

## ***M. R. Hyker's Latest Adventure(s)***



**01/31/2009 - [Sky Meadows SP, VA](#) (Long Version):** The initial hike I had led at this venue was only about 5 miles in length. Janet and I returned with Linda and Tony of [HikingUpwards.com](#) this past summer and scouted an 8+ mile circuit. Today I returned with a crew of hearty Sierra Club hikers. I was joined by Ted E. Bear, Jack and Jill, Hissam, Sean, XInggau, Cecilia, Drew, Tina, Tom and Steve. The Sky was a clear blue azure without a hint of a cloud and the temps were in the low 20s as we left the parking lot of the Mt. Bleak House. As we crunched across the ice-covered lawn we realized the degree of difficulty would be much greater than if we were doing the hike without any snow on the ground. Although the sun shinning off of the unbroken ice made for a beautiful sight it was a challenge to hike on. We found ourselves intentionally breaking its surface with the heels of our boots as we walked along. We pretty much stuck to the planned route although I had prepared some bailout routes in case the going got too rough. We managed to see all of the vistas save one and although we had some falls and slips along the way there were no serious injuries. We were back at our vehicles and heading down the road by 3:00 o'clock having completed 8.4 miles with a 1600 foot elevation gain.