

M. R. Hyker's Latest Adventure



06-21-2008 - Sugarloaf Mountain: MrsHyker wanted to revisit this venue. It was the first hike she did with me back in 1999 or so. Knowing that the place would be packed we arrived early and were on the trail a little after 9:00. To add some challenge to the trek we started with a steep rocky climb on the Sunset Trail to the summit of the mountain. I haven't been up there since 1997 and had forgotten how nice of a view was at the top. We took an easier route down and visited the now almost overgrown Bill Lambert Vista. If you stand on the tallest rock you can still get an OK northerly view. From there we quickly connected with the main loop and headed north towards White Rocks. We passed some interesting wildflowers on our way. These beautiful tubular fuchsia clusters are Common Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*). It has been introduced from Europe and Asia. It's a beautiful biennial but extremely toxic. We found this outstanding Trumpet Honeysuckle vine growing on the root ball of a fallen tree.

We took lunch at White Rocks, visiting both the South and North views. We took our time for the rest of the hike, taking short breaks as we descended then climbed back up to the main mountain only to descend again. We took a longer break at some picnic tables behind the barns before we began our final climb. We ended the hike where we started - The East View.