

M. R. Hyker's Latest Adventure



02-27-10, Cedarville SF, MD Orange and Blue Loops (9.4 miles): We were supposed to do a relatively strenuous hike in SNP but Skyline Drive was closed due to snow. We decided to change the venue to this nearby location. All of the roads were plowed and most of the trails were snow free. I was joined by Ted E. Bear, Sixteen Penny, Over and Out and Skywalker. We started hiking around 9:15, accomplishing the Orange Loop first. I tried to set a good pace to make up for the lack of elevation change and overall trail ruggedness of the originally planned trek but we found our path constantly blocked by fallen or bent over Holly trees. After a while we found it easier to just pick all but the largest of them up and move them off trail. We joined the Blue Loop and hiked down to Cedarville pond for a brief lunch break. The ice appears to be melting now. (Hopefully this is a sign of spring.) When Janet and I last hiked here with the dogs the junction of the Blue and White trails were flooded as a result of an overzealous beaver that lived a few hundred yards upstream. This time, despite all of melting snow, it was a dry gravel and sand road up to the junction with the Orange Loop. We rejoined it and make quick work of the final two miles with little in the way blowdowns blocking the trail. By 1:20 we were back at the truck and preparing for our short ride back to Columbia.