

M. R. Hyker's Latest Adventure



01/17/2011: First, thanks Ed Stoebenau for sharing your knowledge and map. They made the hike easy.

I had just lead a 10 mile flatland hike at Rosaryville SP, MD on Saturday (See details on my site.). Most of the day was sunny and there was very little snow on the trail. I hadn't gotten enough so P-Hyker and I met Dot Com at the southern Catoctin Trailhead in Gambrills State Park on Monday to begin exploration of the Frederick Municipal Forest. The clouds were dense and loaded with moisture, the air had a chill and the ground was covered in 2 to 4 inches of snow. What a contrast!

We followed the Catoctin Trail deep into Clifford Hollow. The trees and Mountain Laurel were huge! The stream crossings were pretty but not an issue. We switchbacked up to a crest on the ridge to find a shortcut trail on the left but continued on the CT until we reached an old haul road and a pretty impressive stand of huge pines.

We followed yellow spray paint blazes first up the road and then a footpath out to the long line of comm towers. Fortunately this section only took about 15 minutes to traverse. Otherwise I would have had a real Don Quixote moment. We soon found ourselves back in the park following the Yellow Poplar Trail back to the cars. We tried to stop for a break but we could really feel the temperature falling. We stuffed

some snacks in our mouths, zipped up our coats and made a bee line to the trailhead. We covered 8.9 miles and climbed 1600 feet during the hike. I was pretty impressed with what we found and will be back for more.