

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



10-10 to 12-2008, Quehanna Wild Area –SE: Eight of us caravanned up from the Baltimore area arriving at the Sinnemahoning Road/Tr\_trailhead off of Three Runs Road around noon. I was joined by Shortstack, Jody, Indiana Moser, Cognac Jack, Moonshine, Dimitri and Chris. The weather was perfect for the entire trip and the fall colors were in their prime. The first day included hiking Big Spring Draft trail, a part of Wykoff trail, Bellefonte Posse trail and the Meeker trail stopping for the night near its junction with the QTCC. We set up camp in a deep grove of Hemlock and Spruce. A group of three backpackers had taken the small site with the fire ring but offered to share it with us. During our fireside discussion one of them pulled out a map from my website. They were a bit surprised to find themselves talking to the Webmaster.

The sleeping that night was excellent. The next morning, however, was a bit disappointing. We were rudely awaked by the sound of heavy construction equipment at 6:30. Initially it sounded like it was coming from the other side of the hill and was not that far away but as I walked around I could better discern that it was coming from the Quehanna Highway. The sounds were relentless. In no time everyone was up, eating and breaking camp so we could get away from the noise. This leg of the trip included hiking the QTCC south to the QT proper. (We passed an old pumping station that used to send cooling water to the nuclear reactor along Meeker Run. Following the last mile of the connector was a bit rough to follow. It was a trail by name only. I alerted everyone to keep an eye out for the blue blazes. We eventually made it to the connection with the QT but it took us one hour to travel one mile. In the future I think I'll follow Pat's recommendation and stay on Lost Run Road for that segment. Once on the top the hiking was nearly flat for quite a stretch as we hiked eastward on the QT. We took in the three or so vistas including Wild Cat Rocks and a nice southerly view across another drainage. The descent back down to the next valley was steeper than the initial ascent but we all made it down O.K. We took a brake at the hunter's cabin and refilled our water bottles before crossing that fantastic new footbridge over Mosquito Creek. As we approached Corporation Dam the trail made a hard left and followed a small drainage up a hollow before making another sharp turn to climb to an old grade. I struggled on that segment but was

able to recover at the small vista at the top. From there the hike to our next campsite was easy. We arrived at a nice spot w/fire ring near the fork of two streams near an area called Fisher Rocks. The valley was filled with a sea of crimson Blueberry bushes. (Thanks George and Pat for the info!). We set up camp and began preparing our dinner as the sun set and the full moon rose. It was pretty neat.

The next morning I studied the map and decided to shorten the trip a tad. I had advertised that the hike was going to be 28 miles in length. After re-evaluating the GPS data I had obtained up to that point I realized that it was going to be over 30 miles and include another nice climb. Everyone was in agreement. We did our usual breakfast and breakdown routine and continued north on the QT. As we hiked along the right fork of the stream we found Pat's campsite on top of a hill to our left. We will definitely use that one the next time. Just before crossing the Quehanna Highway we passed yet another ocean of crimson bushes surrounded by other fall colors and on the other side of the highway we were met by fields of golden ferns with backdrops of yellow and orange trees. I can't quite remember exactly where without looking at a map but at one point we walked through an almost clear-cut area that offered a nice view down a valley with other mountains in the distance. We descended to a gravel road that services the Piper Reservoir, crossed a stream and made our last climb of the circuit. This one was also pretty hard on me but for some reason I was feeling better as I reached the top. After another break at a small vista we proceed north until we reached Three Run Tower Road. This is where we modified the hike. After exploring the ruins of the old tower for a while we took the Tower Road back to Three Runs Road and our vehicles. We were finished by a little after 2:00 and had completed 30.2 miles.