

M. R. Hyker's Latest Adventure



02-28-2009; [Michaux SF, Chimney Rocks](#), PA: The first time I did this hike was with Hillman's Happy Hikers out of Annapolis. It was summer time and the mountains were full of blooming Mountain Laurel while the hollows were full of Rhododendron in bloom. Since then I led hikes here three times in the winter. All three times we had to deal with snow on the trail from one degree of severity to another. This time there wasn't a patch of the white stuff to be found anywhere.

Today I was joined by a particularly large group of hikers eager to burn off their cabin fever. There were fifteen of us in all: .Com, The Dancin' Austrian, Ted E. Bear, Everybody loves Raymond, The Traveling Gnome, Over and Out, Indiana Moser, Chris, Tom, Stella, Xinggao, Kieth and Carrie.

The weather was supposed to be cloudy but we started with blue skies above us. We started hiking around 10:00 and made good time to the [Tumbling Run Shelters](#) (Snoring and Non-snoring). We took a break there as we waited for Chris and Tom to catch up as well as got ourselves psyched up for the 900 foot elevation gain over the next 1.3 miles. (Thankfully there is a nice flat section in the middle of the climb that allows you to recover for a bit without stopping for a break.) We leisurely took in the [crystal clear views](#) at the top before continuing on.

Except for a [short climb up a pipeline swath](#) the rest of the route was either flat or downhill. We kept up a good pace not stopping for a prolonged break until we were back at the shelters. This time we [snacked on the rocks](#) as we enjoyed the [run as it cascaded](#) pass the tenting area. We relaxed a little longer than usual since we had only 0.8 miles to go, the day was still young and the weather was pretty nice for this time of the year. After about 20 minutes we reluctantly put our packs back on and headed back to the Old

Forge Picnic Area. We were back at the cars by 2:30. After bidding farewell we got in our vehicles and headed back home.