JOCKEY CAP HIKE

Turn right from our parking lot and drive on Rt. 302 east straight through Fryeburg’s one traffic light one mile from here. Drive about ¾ mile further and on the left look for an unusual rocky landmark called Jockey Cap. Turn in at the Jockey Cap Store and Motel. Park in the motel parking lot near the far end and to the right. Walk under the white archway titled “Jockey Cap Trail.” A short but steep 15 minute hike to the top of this landmark will reward you with a 360 degree view; more than 30 peaks can be seen!

Pleasant Mountain Denmark Side

Turn right from our parking lot onto Route 302 east toward Bridgton. At the traffic light in Fryeburg turn right onto 113 S south. In about 7 miles turn left onto Route 160 toward Denmark. Turn left onto the second road on the left, Lords Hill Road. Follow to the intersection of Rocky Knoll Road and turn left. Rocky Knoll will turn to dirt. The road will fork. Stay to the right. Rocky Knoll will intersect Denmark Road. Turn right. Go about 1 mile and on the right is a sign for Spike Ridge Road. Parking area and trail head are on the left. Hike will take about 2 hours.

PLEASANT MOUNTAIN LEDGES HIKE

Follow Route 302 east towards Bridgton. Look for the Shawnee Peak Ski Area “1 mile ahead” sign on the right. Turn right on Mountain Road and drive past the main lodge of Shawnee Peak. Continue on past the East Side Lodge and chairlift. At about 3 miles, look for the signs on the right for Ledges Trail. You can park along the road on the left. There is a new kiosk with trail information just as you enter the trail. This trail traverses up the mountain and offers good views to Moose Pond on the way up. There are 2 or 3 sets of ledges along the 1.8 mile hike before reaching the summit with the fire warden’s tower.

PLEASANT MOUNTAIN VIA BALD PEAK TRAIL

Off Rt. 302 near Moose Pond turn south on the Mountain Road. Travel 1.8 miles on the Mountain Road and watch for the trailhead on the right. This fairly difficult hike is 1.1 miles and halfway up the trail you can follow a short side trail on the left to the edge of the Needle’s Eye. A small brook noiselessly tumbles through a narrow cleft. An alternative return trail is to hike the ridgeline north over toward the top of the Shawnee Peak ski trails and loop down via Sue’s Way. This will provide open views north to the mountains in Evans Notch.
HEMLOCK BRIDGE

Turn right from our parking lot and drive through the traffic light in Fryeburg (1 mile). Bear left across from Fryeburg Academy onto Rt. 5 North. Cross the Saco River once at a 5 mile point from here. Approximately 3 miles further turn right onto Frog Alley (just before another bridge). Follow the road for about 1 mile to Hemlock Covered Bridge which was built in 1857 and comprises a 109 foot Paddleford type truss strengthened with laminated wooden arches. The clearance on the bridge is 11 ft. at the center and 8 ft. 5 in on the sides. There are a few parking spots on either side of the bridge. Continuing across the bridge and further will bring you to Rt. 302. A right turn brings you back to Fryeburg and a left turn will take you to Bridgton.

SABATTUS MOUNTAIN
(1253 ft./382m)

Turn right from our parking lot and go through the traffic light in Fryeburg. Bear left onto Route 5 north and drive through Lovell village to Center Lovell (approx. 14 miles from here). Just past the Center Lovell Inn on the right, turn right onto Sabattus Road. Drive this road until it forks and take the right fork. At .6 miles you will find a parking lot on the right. The trail starts from the parking area and leads to an old fire tower site near the open summit ledges. The summit is .8 mile (1.3km) and takes 35-40 minutes to climb.

RT. 113 NORTH THROUGH EVANS NOTCH IN MAINE’S WHITE MOUNTAIN NAT’L FOREST

Turn right from our parking lot and drive toward Fryeburg on Rt. 302. At ¾ mile between the park and the post office turn left onto Rt. 113 north (also River St. for 1 mi.). Turn right at the “T” to follow Rt. 113 N. and right again at Webster’s Store still following Rt. 113 N. About 12 miles from here you will pass the now closed Stowe Corner Store on the left. Several miles further you will see the Appalachian Mountain Club Cold River Camp on the right. Just beyond that is the AMC parking lot, the site of several trailheads (no parking fee here). Soon afterward you will enter Maine’s section of the White Mountain Nat’l Forest called Evans Notch. Watch on your left for a sign, “Basin CG” (campground); drive on that road for ½ – ¾ mi. and find the campground as well as a gorgeous picnic spot overlooking Basin Pond; also find the access to the Basin Rim trail. Heading back north on Rt. 113 will bring you to the Brickett Place, an old brick homestead on the right. Stop there to see the homestead and for hiking information (at selected days and hours) and for parking for the trailheads there. You must pay the WMNF parking fee if you hike anywhere in WMNF land but only one fee per day includes any of the sites. More trailheads and campgrounds can be accessed further north on Rt. 113 which will eventually bring you to Rt. 2 in Gilead, Maine. Turn right to travel on Rt. 2 east into the Bethel area or left to drive on Rt. 2 west to Gorham, N.H.
Get out and experience the natural beauty of our Lakes Region on foot. There are hikes for all ages and abilities. Here are a few to get you started:

Douglas Mountain (2.3 miles): Douglas Mountain in Sebago gives you some aerobic activity and very rewarding views at the top. The path starts under tall pines, with the scent of their fallen needles crushed underfoot. It then winds over gravel rocks and boulders, passing stands of spring wildflowers until you reach the bald granite outcropping at the top.

Spread out before you is your reward: the peaks of the White Mountains to the west and the distant, sparkling waters of Sebago Lake to the east. There is even a stone tower with an observation platform where you'll find a map telling you what you're looking at.

