

# **HOBBYISTS HIKING GROUP**

## **Master List of Hikes by Location**

<b><u>GEOGRAPHIC AREA</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE NUMBER</u></b>
<b>Harriman State Park/Bear Mountain</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Heritage Trail – New York State</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>New Jersey South and East of Ridgewood</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>New Paltz</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>New York City</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>New York Side of the Hudson</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Northern New Jersey</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Palisades</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Ridgewood Area</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Southern Rockland County</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Sterling Forest</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Vermont Hiking Trails</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Warwick New York</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Norvin Green State Forest</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Western New Jersey</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Potential New Hikes to be Checked Out</b>	<b>89</b>

## **Harriman State Park/Bear Mountain**

### **B-5 Seven Hills/HTS/Reeves Brook Trail Loop to Ramapo Torne and Torne View**

This loop hike at the southern end of Harriman State Park leads to an expansive viewpoint from the summit of the Ramapo Torne. The route would be Pine Meadow Trail from Reeves Meadow parking lot, to the Seven Hills Trail, then on the HTS Trail to the Ramapo Torne, back to junction of Seven Hills and HTS and along these trails until the HTS leaves to Torne View (where we would probably have lunch) then down the Seven Hills Trail to the Reeves Brook Trail to the Pine Meadow Trail and back to the Parking lot. Link to Trail Conference is:

<http://nynjtc.org/hike/seven-hills/htsreeves-brook-trail-loop-ramapo-torne-and-torne-view>

Flex Hike: Either Pine Meadow Lake or Lake Sebago out and back from Johnstontown Road. Decide at Graydon.

Driving Directions:

Take N.J. Route 17 north to the New York State Thruway and take the first exit., Exit 15A (Sloatsburg). Turn left at the bottom of the ramp onto N.Y. Route 17 north, and continue through the Village of Sloatsburg. Just past the village, turn right at the traffic light, following the sign for Harriman State Park. Cross an overpass over railroad tracks and continue along the Seven Lakes Drive, passing under the Thruway overpass, and soon entering Harriman State Park. Proceed for another mile to the Reeves Meadow Visitor Center, on the right side of the road. Park in the Visitor Center's parking lot.

### **C+ 6 Harriman Park-Arden Valley Trail (Elk Pen)**

Pick up the Red Stahahe Trail from the parking lot. Follow that to find the woods road, and continue south to arrive at the southern end of Lake Stahahe. Turn north and proceed around the lake and arrive at a camp site with several cabins where we have lunch. After lunch, we continue north back to the White Nurian Trail and take that to the Red Stahahe Trail which takes us back to the parking lot. Total walk is 6 miles (C+) with gradual inclines and descents. (Trail Map 119)

Flex hike: those wishing to walk less should form car pools at Graydon based on distance objective.

Driving instructions: Follow Route 17N past Sloatsburg, Tuxedo Park and Southfield to Arden Valley Road, turn right at Arden Valley Road, go over the

NY Thruway and find the hiker's parking lot at the Appalachian Trail entrance.

C-5 Lake Sebago Circuit

We will walk around the lake for 5 miles on trails, unmarked trails and paved roads. The entire loop is pretty level with one wide stream to cross.

Driving instructions: Proceed north on Route 17 to the New York State Thruway. Go North on the thruway to the first exit. Again, proceed north on Route 17 thru Sloatsburg (watch the speed traps) to Seven Lakes Drive. Turn right and proceed into Harriman State Park past the dam. Look for the first parking lot entrance on your left.

B-5 Lake Sabago loop from Johnstown Road

This hike begins and ends at the cul-de-sac at the end of Johnstown Road. The route is very scenic touching Lake Sabago and traveling along several streams. Trail consists of level stretches, rolling hills, rock fields and several stream crossings. Walking sticks and good balance are needed.

From the start, you follow the White Bar Trail to the intersection with the Red/White Blaze T-MI trail (intersection not well marked). Turn right. Follow the T-MI trail past Lake Sabago and across Seven Lakes Drive by the dam. Cross the dam and go back into the woods, staying on the T-MI trail. Shortly you come to the intersection with the Yellow and Orange Blaze Trails. Turn right onto the Yellow Blaze Stony Brook trail and follow that along the stream bed, then pass the intersection with the White Blaze Kakiat trail. Continue to follow the Yellow trail to the intersection with the Red Pine Meadow Trail. Follow that trail to Reeves Meadow where you can have lunch. From Reeves Meadow you walk up the road to the pipeline crossing. Then turn left and bushwack back to the parking lot and the cars.

For a flex hike, start off on the White Bar trail and follow it past the Red/White trail intersection to the Yellow Trail. Stay to the right on the Yellow Trail and follow it north as you like. (Yellow trail has not been checked out).

Driving Instruction: Take Route 17 North through Sloatsburg to Seven Lakes Drive and turn right. Just before the Welcome to Harriman State Park sign, turn left onto Johnstown Road. At the Tee, turn right and follow the road 1 mile to the end. The trail starts there.

### B+-6.5 Lake Sabago and return from Johnstown Road (Northern Loop)

Although not steep at the beginning, overall this is a relatively challenging 6.5 mile hike. From the parking lot, we follow the BLUE TRAIL to the top of a perfect lookout rock and continue for another mile to the Tuxedo-Mt.Ivy trail, marked RED where we turn right and proceed to Lake Sebago to have lunch. Then we double back for 1/3 mile on the RED trail to the WHITE BAR trail and follow it back to the parking lot.

For the flex hike, from the parking lot, take the WHITE BAR trail to the RED trail, then turn right towards Lake Sebago, stop at the lake and return to the parking lot via the same route or the woods road.

Driving Instruction: Take Route 17 North through Sloatsburg to Seven Lakes Drive and turn right. Just before the Welcome to Harriman State Park sign, turn left onto Johnstown Road. At the Tee, turn right and follow the road 1 mile to the end. The trail starts there.

### C+-5 Lake Sabago out and back from Johnstown Road

Beginning from the parking area at the end of Johnstown Road, we follow the White blaze White Bar Trail north and connect with the Yellow blazed Triangle trail. Continue north as time allows and return the same way.

Flex hikers follow the same itinerary at their own pace and distance.

Driving Instruction: Take Route 17 North through Sloatsburg to Seven Lakes Drive and turn right. Just before the Welcome to Harriman State Park sign, turn left onto Johnstown Road. At the Tee, turn right and follow the road 1 mile to the end. The trail starts there.

### B+5 Sleater Hill Loop from Johnstown Road

This hike includes scenic vistas, wetlands and wildlife viewing plus a panoramic view of Harriman State Park from the Almost Perpendicular optional climb. From the parking lot at the end of Johnstown Road, the trail follows the blue disc north to the intersection with the white Katiat Trail. At that point is the optional climb to Almost Perpendicular. Main route turns left and joins the white Katiat trail for a short distance to the start of the Orange Trail. From there we follow the Orange trail southwest until it intersects the Blue trail. Itinerary then follows the Blue Trail around Sleater Hill and then north to rejoin the Orange trail. Follow

the Orange Trail to intersect the Katiat Trail and follow that around back to the Parking Lot.

Flex hikers make take a shorter route by eliminating the optional climb and the Sleater Hill loop.

Driving Instruction: Take Route 17 North through Sloatsburg to Seven Lakes Drive and turn right. Just before the Welcome to Harriman State Park sign, turn left onto Johnstown Road. At the Tee, turn right and follow the road 1 mile to the end. The trail starts there.

#### B+6 Cats Elbow Climb from Anthony Wayne Recreation Area

Hike starts at the southern end of the Anthony Wayne parking area and includes some of the Park's best panoramic views and one challenging climb. You begin walking south on the Horn Hill Bike Path to intersect the red Ramapo-Dunderberg trail. Follow that for 1.6 miles, with side trip to climb Cats Elbow. From the R-D trail, you turn left on a woods road a short way to the blue Timp-Torne trail. Continue to the intersection with the Appalachian Trail. Again turn left and follow that back to to Bike Path. Hike more fully described with map in the book: Circular Hikes in Harriman.

Driving: Take the Palisades Interstate Parkway to Exit 17 (Anthony Wayne Recreation Area). Proceed past the first parking lot and follow the sign for the "Far South Lot". Park at the far end of the lot near the kiosk and picnic tables. Pick up the bike path at the kiosk.

#### B+ 5.5/6.7 Almost Perpendicular and Claudius Smith Den from Johnstown Road

From the Johnstown parking circle, take the blue, Blue Disc (BD), trail to Almost Perpendicular, then continue on the BD trail through Elbow Brush to the intersection with red and white trails. Near this intersection on the red dash on white, Tuxedo – Mt Ivy (TMI) trail, is Smith Cave, hideout of the Claudius Smith gang. Claudius Smith was a notorious outlaw during the American Revolution, robbing farms and hijacking arsenal trains of the Continental Army. Smith was captured in 1777, escaped and recaptured in 1778, and hanged in Goshen, NY in 1779.

At this point there is the option for the shorter, 5.5 mile hike. Continue on the TMI trail until it intersects with the red, Ramapo Dunderberg (RD), trail. Take the RD trail until it intersects with the white, Katiat, trail. Take the Katiat trail until it meets the BD trail, then take the BD trail back to the Johnstown parking circle.

For the longer option, 6.7 mile hike, take the TMI trail to Claudius Smith Cave, then backtrack to the intersection with the BD trail. Continue on the BD Trail 0.6 miles to the TriTrail Center (the intersection of three trails). Take the red, RD, trail until it intersects with the white, Kakiat, trail. Take the Kakiat trail until it meets the BD trail, then take the blue trail back to the Johnstontown parking circle.

Flex Hiker's should do an out and back on the White Bar Trail starting north towards Lake Sabago.

**Driving Instruction:** Take Route 17 North through Sloatsburg to Seven Lakes Drive and turn right. Just before the Welcome to Harriman State Park sign, turn left onto Johnstown Road. At the Tee, turn right and follow the road 1 mile to the end. The trail starts there.

#### C-6 Lake Welch Circuit

From the Lake Welch parking lot, we circle the lake to the north, then pick up Johnstontown Road and follow it past St Johns in the Wilderness Church. Past the Church, we follow the Long Path north to the Beech Trail. We follow the Beech Trail north to Route 106 and follow that back to the Lake Welch parking lot.

Directions: Go to the Seven Lakes Drive in Sloatsburg. Follow that to the Kanawauke Circle. At the Traffic Circle, pick up Route 106 and follow it to the Lake Welch entrance. Parking is at the large lot by the beach.

#### B-6.5 Jackie Jones Mountain and Big Hill

Hike includes relics of the past, passes several reservoirs and has a number of mountain top views. From the parking lot, the hike follows the yellow Sufferin-Bear Mountain (S-BM) trail passing the fire tower to the top of Big Hill and shelter. Returns follows an unmarked trail past 2 reservoirs to the intersection of the S-BM trail and the green blazed Long Path. The route then follows the Long Path to the intersection with an unmarked trail off to the left that goes up to the yellow S-BM trail. From there you turn right and return to the parking lot. (More detailed description in the book: Circular Hikes in Harriman).

Flex hike would be to do an out and back on the S-BM trail or a single loop to/from the Big Hill Shelter.

Directions: Take N.J. Route 17 north to the New York State Thruway and take the first exit, Exit 15A (Sloatsburg). Turn left at the bottom of the ramp onto N.Y.

Route 17 north and continue through the Village of Sloatsburg. Just beyond the village, turn right at the next traffic light, following the signs for Seven Lakes Drive and Harriman State Park. Continue to follow Seven Lakes Drive for about seven miles to the Kanawauke Circle. At the circle, turn right onto County Route 106 and follow it for 3.2 miles to a parking area on the right, just beyond a bridge over a stream.

#### B-6 Popolopen Gorge Out and Back

This hike begins at Fort Montgomery State Park near Bear Mountain. It follows the red on white blazed Popolopen Trail westbound to the intersection with the White/Blue blazed 1777W and 1779 trail. There, cross the bridge and return on that Trail. Options are the the major uphill trek to the very scenic Popolopen Tarne and/or circle Brooks Lake. See Circle Hikes in Harriman for more detail.

Not good for flex hike. Will need alternative.

Driving: Take the Palisades Interstate Parkway to its terminus at the Bear Mountain Circle (or Seven Lakes Drive). Proceed north on US 9W, cross the viaduct over Popolopen Creek, and **immediately** turn right into the Fort Montgomery State Historic Site. Park in the parking area at the bottom of the ramp.

#### C+8 Lake Skannatati – Hasenclever Mine

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From the Lake Skannatati Parking area, we will hike the Red Cross trail to the Hasenclever Mine and return via the Blue Beech Trail and Long Path. Note: The Red Cross trail starting out from the parking lot is somewhat steep. Flex hikers and others may want to walk north/west along the road and meet up where the Red Cross trail intersects.

For flex hikers, the shortest route back from the mine is along the unmarked access road to the Long Path and back to the parking lot.

Directions: North on Route 17 thru Sloatsburg to Seven Lakes Drive. Make right turn and proceed 8 miles to Lake Skannatati. Make left u-turn down hill to parking area next to lake which is 7/10 of a mile beyond Kanawakue Circle.

#### C-6 Times Square (and beyond) from the Tiorati Traffic Circle

This is a fairly easy hike from the Tiorati Traffic Circle along the Ramapo – Dunderberg (Red) Trail to Times Square and back, with one or more loop circuits from Times Square selected by the hike leader.

The flex hike will be along the same trails at a distance to be determined by the group.

Directions: North on Route 17 thru Sloatsburg to Seven Lakes Drive. Make right turn and proceed through the Kanawakue Circle to the next traffic circle (Tiorati) that is at the north end of Lake Tiorati. Parking is on the left past the first dumpster.

#### B-7 Goshen Mountain from Tiorati Traffic Circle

This loop hike includes two gradual, moderate climbs and winter views from Goshen and Stevens Mountains. Loop follows the red R-D trail east to Goshen Mountain and returns via the Appalachian Trail with a short time on the Long Path on the return. More fully described in the Book: Loop Trails in Harriman.

Flex hike would be to follow the Red R-D trail towards Times Square.

Directions: North on Route 17 thru Sloatsburg to Seven Lakes Drive. Make right turn and proceed through the Kanawakue Circle to the next traffic circle (Tiorati) that is at the north end of Lake Tiorati. Parking is on the left past the first dumpster.

#### B-5 Harriman Long Path to Times Square

We follow the Long Path trail (Green blaze) which has some hills from Lake Skannatati up a grade to "Times Square". We return from Times Square on the Arden-Sturbridge trail (red triangle on white background) which takes you past some old mines, then up Pine Swamp mountain (steady climb but not steep) and descends over rocks quite sharply to our parking lot. Option is to go beyond Times Square and do a loop on the Appalachian Trail (by Lemon Squeezer) and return via Times Square. We lunch in route at a scenic overlook on the red trail near the end or travel into Sloatsburg for lunch at Rhodes Tavern. Flex hike is on same trails at a distance determined by the group.

Directions: North on Route 17 thru Sloatsburg to Seven Lakes Drive. Make right turn and proceed 8 miles to Lake Skannatati. Make left u-turn down hill to parking area next to lake which is 7/10 of a mile beyond Kanawakue Circle.

#### B-5.5 Harriman Long Path and Dunning Trails to Times Square

Hike starts out from the parking lot on the Long Path, then left on the Dunning Trail past the Hogencamp Mine and Village, past "bowling rocks", next turn right on the R-D, past the "Whaleback", past "Ship Rock", up Hogencamp



Mountain, then to Times Square. We would return on the ASB. Lunch could be on Hogencamp Mountain (one of the tallest in Harriman) or at Times Square. Flex hike is on the same trail at a distance determined by the group.

Directions: North on Route 17 thru Sloatsburg to Seven Lakes Drive. Make right turn and proceed 8 miles to Lake Skannatati. Make left u-turn down hill to parking area next to lake which is 7/10 of a mile beyond Kanawakue Circle.

#### B+8 Harriman Times Square from Route 106

This is a challenging hike with great vistas and several aggressive ups and downs. From the parking lot we start the hike on the RED Ramapo-Dunderberg trail and follow it all the way to Times Square. From there, we turn left and follow the Green Long Path north to the Intersection with the Appalachian Trail. This will be the furthest point. Then we turn around and follow the Appalachian trail south through the Lemon Squeezer to the intersection with the Red Dot Arden-Sturbridge Trail. Turn left and follow that a short distance to the White Bar trail (White bar blaze). Follow the White Bar trail to the Yellow blazed Dunning Trail and travel a short distance to pick up the Ramapo-Dunderberg trail and return to the parking lot.

#### FLEX HIKE

From the parking lot double back for 100 yards on Route 106 toward the "Circle" and take the dirt road that goes past camp sites and cross the dam. On the other side you will encounter a very narrow trail which follows the lake back for a short distance, then you come upon another camp site where you take the blacktop road back to the parking lot --- 2 miles --- very nice.

#### Driving Directions

Take Route 17 North to Sloatsburg and onto 7 Lakes Drive, at the Kanawauke Circle go South on Route 106 (left turn)

Flex Hikers stop at the parking lot just 1/4 mile on your Left

All others continue to a small, but marked, parking lot on your Right just beyond Little Long Road (1 mile in from Circle)

#### B-6 Stahahe High Peak from Route 106

From the parking lot we take Island Park Rd to an unmarked trail which takes us to the top of "Stahahe Peak", from there we either backtrack to the road, or head north until we reach the White trail or yellow trail. We take that trail north to the Valley of Boulders.

We return on the Yellow (Dunning) trail, then the White Bar trail to the Left for a half mile to the Bald Rocks for Lunch.

Thereafter we backtrack a short distance, and pick up the Red trail and go Left (south) to the White trail back to the parking area.

#### FLEX HIKE

Also starts out with Island Park Rd, but continues beyond to the Yellow trail -- make a Right turn until you reach the White Bar trail, turn Right (south) which takes you back to the parking area -- about 2 1/2 miles, total.

REFER TO THE DETAILED TRAIL CONFERENCE MAP #116 .

#### Driving Directions:

Take Route 17 North through TUXEDO NY and continue for 2 plus miles to the Sterling Forest Exit (17-A) -- this is a LEFT exit. On top of Ramp make a Right turn onto Rt.106 and proceed for 2.4 miles to the 1st and only parking area on the Right side.

#### B-6 Pine Meadow Lake (From Lake Sebago Boat Basin)

This hike departs from the Lake Sebago Boat Basin and follows an old woods dirt road up to Pine Meadow Lake. We return over the shoulder of Conklin Mt. and down the 7 Hills Trail (blue square with a white background) to the parking lot. This is a 6 mile hike over dirt roads and trails, some very rocky, and with some ups and downs, one steep down hill at the very end.

Directions: Travel north on Route 17 thru Sloatsburg to Seven Lakes Drive. Make a right turn and proceed several miles across the dam. Turn left at the Lake Sebago Boat Launch sign and proceed to the parking lot.

#### B-6 Pine Meadow Lake (from Reeves Meadow Visitors Center on Seven Lakes Drive)

This hike leaves from the Visitor Center on Seven Lakes Drive and goes through a gradual uphill on a rocky trail to Pine Meadow Lake. The route follows the Red - Pine Meadow Trail out and back. We stop at the dam for a good view, have lunch somewhere around the lake and return to the parking lot. Mileage is 6 miles to the dam and back. From the dam, there are several options: (1) walk several more miles on the Pine Meadow Trail around the southern end of the lake and double back; (2) for the more ambitious, cross the dam, pick up the Yellow on White Poached Egg Trail and take the Raccoon Brook Hills loop, returning on the White Blazed Kakiat trail back to the Pine Meadow Trail.

