



**Saturday
March 04, 2017**

Hackberry Springs, Superstitions Wilderness

Approximately 45 Miles and 1.5 Hours from Central Phoenix "stack".

Type: DH	Max Rating/Points: 2 / 1	Elev. Change: 150	Length: 6.5 miles
Start Time: 8:30	Duration: 4-5 hrs	Max No. of Part: 16	Last Scouted: 02-2013

Check all that apply
(give details in Desc.)

Contact Information

	Coordinator	Alternate
Major Hike: <input type="checkbox"/>	Name: Tom Isham	
Cross-country: <input type="checkbox"/>	Work Ph	
Exploratory: <input type="checkbox"/>	Station	
Individual Effort: <input type="checkbox"/>	Home Ph: 602-943-6104	
Options: <input type="checkbox"/>	Email: t_hiker@cox.net	
Pass/Fees Rqd: <input type="checkbox"/>		

Required Equipment: 2 quarts water and/or Gatorade; sturdy hiking boots; hat; snacks/lunch

Recommended Equipment: trekking poles; sunscreen; rain gear (if in the weather forecast); camera

Cautions and Special Preparations: n/a

Description: Moderate difficulty. Mostly well marked and easy to follow, but along unmaintained route with some rough sections. Begin at First Water Trailhead and head east. After about a quarter-mile, bear left on the Second Water Trail. A few minutes into the hike you'll come to a junction with the Dutchman Trail. Bear left and proceed 1.5 miles more on the Second Water Trail to Garden Valley, a flat open area thick with Cholla. Continue on the Second Water Trail about 35 yards past the well-signed junction to the Black Mesa Trail, then take the unsigned secondary trail northwest about half a mile. The landscape near the hills is spectacular, with dramatic vistas and weirdly eroded lichen spattered outcroppings everywhere. The trail continues beyond the hills, taking you down thru a large ravine as it meanders northwest. Soon you'll come to a small saddle and another unmarked trail, which leads southwest about 1.25 mi. to the road you drove in on (but @ 0.4 mile west of the First Water Trailhead). Instead, continue northwest, then west, around the hill and down to First Water Creek where you'll find a tangle of cottonwoods, scrub oak, tamarisk, mesquite and hackberry trees. As the trail bends south, more or less following the creek bed, look for Hackberry Spring at the base of the cliff on the east –just a small niche in the rock wall with a section of pipe coming out. Farther south, the trail passes thru a short section where high sloping cliffs tower close over both sides of the creek. For a little extra adventure and some basic route-finding experience, we can follow the creek bed south from Hackberry Spring about a mile to the Second Water Trail. Then go west back to the trailhead. The creek bed splits about a quarter-mile south of the spring, but both branches eventually cross the Second Water Trail. The creek bed can be a bit brushy in places. A topographic map of the trail can be seen below. <http://www.kactuskickers.org/KKMaps/FirstWaterHackberry.JPG>

Driving Directions: From Phoenix, take U.S. 60 east. Turn north on Idaho Road (Exit 196) and go 2.2 miles to the Apache Trail (Arizona 88). Turn northeast and drive about five miles. Just past Lost Dutchman State Park, between mile markers 201 & 202, turn east on Forest Road 78 (First Water Rd). About two miles in is a horse-trailer parking area; the main parking area and trailhead are a half-mile more to the east. Facilities: restrooms