The Nature Conservancy maintains a three-quarter mile nature trail at the summit, with identifying labels for plants and trees. To get to Douglas Mountain, take Rt. 11 & 114 south from the center of Naples. Drive about 8 miles then turn right onto Long Hill Road, right onto Rt. 107 North, and left onto Douglas Hill Road. There is limited parking at the end of the road by the trailhead.

Sawyer Mountain Highlands: 1,400 acres of land owned by the Francis Small Heritage Trust in Limington is open for hiking, hunting, and snowmobiling on existing trails, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding. The best access to the trailhead is at a sharp turn on Rt. 117, 2.5 miles south of the junction of Rts. 25 and 117, or 2.4 miles north of the junction of Rts. 11 and 117 in Limington.

The Trust has provided a small parking area. Hiking maps are available in a map box there. The mountain is also accessible from the dam site, starting at the Sawyer Mountain Road, 1.1 miles north of Smitty's Corner. Hikers can alternately use a flagged trail through the woods which starts at the back of the small parking area and joins the road further up the mountain.

Libby Hill Forest: Over 6 miles of recreational trails in Gray are managed by the town's Recreation Dept. The trails begin on the other side of the chain link fence that surrounds the Middle and High School athletic fields.

Walk around the driveway in back of the Middle School to the trailhead welcome kiosk where you'll find maps. From Gray Village, take Rt. 26 north 1.4 miles or take the new bypass (206) off Rt. 115.

Turn left onto Libby Hill Road and follow until the paved road ends at Gray-New Gloucester Middle School. Park in the gravel lot at right. Do not continue up gravel road and don't use the ATV trail at the left corner of the parking lot.

Rattlesnake Mountain: This is an easy half mile hike from the parking lot to the best view that looks over Pamber Pond toward Raymond. This short walk with rewarding views is a good hike for small children. Trail bears left where there appears to be a choice (right is a logging road).

The trail begins on the left side of Rt. 51 heading north of Raymond (Hi-Mar Trail). Parking lot is under two miles from Crescent Lake boat launch.

Mountain Division Trail: Relatively flat, wooded 3.7 mile walk connecting Windham, Gorham & Standish. Trail is open for hiking, biking, horseback, fishing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Dogs are allowed on leash. Quarter-mile markers help you judge distance as this is not a loop trail, but rather a straight out and back.

Standish trailhead is on Rt. 35 between Rts. 237 & 114 at Johnson Field. The Windham trailhead is on Gambo Road, a left turn off River Road. Access road to parking lot is 0.4 mi. down Gambo.
Stevens Brook Trail Map

Legend
- P: Public Parking
- Solid Lines: Roads
- Yellow Lines with Dots: Stevens Brook Trail
- Gray Area: Rivers and Lakes

Trail Description
Total trail length: 2.4 miles

A to B: 0.25 miles, Easy, flat terrain
Start at Shorey Park. Follow trail through field to Bacon St. Turn left on Bacon St. and follow approximately 300 feet. Turn right at stop sign and look for trail entrance on right. Follow raised berms to Main St. intersection.

B to C: 0.25 miles, Easy, flat terrain, 600 ft. boardwalk
Start at the Tannery Bridge on Main St. Follow trail adjacent to Stevens Brook to boardwalk section behind DownEast Industries. Caution: This trail section floods in high water.

C to D: 0.5 miles, Easy, flat terrain
Start at W. Depot St. Bridge and follow trail through town park. Cross E. Depot St. Bridge and descend stairs to river. Follow trail along shoreline to stone steps. Ascend steps and follow Depot St. to Main St. Stay on sidewalk, walk south on Route 302 to the crosswalk at gas station.

D to E: 0.6 miles, Moderate, rolling terrain
Follow wide trail behind gas station approximately 300 feet, turn sharp left and descend stone steps. Stevens Brook Trail rejoins wide trail before intersecting Smith Ave. Turn left onto Smith Ave. and follow to Kansas Rd.

E to F: 0.5 miles, Moderate, rolling terrain with a short steep section. Watch for traffic on Kansas Rd.
Follow Kansas Rd. to short loop trail on right. Cross Kansas Road at the bridge. Trail crosses floating dock section and immediately ascends 150 ft. steep slope.

F to G: 0.25 miles, Moderate, rocky terrain
Follow Powerhouse Rd. approx. 100 feet. Turn left onto trail and descend stone steps. Trail emerges at power station and ends at boat launch.

Caution: The middle portion of this trail floods in high water.
BASIN TRAIL

TRAIL BEGINS: At Wild River Campground at the end of the Wild River Road (FR 12), or at Basin Pond parking lot, one mile from Route 113 in North Chatham, NH.

LENGTH: 4.5 miles

ACCESS: From the north take US Route 2 to Gilead, Maine, then take Route 113 south 3.0 miles to the Wild River Road. Take the Wild River Road to the trailhead parking area at the campground. From the south drive north from Fryeburg, Maine on Route 113 for approximately 20 miles to Cold River Campground, turn left and follow signs one mile to Basin Pond Recreation Area.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: The Basin Trail is a favorite with campers at both Basin and Wild River Campgrounds because of their proximity to the campground and relative ease of the terrain.

NARRATIVE: Descriptions are provided from both ends of the trail to Rim Junction.

Shortly after beginning at the Wild River Campground, the Basin Trail joins an old road on an easy grade to Blue Brook. After crossing Blue Brook the trail turns right and begins to climb towards Basin Rim. At this point there are some interesting ledges and cliffs on the opposite side of the brook along with some appealing pools and slides in the brook. At 2.0 miles a side trail leaves right which goes to Blue Brook Shelter, 0.3 mile away. Basin Trail continues on to “Rim Junction.”