For flex hike, you can walk as far as desired and return.

Directions: Travel north on Route 17 thru Sloatsburg to Seven Lakes Drive. Make a right turn and proceed a short distance to the Visitor Center on the right. We park and meet there.

B+-6 Raccoon Brook Hills Loop from Reeves Meadow

From Reeves Meadow, this hike goes out on the Yellow and White Trails. Stay on the White Kakiat Trail to turn left on the Black Raccoon Brook Hills Trail. Follow that loop back to the White Trail. Return via the White and then Red Pine Meadow Trail.

Flex hikers can use the red Pine Meadow Trail to the Lake and return.

Directions: Travel north on Route 17 thru Sloatsburg to Seven Lakes Drive. Make a right turn and proceed a short distance to the Visitor Center on the right. We park and meet there.

B-6 Pine Meadow Lake Loop (from Reeves Meadow via Poached Egg connector)

Route goes out from Reeves Visitor Center on Pine Meadow Trail (Red square on white) to the Lake; route back follows the Pine Meadow Road over the Dam to Poached Egg connector (yellow), to the Raccoon Brook Hills Trail (black dot on white) to the Kakiat Trail (white), and to the Pine Meadow Trail back to Reeves parking lot. Flex can be to Lake and back or shorter out and back based on energy.

Directions: Travel north on Route 17 thru Sloatsburg to Seven Lakes Drive. Make a right turn and proceed a short distance to the Visitor Center on the right. We park and meet there.

C+ 5 1777E/Doodletown Bridle Path Loop from 9W

Overview: This easy to moderate 5 plus mile circular hike follows pleasant woods roads through the abandoned hamlet of Doodletown and loops back on the Doodletown Bridle Path. Several alternative Flex Hikes are available along the same trail. Refer to the Master List of Hikes tab - Harriman Park section and the NYNJ Trail Conference website for a very detailed description.

Driving Directions: Take the Garden State Parkway north to I-87 toward the Tappan Zee Bridge. Take the Palisades Interstate Parkway exit off of I-87 toward Bear Mountain Bridge. Take the Palisades Parkway all the way to the Bear Mountain Circle. Take the first exit to 9W south. Go 1.3 miles to a small hikers

trailhead parking area on the left side of the road, just past a concrete bridge over a stream. There is also a second parking lot just before the bridge.

Detailed Description:

From the parking area, walk back across the bridge (or just cross the road if parked in the first lot on the left). On the West (left) side of the road (facing back toward Bear Mountain Circle), turn left at a sign for “Doodletown” and proceed uphill on an old road with crumbling pavement (initially looks like a trail with steps, but you will soon see the crumbling pavement). The road, known as Doodletown Road, led to the hamlet of Doodletown, which was abandoned in 1965. Small historic markers along the way on this hike identify various former buildings (now demolished) and their former occupants.

The road makes a sharp left turn and continues uphill. Near the top of the hill, the 1777E Trail comes in from the right and joins the road. Continue ahead along the road, now following the 1777E blazes (red 1777E on metal tag). After skirting the Doodletown Reservoir, you will reach a T-intersection, where you turn right.

A short distance beyond, you will reach another junction, where a sign to the right shows the site of the Montville Community Church. Here, you should turn left onto Pleasant Valley Road, following the sign to the Herbert Cemetery. Along the right side of the road, old stone walls and steps mark several abandoned homesites.

Soon, the 1777W Trail leaves to the right and the road to the Herbert Cemetery goes off to the left, but you continue on ahead on Pleasant Valley Road. After passing the site of the Thomas home on the right, you’ll reach an intersection with the Doodletown Bridle Path (marked by a sign which says “Vandals have removed the ‘you are here’ map”).

Turn right on the Bridle Path, which you will follow for most of the rest of the hike. It is unmarked, but it is a wide woods road and is easily followed. It is level for the next half mile. After it crosses the Doodlekill (a small stream) on rocks, the yellow blazed S-BM (Suffern-Bear Mountain) joins from the left. The stream crossing is tricky enough that hiking sticks are advised. The Bridle Path continues through a narrow valley and soon the S-BM exits to the right.

**For a shorter Flex Hike without the upcoming steep climb, turn right onto the S-BM here. This shortcut rejoins the Bridle Path as indicated later. The shortcut is about 10 minutes.**

You continue on the Bridle Path through an area of mountain laurel and you begin to climb with a stream down below on the right. After turning sharply right near the top of the climb, the Bridle Path heads downhill and the path becomes

rougher. At the bottom of the hill, you come to a T-intersection. Here the Bridle Path turns right and is joined by the 1777W Trail on a level route, with a stream to the right. In one-half mile, the 1777W blazes continue ahead, but follow the Bridle Path as it curves left, now again joined by the yellow blazes of the S-BM Trail. **This is where the Flex Hike short cut mentioned above joins the route again.**

In another 200 feet, bear left, continuing to follow the S-BM blazes along the Bridle Path (do not follow the road ahead). The Bridle Path will now descend. At a curve to the right, the S-BM Trail will leave to the left and climb steeply to Seven Lakes Drive. Continue ahead on the Bridle Path, now again unmarked.

In three quarters of a mile, you will come to an intersection marked by a Doodletown map. Continue ahead, and you will soon pass a view point to the right of Dunderberg Mountain and the Hudson River. The First June Family cemetery is just to the left. When you reach an intersection with a sign with a large "2", turn right and descend on the 1777E Trail. At the following intersection, bear sharply left onto Doodletown Road, and retrace your steps to the parking area where the hike began.

Alternate Flex Hike: The above hike, as indicated in Bold, has a short cut which significantly shortens the hike and avoids a second steep climb and a more difficult descent. An alternative would be for the Flex hikers to park in the main Bear Mountain recreation area parking lot (take the Seven Lakes Drive Exit after Bear Mountain Circle, but before the hiker's trail head parking area described above. From here the Flex Hikers can follow the 1777 Trail to Hessian Lake, make a circuit around Hessian Lake until reaching the Appalachian Trail (AT), which joins from the left, and continues under 9W to Fort Clinton, and continues on to Fort Montgomery across Popolopen Creek. From Fort Montgomery, retrace the route back to Hessian Lake and continue on a woods road around the lake until it joins the Major Welch Trail, which continues around the lake until it intersects with the AT, returning to the parking lot.

Liberally copied from Daniel Chazin's Description of this hike on the Trail Conference Website. (<http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/doodletown-loop-bear-mountain>)

#### C+5 Doodletown Bridal Path (2)

Hike starts at the other end of the Bridal Path, off Exit 19 of the Palisades Parkway (see directions below). It starts on the 1777W Trail, joins the A/T for a short way, then the Bridal Path which we will go on in a counter clockwise direction (opposite to that on the other Doodletown Hike), joins both the Fawn Trail for a short bit and the Suffern/Bear Mountain Trail, eventually getting to

Doodletown Reservoir, then the 1777E Trail, past the June Cemetery, eventually paralleling Seven Lakes Drive, then crossing the S/BM and then the 1777W Trail and back to the parking lot. More detailed description on the Trail Conference site.

Directions:

Takes Palisades Interstate Parkway to Exit 19, continue for 0.5 mile on Seven Lakes Drive, then make the first right turn onto to an unmarked road that leads in a short distance to a parking area.

#### B+-6 Tuxedo Park (Smith Cave)

This is a B+ hike because the trail is rocky and there are a number of fairly steep hills. We'll proceed on a loop and stop at the notorious Claudius Smith's Den for lunch. Smith and his gang of thieves made these caves their hideout until caught and hanged at Goshen NY in 1779. The length of this hike is 5.8 miles As a Flex hike, you can remain on the road which loops around in both the north and south directions, for a total of about 3 miles

Directions: Take Route 17 north to the New York Thruway at Suffern, then proceed on Thruway north about 2 miles to right hand exit back onto Route 17 towards Sloatsburg NY. Proceed through Sloatsburg to Tuxedo. After passing the Tuxedo railroad station on your right, turn right on East Village Drive and after crossing the railroad tracks, immediately turn left into parking lot and park at the far end of the lot in any spaces from #71 to #148. Be prepared to deposit \$2 in the slot of a box near the front of the lot. Any other parking lots in the area are restricted to local residents. The hiking trail begins at this lot.

#### B+-6 Island Pond Loop from Arden Valley Road

This 6 mile B+ very challenging hike is a loop around Island Pond starting off from the parking lot on Arden Valley Road. We follow the Red Arden Surebridge Trail (A/SB) that passes around the south end of the Pond and through the Lemon Squeezer. Route then turns left on the White Appalachian Trail at the northeast end of Island Pond that takes us back to the parking lot. The terrain is consists of several ups and downs, several at the start and end are quite challenging. See Trail Conference Map #118. There is an option for a 1.5 mile add-on on the Appalachian Trail and Long Path loop.

For the lesser distance flex hike, you would take the paved Arden Valley Road from the parking lot to the top of the hill to a locked metal gate that is the vehicle entrance to Island Pond. Walk through the gate and go directly to the Pond. You

can walk left or right on the Red (A/SB) trail as far as you want and return the same way. Alternative would be to following the Elk Pen trail parallel to the Thruway and return.

Driving instructions: take Route 17N through Tuxedo Park. Continue on 17N about 5 miles to Arden Valley Road and turn right. Go over the NY Thruway about 50 feet and turn into the parking lot. The hike starts there.

B-6 Loop Hike from Bear Mountain Inn (NYNJTC Map 119)

From the parking lot next to the Inn we head toward the skating rink where we pick up the YELLOW trail and follow it for several miles to the White/Red 1777E trail where we make a left turn and go past the Doodletown reservoir; we may also tour a bit of this now abandoned town if we wish. Then we keep going north and loop back to the Inn. The trail has several up and down sections at the beginning, but is quite flat in the latter parts.

We can take lunch in the lobby of the Inn which has coffee and various other drinks for purchase.

After lunch we pick up the Red Trail headed north past Hessian Lake up to the sharp left turn that begins the steep rise to the top of Bear Mountain.

The flex hikers should do the HESSIAN LAKE LOOP and other local trails, it is all black top and easy walking.

Driving Directions:

Take 17 North to the Village of Sloatsburg and get onto the 7-LAKES drive. Go through all the traffic circles all the way to the SECOND sign for Bear Mountain (but don't go over the bridge). After you turn onto 9W south, make a RIGHT turn and proceed to the Inn parking lot, approximately 1/2 mile after the turn. It is also possible to take Rt. 287 north to the Palisades Parkway North, follow to the end and look for the Bear Mountain Inn signs.

B-6 Bear Mountain Summit from Perkins Road via the Appalachian Trail

This Out and Back hike follows the Appalachian Trail beginning at Perkins Road to the Summit of Bear Mountain and returns. Trail is fairly steep at times but follows the stone stairway much of the way. There are several other ways to reach the summit including beginning at the Bear Mountain Lodge. See: <http://www.mapmyhike.com/workout/597898241>.

Flex Hike: Various opportunities when parked at the Summit.

Directions: Follow Seven Lakes Drive North. Take the Perkins Road exit and travel short distance to find a small parking area on the right. If you see the Appalachian Trail crossing sign, you have gone too far. Trail starts a few hundred feet up the road from the parking area.

B+6 Long Mountain and Turkey Hill Lake in Harriman

This double loop hike includes panoramic views from the Torrey Memorial, several scenic lakes and brooks. Northern 1.7 mile loop follows the Long Path towards Long Mountain, Southern 4.2 mile loop follows the Popolopen Gorge, 1779 and Anthony Wayne trails past the southern edge of Turkey Hill Lake. Queensboro Lake is good lunch spot. Hike details are contained in the book: Circular Hikes in Harriman.

Flex hike alternative is to follow the Southern Loop all or in part. Check map.

Directions: take the Palisades Interstate Parkway north to Exit 18 (Central Valley/Seven Lakes Drive) and proceed ahead to the Long Mountain Circle. Take the second exit off the Circle (halfway around) onto Route 6 West, and continue for 1.2 miles to a very small sign on the right side of the road for "Long Path/Raymond H. Torrey Memorial". Turn right and continue to a kiosk on the right.

B+5.5 Appalachian Trail – Long Path Loop from Tiorati Circle

This loop hike has diverse scenery and terrain, passes a large mine, wetlands, shelters and has a winter/spring view of Lake Tiorati. While fairly short, has several interesting climbs. Hike starts at the Parking Lot near Tiorati Circle and goes out on the Long Path and back on the Appalachian Trail. Fully described with map in the book: Circular Hikes in Harriman, Page 99.

Flex hike would be to follow the main hike 1.6 miles out on the Long Path to the crossing of the Surebridge Mine Road and return the same way. No climbs on this segment and almost no net elevation gain.

Directions: Follow Seven Lakes Drive for 10.3 miles to the Tiorati Traffic Circle. Go  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way around the Circle and pull into the Parking Lot. Park past the first dumpster on the right and find the start of the Lake Tiorati Trail marked by a triple blue blaze.



#### C-6/4 Horn Hill Bike Path

This loop hike (walk) covers the only bike path in Harriman. There is a 6 mile loop for regular hikers and a 4 mile loop for flexers. Path is relatively flat and either dirt or gravel. Trail starts at the Anthony Wayne Activity Center Parking Lot. Fully described with map in the book: Circular Hikes in Harriman.

Driving: Take the Palisades Interstate Parkway to Exit 17 (Anthony Wayne Recreation Area). Proceed past the first parking lot and follow the sign for the "Far South Lot". Park at the far end of the lot near the kiosk and picnic tables. Pick up the bike path at the kiosk.

#### B+5 Silvermine Lake and Black Mountain

This 5 mile hike includes spectacular views of Silvermine Lake, the Hudson River and surrounding mountains, a stone shelter and a mine. From the parking area, the route follows the Yellow trail to the stone shelter, turns left onto the AT/R-D trail which continues to Black Mountain overlook. From there, the route back tracks to join the Silver Mine road which goes back to the parking area.

Flex hikers should select a more suitable route in Harriman.

Driving Directions:

Take N.J. Route 17 north to the New York State Thruway and take the first exit, Exit 15A (Sloatsburg). Turn left at the bottom of the ramp onto N.Y. Route 17 north, and continue through the Village of Sloatsburg. Just past the village, turn right at the traffic light, following the sign for Seven Lakes Drive/Harriman State Park. Continue along Seven Lakes Drive for about 12 miles to the Silvermine Picnic Area, on the right side of the road (the Silvermine Picnic Area is 2.1 miles beyond the Tiorati Circle). Park in the large parking area near the entrance (a parking fee is charged on weekends in the summer).

#### B-5 Stockbridge Mountain and Lake Nawahunta

This easy to moderate loop hike includes mountain top views, scenic lake, mine, rock cave shelter and an overhanging perched boulder. From the Silvermine parking area, the route follows the Yellow trail west across the road to intersect with the Nawahunta fire road. Turn right and follow the woods/fire road north to meet the Long Path. Turn left and follow the Long Path south to meet up with the yellow trail. Turn left and follow that trail back to the parking area. Hike is Chapter 14 in the book Circuit Hikes in Harriman.

Flex hike can be out and back on the Fire Road.

Driving Directions:

Take N.J. Route 17 north to the New York State Thruway and take the first exit, Exit 15A (Sloatsburg). Turn left at the bottom of the ramp onto N.Y. Route 17 north, and continue through the Village of Sloatsburg. Just past the village, turn right at the traffic light, following the sign for Seven Lakes Drive/Harriman State Park. Continue along Seven Lakes Drive for about 12 miles to the Silvermine Picnic Area, on the right side of the road (the Silvermine Picnic Area is 2.1 miles beyond the Tiorati Circle). Park in the large parking area near the entrance (a parking fee is charged on weekends in the summer).

## **Heritage Trail – New York State**

### **C-9 Chester to Monroe and Return**

We start at the old Chester train station on Winkler Place and walk east towards Monroe and return. Check out the Binberg Preserve with its two walking trails totaling 1.75 miles – entrance is about 2 miles east of the train station. Lunch is at the Harriman Depot parking lot where we turn around and return. Total trip could be up to 10 miles. Path is all asphalt and flat. For more information, see [www.orangepathways.org](http://www.orangepathways.org).

Flex hikers follow the same route as far as desired.

Driving directions: Take Route 17N and connect with the NY Thruway I-87N. [Option is to stay on 17N all the way to US6 interchange at Harriman]. Take Exit 16 US6/RT-17 West. Continue on this road for about 10 miles to Exit 127 towards Greycourt Rd/Sugar Loaf/Warwick. Turn right onto Lehigh Ave. Turn left onto Greycourt Ave. This street arrives at Winkler Street and the old train station. We park there. On the return, continue on Lehigh Ave. to the light and turn left on 17M. Follow that to the entrance to US6/Rt 17 on the left.

### **C-9 Chester to Goshen and Return**

We start at the old Chester train station on Winkler Place and walk west to Goshen and back along the converted rail trail. Trail is relatively flat and all paved with asphalt. Lunch is at the Goshen end along the trail. (Check-out ice cream/snack bar being built at the Goshen end for possible stop.) People can walk any distance and return – like minded groups can join up at Graydon before

we leave. Should also consider having a beer at the pub next to the station. See MapmyHike for details at: <http://www.mapmyhike.com/workout/128557305>

Driving directions: Take Route 17N and connect with the NY Thruway I-87N. [Option is to stay on 17N all the way to US6 interchange at Harriman]. Take Exit 16 US6/RT-17 West. Continue on this road for about 10 miles to Exit 127 towards Greycourt Rd/Sugar Loaf/Warwick. Turn right onto Lehigh Ave. Turn left onto Greycourt Ave. This street arrives at Winkler Street and the old train station. We park there. On the return, continue on Lehigh Ave. to the light and turn left on 17M. Follow that to the entrance to US6/Rt 17 on the left.

## **New Jersey South and East of Ridgewood**

### **C-8 Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge – Basking Ridge NJ**

We park at the parking area at the end of White Bridge Road where the trail starts. The trail consists of dirt paths, some boardwalks and some connecting roadways. It is an approximate 8+ mile walk along all flat terrain. The trail ends at a parking area along Long Hill Road which is about 2 miles from where the cars are parked. We will station one or two cars there at the start of the hike to shuttle the drivers back to their cars at the end. <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatswamp/>

Flex hike opportunity is to walk less distance on the trail and return to the White Bridge Road parking lot.

Driving instructions: **From interstate 287 (southbound):**

Take Exit 30A (Basking Ridge/ North Maple Avenue) and proceed onto North Maple Avenue. Go through traffic light at Madisonville Road (ignore the refuge directional sign pointing left at Madisonville Road) and continue on North Maple. After one mile North Maple will bear left and become South Maple Avenue. Continue on South Maple Avenue for one mile and turn left on Lord Stirling Road. After 1.3 miles you will pass over a bridge on the Passaic River. The road then becomes White Bridge Road. Continue straight for about 1.5 miles into the parking area.

### **C-4 Branch Brook Park – Newark**

This spring hike is scheduled when the cherry trees are at maximum bloom. It is an easy 4 mile or so walk over paved or dirt trails. Since this is a short hike, a lunch has been organized at Casa Vasca, one of the very good Newark restaurants. Lunch will be in the range of \$25 per person for a typical Spanish lunch served family style collected in cash at the parking area in the park at 11:45.

Please do not go directly to the restaurant and have the correct change. Lunch begins at noon.

