

M. R. Hyker's Latest Adventure



01-01-2008 - [Catoclin Mt, MD](#): I think this was our fourth annual New Years Day Hike. We always pick something that is a little challenging. The overall elevation gain of 1400 feet and the rocky terrain on the descent from the mountain of this one fit the bill. The morning showers forecasted by the weatherman had come and gone by the time we arrived. We would be hiking under deep blue skies with long pillows of white clouds racing across the vistas and a chilly breeze - the kind that tends to shorten your breaks when you are on the ridge - constantly at our backs. I was joined by .Com, Fe2O3, another Mark, Jody, Indiana Moser, Hassem, Linda, Ron, Marcela and Kevin (who drove all the way from Philly to be with us).

The last time we did this hike there was some snow on the ground with a thick, frozen crust on the top that made the going slow and treacherous ([See these Photos from February/07!](#)). This time, except for some nasty blowdowns, the going was fast and easy. As mentioned above, our breaks were really truncated and the wind that was whipping us along the ridge made us hike even faster. It was nice hiking down off of the main ridge without the hindrance of ice and snow on the rocks. We have had a substantial amount of rain over the past couple of weeks so Cunningham Falls was chugging right along. The stream crossing between the boardwalks wasn't too bad but a couple of folks slipped off of the rocks and got their feet wet. Fortunately they had a change of socks and shoes back at the car. As we usually do on this one we finished off the hike on the Nature Tr, each walking at his/her own pace. It was a great way to start the New Year.