From Basin Pond Parking Lot follow the trail along the south side of the pond for 0.3 miles to an old logging road, continue on the road toward Rim Junction. At 1.0 mile a side trail leaves left to go to Hermit Falls, a small but picturesque cascade. This side trail rejoins the Basin Trail at 1.2 miles. As you continue to ascend to Basin Rim you will reach the steepest terrain on the trail.

DISTANCES:

Wild River Campground to
Blue Brook Shelter access trail - 2.0 miles
Rim Junction - 2.2 miles
Blue Brook Shelter - 2.3 miles

Basin Pond parking lot to
Hermit Falls Loop - 1.0 miles
Rim Junction - 2.3 miles

Total Length of Basin Trail 4.5 miles
BASIN RIM TRAIL

TRAIL BEGINS: On the east knob of Mt. Meader at the junction with the Mt. Meader and Meader Flidge Trails, elevation 2790 ft.

TRAIL ENDS: On the summit of West Royce Mountain, elevation 3202 ft.

LENGTH: 3.7 miles

ACCESS: Basin Rim Trail can be accessed on the south by the Mt. Meader Trail which leaves Route 113 approximately 1 mile north of the AMC Cold River Camp. This trail originates on private land. From the north, access is from the Burnt Mill Brook Trail with its trailhead on the Wild River Road or from the Royce, East Royce, or Laughing Lion Trails located along Route 113 in Evans Notch.

NARRATIVE: The trail descends north from Mt. Meader towards Rim Junction, passes over ledges on the way to a prominent knob called "Rugged Jacket," from which point the trail descends steeply to the Junction at 1.2 miles. From Rim Junction the trail heads northeast on relatively easy grades with some short stretches of steeper terrain until reaching the summit of West Royce Mountain where the trail ends.

DISTANCES:
Mt. Meader to Rim Junction - 1.2 miles
Rim Junction to West Royce - 2.5 miles

Total Length of Basin Rim Trail 3.7 miles

POINT OF INTEREST: At 0.3 miles north of Rim Junction an unmarked trail leaves right to a rock outcrop overlooking Basin Pond.

For more information, please contact:
Evans Notch Ranger District
18 Mayville Road, Bethel, ME 04217-4400
Telephone 207-824-2134 or TTY 207-824-3312

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This interesting trail needed to be cut out of the forest and marked so it could be followed easily by visitors to the Reserve. That job was done in the late summer of 2007 by friends who responded to the GLLT's request for volunteers which appeared in the Newsletter. The first part of the trail was cut and marked on a warm, clear day with the very able help of Steve and Cindy Buckley and their two young boys. Each of the workers was equipped with a pair of loppers to cut the branches and small saplings along the trail which had been flagged earlier. The trail was also marked with the GLLT's permanent white-background color-coded trail tags. A week later, Ken Angell, a regular summer visitor to Lovell, helped to finish the trail work. Both days were filled with hard work and good spirit.

The Kezar River Reserve is now open for use by the public. The entrance is found opposite the sign in front of the Wicked Good Store. The woods road leads to a large parking area which formerly served as a log yard. Trail maps will be available in the parking area at a temporary site and a kiosk should be in place by mid-summer. Don't miss this special place this next summer. You will be very surprised at what's just off Route 5 opposite the Wicked Good.
8. East Royce Mountain

Beginner-Intermediate
Distance (round trip): 3 miles
Walking time: 2½ hours
Vertical rise: 1,700 feet

With a long enough arm, one could reach out from the summit of East Royce Mountain in Maine and touch New Hampshire air. Noledgerdomain involved. It’s just that East Royce is probably Maine’s western-most elevation. The Maine-New Hampshire border falls between the two peaks of Royce Mountain, with the Maine—or eastern peak—rising impressively by the center of majestic Evans Notch.

East Royce is not a mammoth mountain, given its immediate 4,000-to 6,000-foot neighbors, but from its 3,100-foot summit, it offers superb views of the Carter-Moriah Range and of the Presidenschafts beyond. East Royce also provides an excellent outlook to the lower summits to the west in Maine. To the south are North and South Baldface, Eagle Crag, Mount Meader, and the Basin.

The East Royce Trail entrance is well posted on the Evans Notch Road (Me. 113), about 5½ miles north of the Brickett Place (see hike 7) and Cold River Campground.

There is room to leave your car just off the road in a grove at the trailhead on the west side of the road.

The East Royce Trail is barely underway when it crosses the lower reaches of Evans Brook, a stream which begins up on the mountain and flows northerly into the Wild River and the Androscoggin at the head of the notch. After crossing the brook, you climb first to the right, and then left (west), ascending the clearly defined track of an old logging road.

In ¼ of a mile, a water-worn granite ledge marks the second brook crossing. Your
path now swings southwest up along the left bank. Continue along the logging road, paralleling the brook and climbing steadily through stands of tall hardwoods and mixed birch. Shortly before you reach the ½-mile point, recross the brook again, turning sharply right (watch for a small arrow sign on trees). The trail moves northwest resolutely over to the main tributary of Evans Brook. In sight of Evans Falls (high up on your right), the trail (you are still on the logging road) crosses a feeder brook, swings west again, and ascends an elevated rib of land between the two waterways.

Shortly after passing Evans Falls, the pathway crosses the feeder brook to the left, then continues right and westerly up through some fine silver birches as you near the 1-mile mark. Although the old logging road is easily

New Hampshire from Maine—looking southeast from East Royce Mountain
MINERAL COLLECTING

DEER HILL/LORD HILL

USDA
FOREST SERVICE

WHITE MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL FOREST

Evans Notch Ranger District

Hobby collecting for common minerals is permitted in most areas of the White Mountain National Forest without a permit as long as it is done for your own use and not for sale or personal gain.