Driving instructions: Take South Maple towards Paterson. Cross the Passaic River and follow the signs to Rt. 21 South. Continue on Rt. 21 South that will have the Passaic River on your left. Take the Mill Street Exit (Exit 5 – 17 miles from Graydon), proceed to the right through 3 traffic lights into the park. Travel an additional .1 miles until you reach a tiny traffic island. (If you pass over a bridge you have gone too far). Proceed right up the hill and make a U turn at the end of the road and PARK on the side of the road.

Return Route: Proceed via the same arrival route Mill Road to the 3<sup>rd</sup> traffic light. Take a right turn following the Route 21 – South/North sign. Enter Route 21 South and get off at the next exit (No. 4). Turn left under the highway and left again to proceed onto Route 21 North. Follow Rt. 21 to 20 and on into Ridgewood.

To Casa Vasca: Follow the directions above to Route 21 South. Turn left onto Lafayette Street, go about 5 blocks (.3 miles) and turn right onto Prospect, Look for the parking lot on the right just prior to Elm street.

To Iberia Tavern: Follow the directions above to Route 21 South. Entering Newark, you will see the Hilton Gateway Building on the left. At the second light after the Hilton Gateway, turn left onto Edison Place. Proceed three blocks. Edison Place then merges onto Ferry Street. The Iberia Tavern parking lot is located one block away from the first traffic light on Ferry Street. **Remember we go to the Iberia Tavern – not the Iberia Peninsula which is very close by.**

#### C-6.5 Loantaka Brook Reservation – Morristown, NJ

Easy 6+ mile loop, similar to the Duck Pond bicycle path in that it is flat, mostly paved and in a wooded park area in suburbia. It is ideal for winter hikes and flex hikers have various options.

Proceed along the bike path at the south end of the parking area, taking a left at the T junction and entering the woods. Follow the paved path 0.6 miles to a grassy circle. Cross the circle and continue through the parking lot, keeping the softball field and Kitchell Pond on the left. At the end of the parking lot turn left on Kitchell Road for 125 feet and then right onto the paved path that heads into the woods. This path continues south through wooded areas, and crossing Loantaka Brook, the bridle path, several streams and another paved path. Stay on this path for another 1.3 miles to a parking area and a paved road, Loantaka Way. Cross the road and turn right, heading west, walking on the grassy shoulder for about 0.3 of a mile, passing an historic brick horse barn (1834) and crossing over

a bridge. After the bridge turn left at the crosswalk and head south again on the paved bike path (barn will be on the left). There is a bench here where the some hikers may wish to have lunch and wait for the others to return. The path continues south through the woods for another 0.75 of a mile to a bridge over Loantaka Brook. This is about the halfway point of the hike and a bench here is another good place for lunch. About 300 feet beyond the bridge (and just before a “no horses” sign) a wide dirt bridle path appears on the left. The group can now choose to follow the bridle path or follow the bike path back the way we came. Depending on recent weather, the bridle path could be muddy. If the bridle path is followed it will lead back north to the 1834 barn where a left turn over a small bridge brings you back to the paved bike path. Then turn right on the bike path and proceed north to Loantaka Way. Cross the road and continue north on the bike path (red blaze), which will turn right (east) for a short stretch before crossing the bike path we took earlier (blue blaze). Turn left and head north on the blue blaze trail retracing your steps to the parking lot.

Another option is to follow the blue blaze trail north until the bridle path crosses it and goes to the right. The bridle path from here north has a better surface and should not be as muddy as further south. It also leads back to the parking lot where the cars are parked. Following the bridle path you will cross Kitchell Road and come out on the northeast shore of Kitchell Pond. Continue on the bridle path, bearing left at a couple of junctions to keep parallel to the brook, which will be on your left. The bridle path will eventually cross the brook on a bridge. Bear right and continue along the bridle path to its end by the stables. You can get to the parking area on your left by crossing the grassy area.

Notes: 1. Restroom facilities (more or less) at the parking lots. 2. Flex hikers can walk as far as they like. 3. There are maps available at kiosk at the parking lot or online at [morrisparks.net](http://morrisparks.net).

Driving instructions: Head south on I-287 to exit 35 (Madison Avenue). At top of ramp turn right onto Madison Avenue, then left at the first light onto South Street. Continue 1.1 miles, passing Seaton Hackney Stables on the left, and turn left into the parking area for Loantaka Brook Reservation.

#### C-4 Hackensack Meadowlands Environmental Tour

This C hike is in two parts. The first starts at the Hackensack Boat Launch and we will walk along the Hackensack River, past Snake Hill (an unusual stone hill, the highest point in the Meadowlands), and pass an old open cantilever bridge over the river etc.

The second part of hike is short distance away by car. We will hike a trail through a Secaucus marsh area that contains many birds and various types of wildlife. The hike is considered easy and totals about 4 miles.

As an easy hike, there is no flex opportunity

Driving instructions: Take Rt. 17 south to Rt. 3 East. Turn right at Meadowlands Parkway exit to the stop sign. Turn left onto Meadowlands Parkway which becomes Castle Road. At 2.7 miles, turn right into Hackensack Boat Launch.

After first part of hike, backtrack the same way we came to the overpass. Make a right onto New County Road. At end make a left which will still be County Road. Next make a right onto Paterson Plank Road. About 1/4 mile after the overpass, make a left onto Harmon Meadows Blvd. At the end of Harmon Meadows Blvd., make a left turn in front of the Sams Club parking lot. Go to the rear of Stop & Shop supermarket and park near the entrance to trail around marsh area.

#### C-6 Sandy Hook

This hike consists of a 6 mile walk on sand trails and the beach and self-guided tour around Fort Hancock at the end of Sandy Hook. This will be followed at mid-day by a picnic lunch (hamburgers, hot dogs etc) prepared by some of the Hobbyists great chefs, on the grill at the picnic area entering Fort Hancock. Expenses (\$12 each) to be shared.

We will group up at the Visitors Center on the main road several miles into the park, (and if open, pick up maps and use the facilities) and start the beach walk.

Meet at Graydon at 8:15 to form car pools. Drivers fee for car pools is \$10.

Driving: take the Garden State Parkway South to Exit 117. Follow Route 36 East to the Park entrance. Parking is just outside the Visitors Center.

#### C-6 Jockey Hollow (Morristown National Historical Park)

Easy to moderate 6+ mile loop hike on the Grand Loop Trail (white blaze) through historic Jockey Hollow with various historic sites from the Revolutionary War. See <http://nynjtc.org/hike/grand-loop-trail> for detailed hike description. . For those wishing a shorter route, the yellow blaze trail is a 2.5 miles round trip from the visitor's center.

Driving instructions: Take 208 North to 287 South. Exit 287 at Harter Road #33. Turn onto Harter Road heading west and follow the signs to Jockey Hollow. Turn

left on Route 202 South and travel 2.4 miles and make a right turn at the light onto Tempe Wick Road. Follow the Road 1.3 miles to the Jockey Hollow Park entrance on the right. We meet at the parking lot near the Visitor's Center. Trip is approximately 38 miles. It is also possible to take Route 80 West to 287 South and follow as above.

#### C-4/8 Tenaflly Nature Center and Lost Brook Preserve

This easy hike over rocky, dirt trails circles the nature preserve, passing interesting rock formations and an attractive pond. The path follows the route outlined in the NYNJTC hike of the week found at <http://www.nynjtc.org/trails/record/20050408.html>. It is a four plus mile loop. Those needing more exercise can do a second loop in reverse making up 8 miles. Others can do the four mile loop. Other lesser trails are also available. We can get maps at the visitors' center or from [www.tenafllynaturecenter.org](http://www.tenafllynaturecenter.org). Cars can be sorted out at Graydon depending on intended distance.

Driving directions: Follow Rt. 17 to Rt. 4 towards NYC. Take the Grand Avenue/Englewood exit, follow signs for County Road 501 North. Pass the Englewood hospital. Grand Avenue then becomes Engle Street. Stay on this road until it ends at a "T" (about 4 miles from Rt. 4). At the "T", turn right onto Hudson Avenue, go to the top of the hill and enter the driveway to the Nature Center parking area.

#### C-2 Flat Rock Brook Nature Center – Englewood

This activity will be an easy 2 mile or so walk around the paths in the Flat Rock Brook Nature Center <http://www.flatrockbrook.org/index> followed by lunch at Caputos.

Driving directions: Take Route 4 toward the GW bridge. Exit at Jones Rd on the right. Proceed north on Jones Road one block to Van Nostrand Avenue. Turn right, travel four blocks up the hill to the Nature Center entrance at the end of the street.

## **New Paltz Area**

#### C-8 Wallkill Valley Rail Trail South from New Paltz

This hike is the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail South from the Sojourner Truth Park parking lot, which is just south of the town of New Paltz. The rail trail, which is flat and wide, passes through wooded areas, farm land and orchards between the Wallkill River and Route 208. There are some interesting and bucolic views

along the way, especially at the historic railroad bridge about 1 ½ miles from the start. Hikers can choose the distance that suits them, but at 4 ¼ miles from the start, where Phillips Bridge Road crosses the trail, there is a circle of stones in a clearing on the left that is ideal for lunch and turning around. This is one mile from Gardiner. Before that there are no really convenient places to sit.

The hike along the trail from Gardiner north traditionally stops at an orchard about 3 miles from Gardiner, but there are no longer places to sit at that location.

As always hikers have the option to stop at the brewery or a coffee shop (hot chocolate too) in New Paltz after the hike. Choose your travel mates accordingly.

#### Directions

Take NYS Thruway to Exit 18. After tollbooth, turn left onto Route 299 West to downtown New Paltz. Turn left southbound onto Route 208 toward Wallkill/Gardiner but make the first right onto Mohonk Ave. and follow it down the hill to a stop sign. Go over (not on) Water St. but stay right onto Plains Road where you will quickly come to Sojourner Truth Park on your right. Park here since we enter the trail close to the park.

#### C-9 Wallkill River Trail North from New Paltz

This hike travels along the Wallkill rail trail from downtown New Paltz for 4.4 miles north toward the New Palz/Rosendale village border. We will cross the Wallkill River at a converted railway bridge. The trail is mostly asphalt trail bed and packed dirt. On our return southbound, we will pass through the historic Huguenot district in New Palz composed of stone houses dating to 1705. We plan to have a pub lunch and beer sampling at the Gilded Otter Brewery, a short distance on Route 299 (3 Main St.). We have enjoyed this respite on past hikes.

#### Directions

Take NYS Thruway to Exit 18. After tollbooth, turn left onto Route 299 West to downtown New Paltz. Turn left southbound onto Route 208 toward Wallkill/Gardiner but make the **first right** onto Mohonk Ave. and follow it down the hill to a stop sign. Go over (not on) Water St. but stay right onto Plains Road where you will quickly come to Sojourner Truth Park on your right. Park here since we enter the trail close to the park.

#### C-7 Wallkill River Trail North from Gardiner

This hike follows the recently renovated rail right of way, walking over a relatively flat gravel covered rail bed on a 7 mile round trip. We stop at an apple



orchard and the Brew Pub for those interested. The scenery is good, and the colors should be good in the fall.

Driving directions: Take the NY Thruway to exit 18, make a left at the bottom of ramp onto Rt. 299, and follow 299 for 1.3 miles. Then make a left turn onto Rt. 208, follow 208 for 5.3 miles to a right turn onto Rt. 44. Follow Rt. 44 for 1 mile and then make a left turn onto Station Square (just past train station). Park across from the Library.

B-7/8 Minnewaska State Park NY

There are three good loop hikes available: (1) a seven mile hike over good carriageways and gradual ascents and descents out to Castle Point and back to the parking lot via Hamilton Point and Echo Rock; or (2) Hike to Lake Awosting on the Green Upper Awosting Carriageway and return via Castle Point on the Blue Castle Point Carriageway (see for details: <http://www.mapmyhike.com/workout/404215833>); or (3) a B+ hike to Gertrude's nose and Millbrook Mountain. Great scenery, see <http://lakeminnewaska.org/>, for more detail on the park and various trails. Several hikes are detailed on the Trail Conference website.

Flex hikers can either walk around the Lake or walk along the above route and return as they choose.

Driving directions: Lake Minnewaska is located on route 44/55 in Ulster County, New York. Take Route 17 North to the New York Thruway north. Upon exiting the New York State Thruway in New Paltz (Exit 18), make a LEFT on Route 299. Stay on 299 for approximately 6 miles. At Junction Route 44/55 make a Right. Park entrance is about 6 miles up winding mountain road on Left.

Alternative drive is to take Exit 17 on the Thruway, follow Rt 300N to Route 32N. Follow 32N and turn left onto 44/55. Follow that road to the Park Entrance on the left.

B-7 Walkway Over the Hudson State Park Loop including Franny Reese State Park

This is a two part hike. The first is an easy 3.6 mile loop trail across the Hudson on the Walkway and the Mid-Hudson bridge. The second part is a 3.4 mile solid B hike on trails in the Franny Reese State Park that is contiguous with the loop. Combined it is a seven mile hike. This hike will be done starting from the Walkway Park entrance on the West side of the Hudson. See

[www.walkway.org](http://www.walkway.org) for details and maps. Trail Conference link is:  
<http://nynjtc.org/hike/walkway-over-hudson-and-franny-reese-state-park-highland-west-shore>

Driving to the West side entrance: Take the NY Thruway I-87 to exit 18 New Paltz.. Turn right on Main Street NY-299 East for about 5 miles. Then turn right onto US 9W South for 2.2 miles. Turn left onto Haviland Road. Park entrance is .5 miles on the left.

## **New York City**

### C-5 Urban Walk and Greenwich Village Guided Tour

We take the train from Ridgewood to Penn Station (depart 8:21 on train #1258 arriving around 9:20), walk the Highline Park to its southern terminus below 14<sup>th</sup> street in the West Village. At that point, we meet up with our Guide at 10:30 for a 1.5 to 2.0 hour walking tour of the significant historical, literary and general interest sites of Greenwich Village. We then find a local restaurant near the place the tour ends for lunch and walk back to Penn Station. Cost for the guided tour is \$10 per person.

Reservations are needed: email our hike leader Elliot Ratchik at [eratchik@gmail.com](mailto:eratchik@gmail.com) by Monday evening. Suggest purchasing round trip senior ticket early to avoid last minute congestion at the station.

### C-4 Central Park Walk and Guided Tour

We park at the Metropolitan Museum of Art underground parking lot at 80<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> avenue, and meet the Park Ranger at 10 am at 79<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> avenue. We will see the highlights of the park between 79<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> streets including the Shakespeare Garden, Literary Walk and the Bethesda Fountain among others.

Cost of the parking will be shared by the passengers, approximately \$10 more or less each.

### C-4 Inwood Hill Park and Dyckman House

Inwood Hill Park is in northern Manhattan at the western end of 218th Street. Here we will see the Hudson River where it joins the Harlem River at Spuyten Duyvil. Also in view will be a tidal lagoon, the Henry Hudson Bridge, and the

Marble Hill section of the Bronx. The tour will be conducted by a park ranger from 10:30 - noon.

Bring lunch. After lunch we will proceed by foot to the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum at 204th Street and Broadway. This house was built in 1784 by William Dyckman, a Dutch farmer. It is a NYC landmark and was extensively renovated in 2003.

The tour of the Dyckman Farmhouse is at 1 p.m. and will last approximately one hour. The cost of the tour is \$2 per person.

Driving directions: GW Bridge to the West Side Highway north, then take the Dyckman Street exit. Follow the exit as it merges with Broadway. Drive north on Broadway to 218<sup>th</sup> street. Take a left on 218<sup>th</sup> street and continue to the end which is the park entrance. Park right there.

#### C-4 Urban Walk – Ft. Tryon Park/Cloisters

Fort Tryon Park consists of 66 acres in Northern Manhattan and was designed by Fredrick Law Olmsted Jr. The Cloisters opened in the north end of Fort Tryon Park in 1938 after Rockefeller bought sculptor George Grey Barnard's (1863–1938) collection of medieval art. Inspired by Romanesque monasteries, the museum includes several cloisters, or courtyards, from actual French monasteries. Now a branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, it was designated an official New York City landmark in 1974. See the following internet site [http://www.nycgovparks.org/sub\\_your\\_park/historical\\_signs/hs\\_historical\\_sign.php?id=12315](http://www.nycgovparks.org/sub_your_park/historical_signs/hs_historical_sign.php?id=12315)

Our trip will go as follows:

10:00 - Meet Park Ranger for trail walk through Fr. Tryon Park

11:30 – Lunch

12:30 – Meet Mrs. Pat Sweeney, a Ridgewood resident, who will guide us through the Cloisters. A \$3 donation is requested.

Driving Instructions: GW Bridge (Upper Level) to the Henry Hudson Parkway north. Exit “Ft. Tryon Park, the Cloisters” and follow to park entrance. We will park at the Cloisters and walk back as a group to the Margaret Corbin Circle at Ft. Washington Ave. where Ft. Tryon Park and out visit begins.

#### C-4 Urban Walk – City Hall and the Tweed Court House NYC

This trip includes a scheduled tour of City Hall and the Tweed Court House beginning at 10:30 for a maximum of 20 hikers (City Hall Policy). The tour is about 90 minutes and is free of charge.

We must go through Security and have photo ID.

After lunch (bring your own), we will visit St. Paul's Chapel at Broadway and Fulton Streets to view the 650-pound bell, a gift from London and cast in 2002 and inscribed "Forged in Adversity" and presented to NYC. If time permits, we can also visit Ground Zero and the new museum that just opened.

Directions: We will take the 8:39 train from Ridgewood to Hoboken, then the Path to the WTC station, and walk to City Hall.

Notify Bob Paoli (445-1738) if you plan to attend and whether you are meeting us at the Ridgewood train station or walking with us from Graydon at 8:00.

#### C- 5 Urban Walk - Gramercy Park and Teddy Roosevelt Birthplace

The Theodore Roosevelt Home is on 20<sup>th</sup> St. between Park Avenue South and Broadway. This brownstone is a reconstruction of the 4-story house where Teddy Roosevelt was born and lived until he was 14.

We leave Graydon Pool at **8:30** and drive to the NY Waterway Ferry in Weehawken. The ferry will arrive at 37<sup>th</sup> Street on the west side of Manhattan where we will board a crosstown bus. Once on the east side of Manhattan, we will walk south to 20th Street between Park Avenue South and Broadway. There will be a one hour tour by a Park Ranger at the Theodore Roosevelt Home beginning at 11 am. After lunch (our own) we will walk around the perimeter of Gramercy Park (entry to the park is private) and point out buildings of interest.

Cost: \$21.00 (Driver -\$6, Ferry Round Trip \$10.50, tour \$3, bus \$1.50)

#### C-5 Urban Walk – Roosevelt Island

In the Spring of 2012 at the southern tip of Roosevelt Island, a F.D.R. Memorial was built to honor him and his famous 1941 "Four Freedoms" speech. We will take the riverside walkway to the memorial where a colossal bust of F.D.R. is situated and spectacular views of the U.N. building, N.Y.C. skyline, and river, river everywhere awaits us. Great viewing and great photography.

Bring lunch and we will eat in the surrounding park. After lunch we will determine how much more of the island to explore before returning home.

**Transportation is on your own. There are several options:**

Shortline Bus to Port Authority

The Shortline bus leaves the Ridgewood Park and Ride on Rt. 17 South at 8:39 am. and arrives at N.Y. Port Authority Bus Terminal at 9:25 am. Purchase a round trip senior bus ticket (use N.J. Transit coupon) at the Short Line Hut at Route 17 Park and Ride for \$9. If you are parking a car at Park and Ride bring enough quarters for each hour parked (approximately \$ 2). Consider being dropped off there or car pool.

