peak Rec. Area). Rating C. This is a hike of 6.4 miles with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. It is usually an out and back hike, but can be done as a loop taking alternate paths. There are nice views of the Phoenix area and Piestewa Peak as well as a white quartz outcropping for which this trail is named. We park at the lot at the far end of Piestewa Peak Drive. Start hiking on trail # 304 which intersects Trail# 8 (located northeast of Piestewa Peak Rec. Area) length 2.45 mi each

way, elev. change: 220 ft. The trail terminates at the 40th St entrance. There are variations to this trail so the hike can be done as a loop. Loop option #1: Trail # 304 to Trail 8B, up the hill and down to the junction with Trail 8A. Make a left turn on 8A to the wash and a junction with Trail 8. Right turn on Trail 8 and continue to 40thSt entrance (3.0 miles and elevation change of 360 ft). On the way back take Trail 8 to Trail 100. Turn right on Trail 100 to trail 1A. Turn left on Trail 1A to the junction with Trail 8. After crossing Trail 8, Trail 1A becomes Trail # 304. Take Trail # 304 back to the car. Total distance of this option is 7.6 miles with an elevation gain of 1,490 ft, a total descent of 1,340 ft and elevation change of 450 ft. Trail condition – An avrage hiking trail, but steep in the first/last half mile. Restrooms and water fountain are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving Distance is approx 66 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixMountainsPreserve/Dixie-Peak>

March 27 - Beardsley/Frog Tank/Roadrunner Trails (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating C. This is 7.7 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. The hike starts out crossing a road and then travels through a Saguaro forest. Along the trail is a very tall Saguaro (30+’) with no arms. Frog Tank takes you up for some views of the lake and meets Roadrunner, which travels along the edge of the lake. There is a good chance to see wild burros on this trail. Trail condition - average hiking trail. Restrooms with water are at the trailhead as well as along Roadrunner trail. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 80 miles.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Beardsley-Trail>