

M. R. Hyker's Latest Adventure



09/19 to 22 – Car Camping and Day Hiking at World’s End State Park, PA: First, I must say we had great weather for hiking and camping even though the first night it got down into the 30s. It made for some great outdoors sleeping. Secondly I’d like to thank the crew that came out with us. MrsHyker and I were joined by regulars Ted E. Bear, The Mad Hatter, Indiana Moser, Waffles, Cognac Jack, Alan and a new kid on the block, Linda. They were both fun to hike with and to sit around the campfire and share stories with. Finally I want thank JMitch and Leanne for leading us on our first hike to Ketchum and Scar Runs. I’ll let his trip report below describe that day.

“ Finally met up with Mr H and his group to lead them on a hike/bushwhack into Ketchum and Scar Run Gorges. We began along the Fern Rock Nature Trail and meandered down to Ketchum Run. I always enjoy Fern Rock- very scenic forests with small streams, tunnels of hemlock, and a bog- a perfect hike for kids.

A highlight of this hike is its incredible diversity- from bogs, wetlands, streams, deep hemlocks, spruce, pine, small meadows, deep gorges, waterfalls, views- it has it all. This hike features a variety of habitats.

We followed a ski trail and bushwhacked along Ketchum to two scenic off-trail falls. We met up with the LT and proceeded down this beautiful gorge. Lee's and Rodes Falls were running great.

We hiked up to lower Alpine Vista and decided to tackle a bushwhack into Scar Run. This creek is smaller but has many nice falls; the water was lower than I expected, but everyone seemed to enjoy it. Scar Run has many moss covered boulders strewn about the stream bed.

We met back up with the Worlds End Trail in a scenic pine grove and returned back to the LT. We followed ski and side trails back to the car to make a 9.4 mile loop.

Great to meet Mr H and his group, everyone was very nice.”

[Beautiful day on the trail.](#)

I would like to include [this panoramic shot](#) taken from High Knob (A short drive from the trailhead recommended by Jeff).

The second hike was pretty much a circumnavigation of the park itself. We used the Canyon Vista, Link, Double Run, Loyalsock Trails and the Pioneer Road to form a near figure 8 loop. We started at the campground. We ascended 600 feet in the first mile. That doesn't sound bad but most of it came near the end of the climb. It was what you would call "nose to toes" up a trail full of loose rock. It was worth it as the next couple of hundred yards passed through a [proverbial rock city](#) with nearly a solid wall of rock to our left on the ridge and mini-monoliths to our right. We still had some ups and downs to do before the vista but they were nothing compared to the initial climb to gain the ridge. [The view at the top](#) was pretty good, much better than when we backpacked past it in the rain this past April. We descended to Mineral Springs road, crossed it and hiked both branches of Double Run. Precious really enjoyed this section with [all of the pools](#) to play in. We had experienced the east branch before so I knew it would be [beautiful](#) but didn't know what the west branch would have to offer. It was nearly as beautiful as its sister and in two spots, [Water Beech Pool](#) and [Cottonwood Falls](#), exceeded our expectations. After the latter the trail became steeper and rockier but we made a hard push and found ourselves at SR3009 in no time. We had a little trouble finding the Pioneer Road ([The sign was hidden in the woods.](#)) but we found it soon enough and began a pleasant hike to the Visitor Center. I did not study this part of the route with my mapping software. Looking at the park map I assumed we had a lot more climbing to do on this segment but afterwards realized that the Pioneer Road was mostly flat as SR3009 dropped steeply to the Loyalsock Creek Valley, not as I envisioned it. We took a break at the [visitor center](#) before walking [the rock ledge along the creek](#). We took a short lunch break before following the Double Run Trail to the apex of the figure eight. From there we had another short section of "nose to toes" climbing up a pretty rocky section of the LT before a mostly downhill romp on the remainder of the Canyon Vista Trail back to camp. We had another nice fireside chat that night but we were all pretty tired after completing two back-to-back grand hikes. Needless to say we retired early. The next morning we broke camp and met at the [Forksville General Store](#) for a hearty breakfast before heading home. In about forty-five minutes it would be raining.