You are allowed to dig for minerals but only with hand tools and in a small area. Any holes you create must be filled and the area restored to as natural an appearance as possible at the end of each day's collecting.

USE OF POWER TOOLS, MACHINERY OR EXPLOSIVES IS PROHIBITED.

Cutting of trees or other vegetation is not permitted. In addition, stream banks should not be disturbed.

The only type of gold recovery operations allowed in streams on the Forest is "panning" by hand. Any other type of operation would have to be authorized by a mineral lease which is issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with Forest Service concurrence.

If you wish to sell minerals collected on the National Forest you will need to obtain a prospecting permit and a mineral lease before collecting can begin. This involves applying to the BLM for the necessary permits.

There are two areas on the District that are frequently visited by hobbyists for collecting. Both the Deer Hill and Lord Hill areas have provided good opportunities to find specimens. Each area is briefly described as follows:

Deer Hill: This area is found on the east side of Deer Hill in Stow, Maine. It is reached by taking the Evergreen Valley Road from Route 5 in North Lovell west to Evergreen Valley Resort. Then take the Deer Hill Road (Forest Road #9) west towards New Hampshire. Access to the mine is via the Deer Hill Trail to the junction with the Deer Hill spring trail. At this intersection an old logging road continues straight ahead. Follow the old road in a northerly direction to a point where an unmarked foot path turns and heads up slope in a northwesterly direction. The most common mineral found in this area is purple amethyst.

Lord Hill: This area which was commercially mined for a brief period is located on the south side of Lord Hill in Stoneham, Maine. Access is from the Deer Hill Road, then the Horseshoe Pond Road (Forest Road #50) to the Horseshoe Pond Trail which can be accessed at the end of the road. Follow the Horseshoe Pond Trail to the Conant Trail and turn left and follow the trail over Lord Hill area. No vehicles are permitted on National Forest lands in this area.
Greater Lovell Land Trust Walks

Directions

The Heald Pond walks will take place at the Heald and Bradley Reserve. From Lovell, drive north on Route 5 and turn right on Slab City Road. Then proceed a short distance over a bridge to a small parking area on your left past the launching area. A docent will meet you there.

The Sucker Brook walks will use the Sucker Brook Preserve off Horseshoe Pond Road. From Lovell, drive north on Route 5. Turn left onto the West Lovell Road and follow over the bridge, continuing to Foxboro Road (a left at the next fork). Drive about two miles to Horseshoe Pond Road on your right. Proceed down this dirt road a short distance to the Horseshoe Pond parking area.

The Kezar River Tract walks will meet across from the "Wicked Good Store" where a good forest road enters the land. Look for orange flags at the road entrance. Proceed carefully to an open parking area.

The Stockford Reserve walks will begin at the preserve. From Route 5, take the West Lovell Road over the bridge and then the first dirt road on your left (Ladies Delight). The preserve parking lot is on your right a short distance down the road.
HIKING

BICKFORD BROOK TRAIL
BLUEBERRY RIDGE TRAIL

USDA FOREST SERVICE
WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST
Evans Notch Ranger District

BICKFORD BROOK TRAIL

TRAIL BEGINS: 578 ft. elev. Trail begins 100 yards from Route #113 behind the Brickett Place.
TRAIL ENDS: 2877 ft. elev. Trail ends at the summit of Speckled Mountain.
LENGTH: 4.1 miles (6.6 km)
ACCESS: Route #2 to Route #113 south. Follow Route #113 south approximately 9.5 miles to the Brickett Place. Follow Route #113 north 15 miles from Fryeburg, Maine. Travel past Cold River Campground and Basin Recreational Areas. Go 2/10 mile and turn right at the Brickett Place. Parking is available at the Bickford Brook Trailhead.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: National Forest land is managed for a variety of uses including wildlife, water, timber, wilderness, and recreation. Wildlife, habitat improvement, protection of soil and water resources, timber harvesting, visual resource protection, and recreation activities may all occur on the same parcel of land. The Bickford Brook Trail starts at the historic Brickett Place. John Brickett and his family arrived in the Cold River Valley in 1803. In 1812, he began his house of brick that he himself made. Mr. Brickett burned his own bricks because the closest source of lumber was a planing mill in Fryeburg, Maine. The Bickford Brook Trail is preferred by campers from Cold River and Basin Recreational Areas. Ample parking is available next to the Brickett Place. Bickford Slides are located on a marked side trail and consist of flumes and falls in Bickford Brook.

NARRATIVE: The trail leaves from the Brickett Place parking area. At 0.6 mile the junction of Blueberry Ridge Trail is reached. The path to Bickford Slides is farther up the trail at 0.9 mile. The Bickford Brook Trail ascends gradually, crosses a brook, and climbs steeply through hardwood stands. The Spruce Hill Trail is reached at 2.8 miles, and is the quickest ascent or descent to Speckled Mountain and Route #113. Blueberry Ridge Junction intersects at 3.5 miles, and the summit of Speckled appears at 4.1 miles. On a clear day hikers are rewarded with a magnificent view of the summits of East and West Royce and Caribou Mountains as well as the Carter, Mahoosuc, and Presidential Ranges.

BLUEBERRY RIDGE TRAIL

TRAIL BEGINS: 1100 ft. elev. Trail begins at .6 mile beyond the Brickett Place.

