

C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - WEDNESDAYS

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

September 26 - Black Canyon Trail - Bumblebee Trailhead North (I-17 Exit 248). Rating C. This is a 7.5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 800 ft. It wanders through typical desert terrain with views of an abandoned house/mine, a working cattle ranch, and distant views of Sunset Point Rest Area. Turn around point is a rock outcropping that overlooks a wide valley. No park fee. Trail condition - a good biking trail. No rest rooms (Sunset Point Rest Area is 4 miles further up I-17 with easy return). Driving distance is 120 miles RT.

October 3 - Dixie Mountain Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve).

Rating C/C+. This is a 6 or 7.6 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 1300 or 1500 ft. The main loop hike goes up and down a couple of saddles through typical desert terrain with options to go up 2 peaks along the loop. The 7.6 mile version adds another 1.5 miles and 200 ft to the loop. There are excellent views in all directions. After good spring rains this would be a great wildflower viewing hike. Trail condition - overall a good hiking trail, steep to the peaks. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 68 miles RT. [SCG=5.7/1000/2.8].

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixSonoranPreserve-1/Dixie-Mt-Loop>

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixSonoranPreserve-1/Dixie-MountainUnion-Peak-Lolli>

October 10 - Mesquite Canyon/Willow Spring trails (White Tank Mountains). Rating C+. It is a 6.3 or 8.0 mile round trip hike with an elevation gain of 1100 or 1500 ft. The basic trail goes to the base of Willow Springs/falls with an option to go around to the top of the waterfall. The trail starts on the Mesquite trail in area #7 just off of Ramada Way. Mile one is very steep and rocky, around 1.8 miles the trail then turns north and drops into Mesquite Canyon and then over a ridge into Willow Canyon. The trail follows the wash up to Willow Springs where the remnants of a cabin, stock tank and corral once stood at the steep walled end of the canyon. The spring usually has some water, though it might be only a trickle. Trail condition - average hiking trail with a couple of steep climbs. Restrooms and water fountain are at the trailhead. Park entrance fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is approx 30 miles RT. [SCG=6.6/1700/3.8].

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Mesquite-Willow-Springs>

October 16-17 - Sedona Overnight trip -

Day 1 - Doe Mountain + Fay Canyon Trails

Doe Mountain (Sedona). Rating C-. This is a 3.6 mile hike with an elevation change of 500 feet. The first .7 miles of the trail go up 500 feet via a series of switchbacks to the top of Dow Mountain. On the top, which is very flat, there is a 2.2 mile trail around the edge, with numerous trails crisscrossing the top. There are lots of good views of the surrounding area from the top. No restrooms at the trailhead. Park fee is \$5.00 (free with Golden Age Pass). Driving distance is 270 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Category/Bear-Mountain-Doe-Mountain>

Fay Canyon trail (Sedona). Rating C-. This is a 3 mile in and out hike with an elevation change of 400 ft. The hike goes past (with the option to hike up to) the Fay Canyon Arch. The arch is about 50 ft long and 15 ft high. The trail has the typical red rock beauty you expect from Sedona trails. No restrooms at the trailhead. Park fee is \$5.00 (free with Golden Age Pass). Driving distance is 270 miles RT.

Day 2 - Hogs Trails + Chicken Point + Submarine Rock (Sedona).

Rating C/B. This is a 7-8.4 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1100-1600 ft. The C version goes to Chicken Point, while the B version includes Submarine Rock. hike provides excellent views of several named rock formations. It also goes to Chicken Point and Submarine Rock. It epitomizes what hiking in the Sedona area really means. Trail condition - it is a typical Sedona trail with some hiking on bare red rock, including some edge. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee with Senior Parks Pass. Driving distance is about 230 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Category/Hogs-Trail-Chicken-Pt>

October 24 - Spring Valley Trail/Hells Canyon Wilderness (Lake Pleasant). Rating C.

A 6 mile round trip hike with 900 ft of elevation gain. From the trailhead you immediately go down the road and drop down into the huge wash. Which, in fact, is Castle Creek. Then turn back to the left passing a couple of very large cairns in the creek. It's interesting to imagine what type of thunderstorm it takes to fill this broad swath. From the right side of the parking lot, you can see the cairns and the yellow log in

podium across the wide creek bed between some bushes. If not just remember it's north of the fence by maybe a tenth of a mile, almost opposite the parking lot. The Spring Valley Trail takes off up a small rise then heads fairly flat in a west-southwestern line (slightly left). This is a well maintained trail (lots of large cairns). You will pass through a fence and get distant views of Lake Pleasant as the trail slowly curves to the right. It will make a gradual decent into a wash. The wash is our turnaround point. After our break, we will return the way we came. Trail condition – an average hiking trail. No restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance is 97 miles RT (5 miles of dirt road).

After the hike you can drive about 2 miles further down the dirt road to the Castle Hot Springs Resort (which is expected to reopen in late 2018).

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Spring-Valley-Trail>

October 31 - Hackamore Trailhead Loop (Goldfield Mountains).

Rating C/B. This is a 7-9 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 900-1300 ft. The C version goes by one arch and a second arch is seen above the snack break area. The B version goes by Cottonwood Spring (usually wet), then goes up to and past the second arch. There are views of lots of golden mountains on this hike. No restrooms. No park fee. Driving distance is 120 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Hackamore-Trailhead>