

B LEVEL HIKING GROUP - FRIDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 7:00 am, depart at 7:15. Early hikes will meet/depart at 6:00/6:15.

February 2 - Hawknest/Divide/High Desert/Renegade/Soapberry/Desperado/Coyote Canyon/Dove/Barb/136th Express (McDowell Sonoran Preserve) Rating B-. This is an 8-mile hike with an elevation gain of 500+ ft. The highlights of this hike include a double Crested Saguaro, Michelin Man II Saguaro, impressive rock formations, and distant views of Four Peaks, the Superstitions and other mountains. Trail condition - a very good hiking trail. No restrooms at the trailhead. No parking fee. Driving distance is 130 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Northwest-Loop-Trails>

February 9 - Mesquite Trail/Ford Canyon/Willow Springs Loop (White Tank Mountains). Rating B. This is an 9.7-mile lollipop hike with an elevation gain of 1600 ft. Depending on who shows up, we may do this one in reverse of this description as it is slightly easier in that direction. The Mesquite Trail trailhead is at picnic area number seven. The trail goes west through a rocky section for 1.8 miles to a junction with the Willow Canyon Trail. Continue west on the Mesquite Trail for another 2.4 miles to the Ford Canyon Trail. Take the Ford Canyon Trail to the right for .9 miles to the other end of the Willow Springs Trail. About .3 mile into the Willow Springs Trail there is an old corral and a spring feed water tank – Willow Springs. This is a good place for a lunch stop. Continue on the Willow Springs Trail another 1.4 miles to the Mesquite Trail. Turn left to go back to the parking lot. Trail condition - average hiking trail, but steady uphill on Mesquite trail. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. Park fee: \$6.00 per vehicle. Driving distance is approximately 30 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Ford-Canyon-Mesquite>

February 16 - Pipeline Canyon + Yavapai Point Trails (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating B-. This is a 6.8-mile hike in Lake Pleasant Regional Park with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. The hike uses a floating bridge that crosses part of the lake. There are excellent views of the lake from the top of Yavapai Point. It's a good spring wildflower hike if we get any winter rains. Watch for burros since there are many in the area. Trail Condition – Overall an average hiking trail, but somewhat steep to the

highpoint. Restrooms are at the trailhead and at the snack break point. There is a park fee of \$6.00. Driving distance is 80 miles RT. [SCG=4.0/800/2.3].

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Pipeline-Yavapai-Cottonwood>

February 23 - Ben Avery Trail (Eagletail Mountains). Rating B. This is a 10.7-mile hike with an elevation gain of 1150 ft. There are views of Courthouse Rock for most of the hike. This is a variation of the "C" hike and includes a visit to an unusual double arch rock formation and Indian Spring (likely dry) near an extensive collection of Native American petroglyphs. The trail itself is fairly easy hiking and, optionally, you can continue through a high walled canyon for another 1.5 miles. Along this canyon is a series of volcanic lava flows, many of which have melted quartz rock imbedded in them. Trail condition - good hiking trail. There are no facilities at the trailhead and no park fee. Driving distance is 130 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EagletailMountainsWildernessAr/Ben-Avery-Trail-Courthouse>