Updated 7/01
Includes 2 easy level hikes
TRAIL ENDS: 2609 ft. elev. Trail ends at the junction of the Bickford Brook Trail to Speckled Mountain, near the summit of Arnes Mountain.
LENGTH: 3.6 miles (5.8 km)
ACCESS: Route #2 to Route #113 south. Follow Route #113 south approximately 9.5 miles to the Brickett Place. Follow Route #113 north 15 miles from Fryeburg, Maine. Travel past Cold River and Basin Recreational Areas. Go 0.2 mile north and turn right at the Brickett Place.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: The Bickford Slides at 0.9 off the Bickford and Blueberry Ridge Trails are a series of cascading waterfalls. A closer look at these can be seen at the one mile point. The climb is steep with many open ledges. Most hikers prefer to climb the Bickford Brook Trail and descend the Blueberry Ridge Trail. The trail is well known for its abundance of tasty Maine blueberries in the latter part of July. The route of travel is well marked by cairns (piles of rocks). The summits of Speckled and Blueberry Mountains consist of open ledges with excellent views.

NARRATIVE: The trail leaves the Bickford Brook Trail at 0.6 mile. It crosses Bickford Brook and ascends rapidly. The White Cairn Trail leaves right over the first crest, then the Stone House Trail comes in beyond Blueberry Mountain. The trail continues over ledges, through patches of woods, and intersects with the Bickford Brook Trail at 3.6 miles. The summit is 0.5 mile from this point. The surrounding valleys and distant mountain ranges can be seen for miles from Speckled Mountain. Blueberry Ridge offers excellent views of Cold River Valley and the mountains and ponds to the south.

For more information, please contact:
Evans Notch Ranger District
18 Mayville Rd.
Bethel, ME 04217
Telephone 207-824-2134
TTY 207-824-3312

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This publication is available in large print from the Evans Notch Ranger District Office
Be kind, be smart, to man & earth —
Get OFF the trail.
Dig a hole. (6" deep)
Bury your waste.
Pack out your toilet paper.

DIRECTIONS TO THIS PARKING LOT:
Driving south from Basin/Cold River CG, take first left.
Follow dirt road as marked on this map.
Park at locked gate. (Yes, you CAN walk beyond gate.)

## 1
Lovely LEVEL walk into trails, pretty views, wildflowers.
Tiny climb up to gorge and Rattlesnake Pool (no sneaker!)
BALDFACE CIRCLE TRAIL

TRAIL BEGINNING: 500 ft. elevation. The trail leaves Route 113 just north of AMC Cold River Camp and 1.5 miles south of the Basin Recreation Area access road, at the Baldface Circle trailhead Parking Area.

TRAIL ENDING:
North Baldface (3591 ft. elevation)
South Baldface (3569 ft. elevation)

LENGTH: Route 113 to South Baldface 3.6 miles (5.8 km)
Route 113 to North Baldface 4.7 miles (7.6 km)

ACCESS: U.S. Route 2 to Route 113 south, then follow Route 113 south 11 miles to the Baldface trailhead. From the south, follow Route 113 thirteen miles north from Fryeburg, Maine. The Baldface trailhead is 0.2 mile north of the Cold River AMC Camp on the west side of the road.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS:
The Baldfaces (North and South) are perhaps the most challenging mountains on the Evans Notch District. These mountains were swept by fire in 1903 and the destruction was so widespread that the fire burned into Jackson, New Hampshire. The fire remained out of control for a week before rain subdued it. Because of this large burn, the trail today offers incredible views and is a favorite of hikers and photographers. Additionally, the Baldface routes provide access to longer hikes on the White Mountain National Forest, if desired. A point of interest is the Chandler Gorge, only 1.1 miles from the highway on the Baldface Circle Trail. For the overnighter or those who wish a rest stop, the Baldface Shelter is approximately a 2 hour hike from the highway. Hikers should carry their own water along the entire Baldface route as there are no tested or reliable sources. Between Baldface Shelter and the South Baldface summit are granite block ledges, which are very challenging, but the hiker is eventually rewarded with 360 degree views along the ridges.
The Baldface Trail starts at the trailhead parking area along Route 113 just north of AMC Cold River Camp. The first reference point that will be reached is the Baldface Circle Trail "Junction". The Slippery Brook Trail begins 0.1 mile from this point. At the Baldface Circle Trail Junction the hiker may go right or left on the Circle Trail.

The left route, via South Baldface travels southwest as it follows an old logging road. At 0.4 mile the turn off to Chandler Gorge will be reached. The loop trail to the Gorge is a 0.3 mile side trip worth taking. The Baldface Shelter is located near the trail at approximately 2100' elevation. This shelter is available on a first-come, first-serve basis free of charge and can accommodate about ten persons at a time. Other facilities include fireplace and toilet. Leaving the shelter area, the trail follows ledges and becomes very steep for 0.5 mile. Prior to reaching the summit of South Baldface, the trail junctions with the Baldface Knob Trail to Slippery Brook. Upon reaching the South Baldface summit, the trail bears right, follows a broad ridge to the east, and again follows open ridges to Eagle Crag after passing the junction with the summit.

The Bicknell Ridge Trail provides a scenic route to the valley. Along the Baldface Circle Trail, other intersections are Eagle Link (to Wild River) and Meader Ridge (to Eagle Crag and Mt. Meader). The descent from North Baldface to Route 113 is 4.8 miles. The entire round trip for the hiker on the Baldface Circle route will take approximately 7 to 8 hours.

**Baldface Circle Trail Mileages:**

Trailhead, Route 113 - 0 miles  
Baldface Circle Trail Junction - 0.7 miles  

Turning left on Circle Trail (mileages from Route 113)

Slippery Brook Trail Junction - 0.8 miles  
Side Trail Junction to  
Chandler Gorge - 1.1 miles  
Baldface Shelter - 3.2 miles  
South Baldface - 3.6 miles  
North Baldface - 4.7 miles  
Bicknell Ridge Trail Junction - 5.6 miles  

**Total length - Route 113 to South Baldface to North Baldface to Route 113 - 9.5 miles**
BICKNELL RIDGE TRAIL

TRAIL BEGINNING: 900 ft. elevation. Trail begins 1.3 miles from Route 113 on the Baldface Circle Trail.

