

C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - MONDAYS

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 5 - Black Canyon Trail - Table Mesa Loop (Table Top Mesa Trailhead I-17 Exit 236) Rating C. This is an 8 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of about 700 ft. It covers two segments of the Black Canyon Trail – the Table Top Mesa and Little Pan segments. The hike goes to the Agua Fria river and makes a loop along a mesa above the river. Trail condition - a good biking trail with a little edginess in the loop section. There are great views of the river from above. It goes through typical rolling desert terrain with distant views of Lake Pleasant. No rest rooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 90 miles RT.
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/Table-Mesa-Loop>

February 12 - Sidewinder/Apache Wash/Ocotillo/Ridgeback/Sidewinder/Apache Wash Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve - North). Rating C. This is an 8 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1000 ft. The loop combines several trails and goes up to the top of 2 peaks. There are expansive views of the north side of Phoenix, Anthem, and Cave Creek. The hike goes through rolling desert terrain and a couple of washes. Trail condition - this is a very good hiking trail. There are restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 64 miles RT.

February 19 - Praying Hands Trail (Superstitions). Rating C. This is a 7 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of 1000 feet. You start on Jacob's Crosscut trail for one mile, passing through typical desert terrain with lots of Saguaros and Jumping Cholla. Then turn left (uphill) on trail 56. Up the hill past a rock cropping is a bench at the junction with a trail going left. This is the Praying hands trail and will pass to the right of the lower rock outcropping known as Praying Hands. There are several winding trails that get you up to the saddle – so take any of them that head toward Praying Hands. There are great views of the valley and various rock formations as you travel along the trail. Around the 3 mile point you will come to another saddle with to a rock formation on the right that looks like a baby. This is our turnaround point. Trail condition: part is an average

hiking trail, but there is a long uphill section getting to the high point. There are no restrooms (though you can go 1.5 miles further up the road to the 1st Water trailhead which has restrooms and then return to the trailhead). No park fee from this trailhead. Driving distance is 122 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/Jacobs-Crosscut-Tr-to-Praying>

February 26 - Dinosaur Wash/Box Canyon (Wickenburg), Rating C.

This is a 6 mile hike with an elevation gain of about 400 feet. This is actually three short in and out hikes in a 3 bladed fan shape. At least 2 miles of it is on soft sand along the Hassayampa river and in Dinosaur Wash so don't be deceived by the lack of elevation change. This is a very scenic hike, quite different than most desert hikes because of the canyons and possible water. This is an area where the river is above ground, but it's not very deep except after a rain. There are several slot canyons along Dinosaur Wash and two areas called narrows along the river. The box in Box Canyon is a short canyon, somewhat hidden behind a stand of large Salt Cedar trees. We'll approach it from both above and below the falls area. Trail Condition - one section is in a rough slot canyon; the rest is in washes, some loose sand and some not very loose. And there might be some river crossings (like small creeks). There are no restrooms at the trailhead, but we usually stop at the McDonalds in Wickenburg on our way to the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 105 miles RT (7 miles of dirt each way).

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Wickenburg/Dinosaur-WashBox-Canyon>