#### Lombardi Park & Ride to Port Authority

Form car pools on your own and drive to the Lombardi Park and Ride to get the express bus (321) to Port Authority. Note the seniors rate on the ticket machines (\$5 for driver, \$3.50 per rider). Plan on catching the 9 am bus at the latest.

#### From Port Authority

Meet at the Information Booth in the North building at 9:30. At 42nd St. we will take the subway to 59th St and Lexington Ave. You will need \$10 metro card for two trips on the subway and 2 trips on the Roosevelt Island tram. Bring a metro card if you have one; otherwise it will cost you \$1 to purchase one. (Machines accept credit cards.) We will access the tram at 60 St and 2nd Ave.

#### Car Pool and Drive into Manhattan

Meet at the entrance to the Roosevelt Island Tram (60<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave) at 10:00. Use [www.nyc.bestparking.com](http://www.nyc.bestparking.com) to find \$13 parking near the Tram. Adding car pool option to your E-Z Pass further reduces the cost.

**Make a note of Cell Phone for Bob Paoli 551-804-4447, and or Ed Collins 201-747-1023.**

#### C-8 Hudson River and High Line Parks in Manhattan

We leave Graydon at our regular time to make a 10AM bus from the Vince Lombardi Park and Ride. We will need extra time to buy tickets and to be sure we are early enough for all to get on the same bus. Upon arrival at Port Authority Bus Terminal, we will exit from the West side of the building and walk directly to the Hudson River Park and walk along the walkway to the World Financial Center. We will have lunch there. On the return north, we will stop in the Meat Packing District (14<sup>th</sup> street). There we enter the new High Line Park and walk to its end at 20<sup>th</sup> street and then back north along the Hudson to the Port Authority for the trip home.

Driving: Take Route 17S to Rt. 80E to the Turnpike to the Park and Ride. Follow the eastern spur of the turnpike and take the Lombardy exit. Upon entering the

lot, drivers should push the Sr./Disabled button and get a ticket to be used to obtain the bus ticket and parking exit ticket from the vending machines in the departure building. The fare for drivers is \$4.25 including parking and \$3 for passengers. We will group up at the Departure Building. With \$5 car pool fee, total cost is \$8. If you take another bus to the Port Authority, we will join up at the 9<sup>th</sup> Street exit.

C-6 Urban Walk – Visit “The Market at Eataly” in Manhattan

This walk begins at the Port Authority Bus Terminal, heads West to the Hudson River Park and then South to Gansevoort Street. We exit the park at 20<sup>th</sup> street and head for the Eataly Market entrance at 23<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Lunch is from one of the excellent eating spots in the Market. After lunch we return to the Port Authority and home.

Driving: Take Route 17S to Rt. 80E to the Turnpike to the Park and Ride. Follow the eastern spur of the turnpike and take the Lombardy exit. Upon entering the lot, drivers should push the Sr./Disabled button and get a ticket to be used to obtain the bus ticket and parking exit ticket from the vending machines in the departure building. The fare for drivers is \$5.75 including parking and \$3.75 for passengers. We will group up at the Departure Building. With \$6 car pool fee, total cost is \$9.

C-8 World Financial Center/Trade Center via Port Authority Terminal

We leave Graydon at our regular time to make a 10AM bus from the Vince Lombardi Park and Ride. We will need extra time to buy tickets and to be sure we are early enough for all to get on the same bus. Upon arrival at Port Authority Bus Terminal, we will exit from the West side of the building and walk directly to the Hudson River and walk along the Park walkway to the World Financial Center. We can check out progress at the Trade Center site and then have lunch. We can either bring lunch or (better) buy at the new very nice food court in the World Financial Center. After lunch we will walk back to the bus terminal following the Highline Park North where we can. The total distance is about 8 miles.

Driving: Take Route 17S to Rt. 80E to the Turnpike to the Park and Ride. Follow the eastern spur of the turnpike and take the Lombardy exit. Upon entering the lot, drivers should push the Sr./Disabled button and get a ticket to be used to obtain the bus ticket and parking exit ticket from the vending machines in the departure building. The fare for drivers is \$4.25 including parking and \$3 for passengers. We will group up at the Departure Building. With \$5 car pool fee, total cost is \$8.

C-8 Xmas Show at World Financial Center via Port Authority Bus Terminal (2)

We leave Graydon at our regular time to make a 10AM bus from the Vince Lombardi Park and Ride. We will need extra time to buy tickets and to be sure we are early enough for all to get on the same bus. Upon arrival at Port Authority Bus Terminal, we will exit from the West side of the building and walk directly to the Hudson River and walk along the walkway to the World Financial Center. We can either bring a lunch or buy take out for a picnic somewhere in the World Financial Center. The show is Xmas music by the Big Apple Chorus and runs from 12:30 to 1:30. After the show we will walk back to the bus terminal. The total distance is about 8 miles.

Driving: Take Route 17S to Rt. 80E to the Turnpike to the Park and Ride. Follow the eastern spur of the turnpike and take the Lombardy exit. Upon entering the lot, drivers should push the Sr./Disabled button and get a ticket to be used to obtain the bus ticket and parking exit ticket from the vending machines in the departure building. The fare for drivers is \$4.25 including parking and \$3 for passengers. We will group up at the Departure Building. With \$5 car pool fee, total cost is \$8. If you take another bus to the Port Authority, we will join up at the 9<sup>th</sup> Street exit.

For those not wanting to walk the full 8 miles, options are to take the subway or bus one way or both ways. If you only want to see the show, you can take the train to Hoboken and then the ferry to the World Financial Center and meet up with the main group. Car pools should be formed at Graydon.

#### **C-8 World Financial Center/9-11 Visitors Center and Return via the High Line**

The hike will be from Penn Station New York to the 9/11 Visitor Center at 90 West St. We will meet at the Ridgewood Train Station in time to take the 9:07 train. We will change trains at the Secaucus Transfer station and board a NYC bound train which will get us to the city about 10:05. Our walk will be along the Hudson River to the Visitor Center which is located just beyond the World Financial Center. We expect to complete our visit before lunch. Lunch will be at the World Financial Center. You can either bring your own lunch or buy lunch at one of the many restaurants. In case lunch is late, bring a snack. We will return north on the High Line Park to 30<sup>th</sup> street.

Directions: The cost of a roundtrip senior ticket is \$8.50 which you can purchase at any NJ Transit train station. Consider buying your ticket before Tuesday. If the hike is rained out on 12/6, we will try again on 12/13. The hike leader is Pete Seibel 201-573-8350.

#### **C-5 Tour Governor's Island**

This hike and Camera Club field trip is a walk around the southern tip of Manhattan and a guided tour by Park Rangers of the National Park on Governor's Island. The sights are spectacular, good for photography buffs also. Spouses and friends are welcome to participate.

We meet at the Ridgewood Train Station. Plan is to leave Ridgewood on the 0702 train (train #1152) to Hoboken (buy tickets in advance). You can catch the same train at the Ramsey 17 station which has \$2 per day parking. Connect with the Ferry to arrive at the World Financial Center at about 0800. From there we walk 1.5 miles along the esplanade around the southern tip of Manhattan to the Governor's Island Ferry station on the east side just north of the Staten Island Ferry. We arrive at 0930 to take the 1000 ferry. The Park Ranger meets us and conducts a 90 minute walking tour. We must depart the Island just after the tour completion as Ferry service is very limited.

Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water and ID. Facilities on the Island are limited. Lunch is up to you. We should be back to Battery Park around noon so can buy lunch there or bring lunch and picnic there. For those interested, Bob Paoli will provide history on walk back to the ferry via the WTC site.

We return via Ferry to Hoboken where we catch the train to Ridgewood. Total distance walking is around 5+ miles over 2.5 to 3.0 hours.

#### C-6 Brooklyn Bridge and Brooklyn Heights

Travel to Manhattan (World Trade Center), walk across town and across the Brooklyn Bridge. From there we tour Brooklyn Heights and return. We stop and have our lunch on the esplanade with great view, or have great pizza at Grimaldi's Under the Brooklyn Bridge. Check out the WTC site either going or coming.

Travel: Meet at the Ridgewood Train Station to take the 8:02 train arriving in Hoboken at 8:54. Gather at the platform and travel to the PATH to the World Trade Center. Bring lunch.

#### C-7 Urban Walk – Astoria and Long Island City Queens

Seven mile walk covering the East River and various Cultural and Historic sites in the Astoria and Long Island City Queens area. Also a stop at 5pointz, a spray can art site that is a great photo opportunity. Lunch could either be a picnic in one of the parks or purchased at a diner on Broadway in Astoria after passing the Socrates Sculpture Gardens.

We leave Graydon at a time to get the 9 AM express bus to Port Authority from the Lombard Park and Ride, and then the E train to Court Square in Queens. Pick up the subway on Queens Blvd for the return trip.

See for more detail:



[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/15/nyregion/answers-to-questions-about-new-york.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/15/nyregion/answers-to-questions-about-new-york.html?_r=2); <http://www.richarddeon.com/pubart.html>; and <http://5ptz.com/>.

## **New York Side of the Hudson**

### **B-7 Castle Rock Unique Area (Hudson Highlands State Park)**

This 7 mile hike follows the blue Osborn Loop Trail in an area around Castle Rock and Sugar Loaf Hill in Hudson Highlands State Park. The trail is made from carriage roads from an old estate and is wide but quite rocky in spots. It passes through pine forests and large rhododendron fields with occasional views of the Hudson. There are various upgrades and downgrades, not very steep but some fairly long. Steep climb up and down from Sugar Loaf Hill is good workout. This is solid B hike that crosses several streams with rock walkovers. Members should plan on walking up to 4 hours. Refer to the following: (<http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/east-hudson-highlands-5>) for a complete description.

Driving directions: Take the Palisades Interstate Parkway to the northern end at the Bear Mountain Bridge. Cross the bridge and proceed north on NY Route 9D for about 4 miles. Look on the right for a small wooden sign that says “Castle Rock Unique Area” The intersection is also marked by a street sign “Wing & Wing”. Turn right at the Castle Rock sign, passing through a gate with two square pillars, and bear left at the fork in the road. Continue past a red barn on the right to a gravel parking area.

### **C-4 Outward Bound Flex Hike (Garrison NY)**

This short hike follows several trails along the Hudson River leaving from and returning to the Outward Bound parking lot. Several scenic stops along the river are available. After the hike, we drive into Garrison (Route 9D north, left on Upper Road Rt. 14), park at the train station and have lunch at the gazebo.

Driving directions: Take the Palisades Interstate Parkway to the northern end at the Bear Mountain Bridge. Cross the bridge and proceed north on NY Route 9D for about 3 miles. Turn left at the Outward Bound sign and go to the parking lot.

### **C+ 3.5 Manitou Point Preserve (Flex Hike)**

This is a short 3 plus mile loop hike with spectacular views of the Hudson River. See (<http://nynjtc.org/hike/udson-river-views-manitou-point-preserve>) for details and driving instructions.

C-9 Old Croton Aqueduct Park South From Tarrytown to Yonkers

This level nine mile hike follows the route of the historic Old Croton Aqueduct from Tarrytown to Yonkers, with return via Metro-North train. Flex hikers can do an out and back hike any desired distance from the Tarrytown parking area.

See <http://nynjtc.org/hike/old-croton-aqueduct-tarrytown-yonkers> for details. More information is available at: <http://aqueduct.org/>.

Ed Collins has map and train schedule. Follow the route described in the Trail Conference document above.

Driving instructions:

Take the New York State Thruway and get off at Exit 9 (Tarrytown). At the top of the ramp, turn right onto South Broadway (US 9). Proceed north on South Broadway for about 0.4 mile, then turn right onto Prospect Avenue. You will note the route of the Aqueduct heading south from Prospect Avenue, parallel to and just west of Martling Avenue (the first intersection east of South Broadway). There is a parking area atop the Aqueduct just south of Prospect Avenue; park here.

C-6 Rockefeller State Park Preserve

C-5 Teatown Lake Reservation – Ossining NY

An easy pleasant 5 mile walk around a nature preserve with many marked walking trails.

Directions- Tappan Zee Bridge to Exit 9 Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow, (It is the first exit on the right after paying toll) Turn right at light onto Broadway (Rt.9) Proceed north thru Tarrytown, etc, into Ossining. Broadway turns into Highland Ave. (still Rt.9) At the junction of Rt.9 & 133 bear left, onto Cedar Ave. (There is a Getty station on the left). Cedar Ave. turns into Cedar Lane, which turns into

Spring Valley Road; Teatown Lake Reservation is on the left. Park at the Lakeside Parking lot about 1/2 mile past the Visitors Center on the left.

## **Northern New Jersey**

### C-6 Wawayanda State Park (Option 1)

This is a relatively level 6 mile loop hike in the woods that follows roads and trails through this scenic park, passing through thick groves of rhododendron and hemlock, and goes by Wawayanda Lake and the historic Wawayanda Furnace. Not good after a lot of rain since trail goes through a swamp. Good for in the spring when the rhotos are in bloom. Check out the Hike of the week 4/21/06 per this link .

<http://www.nynjtc.org/trails/record/20060421.html>

Flex hike opportunity would be to walk less distance and return.

Driving Directions: Take I-287 to Exit 57 (Skyline Drive) and continue on Skyline Drive to its western terminus at Greenwood Lake Turnpike (County Route 511). Turn right and proceed north on Greenwood Lake Turnpike. When you reach a fork at 7.0 miles, bear right to continue on Greenwood Lake Turnpike. Then, at 8.5 miles, again bear right towards Warwick to continue on Warwick Turnpike (still County Route 511 but with no signs). Proceed for another 4.5 miles to the entrance to Wawayanda State Park, on the left. Follow the entrance road for 0.3 mile to the parking lot at the park office.

### C-6 Wawayanda State Park (Options 2 -3)

These 2 hikes leave from the parking area by Lake Wawayanda. They both leave from the east side of the parking lot (or the Boat Launch) and follow either a clockwise or counterclockwise loop, beginning and ending near the dam. Primary trails are the blue Wingdam and yellow Laurel Pond. See Trail Conference map #116 for specific trails.

Driving Directions: Take I-287 to Exit 57 (Skyline Drive) and continue on Skyline Drive to its western terminus at Greenwood Lake Turnpike (County Route 511). Turn right and proceed north on Greenwood Lake Turnpike. When you reach a fork at 7.0 miles, bear right to continue on Greenwood Lake Turnpike. Then, at 8.5 miles, again bear right towards Warwick to continue on Warwick Turnpike (still County Route 511 but with no signs). Proceed for another 4.5 miles to the entrance to Wawayanda State Park, on the left. Follow the

entrance road for 0.3 mile to the parking lot at the park office. Go past the park office and toll booths to the lake parking lot. Go to either the east side of the lot near the dam or the west side depending in the route to be followed. Try to have a State Park pass in each car to avoid toll from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

C-6 Wawayanda State Park (Pumphouse/Laurel Pond Trails)

This hike (C+ and 6.7 miles), is a loop that follows woods roads through dense rhododendron thickets and circles Wawayanda Lake from the west side beginning on the Pumphouse Trail and finishing on the Laurel Pond Trail. Note: if wet, best to take the Blue Boulder Garden Option on the Pumphouse Trail.

See:<http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/pumphouse-traillaurel-pond-trail-loop>.

Flex hike will follow trails around the Lake as decided by the group. Map will be provided at Graydon.

Driving Directions: Take I-287 to Exit 57 (Skyline Drive) and continue on Skyline Drive to its western terminus at Greenwood Lake Turnpike (County Route 511). Turn right and proceed north on Greenwood Lake Turnpike. When you reach a fork at 7.0 miles, bear right to continue on Greenwood Lake Turnpike. Then, at 8.5 miles, again bear right towards Warwick to continue on Warwick Turnpike (still County Route 511 but with no signs). Proceed for another 4.5 miles to the entrance to Wawayanda State Park, on the left. Follow the entrance road for 0.3 mile to the parking lot at the park office. Go past the park office and toll booths to the lake parking lot.

Park at the northwest corner of the parking area, near a signpost that designates the start of the Pumphouse Trail, marked with orange-on-white blazes. Try to have a State Park pass in each car to avoid toll from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

B-6 Ramapo Valley County Reservation NJ (1)

Walk on wide paved/dirt trail into the Reservation and around 2 lakes. The trail is rocky in parts, uphill at the beginning and rolling terrain thereafter, about 5-6 miles. Shorter routes for C 2-3 miles walks are also available. Location is off Rt. 202S, just past the University.

C+5 Ramapo Valley County Reservation (2)

This loop hike traverses less-used portions of the reservation, climbing to two panoramic viewpoints over Bergen County and the Manhattan skyline and paralleling a cascading stream.

IT IS LISTED AS MODERATE TO STRENUOUS BY THE TRAIL CONFERENCE AND WOULD PROBABLY RATE AN "A" OR STRONG "B+" FOR THE HOBBYIST HIKERS BECAUSE OF THE STEEP CLIMB OVER A ROCKY TRAIL AT THE BEGINNING, FOLLOWED BY A DESCENT AND ANOTHER CLIMB LATER.

The hike begins at a kiosk in the southwest corner of the parking area. Just ahead, you'll notice two triple blazes on a tree. The three silver-on-white blazes mark the start of the Silver Trail, while the three orange blazes mark the start of the Schuber Trail, dedicated in June 2002 to honor retiring Bergen County Executive Pat Schuber.

Follow the co-aligned Silver and Schuber Trails, which descend a slope to join a paved park road. The paved road bears left, but the trails continue ahead and cross the Ramapo River on a steel truss bridge. In another 250 feet, the orange blazes turn left, but you should continue ahead on the Silver Trail, following the southern shore of Scarlet Oak Pond (formerly the site of a gravel quarry).

Just beyond the western end of the pond, as the Silver Trail starts to climb, turn right onto a wide path, marked with the green-on-white-blazes of the Halifax Trail. In about 500 feet, follow the green-on-white blazes as they turn left onto a narrower footpath and cross a wooden footbridge. Continue along the Halifax Trail as it begins to climb on a moderately steep grade. After a short level stretch, followed by a brief climb, it arrives at Hawk Rock. This east-facing ledge offers an expansive view over northwestern Bergen County, with Ramapo College in the foreground to the left. On clear days, the Manhattan skyline is visible in the distance.

The Halifax Trail now bends to the left and continues to ascend. After reaching the shoulder of the ridge, the trail begins a gradual descent. It crosses the wide, grassy route of a gas pipeline, reenters the woods, and continues to descend. After briefly joining an eroded woods road, the Halifax Trail turns left on a footpath, finally reaching a woods road which traverses Havemeyer Hollow. You're now 1.8 miles from the start of the hike. Turn left here and follow the Halifax Trail along this relatively level road that goes up the valley, with Havemeyer Brook to the right.

In a quarter of a mile, you'll reach a junction with the blue-on-white-blazed Havemeyer Trail. This is the continuation of the hike route, but proceed ahead on the Halifax Trail, crossing Havemeyer Brook on rocks. A short distance ahead, you'll notice terraced stone walls on the hillside to the right, indicating that the land was formerly devoted to agricultural use. Ruins of several old stone buildings may also be seen along the road (Map #115 designates this site as the "Halifax Ruins").

After examining these interesting ruins, retrace your steps along the Halifax Trail, recross the brook, and turn right onto the blue-and-white-blazed Havemeyer Trail, which begins a steady climb. In about 250 feet, you'll notice a mine pit to the left

of the trail, with a pile of tailings to its left. Another pit may be seen a little higher on the hillside and further into the woods, and a third pit is 250 feet ahead on the trail, just to the right. Their relatively small size indicates that these were merely test pits.

