



**Saturday  
June 3-4, 2017**

## Mount Baldy Car Camp and Day Hike

Approximately 225 Miles and 5 Hours from Central Phoenix "stack".

Type: See Desc.	Max Rating/Points: 4 / 1	Elev. Change: 2200 ft	Length: Up to 14 miles
Start Time: 8am	Duration: 7-9 hrs	Max No. of Part: N/A	Last Scouted: June 2015

Check all that apply  
(give details in Desc.)

- Major Hike:
- Cross-country:
- Exploratory:
- Individual Effort:
- Options :
- Pass/Fees Rqd:

### Contact Information

Coordinator		Alternate
Name	Tom Isham	
Work Ph		
Station		
Home Ph	602-943-6104	
Email	t_hiker@cox.net	tsishams@cox.net

**Required Equipment:** Lunch, trail snacks, enough water for entire day, sturdy boots, hiking poles, camera, layered clothing, moleskin and hat. The upper portion of the trail may have some snow, so waterproof boots are recommended. Rain gear.

**Recommended Equipment for the car camp:** Whatever you want to sleep in. Will try and have a barbeque if anyone wants to on Saturday and Sunday. Should be great weather as this is usually before the monsoon but could be warm.

**Cautions and Special Preparations:** Should be able to go up Piestewa Peak without any difficulties. This is a hike at elevation so take that into consideration.

**Description:** This hike was a perennial Club favorite in the 1970's and 1980's and I have been leading it now for about 4 years. You don't have to hike to enjoy this event. Just come on up and enjoy the scenery. This area of the White Mountains is one of my favorite areas in all of Arizona. Mount Baldy is the second highest peak in Arizona. Because the peak is on the Apache reservation and is held to be sacred by the tribe, hiking to the peak is prohibited. However, several saddles and minor prominences with spectacular views of hundreds of miles are available on the way up. The hike leader will drive up and car camp at the Rainbow Campground near Big Lake early on Friday. The roads are paved in and to the campground and the bathrooms have running water. Several campgrounds are located near Big Lake. See link below for a website for the area's campgrounds and things to do. Firewood is available. Drinking water will be available at the campgrounds. Shower facilities exist at several of the campgrounds. The camping fees vary per campground. The payment is either in cash or a check. A campground host is on site. Popular activities include hiking and trout fishing. Drinking water will be available at the campground. Reservations are available for an additional fee at <http://www.camparizona.com/campsites/whitemtnscampsites/Rainbow.htm>. I don't plan on making reservations. **The hike will be on Sunday.** We will meet at 7:30 AM at the entrance to the campground and carpool to the trailhead. We can leave earlier if everyone wants to. We will be hiking East Baldy Trail #95. No bathroom at the trailhead. Better chance of seeing critters that way and it will be cooler. Hikers have the option of turning around at any point. Fallen trees near the top may limit how far we go up. Just hiking a mile or two is very enjoyable. Along the way we will experience some of the best vistas that the White Mountains have to offer. We will return the same way. Much literature about this hike and area is available on the internet. It is truly magnificent. The leader plans on staying until Tuesday. There are just a few signs of the big fire in this area. This hike is at altitude for sure. If you get a chance, look at the pictures from the last several years' hikes.

**Driving Directions:** From central Phoenix, there are 2 ways to get to Show Low and are about the same driving time. Either through Payson or through Globe. From Show Low, follow SR 260 through Pinetop and Lakeside for about 35 miles to its junction with SR 273. This is the turnoff to Sunrise Ski Resort. Turn right and drive about 17 miles to the Big Lake turnoff to the right. You will be driving past the West Baldy Trail #94 trailhead. Rainbow Campground is the first campground on the left about a mile up the paved road. The campground is marked and is off a little ways into the woods. Paving from the junction all the way to Big Lake is complete. Texting is available at Big Lake but cell phone coverage is spotty at best. If there are questions, call and leave a message or send a text and I will try and return your phone calls or texts during the day sometime. I will be fishing a lot of the time out at the lake.