

M. R. Hyker's Latest Adventure



02/26/2011; Big Mountain-Pine Tree Vista Loop: First I need to thank Ed Stoebenau once again for sharing his trail info with me but also for actually leading the hike on this one. We were joined on a partly cloudy day by 16 Penny, The Mad Hatter, Cognac Jack, Single Malt, Ted E. Bear, Scott, Fred, Terri and Alan. There was still a bit of snow on the ground but nothing to really hinder our progress. The hike started on a logging road but soon left it to follow a rocky path more like the real Tuscarora Trail we are accustomed to. In 2.5 miles from the cars we reached the Big Mountain Overlook with its sweeping views. After a quick break and equipment adjustment we paid a visit to a shelter before making a rapid descent on the Richmond Trail to Augwhick Road. A brief road walk found us at the beginning of the King Trail and a bridge over the creek where we took our lunch break. This trail starts off northbound but soon makes a 180 degree turn with a view of a lone pine tree up on the ridge of Cove Mountain as you come out of the turn. The trail soon left the road and climbed 700 feet in 0.4 miles up to that tree. From there we got a grand view up the valley, able to see Cowans Gap and the park lake. We descended to the logging road and continued to follow it until it began to get overgrown and muddy. Ed led us on a bypass trail to eventually join up with the Lockard Trail. This was for the most part a

gradual climb up an old grade under a canopy of Hemlock. We crossed the creek and a small tributary along the way. A short walk on the Lincoln Trail soon found us back at our vehicles. This hike is definitely another keeper!