After crossing a small stream, the grade steepens. In about half a mile, the Havemeyer Trail turns right onto a woods road, soon passing several stone walls to the left. At the top of the hill, the White Trail comes in from the right, with the stone ruins of a cellar hole visible to the left at the junction. The blue-on-white and white blazes run jointly for about 500 feet on a relatively level route. When the blue-on-white blazes depart to the right, continue straight ahead on the White Trail, which climbs very gently. After crossing a wide cleared strip (the route of the same gas pipeline that you crossed earlier in the hike), the trail reaches the crest of Monroe Ridge and begins to descend.

Soon, the blue-blazed Ridge Trail comes in from the right. The White Trail ends here, but you should continue straight ahead on the woods road, now marked with the blue blazes of the Ridge Trail. You've hiked about three miles.

In another 500 feet, you'll notice a sign "Overlook" on the left side of the trail. Turn right and follow a path marked with red-triangle-on-blue blazes for about 400 feet to a panoramic viewpoint to the south and east. Campgaw Mountain may be seen in the foreground to the right, and the Manhattan skyline is visible in the distance on clear days.

Retrace your steps to the Ridge Trail and turn right. Almost immediately, the blue-blazed trail bears right, leaving the woods road. Follow the blue blazes as the trail descends on a wide, rocky path, with wooden steps placed at some steep spots.

In another third of a mile, the Ridge Trail ends at a junction with the silver-on-white-blazed Silver Trail, a wide woods road.

Turn right and follow the Silver Trail uphill for about 650 feet until, just after a bridge over a stream, a triple silver-on-white blaze marks the end of the Silver Trail. Here, you leave the woods road and turn left onto the orange-blazed Schuber Trail, which heads into the woods on a footpath. Continue along this rocky trail parallel to the stream, with its attractive cascades and pools. As the trail begins to descend, it passes a waterfall (the waterfall is not visible from the Schuber Trail, but a vague side trail to the left leads to it).

After passing the ruins of a stone cabin (once used by a youth camp), the Schuber Trail turns left and crosses the stream on a wooden footbridge. Here, the green-on-white blazed Halifax Trail leaves to the left, but you continue to follow the orange blazes. Soon, the Schuber Trail turns right, crosses a stream on rocks, and turns left to head north along the shore of the Ramapo River. Since the footpath is in the floodplain of the river, it may be muddy or even flooded in places when the water is high.

After bearing left, away from the river, the Schuber Trail proceeds through an area with tangled vines on each side of the trail. It passes a grassy area (used for picnics in the summer) and reaches the main park road. Turn right and follow the

joint Schuber and Silver Trails, crossing the Ramapo River on a steel truss bridge and continuing uphill to the parking area where the hike began.

Several other trails depart from the parking lot for a flex hike. Maps are available at the park office. See <http://nynjtc.org/hike/halifaxridge-trails-loop>.

Driving instructions: Take Route 17 north to the 202 intersection. Follow 202 South (Ramapo Valley Road) about two miles to the park entrance.

#### B-7 Hike to and Around Bear Swamp Lake (3)

This hike starts from the parking lot at Ramapo Valley County Reservation on Route 202 past Ramapo College. It can be followed on the Trail Conference North Jersey Trails map #115. From the kiosk in the southwestern corner of the parking lot follow the silver trail (silver on white markers) which co-aligns with the orange blazed Schuber Trail following the south shore of Scarlet Oak Pond. Just beyond the western end of the pond the Silver Trail starts to climb and bears to the left. This trail is a wide road, sometimes semi-paved. Follow this up to the MacMillan Reservoir. The orange trail will rejoin the silver from the left about 2/3rds of the way to the reservoir. At the reservoir continue on the orange trail, which ascends the ridge to the west of the reservoir. The trail is rocky at first, but not excessively steep. Continue to climb on the orange trail past the yellow and red trails which come into it from the left and, further on, a blue blazed trail which goes to the right.

Just before a small stream the orange trail will turn sharply to the left. Straight ahead is the start of the red-on-silver trail, which you should now take. This trail ascends to the top of the ridge and then gradually descends to Bear Swamp Lake. Just before reaching the lake you cross an open stretch with a service road for underground utilities. Continue straight ahead. The trail is now a wide woods road and you will shortly come to a "T" junction with another well-maintained woods road, which is marked with blue blazes. This is the end of the red-on-silver trail. Turn left on this road, which follows the east side of the lake/swamp and is marked with blue blazes. At the southern end of the lake the blue trail turns west and crosses a bridge and dam before turning north to run along the western shore of the lake. A red blazed trail goes off to the left at this point, but you should continue to follow the blue blazes north. This is now a trail rather than a road, but it is fairly wide, level and easy to navigate. Towards the northern end of the lake a yellow blazed trail comes in from the left and a little later, a green blazed trail. Continue on the blue blazed trail, which now turns to the right (east) for a short stretch before joining a woods road and heading south along the eastern shore of the lake.

Continue on the road south until you come to the start of the red-on-silver trail on your left. This is also a woods road here. The rest of the hike is retracing our steps on the red-on-silver, orange and silver blazed trails back to the parking lot. The hike takes about 4 hours. We stopped for lunch at some boulders near the utility cut on the return trip.

Notes:

1 There are several streams to cross on this hike, so walking sticks are highly recommended.

2 Boots are recommended because of the rocks in some parts of the trail. Insect repellent is essential because at certain times of the year there are some very persistent deer flies and mosquitoes.

3 Much of the first half of the hike is a gradual ascent. Coming home it is almost all downhill.

**FLEX HIKES**

1 Flex hikers can join the other hikers for as much of the hike as they wish and then return the way they came.

2 Other options are to go as far as the reservoir and return or walk around Scarlet Oak Pond one or more times.

Driving instructions: Take Route 17 north to the 202 intersection. Follow 202 South (Ramapo Valley Road) about two miles to the park entrance.

B/C-5 Ramapo Valley County Reservation (New Trails)

On September 2nd 2016 the New York - New Jersey Trail Conference announced that they had reconfigured the trails within the Ramapo Reservation into 5 different loop trails. The objective of the hikes this week, both flex and regular, will be to explore two or three of these loop hikes.

Information about these loop trails and a map can be found on the Trail Conference website <http://www.nynjtc.org/news/trail-improvements-works-ramapo-valley-county-reservation>

The regular hikers will most likely try the Ridge Loop and part of the Marsh Loop, while the flexers could do the Reservoir Loop or Pond Loop. This will be determined the day of the hike by the participants and leader.

The newly configured loop trails are:



**Vista Loop** (yellow; loop 3.75 miles; trailhead at parking lot; rated “moderate to strenuous”) – Destined to become the Reservation’s signature trail. Hikers can follow a single set of yellow blazes from the parking lot in a counterclockwise direction (recommended) to view three panoramas: Hawk Rock, Cactus Ledge – a spectacular new addition to the trail system -- and Ridge Overlook. Additional park features include Scarlet Oak Pond, MacMillan Reservoir, and MacMillan Brook. Rating due to steep ascent up to Hawk Rock and Cactus Ledge plus the descent segment aside MacMillan Brook

**Ridge Loop** (blue; loop 3.0 miles, total to/from parking lot, 4.25 miles; rated “moderate plus”) – The existing trail to Ridge Overlook and along Monroe Ridge is extended back down to the south end of MacMillan Reservoir to meet Vista Loop Trail. Recommended hiking direction: counterclockwise

**Marsh Loop** (red; loop 1.1 miles, total to/from parking lot, 3.5 miles; rated “moderate”) – Begins opposite MacMillan Reservoir dam and loops to rejoin MacMillan Reservoir at its northern end, at an intersection with the Reservoir Loop Trail near Scout bridge. Recommended hiking direction: clockwise

**Reservoir Loop** (pink; loop 0.65 mile, total to/from parking lot, 3.0 miles; rated “moderate”) – Existing scenic trail circles most of MacMillan Reservoir. Hike rated moderate due to rocky patches. Recommended hiking direction: clockwise

**Pond Loop** (silver; loop 0.9 mile, total to/from parking lot 1.1 miles; rated “easy”) – Combine with segment of Vista Loop Trail (yellow) to circle Scarlet Oak Pond. Wide, hard-packed sand roadway that can be navigated with strollers.

To read more about these loops and other changes made to the trails, as well as links to hike descriptions following these trails, visit the Trail Conference [Ramapo Valley County Reservation park page](#).

Driving instructions: Take Route 17 north to the 202 intersection. Follow 202 South (Ramapo Valley Road) about two miles to the park entrance on the right just after NYNJ Trail Conference's new headquarters.

#### C-6 Tour Hindu Temple/Walk Ramapo Valley County Reservation (4)

Hike begins at the Hindu Temple in Mahwah NJ (247 W Ramapo Road) where we have an informal one hour briefing on the Hindu religion. Following that, we drive to the Ramapo Valley County Reservation traveling south/east on Rt. 202 to the parking lot. Both main and flex hikers walk around the lower lake, then follow the orange (Schuber) trail along the Ramapo River to the ruins of an old schoolhouse. At that point, the flex hikers retrace their steps back to the main road, walk around the lower lake once again and have lunch at the picnic tables that are located around the lake. The main hikers continue to follow the orange markers past the schoolhouse ruins until they come to the main road. At this point, they will turn left and continue on the road to the upper lake. Still

following the orange markers, the hike continues until the group arrives at a huge rock. We either continue further or turn around and follow the orange markers until we arrive back at the parking lot.

Directions: Take Route 17 north toward Suffern. Take the US-202 ramp toward Suffern/Morristown. Make sharp left onto US-202S/Ramapo Valley Road. Look for the Temple entrance on the left just past the Mason Jar Restaurant.

#### B+-7.0 Ramapo Valley County Reservation – Hawk Rock Roundtrip (4)

From the parking lot, we take the SILVER TRAIL past the lake on your right -- at the end of the lake, we bear to the left onto the SHUBER TRAIL to the intersection with the Blue Ridge trail. Turn north on the Blue trail and follow it to the White trail and head north. Then we turn right on the Green trail (also marked "THE HALIFAX TRAIL") and follow this all the way to HAWK ROCK, where we have lunch ----- once finished, we reverse course and proceed back to the parking lot. Refer to Mapmyhike <http://www.mapmyhike.com/workout/348176977> for tracking and elevations.

Flex hikers take the dirt road that circles the first lake a couple of times for a total of 2 miles.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Take 17 North to 202 (south) and go 1/2 mile beyond "Ramapo College" to the entrance to the Ramapo Reservation on your RIGHT --- SLOW DOWN when you pass the restored Schoolhouse -- it's a quick and tight turn -- We park in the first lot on your right directly ahead when you enter.

#### B-5.5 Ramapo Mountain State Forest (Indian Rock/Wanaque Ridge Trail Loop)

This loop hike climbs to scenic Ramapo Lake and follows the newly-blazed Indian Rock and Wanaque Ridge Trails along the western ridge of the Ramapo Mountains, with panoramic views. Hike starts at the southern end of the parking lot on the Indian Rock Trail. At the trail end, you turn left onto the Cannonball Trail. Follow that trail past Ramapo Lake and connect with the MacEvoy trail. At the start of the Wanaque Ridge Trail, you follow that for quite a distance until you come back to the Indian Rock Trail. From there, you trace your steps back to the parking lot. Notes: no flex hike available, should be done in dry weather, great scenery but some road noise at the start and end. See NYNJTC site: <http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/indian-rockwanaque-ridge-trail-loop> and Trail Conference map 115.

#### Driving Directions

Take Interstate Route 287 south to Exit 55 (Wanaque/Pompton Lakes). Turn right at the bottom of the ramp onto Union Avenue, then turn left at the next light onto Ringwood Avenue (County 511), following the signs for "Wanaque." Continue

for 0.7 mile to the next light, and turn right onto Second Avenue. At a “stop” sign in 0.3 mile, turn left onto the Boulevard. At the next intersection, bear right to continue on Fourth Avenue. In 0.2 mile, where Fourth Avenue bears left, continue straight ahead on Back Beach Road and follow it to its end at a large parking area.

B-5 Ramapo Mountain State Forest (Castle Point Trail, Short Loop)

Five mile plus walk on a good trail which loops around scenic Ramapo Lake. Includes one or more optional side trips on the Cannonball Trail south to I287, or north to the old ruins and to outlook (B+). The terrain is relatively flat around the lake with uphill to the ruins and outlook, and on the Cannonball Trail south. From the lower parking lot, there is one rocky uphill section right at the start. From the upper parking lot there is a downhill walk on asphalt to get to the lake. Shorter walk is available on the same path. See <http://nynjtc.org/hike/castle-point-trail-loop-2> for details.

Flex hikers can circle the Lake at their own pace and distance.

Driving instructions: Take Route 208 North to 287 South to Skyline Drive Exit 57. For the lower parking lot, travel 150 feet or so on Skyline Drive to the first dirt parking lot on the left. For the upper parking lot, continue north on Skyline Drive to the next park entrance on the left.

B-5 Ramapo Mountain State Forest (Castle Point Trail, Longer Loop)

This loop hike runs along the shore of Ramapo Lake and climbs to the ruins of an old stone castle and tower. Hike begins at the upper parking lot on Skyline Drive and works its way down to Ramapo Lake. At the Lake, you follow the blue blazed MacEvoy Trail to the intersection with white blazed Castle Point Trail. Take that trail to the top of the hill/tower and back down to its end at a paved road, the route of the Cannonball Trail. From there you follow several trails back to the parking area. See <http://nynjtc.org/hike/castle-point-trail-longer-loop> and North Jersey Trail Map #115 for details.

Flex hikers can circle the Lake at their own pace and distance.

**Driving Directions:** Take I-287 to Exit 57 (Skyline Drive) and proceed north on Skyline Drive for about one mile to the upper parking area for Ramapo Mountain State Forest on the left side of the road, just beyond milepost 1.4, opposite the entrance to Camp Tamarack.

C+5 Ramapo Mountain State Forest - Cannonball Trail

This is a C+ 5.5 mile hike from Skyline Drive to Ramapo Lake on an asphalt road. We then take the Red Cannonball trail from the north end of the Lake to the Cannonball Trail overpass on I-287. We will then follow Cannonball Trail past Ramapo Lake and on back to Skyline Drive. We may will stop off at an old stone lookout tower and several viewpoints. An option on the return leg is to take the Castle Point Trail to an old burned out mansion where there is a view of the Wanaque reservoir.

A shorter 2.5 mile flex hike is available to Ramapo Lake and back on the Cannonball Trail to Skyline Drive.

Driving Instructions: Take Route 208 N to I-287 S to Skyline Drive Exit 57. Take Skyline Drive past the first parking lot on left near the bottom of Skyline drive to the parking area near the crest of Skyline Drive. The park area is on the left (south) side of Skyline Drive about 1.4 miles past the I-287 off ramp.

B+8 Ramapo Mountain State Forest - Cannonball Trail 2

This version of the hike on the Cannonball Trail starts at the upper parking lot just off Skyline Drive. We follow the yellow Heffernan Trail south ultimately connecting with the Red Cannonball Trail. Trail is rocky with many ups and downs, but with great views. There are many alternatives for the trip back from the 287 cross over.

A shorter 3 mile flex hike is available around Ramapo Lake and back on the Cannonball Trail to Skyline Drive.

Driving Instructions: Take Route 208 N to I-287 S to Skyline Drive Exit 57. Take Skyline Drive past the first parking lot on left near the bottom of Skyline drive to the parking area near the crest of Skyline Drive. The park area is on the left (south) side of Skyline Drive about 1.4 miles past the I-287 off ramp.

B-8 Schuber/Millstone/Old Guard Loop to 996' Viewpoint (Camp Glen Grey)

This lollypop route around Camp Glen Grey starts across the roadway from the upper parking lot on Skyline Drive. Pick up the orange Shuber Trail and head north. Follow that to the intersection with the white blazed Millstone Trail. Turn right and continue to the intersection with the yellow blazed Yellow trail. Continue north and cross the pipeline to the start of the green Old Guard trail on the left. Turn left and follow the trail west. When the Lakes and Reservoirs come comes into view, the trail turns south and runs along with the red blazed trail. Stay on the Old Guard trail as it wanders south until it intersects with the orange Shuber trail. Follow the 2 trails until they split where the Shuber trail goes off to

the right. From there, follow the Shuber trail back to the trail head near Skyline Drive where the hike started. This hike has enough ups and downs to be interesting but no big climbs. See Trail Conference: <http://nynjtc.org/hike/millstone-trail996foot-viewpoint-loop-skyline-drive> for description and driving instructions.

**B-7** Ramapo Mountain State Forest and Camp Glen Gray

This loop hike passes interesting and historic millstones and climbs to a broad panoramic viewpoint of the Bergen County and New York skylines. The hike starts across the roadway from the upper Skyline Drive parking lot and essentially follows the Yellow trail north to the viewpoint and returns south on the Orange Schubert Trail. More fully described in the Hike of the Week book p. 207.

Driving Instructions: Follow Route 208 North to 287 South to Skyline Drive which is exit 57. Take Skyline Dr. to the second parking area on left near the crest of the road. **Do not** park at the first, the lower parking area. Cross the road to start the hike.

**C+5** Ramapo Mountain State Forest

A five mile plus hike on a trail that loops around scenic Ramapo Lake. We will park near the crest of Skyline Drive to reduce the climbing. Much of the hike is on a paved road. We will go past Ramapo Lake, a lookout tower and the ruins of a burned out mansion with a view of Wanaque Reservoir. Flex hike is a shorter loop to the lookout tower and back to the cars.

Driving Instructions: Follow Route 208 North to 287 South to Skyline Drive which is exit 57. Take Skyline Dr. to a parking area on left near the crest of the road. **Do not** park at the first, the lower parking area.

**B-6** Ramapo Mountain State Forest – Lookout/Hoeflerlin/Cannonball Trail Loop

This hike climbs to several panoramic viewpoints in the Ramapo Mountains and loops around scenic Ramapo Lake. Trail begins at the southern end of Skyline Drive and follows the Lookout, Hoeflerline and Cannonball Trails to Lookout Point and around the Lake. Check out:

<http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/lookouthoeflerlincannonball-trails-loop> for general description.

Flex Hike: walk around the Lake and try some of the intersecting trails.

Driving instructions: Take Route 208 North to 287 South to Skyline Drive Exit 57. For the lower parking lot, travel 150 feet or so on Skyline Drive to the first dirt parking lot on the left. The hike starts here.

#### B-6 Campgaw Mountain County Reservation

The hike starts from the South end of the parking lot adjacent to the start of the Rocky Ridge and Indian Trails. Follow the Rock Ridge Trail west to the Old Cedar Trail, turn left, and follow the Old Cedar to the point on the side of Campgaw mountain where it crosses the Rocky Ridge Trail. Then turn left onto the Rocky Ridge at that point, and follow it until it intersects the Indian Trail, then take the Indian Trail to the right to the view point on the top of Campgaw Mountain (depending on time lunch here). Then retrace your steps back to the Old Cedar Trail all the way to the junction with Dogwood Lane, then continue on the Old Cedar and Dogwood lane combination until the junction with the Hemlock Trail. Turn left and go around the lake to the Indian Trail following it back to the junction near the parking lot. (See Trail Conference Map #115.)

The Flex group has a mariad of possibilities to select from, map will be provided at Graydon.

Another route in Campgaw can be found on the Trail Conference Site:  
<http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/rocky-ridgeold-cedar-trail-loop-campgaw-mountain-county-reservation>.

