

M. R. Hyker's Latest Adventure



08-30 to 09-01-2008 - Seneca Creek Backpack w/day hike: You won't see this a specific hike on this site although I will eventually add the day hike as a separate trek starting from the waterfall camps along Seneca Creek. It will include a short out-and-back along an unofficial extension of the Lumberjack Tr that leads to some more wonderful "High Meadows".

I was joined by Gadget Gyrl, Moonshine, Skywalker, Indiana Moser, Melissa, Fe2O3 and .com. The parking lot was filled to over-flowing. Several groups had already departed and there was still a meet-up group of 24 trying to get organized. Their plans were the same as ours. We got underway while the large group was still milling about. With the [stream crossings](#) be rather easy do to the low water we made great time. It seemed almost every good campsite had at least one tent in it. We arrived at the waterfall camps well ahead of the meet-up group. The first 2 sites were taken. Fortunately the third and final one was not. I was just big enough to handle our group. After setting up camp Skywalker, Indiana and [Moonshine](#) took a dip in the pool below the waterfall. They assured me that the water was cold and I believed them as I settled for just washing the sweat off of my legs and arms with my bandana. It was here where Moonshine got his trail name. (See [Saki's Trip Report](#) for the nitty gritty.)

After dinner we got a pretty good fire going. Still we all drifted off to bed pretty early. The next day we had a casual breakfast, re-hung our food and began our trek up the Huckleberry Tr. This was the only climb of note for the entire trip. It was probably close to 1000 feet over 1.5 miles, just steep enough to provide a good workout. We stopped at a couple of lesser meadows on the way to the Lumberjack Trail and took in the views while Moonshine, Dottie and others chowed down on a ton of Blackberries. Once on the Lumberjack trail we quickened the pace. In two miles we left the

official trails and continued on the continuation of the railroad grade. First we found a small, weedy meadow with a nice campsite under some trees. Beyond that was a [much wider meadow](#), much of which was surrounded by Red Spruce. A barely discernable trail took us across the meadow to a wide trail through the spruce. The tread was covered with a thick carpet of spruce needles. In less than 0.5 miles we found ourselves in the middle of "The Mother of all High Meadows". [Looking east](#) provided fantastic views of a valley with Spruce Knob Mountain flanking it on the right and an un-named peak on the left with a large peak in the center of it all. Turning left and walking to the crest of the meadow provided [westward views](#) across the Seneca Creek drainage of Allegheny Mt and the tips of Rich Mt beyond that. We kept expecting to hear the Van Trapp family singing "The Sounds of Music". This was definitely a place to eat lunch and soak in the sun.

After lunch we tried to find the continuation of the trail but with no luck. We returned to the official [High Meadows](#) trail stopping briefly at every one to take in the views and, yes, graze on more blackberries. Despite the crowded campsites along the creek we only saw 2 pairs of hikers and a couple of sunbathers during our day hike. We were back in camp by 3:30. "The boys" headed out for another dip as the rest of us either lounged around camp or took power naps (That would be me!) Later we all ate and sat about a roaring fire built by Pam. The next day we ate breakfast, packed up and headed back to the cars. .com and Fe2O3 headed out in one direction while the rest of us made a bee line to the [Gateway Restaurant](#) for a rewarding lunch.