Pictures of some local Arizona hikes – Elly

Since moving to Arizona in 1995, I have been hiking the Grand Canyon, Havasupai Canyon and other wonders but the Superstitions, Goldfields, and other lesser known areas are awesome too. Below are some pictures of these local hikes, mainly from after digital cameras became mainstream. I have organized them by region.

Superstition Mountain Wilderness

The Superstitions are a range of mountains in the East Valley which, together with areas to its North and East were made into a wilderness area in 1939. It is the area of a number of battles and of goldmining. The ‘Dutchman’ Jacob Waltz is said to have found a fortune in gold and many trail names remind us of the history: Jacob’s Crosscut, The Dutchman’s Trail, and Massacre Grounds. One can get to the top of the Superstition in a number of ways, of which I have only used the Siphon Draw access.

Jacob’s Crosscut Trail is a very close, safe, and convenient hike along the base of the Superstition Mountain. It is part of the Lost Dutchman State Park.
Whiskey Spring loop. I started this loop as an ‘end-of-semester’ trek for ASU students in the 1990s but it became too long for many. The hike starts at the Peralta Dutchman Trail and goes around Miner’s Needle to come back via Bluff Springs trail. The below are from 2010.

The Carney Springs Trail starts off the road to the Peralta Trailhead and then ascends the mountain. The below pictures are from 2009.
Hackberry Springs is a hike I may have done over 100 times by now. It is attractive because of its very varied desert landscape. `Garden Valley' is notorious for keeping the water: see pictures from different trips between 2009 and 2016.
Massacre Grounds is no longer as accessible from the road to the First Water TH and it was always a frustrating hike in terms of getting lost. Its name is interesting. In the 1850s there was a battle between the Apaches and the Peralta family who were trying to get gold out of the area. The miners are supposed to have died here and Jacob Waltz is said to have found the gold.

Boulder Canyon

The first time I hiked from the First Water Trailhead, via Hackberry, to Boulder Canyon was with the Sierra Club. I have done it a number of times that direction but have trouble finding my way the other way round. The below pictures are from 2012, with Louise and friends.
Black Cross Butte is a trail off the Apache Trail and quite remote. There are frequent mountain goat sightings but I haven’t seen them.

Reavis Ranch area. Elisha Reavis grew vegetables on his ranch and died in 1896 while bringing his goods to the marked. He was said to have been murdered for his land. This is again off Route 88, the Apache Trail, and the pictures are from 2012, from a hike with Johanna. The view are 360 degrees and give an indication of the vastness of the area.
Tule Canyon, 2010. There are a number of great hikes around the Roosevelt Lake. This is still in the Superstition Wilderness area.

Willow Springs area. This is an area without marked trails, impressive rock, and interesting washes. The below are from 2009, of a hike with Daniele and Georges, and with Louise in the same year.
Look well!

Enlarged: Gila Monster

Ballantine Trail 2012, with Louise. The trail can be found off the AZ 87 to Payson and is not in a wilderness area but part of the Tonto National Forest.
The Mazatzal Mountains

Barnhardt Trail, 2011 and 2014. This trail gets one into the Mazatzal Wilderness and is beautiful in the variety of views. The road to it is usually fine for a low-clearance vehicle except once after a rain when trucks had really made a mess of it. The trailhead is well-marked on the west side of the AZ 87.
**Deer Creek.** A trail with lots of creek-hopping heading West towards the Mazatzals and again starting off the AZ 87.

**Hell’s Gate Wilderness.** This wilderness was established in 1984 and is at the south edge of the Mogollon Rim. This is an area with black bear possibilities.
Salome Wilderness. I have been here in the summer for waterholes that were really cold. There are also a lot of hiking possibilities in the summer.
**Pinal Mountains**, with Amy and Theresa

**White Canyon**, 2011. This is off AZ 177 in a mining area. Lots of people living in remote trailers/campsites as well.
Other hikes can be found:

The Vineyard Trail starts around the Roosevelt bridge (http://www.public.asu.edu/~gelderen/VineyardTrail.pdf); the Butcher Jones hike off the Bush Highway (http://www.public.asu.edu/~gelderen/ButcherJonesTrail.pdf), and a description of the Apache Trail is in the first part of http://www.public.asu.edu/~gelderen/May%202015%20trips.pdf.