TRAIL ENDING: 3500 ft. elevation. Trail ends at the junction of the Baldface Circle Trail 0.9 mile from the summit of North Baldface.

LENGTH: Baldface Circle Junction to Baldface Circle Trail junction, 2.3 miles (3.7 km)

ACCESS: Same as to Baldface Circle Trail.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: The Bicknell Ridge Trail follows numerous broad, open ledges and offers scenic views of the Cold River Valley, Kezar Lakes Area, and Evans Notch. Because so much of this trail is open, it is the preferred route by many hikers to the summit of North Baldface, though very steep.

HIKING SAFETY: Harsh weather is common in the Baldface region. Visitors are advised to carry extra clothing, food, and shelter for protection.

NARRATIVE: The Bicknell Ridge Trail is reached by following the Baldface Circle trail toward North Baldface. At about 0.4 mile from Circle Junction the trail leaves to the left and crosses Charles Brook. The trail then goes through hardwood stands, turns west and rises along the south side of Bicknell Ridge. The trail comes out onto open ledges prior to reaching the Eagle Cascade Trail at 1.3 miles. Travel to the junction of the Baldface Circle Trail is on broad open ledges providing excellent views of the Presidential range, Evans Notch, and Speckled Mountain areas. The Baldface Circle Trail is reached 0.9 mile below the summit of North Baldface and 0.3 mile south of Eagle Link. At the Baldface Circle Trail junction, the visitor has the option of turning left to the summits of North and South Baldface or right and returning to Route 113 both via the Circle Trail. In either case a pleasant loop trip is offered.

For more information, please contact:

Evans Notch Ranger District
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TRAIL MAPS

This map is for general information only and should not be used as a trail guide. Please bring a topographical map with you.
This map (**See note at end.) is a general description of trails on and near Mt. Cutler. The map does not have trails located and sketched with perfect accuracy, but the map does give a reasonable picture of trail locations. The descriptions below make more sense of what is shown in the map.

**Trailheads**

**Barnes Trail** (the original trail on Mt. Cutler) and the **Snowmobile Trail** start at the site of the old Maine Central RR Station. At the west end of the Saco River Bridge, start south on River Road, then turn right onto Mountain View Avenue at the corner of the old Cotton's General Store. Where the avenue turns nearest to the mountain, cross the first set of tracks and park in the area between the tracks. The trail is across the tracks, south of the parking area. The trail is marked by red-painted blazes on trees and rocks. Upper parts of the trail are marked with rock cairns.

**North Trail** (D on the map) starts on the Hiram Hill Road. From the Saco River Bridge in Hiram village, drive north on Pequawket Trail (Rt. 5/113) for a half mile. The Hiram Hill Road (shown on the map by “Gravel Pit”) is on the left just before the concrete bridge over Red Mill Brook. It is best to park near the tracks or by the brook. Parking at the trailhead, on a turn and a steep part of the road, is not recommended. Starting up the Hiram Hill Road, cross the RR tracks and look straight ahead; you should see two large pine trees straight-ahead, where the road curves uphill to the right. The North Trail starts on the south side of the road, 0.1 mile above the RR crossing, just above those “twin pines.” Start with a scramble of 2 or 3 steps up the roadside embankment, then look for red flagging tape marking the trail. You will also see a well-house in the woods to your left. (There is no sign by the road, that would attract use by snowmobiles, ATVs, and other motorized traffic. The only “marker” is the “twin pines,” but the trail is clearly marked once you are in the woods.)

**Snowmobile Trail access.** The Snowmobile Trail also starts at the Barnes Trail trailhead. However, there are two other places where you can get on the same trail:

- **On River Road.** From the bridge, drive south on River Road for about 0.3 mile. You will have crossed the RR tracks and should watch for the first house on the left (between the tracks and the road). Opposite that house is a gravel road going straight into the woods from the River Road. This joins the Snowmobile Trail (C on the map) a short distance into the woods, where it enters a clearing.

- **Beyond the Wadsworth/Longfellow Farm.** A little more than a half mile on River Road south of the bridge, a road to the Wadsworth/Longfellow Farm (owned by the Moulton family) forks to the right. Before reaching the farm, this road forks again to the right (This is the Old County Road, once the main road from Hiram to Cornish.)
and has the Snowmobile Trail (H on the map) entering a short distance beyond where the Old County Road leaves the farm fields. Do NOT use this access except for emergencies or if you obtain specific permission from the Moulton family. This is a private access, and unplanned use may cause problems for the owners and farm animals.

**Trails**

**Barnes Trail** is the original trail to the ledges of Mt. Cutler. This was first marked by Dr. Lowell "Bud" Barnes, in the 1950s. The steepness of this trail seems to reflect the way that "Doc Barnes" did everything with intensive energy (including moose hunting trips to Newfoundland, and building log cabins from the ground up). Watch for red-painted blazes that mark most of this trail. After crossing the RR tracks, the Barnes Trail and Snowmobile Trail stay together for a steady grade. At about 100 yards, the Snowmobile Trail continues straight ahead, while the Barnes Trail forks to the right and enters the old Merrill Park (G on the map), now a grove of large pines. (There are no remaining benches, but scars on some trees show where they were attached.) Between the park and the ledges of the mountain are several open wells. These wells are not very hazardous since they have largely filled with debris and vegetation, but they still have water, so children should approach with caution. Before leaving the "Park," a short trail branches to the south, through an opening in a stone wall. This trail leads to the "Gold Mine" which is described in some books of local lore written by Raymond Cotton (who used to run the general store back near the bridge). The Barnes Trail makes a slight dip as it leaves the SW corner of the Park and crosses the (usually dry) outlet of a large vernal pool. The trail, marked by red blazes, ascends quickly to enter the ravine between Mt Cutler and the shoulder to the south of the mountain. The trail follows close along an intermittent stream from the ravine.