Driving Instructions:

From Graydon: Take Route 17N to the Exit at Island Road toward MacArthur Blvd. Turn left onto MacArthur Blvd and follow it to the "T". At the "T", turn right onto Darlington Ave. Then turn left onto Seminary Road followed by a left turn onto Campgaw Ave. Follow the road and then turn right onto the entrance road leading into Campgaw Mountain County Reservation, which crosses over I-287. When you reach a fork in the road after 0.4 mile, bear left and continue for another 0.2 mile, then turn left and park at the southern end of the main parking area, near a large portable restroom.

From Route 208: Take N.J. Route 208 to the Summit Avenue exit in Franklin Lakes. Turn left at the end of the ramp, following the sign for Franklin Lakes. At the next traffic light, turn left onto Franklin Avenue. Continue to the following traffic light, and turn right onto Pulis Avenue (County Route 3). Follow Pulis Avenue for 1.4 miles and turn left onto Campgaw Road. In about a mile and a half, you'll pass the Law and Public Safety Institute and the entrance road to the Darlington Golf Course on the right. Just beyond, turn left onto the entrance road

leading into Campgaw Mountain County Reservation, which crosses over I-287. When you reach a fork in the road after 0.4 mile, bear left and continue for another 0.2 mile, then turn left and park at the southern end of the main parking area, near a large portable restroom.

B-5 Campgaw Mountain - Rocky Ridge/Old Cedar Trail/Backslope/Hemlock Loop

This loop hike climbs to the summit of Campgaw Mountain with a panoramic view of Bergen County. It loops around the western slope of the mountain and includes a circling of the lake. Trail map is available at:

[https://www.nynjtc.org/sites/default/files/CampgawMountainCountyReservation-TrailMap\\_2017.pdf](https://www.nynjtc.org/sites/default/files/CampgawMountainCountyReservation-TrailMap_2017.pdf)

Full description can be found at:

<https://www.nynjtc.org/hike/rocky-ridgeold-cedar-trail-loop-campgaw-mountain-county-reservation#dialog-hike-description> to which we will add a circling of the lake (conditions permitting) on the Hemlock Trail.

Driving Instructions:

From Graydon: Take Route 17N to the Exit at Island Road toward MacArthur Blvd. Turn left onto MacArthur Blvd and follow it to the “T”. At the “T”, turn right onto Darlington Ave. Then turn left onto Seminary Road followed by a left turn onto Campgaw Ave. Follow the road and then turn right onto the entrance road leading into Campgaw Mountain County Reservation, which crosses over I-287. When you reach a fork in the road after 0.4 mile, bear left and continue for another 0.2 mile, then turn left and park at the southern end of the main parking area, near a large portable restroom.

From Route 208: Take N.J. Route 208 to the Summit Avenue exit in Franklin Lakes. Turn left at the end of the ramp, following the sign for Franklin Lakes. At the next traffic light, turn left onto Franklin Avenue. Continue to the following traffic light, and turn right onto Pulis Avenue (County Route 3). Follow Pulis Avenue for 1.4 miles and turn left onto Campgaw Road. In about a mile and a half, you’ll pass the Law and Public Safety Institute and the entrance road to the Darlington Golf Course on the right. Just beyond, turn left onto the entrance road leading into Campgaw Mountain County Reservation, which crosses over I-287. When you reach a fork in the road after 0.4 mile, bear left and continue for another 0.2 mile, then turn left and park at the southern end of the main parking area, near a large portable restroom.

#### C-4 Sterling Hill Mine

The Sterling Hill Mine & Museum, "A National Historic Site, is a real underground zinc mine in Ogdensburg, NJ. See the following for more information (<http://www.sterlinghill.org/>).

The tour features the underground tunnels and the stories of the men and machinery that made it all work.

We will meet at Graydon Pool at the usual time and leave for Ogdensburg We are to meet Mr. Wasco Hadowanetz at the Ogdensburg Elementary School at 10:30 am He is a local resident and will lead us on a walk of the area around the mines.

Bring your lunch; we'll eat about 12 p.m. After lunch we will proceed to the mine for a guided tour at about 1 p.m.

The fee for the guided tour at the mine is \$8 per person payable at entry. Also Mr. Wasco Hadowanetz suggests a \$1 per person contribution to the Ogdensburg Historical Society payable on the day of the hike.

Please notify Bob Paoli (201-445-1738) if you plan to participate.

Directions: Route 208 N to Route 287 S to Exit 52B to Route 23 N. Proceed on Route 23 N about 20/25 minutes to the intersection at Route 517 (light). (Look for Kelly Tires - Munsonhurst Road on the left.) Left onto Route 517 and continue for about two miles. On the right is Ogdensburg Elementary School; park in the school parking lot, where we will meet Mr. Hadowanetz

#### C-5 Garret Mountain Reservation (Woodland Park NJ)

Option 1: This hike is a fairly easy C walk on the road around the Garret Mountain Reservation. The road is paved and good for winter hikes. Walking twice around changing direction at the tower parking lot is about 5 miles. Flex hike would be once around. Lunch is at the parking lot at the end of the hike.

Option 2: This hike follows the yellow and white marked trails around the perimeter of the Reservation. Total distance about 5 miles and has some uphill and downhill sections. Maybe taken in either direction from the parking lot. Flex hikers may walk the road or a shorter distance on the marked trails. Map will be available at Graydon.

Directions: Take the Garden State Parkway South to the exit for I-80 West which is in the far right lane and after the toll plaza. Take I-80 West to Squirrelwood Road. Follow the signs for Squirrelwood Road, Woodland Park. At the end of the ramp turn left, cross over the highway bearing left and you'll be on



Squirrelwood Road (which soon becomes Rifle Camp Road). Proceed about 0.8 miles. Immediately before a gas station (on the right), there will be a roadway (on the left) at the end of a reservoir (a green army tank is hidden by the trees is on the corner). Turn left into that roadway and proceed left up the hill for a short distance to the entrance to Garret Mountain Reservation which is on the right (at the sign). Turn right into Benson Drive and follow it a short distance to a fork in the road (you can only bear right). Follow the road (now one way) around past another entrance to the Reservation to a parking area on the left opposite a stone tower that can be seen up hill through the trees. Parking is in the lot on the left.

If you miss the turn by the tank, go on up the road for about a half mile to a T intersection on the left. Opposite that intersecting road is a traffic sign indicating Rt. 46 is on to the south and Rt. I-80 to the north. Turn left on to this road and proceed up hill to the other entrance to the Reservation mentioned above.

#### B-7.5 High Mountain Park Preserve (William Patterson College)

Beginning at the High Mountain Park parking lot, we follow the red trail until it intersects the yellow trail on the right. We follow the yellow trail north to the top of the ridge where we get a great view of New York, and further on looping the traffic circle where it soon intersects the beginning of the white trail. We follow the white trail along a valley, past a golf course, to the red trail that takes us back to the parking lot. It is about a 3 1/2 hour loop with lunch over a good path, many rocks, some small streams and various uphill and downhill sections. See the park's web site: <http://www.waynetownship.com/env-nat.htm>.

Flex hike: Take the red trail to the white trail going off to the left. Walk up the white trail as far as you want to go and return. The uphill and downhill sections are more gradual than the yellow trail described above. Alternative is to take the yellow trail up past the lookout point and return to the parking lot via the red trail (picked up before the white trail intersection)

DIRECTIONS: Take Wyckoff Ave. to Left on Cedar Hill Rd. Go over RT. 208 to end. Turn right on Sicomac. Go 2 blocks to Left on Mountain Ave. At the end, turn left on High Mountain Rd. Go one block to Right fork for Belmont Ave. Go past the Tides to the light. Right (ignore the straight ahead Wm Paterson sign) on to Buttermilk Falls Rd.-Overlook Ave. Go to college entrance and turn Right and continue circling the college, stay right and turn into the High Mountain Lot on right. It is small with a High Mountain Park sign.

#### B- 6 High Mountain Park and the Franklin Lakes Nature Preserve:

This is a hike to the summit of High Mountain in Wayne and a continuation to the Franklin Lakes Nature Preserve. High Mountain is the highest mountain on the East Coast south of Maine with a view of the Atlantic Ocean. We will start at the trail head located on Reservoir Drive on the border of North Haledon and Franklin Lakes. The trails are mostly gradual inclines and declines on wide trails with a lot of small rocks (do not wear sneakers). However a limited number of steeper inclines/declines, particularly near the summit, move this into a low B category. The "Flex" hike will use a shorter trail, but still involves hiking to the summit.

We will follow the red trail to the second intersection with the yellow trail and then take the yellow trail to the summit. Continue down the yellow trail back to the red trail which has been extended to connect with the Franklin Lakes Nature Preserve. This route will be followed by a scenic and flat 1.5 mile loop around the Haledon Reservoir.

**After the hike, Rich invites everyone to his house (¼ mile from the trail head) to eat their lunch on the deck. Rich will provide a beer or juice.**

Directions:

Find your way to Sicomac Ave. in Wyckoff, crossing 208 at either Grandview or Cedar Hill Ave. Head north (right) on Sicomac Ave. and turn left onto Mountain Avenue. Continue to end (~ 1 mile). Turn right onto High Mountain Road. Go 0.6 miles and turn left onto Reservoir Drive. The trail head is on Reservoir Drive opposite Navaho Trail Drive (¼ mile from High Mountain Ave.) Make a U Turn and park on the trail head side of the road. For GPS, use "Reservoir Drive, Franklin Lakes, NJ".

## **Palisades**

### **C-6 Hudson River Walkway South from Edgewater towards Weehawken**

This hike is an easy walk along the Hudson River Walkway . It straddles the Hudson River from Edgewater to Weehawken and back. It is an easy " C" hike of about 6 miles or more depending on the wishes of the group [flat and paved]. Boots are not needed; wear comfortable walking shoes. Dress warmly, there is usually a strong breeze coming off the river. Flex hikers can walk whatever distance they wish.

Driving Instructions:

Take Route 4 east to Fort Lee. Take exit US 9/Fort Lee/ Pal. Pkwy/U.S.1 and 46 and stay to the right as you go up the ramp. This becomes Kelby Street. Stay on

Kelby Street to the end. This is Hudson Terrace. Make a right at this stop light and continue down the hill. Hudson Terrace becomes River Road. In about 4 miles, you will get to a stop light where the overhead street sign is marked Palisades Medical Hospital Road. Make a left and park in the hospital parking lot in the rear of the hospital [next to the River]. We will start walking south to Weehawken for about 3 miles, then decide whether to continue or turn back north.

C-8: Hudson River Walkway from the Mitsuwa Supermarket to the Ferry Terminal

This hike is along the Hudson River waterfront from the Mitsuwa Supermarket in Edgewater to the Port Imperial Ferry Terminal in West New York and return. Flex hike will be the same route with the distance determined by the flex group. Lunch will be indoors at the Mitsuwa Supermarket (bring your own or buy the Japanese food available – noodle soup, sushi, etc.).

We will walk along the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway starting on the riverfront near the Mitsuwa Supermarket in Edgewater. The walk is flat and level – hiking sticks not needed. We will continue until we reach the Port Imperial Ferry Terminal in West New York where restrooms are available. Two sections of the walkway are not completed – we will detour to River Road and then return to the walkway. The return to Edgewater will follow the same route. A link to the walkway map can be found at:

[http://www.hudsonriverwaterfront.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=6&Itemid=23](http://www.hudsonriverwaterfront.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6&Itemid=23)

Directions:

Take Route 4 east to Fort Lee. Take exit US 9/Fort Lee/ Pal. Pkwy/U.S.1 and 46 and stay to the right as you go up the ramp. This becomes Kelby Street. Stay on Kelby Street (Bruce Reynolds Blvd) to the end. This is Hudson Terrace. Make a right at this stop light and continue down the hill. Hudson Terrace becomes Main Street then River Road. Continue south to the Mitsuwa Supermarket on the left at 595 River Road, Edgewater. Distance from the turn onto Hudson Terrace to the supermarket is about 2.7 miles.

C-8 Hudson River Walkway from Weehawken South to Hoboken and Beyond

This easy walk begins at the Weehawken Waterfront Park and continues on the Hudson River Walkway as far South as desired and returns. Walk passes through Hoboken so lunch can be either be carried or purchased at the Aspen Market in Hoboken.

Directions: Taken Route 17 south to either Patterson Plank Road or Route 3. Continue towards the Lincoln Tunnel on I-495. Take the Weehawken Exit, and follow the road to the T, then turn right onto JFK Blvd. E. In a short distance, turn left onto Baldwin. At the first big intersection, turn left onto Port Imperial Blvd., follow the road a short distance and turn right into the Weehawken Waterfront Park. Meet at the Parking Lot.

#### C-10 Hoboken to Liberty State Park and Return

This hike consists of taking the train from Ridgewood to Hoboken, walking the Hudson River path south to Liberty State Park or before. Lunch at a bench on the way. Flex hikers can walk their own distance and/or take the light rail back to the Hoboken train station.

Directions: Meet at the Ridgewood Train Station in time get the 9:21 train to Hoboken. Bring lunch.

#### C-8 Palisades North from Fort Lee (Long Path)

Start at Fort Lee Historic Park and walk north along the Long Path (turquoise blaze) about 4 miles along the Hudson and return. Lunch it at the Rockefeller lookout point, about at the half way point. (<http://www.njpalisades.org/flhp.htm>). See MapmyHike for more detail: <http://www.mapmyhike.com/workout/104889526>.

Regular hike option is to walk north on the Long Path and have lunch as above. Return would go down to the Hudson on the Dykman Hill Trail. Then walk south on the white blazed Shore Trail to its end, and climb back up the the Fort Lee Park.

Flex hike is to walk as far as desired and return.

Driving Instructions: **From Routes 4, 46, I-80, I-95:** Take the exit for Fort Lee / Palisades Interstate Parkway. (Or the last exit in NJ) Continue on Bridge Plaza

South (headed east) through several traffic lights. At the last light ("T" intersection), go straight into the Park entrance. Meet at the parking lot.

C-10 Alpine Lower Path South

Beginning at the Alpine Picnic area at the Palisades Park HQ Ranger Station, we walk south 4.7 miles along the Hudson to the Englewood Boat Basin and return. Lunch would be on the pier in Englewood. Flex hikers would walk a lesser distance and return.

Driving directions: Take Linwood Ave. East to Paramus Rd., and then turn left onto Paramus Rd. Continue on Paramus Road and make right turn onto Wearimus Rd. CR-502. Follow CR-502 all the way to Rt. 9W which will change names several times along the way – Washington, Old Hook Rd., High St., Closter Dock Rd. Turn left onto US-9W, continue on 9W and turn right about 1/4 mile and go under the Palisades Parkway. Make first right turn and proceed into parking lot at Palisade Parkway Headquarters.

(This hike could also be done in reverse starting at the Englewood Boat Basin.

C-6 Alpine High Trail North (Long Path)

This hiking route follows the Long Path trail in the Palisades Interstate Park from the Park Headquarters in Alpine to the State Line Lookout and back, a distance of about 6 miles round trip. The hike is through the woods and is relatively easy with great views of the Hudson River and New York. At the Women's Federation Monument, you can either follow the Long Path straight ahead that has a gradual downhill and short steep uphill, or back track a short distance and take a bypass that goes near the road way – time is about the same for both routes. Alternatives are to add walks on the White Blazed Short Path up and down the hill.

Driving directions: Take Linwood Ave. East to Paramus Rd., and then turn left onto Paramus Rd. Continue on Paramus Road and make right turn onto Wearimus Rd. CR-502. Follow CR-502 all the way to Rt. 9W which will change names several times along the way – Washington, Old Hook Rd., High St., Closter Dock Rd. Turn left onto US-9W, continue on 9W and turn right about 1/4 mile and go under the Palisades Parkway. Make first right turn and proceed into parking lot at Palisade Parkway Headquarters.

C-6 Alpine High Trail South from State Line (Long Path)

This hiking route follows the Long Path trail in the Palisades Interstate Park from the State Line Lookout south to the Park Headquarters in Alpine and back, a distance of about 6 miles round trip. The hike is through the woods and is

relatively easy with great views of the Hudson River and New York. Just before the Women's Federation Monument, you can either follow the Long Path straight ahead that has a short steep uphill, or take a bypass that goes near the road way – time is about the same for both routes. Alternatives are to add walks on the White Blazed Short Path up and down the hill.

Directions: take the Palisades Parkway north to the State Line Lookout exit. Travel to the parking lot near the lodge, the hike starts there.

#### B-7 Alpine High Trail South (Long Path)

This hiking route follows the Long Path trail in the Palisades Interstate Park from the Park Headquarters in Alpine south to the Greenbrook Sanctuary entrance road and back, a distance of about 7 miles round trip. Route follows the Long Path south to the entry road and, for the regular hike, returns on the lower white Shore Trail that requires fairly steep down hill and uphill segments.

Flex hikers would go out and back on the Long Path as far as they would like.

Driving directions: Take Linwood Ave. East to Paramus Rd., and then turn left onto Paramus Rd. Continue on Paramus Road and make right turn onto Wearimus Rd. CR-502. Follow CR-502 all the way to Rt. 9W which will change names several times along the way – Washington, Old Hook Rd., High St., Closter Dock Rd. Turn left onto US-9W, continue on 9W and turn right about 1/4 mile and go under the Palisades Parkway. Make first right turn and proceed into parking lot at Palisade Parkway Headquarters.

#### C-6 Tallman Mountain State Park – Long Path/Bike Loop

This is an easy loop hike that follows the Tallman Bike path to several expansive viewpoints over the Hudson River and returns. It is a total of 6 miles (3 miles each way), from the parking lot on Route 9W to the handsome overlook at the North picnic area (which has toilets, a panoramic view of the Hudson and the Tappan Zee Bridge, and offers an abundance of picnic benches). See Trail Conference description of a similar hike at:

<http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/long-pathbike-path-loop-tallman-mountain-state-park>)

As this is an easy hike, lunch will be taken in Piermont at the pier end or at the Gazebo (for flex hikers) followed by an optional visit to the ice cream store.

Driving directions: Take Linwood Ave. East to Paramus Rd., and then turn left onto Paramus Rd. Continue on Paramus Road and make right turn onto Wearimus Rd. CR-502. Follow CR-502 all the way to Rt. 9W which will change names several times along the way – Washington, Old Hook Rd., High St., Closter Dock Rd. Turn left onto US-9W and proceed north on U.S. 9W for about five miles or so into New York State and note the traffic light at the intersection of Oak Tree Road/Washington Spring Road. Continue north on U.S. 9W for another 0.25 miles past the light, and turn right into a parking area on the east side of the road, just before you reach an abandoned golf driving range on the west side. A small sign identifies the parking area as part of Tallman State Park, but this sign is not easily seen from Route 9W.

#### C-5 Fort Lee to the Englewood Boat Basin and Return

This hike follows along the bank of the Hudson River from just south of the George Washington bridge past the Englewood boat basin and picnic area to the Undercliff picnic area and return. Lunch could be on the pier at the north end of the Englewood Boat Basin. The entire hike is on paved road (closed to traffic in the spring) and hard packed dirt. We begin at the Fort Lee Historic Park Museum and go north past the Ross Dock Picnic area, past the Englewood boat basin to the next picnic area.. Inclines are mostly gradual.

Flex hikers may want to return after reaching the Ross Dock Picnic area (3 miles).

Driving instructions: From Routes 4, I-80 or I-95: take the last exit in NJ just before the bridge entrance. Continue on this road (Bridge Plaza, heading east) through several traffic lights. At the last light, (T intersection), look for the Fort Lee Historic Park entrance straight ahead.. We meet in the parking lot.

#### C-8 Englewood Boat Basin North to Alpine and Return

This hike starts at the north end of the Englewood Boat Basin and travels north along the Hudson River to Alpine and return. Path is flat. Lunch is in Alpine at the turnaround point. Flex hikers can walk as far as they like and return.

