

**C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - MONDAYS**

**Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 7:00 am, depart at 7:15.**

**February 4 - Eagletail Mountains Arches Loop (Eagletail Mountains).**

**Rating C+.** This is a 7.2 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1100 ft. The highlight of this hike is the 6+ arches you can see along the way. But there are also many great rock formations to see. Trail Condition - only the last mile or so of the hike is on a trail - it is mostly open desert crossing many washes; the main wash you ascend is boulder hopping or loose rocky soil. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 130 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EagletailMountainsWildernessAr/Eagletail-Mountains-Arches>

**February 11 - Caterpillar Hill Trail (Verrado). Rating C-B.** This out and back hike has 3 options – something for every level of hiker: 1) a nice 4 mile hike (D level) with little elevation change (100 ft) that goes to the bottom of Caterpillar Hill. 2) a nice 7.5 mile hike (C+) up the first part of Caterpillar Hill (elevation gain is 900 ft), or 3) a challenging 9+ mile hike (solid B) all the way to the top of Caterpillar Hill (elevation gain is about 1800 ft). The first 2 miles are fairly flat, rising only 100 ft. Then the hike goes up the 9% grade Caterpillar Hill (700ft) over the next 1 3/4 miles. Finally, it goes up the chute you can see from I-10 to the top (800ft in 3/4 mile). The white trail you see from Pebble Creek is a second 11% grade caterpillar trail. This hike crosses the top part of that trail. Trail condition - the flat part (first 2 miles) is a good trail, while Caterpillar Hill itself is very steep with no switchbacks. No facilities at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 18 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountains-Verrado/Caterpillar-Hill>

**February 18 - Goldmine + Dynamite + San Tan + Moonlight Loop (San Tan Park). Rating C.** This is a 8 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1100 ft. The hike goes up over Goldmine Mountain and loops back through another saddle. It goes through a large Saguaro forest before going over another saddle with expansive views of the east valley all the way to the Superstition Mountains. There are restrooms and a visitor center at the trailhead. Trail condition - good hiking trail with one steep uphill & downhill section. Park Fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 135 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SanTanMountainRegionalPark/San-Tan-Goldmine-Dynamite>

**February 25 - Walking Jim Trail (Hells Canyon Wilderness). Rating**

**C.** An 8 mile hike with an elevation gain of 900 ft. The trail parallels a mostly dry creek and offers a wide variety of vegetation (from cottonwood trees to Saguaro cactus) and wildlife (wild burros, etc). There are also some interesting red rock/green lichen covered rock formations along the trail. Trail condition - pretty good wilderness trail. No restrooms. No park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Walking-Jim>