Before the trail was relocated, it crossed this stream and ascended a very steep, eroded slide area... **Please do NOT go that way.** Stay on the south side of the stream and follow the steep ascent up the ravine over rough rocks. After going westward and upward for about 100 yards, the trail turns sharp right and crosses a very rough boulder area. (**Beyond these rocks you will see where the old slide trail re-enters... please do NOT go that way.**) The trail passes under an overhanging ledge and makes a very steep ascent of the ledges. (Be very careful here, especially when descending.) At the top of the ledges, the trail turns sharp right, and runs northerly along the top of the ledges to some excellent viewpoints (A) overlooking the Saco River Valley and Hiram Village. From here, you can see far to the south and east... look carefully and you can see three tall TV towers (WMTW and WCHH are nearby in Baldwin and easily identified... you need a clear view to see the more-distant WGAN tower over in Raymond/Casco). [RR tracks to Front Ledge viewpoints (A): 0.4 mi.]

Many visitors use the Barnes Trail just to go to the viewpoint ledges and return, which is all of the original trail. However, during the 1970s, this trail was extended to continue to the "summit" that is visible from the Saco River bridge. Leaving the ledges overlooking the village, the trail makes a sharp left turn, passes the junction with the White Flagg Trail, enters a hardwood forest, and steadily ascends toward the west. Before entering a hemlock grove there are some good views to the NE (Pleasant Mountain, etc.) from open ledges. This hemlock grove is typical of the higher parts of north slopes on this mountain. Without a trail, it is almost impossible to break through the tangle of hemlocks. Beyond this grove, the trail continues a steady but not-too-steep ascent. When the trail passes through another evergreen grove, it emerges on an open, south-facing ledge (B) with spectacular, panoramic views, sometimes to the SE as far as Casco Bay.

This viewpoint (arguably the best view from the mountain) is not actually a summit, although it appears to be a summit when viewed from near the Saco River bridge. This is actually the extreme east end of a long ridge that has its westward end at a notch just below the true summit of Mt. Cutler. [A to B: 0.3 mi. (approx.)]

**Ridge Walk** is actually a continuation of the Barnes Trail, gradually ascending the long east-west ridge of Mt. Cutler. Along this ridge there are alternating viewpoints with excellent views to the northwest (the Presidential Range) and to the south (as far as Casco Bay). Along the ridge, cairns and some red blazes mark the trail, although it is usually discernible without markers. At about 0.2 mile from the south-facing ledge (B), the North Trail enters from the north. Just beyond this junction are some good views over the Paul Wadsworth fields to Burnt Meadow Mountain, Mount Washington, and all of the northern White Mountains. Along this trail are several open, meadow-like areas with views both to north and south. The trail crosses a mostly wooded secondary summit (E on the map) and descends quickly to a notch (J) that traversed by a sometimes-used ATV trail (On the map, this trail ends in dashed-line sections since the trail passes through private property not open for recreational use.). The true summit of Mt. Cutler is a short scramble westward from this notch. [B to J: 0.6 mi. (approx.)]

**Saco Ridge Trail** (Also called "South Ridge Trail.") runs from the notch (J) down the most prominent southern ridge, and joins the Snowmobile Trail. Using the Barnes Trail, Ridge Walk, South Ridge Trail and Snowmobile Trail makes a round trip of about 3 miles. Leaving the notch (J) descend a short distance to the south; watch for cairns and red blaze marks. The trail will peel off to the left and slab along the side of the Mt. Cutler mass,...

gradually descending until it reaches a small notch (F) between the bulk of the mountain and the upper part of this ridge. The trail makes a short, steep ascent to an open area with views from the upper part of this ridge (You can see back to the south-facing ledge at B.) Near the southern edge of this clearing, the trail turns sharp right (at a cairn) and enters hardwoods, descending the ridge. During the descent there are several good viewpoints looking down to the Wadsworth/LonTimothy Farm and the Saco Valley. The last descent of the original trail is very steep and makes a long switchback before a scramble down to the valley floor (K). A short distance after leveling off the trail joins the Snowmobile Trail. Turn left to return to the trailhead in the village. A new trail was opened to avoid this very steep section. To descend this less-steep trail, before the lowest overlook from South Ridge, a flagged trail forks to the left in a small clearing spotted with pines. This descends northward, eventually making a right turn to descend an old logging road (L) down to the Snowmobile Trail. [Notch (J) to Snowmobile Trail: 0.6 mi. (approx.)]

To ascend Mt. Cutler by the South Ridge Trail, walk south on the Snowmobile Trail, continuing until you cross a planked bridge over a stream. A short distance further south the newly-flagged trail forks to the right at a small...
cain, and ascends westward (L) up an old logging road. At a height-of-land, the trail turns sharp left off the old road and ascends wooded slopes until joining the original South Ridge Trail in a small clearing. To ascend the original trail, continue on the Snowmobile Trail until a point where the steepest shoulder of the South Ridge is nearest to the trail. A large pasture pine is (was?) located near the trail junction (K), and a wooden sign “Saco Ridge Trail” also marks the start of this trail. The first part of this trail, as it ascends the end of the ridge, is very steep. Logging activity and development work along the Snowmobile Trail may obscure the trail junctions.