Driving instructions: From Routes 4, I-80 or I-95: take the last exit in NJ just before the bridge entrance. Continue on this road (Bridge Plaza, heading east) through several traffic lights. At the last light, (T intersection), look for the Fort Lee Historic Park entrance straight ahead and turn right. Several blocks later you make a left onto the Henry Hudson drive that is the entrance to the Palisades

Park. We meet in the northern end of the parking lot of the Englewood Boat Basin.

C-5 Greenbrook Sanctuary

The Greenbrook Sanctuary is part of The Palisades Interstate Park and is maintained by the Palisades Nature Assoc. The hike will be conducted by Nancy Slowik, who presented the program at the March 2007 meeting of the Hobbyists. There are 6 miles of trails, is relatively flat, and considered moderate. The trail is likely to be wet, so wear boots.

Directions. Take Oradell Ave. east to the end. Make a right on Grant Street which becomes Boulevard. At Madison Ave., Make a left and go to Washington Ave. At Washington, make a right to E. Clinton Ave. Make a left on E. Clinton to the very end. This is route 9W. Make left on 9W for about .8 of a mile. At the bend in the road, there is a small sign on the right side for Greenbrook Sanctuary. Go under the Palisades Parkway overpass to the Greenbrook parking lot. If you see the Tamcrest estates on 9W, you've gone too far.

## **Ridgewood Area**

C-8 Saddle River County Park - Dunkerhook to Rochelle Park Roundtrip

Depart from the Dunkerhook Area parking lot C and walk in a southerly direction along the bike path towards Route 4 and ultimately to Rochelle Park. Round trip is about 8 miles. In nice weather, we can have lunch at the picnic tables near the lake in the Saddle Brook area of the park. Walk is flat on asphalt. People can walk any distance.

Directions: Take Paramus Road south towards Route 4. Turn right into Dunkerhook Area park entrance. Follow the road around the park area to Parking Lot C.

Note the new road pattern

C-10 Saddle River County Park – Glen Rock Duck Pond to Rochelle Park Roundtrip

Depart from the first parking lot new the rest rooms in the Glen Rock Duck Pond and walk in a southerly direction along the bike path towards Route 4 and ultimately to Rochelle Park. Round trip is about 8 miles with lunch at the picnic tables near the lake in the Saddle Brook area of the park. Walk is flat on asphalt. People can walk any distance.



Directions: Take Prospect Street from Ridgewood into Glen Rock, heading south towards Route 4. Turn left into the Glen Rock County Park entrance. We meet at the first parking area on the left, near the restrooms and the start of the bike/walking path.

#### C-5 Ridgewood Historic Tour

This tour will be led by fellow Hobbyist and Village Historian Joe Supkicki. We will meet Joe at the Ridgewood Train Station at 9 AM and walk around the downtown and nearby areas. Then we will end up at Graydon and car pool to the other side of Route 17 along Saddle River for a further tour. Joe will point out the historic sites and provide his expert commentary. At the end of the tour, we will drive back into Ridgewood and have lunch at the Stable beginning at 12:30. Hike leader will be Bob Paoli. **We will meet at Graydon at 8:30 for walk to the Train Station.**

#### Caputos Directions

Caputo's is located just off Fair Lawn Avenue on Parmalee Ave. Going west on Fair Lawn Ave from Route 208 proceed about a 1/2 mile to the municipal complex and library, make a right turn on Parmalee Ave. and on the right hand side is the Fair Lawn Athletic Club. Caputo's is located inside the club.

#### Rocca Directions

Rocca is located at 203 Rock Road in Glen Rock. Parking is in the rear. Lunch starts at 11:45. Bring your own wine or beer. Lunch special – soup or salad, choice of three entrees, fruit plate and coffee - is about \$16.

Please confirm to [edward5158@aol.com](mailto:edward5158@aol.com) if you will be attending lunch. Rocca needs a count to prepare.

#### Justin's Ristorante

234 Lafayette Ave

Hawthorne, NJ

973-423-4345

Lunch starts at noon BYOB

#### Garden State Plaza Directions

Meet at the ground level of the multi-level covered parking garage, right next to the escalator leading up to the theatre at 8:45. The garage is on the south end of the shopping center.

## **Southern Rockland County**

### **B+7 Hook Mountain North in Rockland County NY**

This solid B 7.0 mile loop (or out and back depending) hike follows the Long Path along the ridge of Hook Mountain, with many Hudson River views. Terrain has several noticeable uphill and downhill at the beginning, and rolling trails the rest of the way. The trail follows the Long Path (aqua blaze) to the white blaze Treason Trail. Treason Trail has been rerouted, we will check it out. If OK we will have lunch and return along the Hudson River path, if not OK, where the trails join, we have lunch and retrace our steps back to the parking area.

Three options for flex hike: (1) park at Rockland State Park Lot #4 and walk around the lake – 3 miles flat; or (2) park with the main hiking group as below and walk along the road towards Rockland Lake – 3 miles round trip; or (3) park as below and walk down the road to the bike path, walk along the Hudson River to the abandoned stone park building (Treason Trail intersection) and retrace your steps to the parking area.

Driving directions: NY Thruway to 9W North. Follow 9WN to right turn entrance to Rockland Lake State Park. Follow the main park road to the right 1.5 miles to a 3-way intersection. Continue straight past the fire station to the barrier and park on either side of the road. The hike starts there.

### **B+6 Hook Mountain/Long Path South (from Nyack Beach State Park)**

This hike could be done in either direction beginning and ending at Nyack Beach State Park. If start is to the north, walk along the shore trail 1.5 miles, then go up the hill on the paved road to find the Long Path. Follow that south to intersect with the White blazed Upper Nyack trail, turn left back to the Park parking lot. If start is to the south, then follow the reverse of the above. One steep but short uphill/downhill depending on direction. (Trail Map 110)

Flex hike would be to follow the Shore Trail north as far as desired and return.

Driving directions: Take the NY Thruway to Exit 11 towards US9W/Nyack/South Nyack. Turn left onto Memorial Highway/Main Street. Turn left onto Highland Ave/US9W. Turn right onto 6<sup>th</sup> avenue. Turn left onto N

Midland Ave. Turn sharp right onto Old Mountain Road. Turn left onto N Broadway and go to the Park entrance.

C-3/6 Rockland Lake State Park NY

Flat walk on mostly paved path around Rockland Lake. One loop is 3 miles, 6 miles for twice around. Take your choice. Lunch can be taken at picnic tables near the parking area.

Driving directions: NY Thruway to 9W North. Follow 9W N to the second right turn entrance to Rockland Lake State Park. Follow the main park road to the right to Parking Lot #6 (where the bathrooms are).

C-10 Nyack Beach State Park to Haverstraw via the Shore Path

This trail is 4.9 miles long, mostly smooth dirt, well graded and mostly flat. We walk to the end at Haverstraw, have lunch and walk back to Nyack Beach. There is an excellent view of the Hudson the first two miles. Distance walked is variable depending on the individual.

Those flex hikers wanting to walk less distance can group up at Graydon, or wait for the others at the Beach if the weather is reasonable. More adventuresome hikers return after lunch on the Long Path on top of Hook Mountain.

Driving directions: Take the NY Thruway to Exit 11 towards US9W/Nyack/South Nyack. Turn left onto Memorial Highway/Main Street. Turn left onto Highland Ave/US9W. Turn right onto 6<sup>th</sup> avenue. Turn left onto N Midland Ave. Turn sharp right onto Old Mountain Road. Turn left onto N Broadway and go to the Park entrance.

C-8 Nyack Beach State Park to Rockland Lake and Return

From Nyack Beach State Park, this hike follows the Hudson shore trail for 1.5 miles, then follows the road up the hill and on to Rockland Lake. Then there is one trip around the Lake and return to the Nyack Beach State Park parking lot. Lunch is on a picnic table viewing Rockland Lake. Except for the uphill/downhill between the shore path and the upper park area, the walk is flat and easy.

Driving directions: Take the NY Thruway to Exit 11 towards US9W/Nyack/South Nyack. Turn left onto Memorial Highway/Main Street. Turn left onto Highland Ave/US9W. Turn right onto 6<sup>th</sup> avenue. Turn left onto N Midland Ave. Turn sharp right onto Old Mountain Road. Turn left onto N Broadway and go to the Park entrance.

C-8 South Nyack to Piermont via the Old Erie Railroad Bed

This is an easy hike along the flat cinder Old Erie Railroad Bed from S. Nyack to Piermont and return along the Shore Road. Lunch is at the gazebo in Piermont or at Piermont point. Walks out to the Piermont point (2 miles), or south on the Long Path towards Tallman State Park are optional.

Driving directions: Take the NY thruway to Exit 11 Nyack (last exit before the bridge). At the light, turn left onto Rt. 59 and go to the 3<sup>rd</sup> light in downtown Nyack which is Broadway. (Good alternative is to exit the thruway onto the Palisades Parkway South, take the Rt. 59 East exit and travel on Rt. 59 to the center of Nyack). Turn right onto Broadway and travel through two more lights until you see the S. Nyack Village Hall on your right. Park immediately to the left of Village Hall on Cornelison Street, we start our walk from there.

B-8 The Long Path in High Tor State Park (Overlooking Haverstraw)

This hike is an 8 mile out and back trip on the Long Path that includes a climb up to High Tor and a great view of the Hudson. Initially we climb from the parking area up to the ridge, follow gradual terrain along the ridge to High Tor at about the four mile mark. Climbing High Tor is optional. Then we return along the same path to the cars. (Note: use plenty of insect repellent and tick prevention measures)

Driving: Take Franklin Turnpike North to Route 202 North, and stay on 202N under the Palisades Parkway. At the second light past the Parkway, turn right, go a short distance and turn left into a parking area identified by a gate in the back. The trail starts here.

Flex Hike: Join the Long Path at about the 2 mile point from the start of the main hike route, walk towards High Tor and return. Total distance is 4 miles or less at your option; there is also an opportunity to climb High Tor.

Driving: Stay on Route 202N past the Palisades Parkway as described above. Continue on 202N to Route 33 which is at a traffic light. Make a right turn and

go to the top of the ridge to a parking area on the left. You pick up to Long Path at that point.

**B+-6** Black Rock Forest/Sutherland Pond

This challenging loop hike passes two ponds and touches several panoramic viewpoints. One viewpoint is good for eagle watching in the spring and fall, and the NY skyline is visible on a clear day. Terrain is varied including several uphill/downhills of which one is a short steep section at the very start. Rest of the route covers several trails with rolling uphill and downhill and rocky sections. A nice hike comparable with Castle Rock or Hook Mountain out and back. Refer to:

<http://nynjtc.org/hike/sutherland-pondscenic-traileagle-cliff-loop-mine-hill-road>  
for complete description, Description and map are needed.

This route is not good for flex hike. Another itinerary in the area is needed.

Directions: Take the New York Thruway north to Exit 16. Follow N.Y. Route 32 north for seven miles to Mountainville, and turn right onto Angola Road. After 0.8 mile, you will come to a stop sign. Turn left to continue on Angola Road. In another 0.8 mile, turn right onto Mine Hill Road. Follow Mine Hill Road uphill for 0.9 mile to a parking turnout on the right side of the road, just beyond a very sharp, steep hairpin turn.

**B+5** Black Rock Forest: Sutherland Pond/Scenic Trail/Eagle Cliff Loop from Mine Hill Road (lunch with Flexers)

Time: 3 hours

Difficulty: Moderate B+ for rock paths and some steep inclines

Length: 5 miles

Route Type: Circuit

Features: Views

Location Park: [Black Rock Forest](#)

Region: [Storm King and Black Rock Forest Region](#)

County: Orange State: NY

Map: [West Hudson Trails Map](#)

The hike begins by following the yellow-diamond-blazed Mine Hill Trail, which starts on the opposite side of the road, just beyond the parking turnout. The trailhead is marked by a triple blaze. Follow the trail uphill, steeply in places. At a switchback turn, there are views over the Shawangunks and Catskills from open rocks to the left. The Mine Hill Trail now heads south and soon ends at a junction with the yellow-circle-blazed Sackett Trail.

(You'll encounter four different yellow-blazed trails on this hike, so it's important to note the *shape* of the blazes, in addition to their *color*.) Turn right and follow the Sackett Trail to its end at a junction with the yellow-rectangle-blazed Stillman Trail. Turn left onto the Stillman Trail, which soon turns right onto Hall Road.

Where the road curves to the right, turn left and follow the yellow-rectangle blazes, which head into the woods on a less-used woods road. Almost immediately, you'll reach a junction with the blue-blazed Compartment Trail. Bear right and follow both blue and yellow rectangle blazes, which climb towards the crest of a ridge. At the crest, the trails split, and you should turn right, continuing to follow the blue blazes of the Compartment Trail.

As the Compartment Trail curves left, watch for three white blazes on the left, which mark the start of the Split Rock Trail. Turn left and follow the white-blazed Split Rock Trail, which leads in a short distance to a panoramic viewpoint to the southeast from open rocks, with Sutherland Pond directly below. This is a good spot to take a break.

Continue ahead (northeast) on the white-blazed trail. After passing the Split Rock that gives the trail its name, the trail descends to its end at Sutherland Road. Across the road (might be a little to the right or left) is the beginning of the Chatfield Road. Follow this as it passes between Sutherland and Sphagnum Ponds and then along next to Tamarack Pond on your left. On the far side of Tamarack Pond, shortly before the road intersects the Continental Road, we should meet the flex hikers for lunch.

After lunch proceed along the Chatfield Road for about 100 yards until it meets the Continental Road. Turn left. You'll notice an old stone building to the left. This is the Chatfield Stone House, built in the 1830s, damaged by fire in 1912, and reconstructed in 1932. It is the oldest building in Black Rock Forest and is currently used for educational programming. The body of water visible to the right is Arthurs Pond.

Continue ahead for another half a mile on Continental Road until you reach a cable barrier across the road. Just beyond, you'll see a triple blaze, which marks the start of the yellow-circle-blazed Sackett Trail. Follow the Sackett Trail, which runs along the road for a short distance, then turns left and reenters the woods on a footpath. After briefly following the grassy Hall Road, the trail passes a stone chimney – a remnant of a cabin that once stood here. It descends to cross a brook, climbs a hill to reach a west-facing viewpoint, then makes a brief but steep descent.

About three-quarters of a mile from Hall Road, you'll reach a junction with the yellow-diamond-blazed Mine Hill Trail. Turn right and follow the Mine Hill Trail down to Mine Hill Road, opposite the parking turnout where the hike began.

**Directions:** Take the New York Thruway north to Exit 16. Follow N.Y. Route 32 north for seven miles to Mountainville, and turn right onto Angola Road. After 0.8 mile, you will come to a stop sign. Turn left to continue on Angola Road. In another 0.8 mile, turn right onto Mine Hill Road. Follow Mine Hill Road uphill for 0.9 mile to a parking turnout on the right side of the road, just beyond a very sharp, steep hairpin turn.

#### C-5 The Black Rock Forest – Arthur's Pond (Standalone Route)

This 5-mile loop hike is ideal for flex hikers, hot weather and/or winter hikes. It is entirely on hard-packed dirt roads (not rocky), which wind through the woods, passing streams and ponds. There are also various blazed side trails and roads (still to be explored) that offer optional routes for the more adventurous.

The hike begins at The Black Rock Forest's Science and Education Center parking lot (if we get prior permission\* – otherwise it would start a  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile down the road from the Center at the main parking lot on Reservoir Road). From the Center parking lot we follow White Oak Road, which climbs steadily (not steeply, just steadily) uphill for a couple of miles passing the Upper Reservoir on the left (a nice place to take a break) and the Aleck Meadow Reservoir on the right. A short detour to view this latter reservoir is worthwhile and can be accomplished by going down a road and around the gate we pass on the right about half a mile after the Upper Reservoir. Continuing on the White Oak Road another mile we come to a T-junction known as White Oak Tree, there we turn left on to Continental Road until we get to the Stone House. Arthur's Pond can be seen here on the left. Bear right at the stone with the plaque on it (note: there is a hard right here too, which goes to some port-a-potties behind the Stone House) and proceed about another 100 yards to the shore of Tamarack Pond. There we can have lunch seated on logs arranged around a campfire.

After lunch there are two options for the return trip. One is to return to the stone house and turn right to continue along the Continental Road for about half a mile to where the white blazed trail crosses it and follows the Bog Meadow Road to the left. Take the Bog Meadow Road, which goes downhill, until it joins the White Oak Road, turn right and follow that road (which we came up) back to the parking lot.

The second option would be to return the way we came, which would reduce the length of the hike by approximately one mile.

#### **Driving Directions**

Take the New York Thruway north to Exit 16. Follow N.Y. Route 32 north for seven miles to Mountainville and turn right onto Angola Road. After 0.8 mile,

you will come to a stop sign. Turn left to continue on Angola Road. After about 2 miles you will come to the intersection with 9W. Take 9W south for about 1 ¾ miles, going slowly in the right lane and watching for Reservoir Road on the right. This is a narrow road that has a small dirt parking area at its intersection with 9W and angles down into the woods. Follow this road to a T-junction and turn right. A short distance on your right is the main parking area, where maps of the park on green paper are available at the trailhead. However, if we get permission, we will continue up Reservoir Road through the gate for approximately ¾ mile to the Science Center parking lot on the left.

Note: If you miss the turnoff for Reservoir Road you must take the left shortly thereafter from 9W onto Mountain Road and look for a narrow (one car only and just barely) tunnel on your right that will take you to Reservoir Road. If you miss the Mountain Road turnoff you will have miles and miles to go before you can turn around.

On the way home we will take Reservoir Road back out to 9W south and follow that to 293 then to 6 and on to Harriman and 87 south.

\*To get permission to park in the Center parking lot, email The Black Rock Forest Consortium office at [brfoffice@blackrockforest.org](mailto:brfoffice@blackrockforest.org) attention Barbara Brady or call at 845-534-4517

#### **C-5** Black Rock Forest – Arthur’s Pond (Coordinated with B+ hike for lunch)

This 5-mile loop hike is ideal for flex hikers, hot weather and/or winter hikes. It is entirely on hard-packed dirt roads (not rocky), which wind through the woods, passing streams and ponds. There are also various blazed side trails and roads (still to be explored) that offer optional routes for the more adventurous.

The hike begins at The Black Rock Forest main parking lot on Reservoir Road. We initially climb the entrance road about ½ mile to the Science Center parking lot. From there we follow White Oak Road, which continues to climb steadily (not steeply, just steadily) uphill for a couple of miles passing the Upper Reservoir on the left (a nice place to take a break) and the Aleck Meadow Reservoir on the right. A short detour to view this latter reservoir is worthwhile and can be accomplished by going around a gate and down a short road that we pass on the right about half a mile after the Upper Reservoir. Continuing on the White Oak Road another mile we come to a T-junction known as White Oak Tree, there we turn left on to Continental Road until we get to the Stone House. Arthur’s Pond can be seen here on the left. Bear right at the stone with the plaque on it (note: there is a hard right here too, which goes to some port-a-potties behind the Stone House) and proceed about another 100 yards to the shore of Tamarack



Pond. There we will have lunch, joined hopefully by the hikers that opted to take the B+ hike from the other end of the park.

After lunch there are two options for the return trip. One is to return to the stone house and turn right to continue along the Continental Road for about half a mile to where the white blazed trail crosses it and follows the Bog Meadow Road to the left. Take the Bog Meadow Road, which goes downhill and is rocky in places, until it joins the White Oak Road, turn right and follow that road (which we came up) back to the parking lot.

The second option would be to return the way we came, which would reduce the length of the hike by approximately one mile.

