

C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - MONDAYS

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

January 1 - Windgate Pass/Gateway trails McDowell Sonoran Preserve (Scottsdale). Rating C+. This is a 7+ mile hike with an elevation gain of 1300 ft. The hike goes to Inspiration Viewpoint, which gives nice views of the desert valley, Tom Thumb Peak and Scottsdale. The hike starts at the Gateway trailhead area and passes through a typical Saguaro forest. This part of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve has many crested barrel cacti. Trail condition - trail surface is typical desert but it is basically a steady uphill hike to the viewpoint or saddle. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 88 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Windgate-Pass>

January 8 - Big Horn Mountain Wash (Big Horn Mountain Wilderness). Rating C. This is an 7-8 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of about 800 feet. While there are no formal trails in the area, the brush is scattered so hiking is easy until you start going up the mountainside. You head towards a finger of rock and then turn left up a wash when you see Sugarloaf Mountain on the left. Shortly after turning left up the wash, look back to your right to see the Moon Arch, a nice round arch on a ridge. You can get to the arch by going up the ridge at the beginning of the wash, though you can't see the arch from this position. On the return, you simply head towards Big Horn Mountain. There are lots of interesting rock formations along the wash including a 10 foot dry waterfall made of red rock. You can either climb up it or go around. From the ridgeline, you have great views of the surrounding region. No rest rooms and no park fee. Driving distance is 93 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BigHornMountainWilderness/Arch-Wash-Ridge>

January 15 - Dreamy Draw 6 Peaks (Phoenix Mountain Preserve). Rating C+. This is a loop hike of 6-7 mi. with an elevation change of 1100 ft. We start out on #220 and then go on an unnumbered trail up a series of little peaks along the North side of the park, providing views of many of the Valley's mountains. Once we come down the far side we proceed to the Cholla Lane trailhead where we will take our break (there

are restrooms & water at this trailhead). We will then return via trail #100, switching to trail 1A for the final 2 miles. Trail Condition – Average hiking trail, somewhat steep going up the 6 peaks. Restrooms & water are at the Dreamy Draw trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 55 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixMountainsPreserve/Dreamy-Draw>

January 22 - Palo Verde Trail (Bartlett Reservoir). Rating C+. This is a 7.5 mile out and back hike. It has little elevation change, but an elevation gain of about 1500 ft. The trail is loose, decomposed granite. Consequently, please wear proper hiking footwear. This is a lovely hike with continuous water views. The Bartlett Reservoir is part of the Verde River between New River and Mazatzal Mountains. It is visible the entire hike.

Trail condition – mostly granular granite and sandy beach. Restrooms are at the Rattlesnake trailhead. There is a \$6.00 park fee (1/2 price with Golden Age Passport - get passes at ranger station on Bartlett Reservoir road). Driving distance is approx 136 miles

RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BartlettReservoir/Palo-Verde-Trail>

January 29 - Verrado/South of the Border figure-eight Loop (White Tank Mountains). Rating C. This is a 7-mile figure eight loop hike with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. The hike goes from the Lost Creek Trailhead in Verrado and turns on the SOB trail to Lost Creek trail. It then goes along the Quartz Mine trail before looping back on an old road into Verrado. It then crosses over the Lost Creek trail to finish the SOB trail before returning to the trailhead. Lots of great views of Buckeye and points east. Trail condition - an average hiking trail. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.