Snowmobile Trail access starts at the same place (by RR tracks in the village) as the Barnes Trail. After the initial 100 yards uphill, where the Barnes Trail forks to the right, the Snowmobile Trail continues straight ahead. The trail (G) remains nearly level, passing two houses that are on the left, below the elevation of the trail, until a slight descent where it enters open fields. (“Tufts Fields” has seen some recent logging work, so the trail may be obscured or relocated in this area.) Turning towards the mountain, away from the fields, the trail re-enters woods, turns left and crosses a small stream. Just beyond this stream crossing, a new approach to the Saco Ridge Trail leaves to the right at a small cairn. Continuing mostly level, the Snowmobile Trail passes close to a steep shoulder of the mountain, where the original Saco Ridge Trail is found. [RR Tracks to Saco Ridge Trail: 0.7 mi. (approx.)]

North Trail (D) starts on the Hiram Hill Road as described in “Trailheads” above, and is marked with red flagging tape. As the trail leaves the road, it passes a well-house uphill from the trail. (This is an active water supply. Please do NOT approach or tamper with the well-house or water source.) At about 100 yards, the trail crosses a small stream next to a property corner marker. (Please do not disturb iron pins, monuments, or flagging tape used to mark the trail and property lines.) This is the SE corner of the easternmost lot of the “Mt. Cutler Acres” subdivision. The trail continues on a moderate uphill grade through hardwood forest in a southerly direction towards the mountain.

The trail follows the west side of a small valley with another stream. The trail ascends a steep ridge notched by this brook. The trail parallels the brook for 150 yards, then ascends another steep ridge, passing several gullies visible to the south. Following the north branch of the stream for another hundred yards, at 0.25 mile, the trail crosses the brook in a grove of large hemlocks, and ascends to the southwest away from the brook. A short distance from the brook crossing, the White Flag Trail diverges to the left.

After another 150 yards, the North Trail reaches the foot of a steep, rocky slope, turns left, and works its way uphill into a hemlock forest. Short S-curves ascend steeper sections below the hemlock thickets. Climbing higher, the trail enters narrow passages through thick hemlocks. Eventually, the trail emerges from hemlocks on sloping, open ledges with excellent views to the north and northeast (views of Burnt Meadow Mtn, the Saco River valley, and Pleasant Mtn.). Be very cautious on these ledges, especially in wet weather; the moss and lichen covering the rocks can be slippery and have caused sliding injuries. Passing through hemlocks, the trail re-emerges to continue up sloping ledges to join Ridge Walk at a cairn marker (M). [Hiram Hill Road to Ridge Walk Trail: 0.5 mi. (approx.)]

White Flag Trail. In August, 2008, a new trail was developed to connect from half-way up the North Trail (D) to the Front Ledges (A) on the Barnes Trail. This trail forks off the North Trail a short distance above the last brook crossing of the North Trail. It ascends very gradually to the SE, passing through longago overgrown pasture lands and gentle ledges, past some large boulders, stone walls, and the remains of pasture fences, to join the Barnes Trail near the front ledges. To find the trail from the Barnes Trail, just above the front ledges, the Barnes Trail makes a sharp left turn; the White Flag Trail is straight ahead, rather than turning to the left. As the name says, watch for white flagging tape, or for the flag of white-tail deer, often seen in this area. [North Trail to Barnes Trail: 0.25 mi.]

The North Trail, White Flag Trail, and part of the Barnes Trail makes a nice loop of about 1.7 miles.

Railroad Tracks. Although walking the railroad tracks for a half mile is tiresome, the railroad can be used to make a loop trip from the Hiram Hill Road, to the Barnes Trail, up to the South-Facing Ledge (B), and back down to the Hiram Hill Road on either the North Trail (D) or using the North Trail and White Flag Trail.

-Dan Hester, Hiram  March 2008 (Revised 05/09/2008, revised 06/17/2008)

**Notes regarding the trails sketch map.** This map uses the most recent USGS 7.5-minute topographic map that is available for the Hiram area, but this map was most recently updated in 1964 (the 1988 revisions did not update man-made features). Although topographic features of this map are reasonably accurate, some significant man-made features have changed. It will help you to avoid confusion if you are aware of the out-of-date features of this map.

1. The Poquawket Trail (R113) Saco River Bridge over the Saco River in Hiram was replaced in 1990. The 1964 map shows the concrete bridge that was used from 1917 to 1990; this bridge crossed the river exactly perpendicular to the stream channel and aimed directly at the front of Cotton’s Store on the west bank. This bridge is gone, but the eastern abutment still remains as a concrete wall just downstream from the new, steel girder bridge. Northbound, the current bridge begins to cross the river at almost the same point as the older bridge, but the new bridge crosses at about a 45 degree angle, and the western abutment is now much further upstream. When this bridge was built, it also eliminated the first house shown upstream from the older bridge on this map. A new bench mark is located in the concrete near the northern edge of the eastern abutment, replacing the “BM 560” that is shown in the 1964 map (BM 369 was in the western abutment that no longer exists).

2. Other than the change of the bridge over the Saco, roads shown on the 1964 map are mostly unchanged today.

3. The “Mt. Cutler Acres” subdivision and other development added many house lots and residential structures along the south side of the Hiram Hill Road. Most of these lots and homes were developed in the 1970s and 1980s.

The 1964 map shows only one house along the entire south side of the Hiram Hill Road. (This was the Herb McClure farm; it is now owned by Leslie and Brenda Greenc, who also own property ascending to the true summit of Mt Cutler.) In fact, there are now about 20 houses and numerous outbuildings. These houses begin at a point 100 yards west of the North Trailhead and occupy lots along the entire length of the part of the Hiram Hill Road shown on the map. Most of the lots extend southeast about 100 yards from the road, although there are two contiguous back lots that extend another 100 yards up the mountain side. (A recent copy of the Town of Hiram Tax Maps is also available [Hiram-R09-122], showing most of these described changes.)

2. Two new houses were also built in the 1990s on the west side of the River Road just south of where the road crosses the railroad tracks. The Snowmobile Trail passes just west of these houses, but this did not change the trail. Please do not disturb homeowners when using this trail.