

NVSC Hike Report  
Arroyo Tinajas - Gonzales Mine - Socorro  
Thursday, 02/20/20

**Rating** C  
**Hike Miles** 6.6  
**Elevation Gain** 280  
**Hike Time** 4:30

**Report** Eight hikers left the North Valley Senior Center (NVSC) at 8:20 AM with excellent weather conditions for hiking and the Quebradas as our destination. We encountered a bit of a problem in reaching the trail head due to an error in the hike notes Trailhead Directions. The hike maintainer will correct this error in the hike notes to avoid future problems. After a driving an additional 15 miles, we arrived at the trailhead at 11:00 AM, discussed the specifics of the hike, and started the hike. The hike that our group completed was an In/Out hike to/from the Gonzales Mine (as described in the hike Comments).

The hike to the Gonzales Mine was relatively uneventful with short stops along the way to enjoy the scenery, drink some water, and admire the rocks with white spots created by iron-consuming microbes (see Paul's photos). Once that we reached the mine (about 1:15 PM) we took a quick look at the two mine shafts at the Gonzales mine, ate lunch, then went into the left mine shaft to admire the blue-green crystal outcroppings. The right shaft at the mine was filled with water; so, it wasn't possible to go into this mine shaft.

There were several falls on the way back to the van due to the uneven rocks in the dry arroyo, but otherwise the hike back to the van was uneventful.

We stopped at the Lemitar travel center on the way back to Albuquerque to pick up some refreshments then headed back to NVSC. We called NVSC to let them know that we probably wouldn't be back before their closing time and that we would drop of the keys and the InReach on Friday morning. Due to our late return from the trailhead and traffic in Albuquerque, we didn't get to NVSC until 5:25 PM.

We all appreciated the great van driving by Sky, Paul for taking pictures, and Judy for volunteering to be our sweep.

**Hike Leader** John Cooper

**Photo Album 1** [Pauls's photos](#)

**Photo Album 2** [John's photos](#)