### **Driving Directions**

Take the New York Thruway north to Exit 16. Follow N.Y. Route 32 north for seven miles to Mountainville and turn right onto Angola Road. After 0.8 mile, you will come to a stop sign. Turn left to continue on Angola Road. After about 2 miles you will come to the intersection with 9W. Take 9W south for about 1 ¾ miles, going slowly in the right lane and watching for Reservoir Road on the right. This is a narrow road that has a small dirt parking area at its intersection with 9W and angles down into the woods. Follow this road to a T-junction and turn right. A short distance on your right is the main parking area, where maps of the park on green paper are available at the trailhead.

Note: If you miss the turnoff for Reservoir Road you must take the left shortly thereafter from 9W onto Mountain Road and look for a narrow (one car only and just barely) tunnel on your right that will take you to Reservoir Road. If you miss the Mountain Road turnoff you will have miles and miles to go before you can turn around.

On the way home we will take Reservoir Road back out to 9W south and follow that to 293 then to 6 and on to Harriman and 87 south.

### **B+ - Black Rock Forest - Honey Hill and Black Rock Loop**

Length - 6.5 Miles (3 1/2 hours)

It usually takes about 1hr. to 1hr. 15 minutes to get from Graydon to the Black Rock Forest parking lot, so the hike usually begins around 9:30AM.

From the kiosk just beyond the parking area, proceed ahead on the red-blazed Duggan Trail. In about half a mile, the red trail ends at a junction with the blue-blazed Reservoir Trail. Continue ahead on the blue trail, which crosses Ben's Bridge (a wooden footbridge) and climbs along a picturesque stream, with cascades and waterfalls, following an old woods road.

In about 0.4 miles, you'll notice a pipeline crossing the stream on stone abutments. Then, in another 500 feet, a sign marks the start of the Honey Hill Trail. Turn right and follow this white-blazed trail, which continues to climb steadily. In a third of a mile, you'll reach the crest of the rise, marked by a radio antenna on the right. The trail now begins to descend. A short distance ahead, a directional sign marks a broad viewpoint from a rock ledge to the right of the trail. Just ahead is Black Rock (which you will soon climb), and the Shawangunk Mountains are visible on the horizon to the northwest.

The Honey Hill Trail continues to descend. After a short switchback, it turns left onto a level footpath – the route of the pipeline that crossed the stream earlier in the hike. You'll notice that rock walls have been provided to support sections of the pipeline.

The white-blazed Honey Hill Trail ends at a junction with the joint Stillman (yellow) and Highlands (teal diamond) trails at the base of the Aleck Meadow Reservoir dam. Turn right onto the Stillman/Highlands Trail, which follows a woods road below the dam and, at the end of the reservoir, enters the woods on a footpath, climbing steadily. Bear left at a junction with the white-blazed Black Rock Hollow Trail, then (in 300 feet) – with White Oak Road visible on the left - turn sharply right (still following the yellow blazes) and climb to the summit of Black Rock (elevation 1,410 feet).

The summit affords a panoramic view, with Schunemunk Mountain and the Metro-North Railroad's Moodna Viaduct to the west, the Hudson River (crossed by the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge) to the northeast, and the Shawangunk Mountains on the northwest horizon. You'll want to take a break to rest from the climb and savor the view.

When you're ready to continue, turn left and descend very steeply for a short distance, continuing to follow the yellow and teal diamond blazes (do not follow the faded blue and yellow "footprint" blazes that head north across the summit). The grade soon moderates and, in about half a mile, you'll reach a wide gravel road.

Bear left and follow this road for a short distance and you will come to a gate and crossroads where several roads and trails intersect. Sutherland Road will be straight ahead with the Yellow Stillman Trail slightly to the right of it. Do not take either of these. Instead turn left on the Continental Road and proceed past the White Oak Tree intersection and then the white-blazed White Oak Trail on your right. Keep going, bearing right at the next intersection until you reach Tamarack Lake. It should be about 11:30AM and the flex hikers should be nearby, so we can all have lunch together.

After lunch we return with the flexers via White Oak Road past the Upper Reservoir and Science Center down to the parking lot where we began.

This hike is rated B+ because of the ascents of Honey Hill and Black Rock and rocky terrain in several places. Other than that it is quite moderate and the White Oak Road back to the parking lot from Tamarack Pond is all down hill.

### **Driving Directions**

Take the New York Thruway north to Exit 16. Follow N.Y. Route 32 north for seven miles to Mountainville and turn right onto Angola Road. After 0.8 mile, you will come to a stop sign. Turn left to continue on Angola Road. After about 2 miles you will come to the intersection with 9W. Take 9W south for about 1 ¾ miles, going slowly in the right lane and watching for Reservoir Road on the right. This is a narrow road that has a small dirt parking area at its intersection with 9W and angles down into the woods. Follow this road to a T-junction and turn right. A short distance on your right is the main parking area, where maps of the park on green paper are available at the trailhead.

Note: If you miss the turnoff for Reservoir Road you must take the left shortly thereafter from 9W onto Mountain Road and look for a narrow (one car only and just barely) tunnel on your right that will take you to Reservoir Road. If you miss the Mountain Road turnoff you will have miles and miles to go before you can turn around.

On the way home we will take Reservoir Road back out to 9W south and follow that to 293 then to 6 and on to Harriman and 87 south.

### B+4.5 Black Rock Mountain Circuit

This fairly short with elevation loop hike follows footpaths to the summit of Black Rock, with panoramic views, and returns on attractive woods roads. Leaving from the parking area, the hike follows the Duggan, Reservoir and Stillman Trails to climb to the top of Black Rock and returns via Hulse Road and the Black Rock Hollow Trail. See <http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/black-rock-mountain-trails-and-woods-roads> for details.

Flex hike is plus/minus 3 miles with some ups and downs following the Stillman Trail to the Upper Reservoir and returning via the Reservoir and Duggan Trails to the parking area.

Address: 129 Continental Road, Cornwall, NY

### **Driving Directions**

Take the New York Thruway north to Exit 16. Follow N.Y. Route 32 north for seven miles to Mountainville and turn right onto Angola Road. After 0.8 mile, you will come to a stop sign. Turn left to continue on Angola Road. After about 2 miles you will come to the intersection with 9W. Take 9W south for about 1 ¾

miles, going slowly in the right lane and watching for Reservoir Road on the right. This is a narrow road that has a small dirt parking area at its intersection with 9W and angles down into the woods. Follow this road to a T-junction and turn right. A short distance on your right is the main parking area, where maps of the park on green paper are available at the trailhead. However, if we get permission, we will continue up Reservoir Road through the gate for approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the Science Center parking lot on the left.

Note: If you miss the turnoff for Reservoir Road you must take the left shortly thereafter from 9W onto Mountain Road and look for a narrow (one car only and just barely) tunnel on your right that will take you to Reservoir Road. If you miss the Mountain Road turnoff you will have miles and miles to go before you can turn around.

On the way home we will take Reservoir Road back out to 9W south and follow that to 293 then to 6 and on to Harriman and 87 south.

#### B+4 Storm King State Park – Storm King Mtn from Mountain Road (B+5)

Hike departs from the parking area on Mountain Road that is accessed off Route 9W. It is a loop route primarily on the Yellow Stillman and the Blue Bird Trails. The route circles the top of Storm King Mountain with spectacular views of the River and entire Hudson Valley. See Trail Conference Map 113 and <http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/stillmanhighlandsbluebird-trails-loop-mountain-road> for details.

Flex Hikers can take the unpaved carriage road for a 2 – 3 mile loop from the same parking lot.

Driving: Take the Garden State Parkway north to the NY Thruway towards the Tappan Zee Bridge. Exit onto the Palisades Parkway north and follow it to the end. Then follow 9W north towards Storm King. (Alternative is to take Seven Lakes Drive between Rt 17 and the Palisades Parkway that allows for a beer stop at Rhodes Tavern on the way home.) Just past the northern end of the park, turn right onto Mountain Road and look for the parking area.

## **Sterling Forest Area**

#### C+6 Sterling Ridge and Sterling Lake

The hike starts at the Frank Lautenberg visitor center in Sterling Forest. Two routes are available: (1) 6+ mile hike around the lake (Blue), onto the Sterling Valley trail (Yellow), turning south on the Pine Meadow (Orange Trail) that

intersects with the Blue Trail and loops back to the lake. See for details: <http://www.mapmyhike.com/workout/414965061>. Optional additional hike is a short round trip to the fire tower; and (2) a four mile flex hike around the lake on the Blue trail. B hike has several uphill and downhill sections.

Directions: Take Route 17 North into New York State. Take the Sterling Forest exit from 17N (before Sloatsburg). Follow Sterling Mine Road (CR 72) west for 3 miles, then turn right onto Long Meadow Road (CR84). Proceed north on Long Meadow Road for 3.5 miles, then turn left onto Old Forge Road and continue for 0.5 miles until you reach the Sterling Forest State Park Visitor Center. Parking is in the parking lot on the right. Hiking maps are available at the Visitor Center.

### C+ 6 Sterling Valley Loop Trail

This trail follows woods roads for its entire length and forms a loop south of NY 17A to the Sterling Lake shore and back (yellow blazes). We will start the hike from the parking lot at the end of Ironwood Drive (put 229 Ironwood Drive in your GPS and/or see directions below) and climb for 1.8 miles along the route of the old Warwick Turnpike to another parking lot near 17A. Although this is a woods road, it is uphill for most of the way and there are some areas of loose rocks where the road resembles a river bed. We will then descend 1.8 miles on a somewhat easier trail to the shore of Sterling Lake, where the trail turns left and begins to run jointly with the Sterling Lake Loop (blue blazes) for a mile. The trail then heads north for 1.6 miles back to the parking lot.

We will eat lunch by the beach, and if the timing works out, the flex hikers will meet us there.

*Flex* hikers have a choice: 1) Start where the rest of the hikers do but go in the opposite direction down to the picnic spot on the lake and return (approximately 4 miles round trip) or 2) Drive to the Visitors Center and take the Sterling Lake Loop trail (blue blazes) to the beach at the north end of the lake and either finish the loop or return the way you came. This is a familiar trail to most of you.

Facilities: There is a port-a-potty at the parking lot near 17A. Otherwise, it's the woods.

Directions: Take Rt. 17 north to 87. Take the first exit off of 87 to pick up 17 again. From that exit proceed about 6.7 miles north on 17 through Sloatsburg to Warwick Brook Road on your left. This turn is 0.7 miles after the Duck Cedar Plaza on your left and just before the turnoff to 17A. Proceed 1.6 miles on Warwick Brook Road to a T junction. Turn right on to Rt. 84 and take an

immediate left on to Ironwood Drive. In 1.1 miles you will come to the end of the road where there is enough room to park several cars.

#### B-7 Sterling Ridge Trail/Fire Tower/Sterling Lake Trail Loop from Route 17A

This loop hike traverses Sterling Ridge, includes a fire tower, offers great views and a walk along scenic Sterling Lake. From the parking lot, the route follows the Blue-on-White Sterling Ridge Trail about 3 miles south to the Fire Tower. From there you work your way on the Fire Tower and Tower Connector Trails to the Blue Sterling Lake Trail that runs besides the Lake for a while. Continue north on the Sterling Lake and then the Yellow Sterling Valley Loop trail back to the parking lot. (See: <http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/sterling-ridge-trailfire-towersterling-lake-trail-loop-route-17a>)

Flex hikers should drive to the Visitor Center and hike the near by trails around the Lake.

#### Driving Directions:

Take the New York State Thruway to Exit 15A. Turn left at the bottom of the ramp onto N.Y. Route 17 and head north, through Sloatsburg and Tuxedo. Continue for about 2.5 miles beyond the village of Tuxedo to a traffic light at the intersection of N.Y. Route 17A. Bear left at the traffic light and continue up the ramp, then turn left at the top of the ramp onto Route 17A. Follow Route 17A west for 5.5 miles to the parking area for the Sterling Ridge Trail, on the left side of the road, just beyond a green-and-white sign indicating a hiker crossing. Follow the dirt road past the gate (which is normally left open) to a large parking area in a grassy field.

To the Visitor Center, Take the Sterling Forest exit from 17N (before Sloatsburg). Follow Sterling Mine Road (CR 72) west for 3 miles, then turn right onto Long Meadow Road (CR84). Proceed north on Long Meadow Road for 3.5 miles, then turn left onto Old Forge Road and continue for 0.5 miles until you reach the Sterling Forest State Park Visitor Center.

#### B-6.5 Redback Loop in Sterling Forest

This loop trail through the Southern end of the park is marked by magenta blazes and occasionally ribbons through short sections. It follows old mining roads, passes the remnants of the Red Back Mine, courses through woodlands, winds around several swamps and the ridges above them, climbs Bill White Mountain

and then descends with a return to the parking area. Fairly challenging and should be done in reasonably dry weather.

Driving Instructions: Take Route 17N into New York State. Exit on Sterling Mine Road (Rt. 72) just before Sloatsburg. Make a right turn onto Eagle Valley Road about 1.5 miles further on Rt. 72). Follow Eagle Valley Road a while until you come to South Gate Road. Turn right and look for a parking on the left and Button Wood Road on the right. SUVs can park in the lot, cars should turn right and park along Button Wood Road.

B-6 Sterling Forest -New Trail from Redback Loop North

This hike will be in the southern area of Sterling Forest and will start at the parking area off of South Gate Road, where the Redback Loop Trail begins. After following that trail north for half a mile, we will turn right onto a newly constructed, unnamed and unmarked, Trail Conference trail. This is a new area for most of us and includes some interesting old mines. The length of the hike will depend on the group's inclinations. The level of difficulty depends largely on the length, as the terrain is not that challenging.

Flex hikers may choose to proceed to the Park's Visitor Center and walk around the lake or hike the new Hutchinson Trail, which is about 4 miles in and out and relatively easy.

Driving Instructions:

Take Route 17N into New York State. Take exit 15A off of 87 and continue on 17N towards Sloatsburg. Exit right onto Sterling Mine Road (Rt. 72) just before Sloatsburg. Make a right turn onto Eagle Valley Road (about 1.5 miles further on Rt. 72). There is a sign there for St. Elizabeth's Chapel. Follow Eagle Valley Road a while until you come to South Gate Road. Turn right and follow it for about a mile looking for the trailhead parking on the left and Button Wood Road on the right. SUVs can easily park in the lot. Cars should be cautious, but it is doable. OR turn right and park along Button Wood Road.

This is the link to the map showing the parking area. <https://goo.gl/maps/6mMi4hRLkD82>

B-6 Sterling Forest - Doris Duke Circular Hike plus Appalachian Trail Extention

This loop hike passes by interesting cliffs and a scenic marsh and climbs to a panoramic viewpoint, from which on a clear day you can see the skyline of New York City. Regular hike includes the 3.9 mile Doris Duke loop in the clockwise

direction, plus a 2 mile extension on the Appalachian Trail north to the top of Mt. Mombasha and return. Flex hike is the Doris Duke loop only in the easier counter-clockwise direction. See Trail Conference description of the Doris Duke Loop portion: <http://nynjtc.org/hike/sterling-forest-doris-duke-wildlife-sanctuary>.

#### Driving Directions:

Take N.J. Route 17 north to the New York State Thruway and take the first exit, Exit 15A (Sloatsburg). Turn left at the bottom of the ramp and follow N.Y. Route 17 north through Sloatsburg and Tuxedo. About 2.4 miles north of Tuxedo, take the exit on the left for N.Y. Route 17A. Turn left at the top of the ramp and continue along Route 17A for 3.0 miles to Benjamin Meadow Road, which is on the right shortly after the entrance to the Renaissance Fair. Turn right onto Benjamin Meadow Road and, in 0.2 mile, turn sharply left into a gravel driveway marked by a small “Hikers’ Trailhead Parking” sign (just before a mailbox for #52). Continue to the gravel parking area at the bottom of the hill.

#### B-6.5 Hutchinson Trail

This hike is on the just-opened Hutchinson Trail, nestled in the scenic eastern highlands of Sterling Forest. Thousands of hours of labor by the Trail Conference have resulted in an easy-to-hike, sustainably built trail featuring hemlock forests, scenic wetlands and the remnants of 19<sup>th</sup> century iron mining activities in the area. *An eastern loop is currently under development. Once completed, it will join with the Hutchinson Trail to create a 7-mile loop.*

Two options: (1) Out-and-back connecting with the Red Back Trail ending at the Parking Lot on South Gate Road; or (2) Loop hike with the yellow McKeags Meadow and Blue Sterling Loop Trails.

There is a flex option, which involves an out and back moderate 4-mile hike and Hutchinson Trail only. The footing is good and not excessively rocky.

**Directions:** Take NYS Thruway exit 15A (Sloatsburg) and get onto NY Route 17 North just before entering Sloatsburg. Take the first exit onto Sterling Mine Road and proceed 2.9 miles to the traffic light.

Turn right on Long Meadow Road (Orange County Route 84) and continue approximately 5.1 miles to the Caretaker Lot on your right. This lot is easy to miss, so slow down when you see the composting center on your right. It is just beyond this large composting center, approximately 1 mile north of Sterling Forest Visitor Center. Geo-location: N41.20686 W 74.239673.



C-5 NJ Botanical Garden

The regular hike will start out with the flex hikers for a short distance, then will pick up the the "OLD MORRIS ROAD" to the RACE TRAIL to the GLASMERE GATE HOUSE, where we go left to the BLACK BIRCH WAY then C.S. HILL, until we intersect with the HALIFAX TRAIL (Green Blaze) ~~ take this to the crossover (White Blaze) then to the CABIN TRAIL and via the AVENUE back to the parking lot ~~ OR lunch in the Gardens.

The FLEX hike will be the lower loop around SKYLANDS MANOR & GARDENS ~~ a gentle and interesting 2 mile walk. Map to be provided.

Driving Directions to the turn off for the NEW JERSEY BOTANICAL GARDENS & SKYLANDS MANOR:

Route 17N to SLOATSBURG ROAD, also known as 72 WEST towards RINGWOOD. The distance is approx, 41/2 miles from Rt. 17 and 0.4 miles on your left after you pass RINGWOOD MANOR.

Once you've made the turn, follow the NEWLY PAVED road straight up and past the 2 stone eagles, and turn LEFT just after the little Toll House and park your car there.

There are bathroom facilities available

B-7 Southern Loop from Skylands Manor

This up and down (none steep) loop hike begins at parking lot Pa at Skylands. Itinerary follows the White Crossover Trail east and south to the intersection with the Blue blazed Pierson Ridge Trail. From there, turn left and head north to the trail's end at the intersection with the Green Blazed Halifax Trail. Turn left and follow the Green Trail back to Skylands Manor and the Parking Lot.

Driving Directions to the turn off for the NEW JERSEY BOTANICAL GARDENS & SKYLANDS MANOR:

Route 17N to SLOATSBURG ROAD, also known as 72 WEST towards RINGWOOD. The distance is approx, 41/2 miles from Rt. 17 and 0.4 miles on your left after you pass RINGWOOD MANOR.

Once you've made the turn, follow the NEWLY PAVED road straight up and past the 2 stone eagles, and turn LEFT just after the little Toll House and park your car there.

There are bathroom facilities available

#### B-4 Skylands and Shepherd Lake

The hike starts at Parking Lot A and goes back down Morris Ave to a white marked trail on the right which goes to Shepherd Lake (a little over one mile with mild ups and downs). Walk around edge of beautiful Shepherd Lake for 0.3 miles and then take more difficult part of hike to the top of Mt. Defiance (good views). This is not a terribly steep climb but does have 2 or 3 rock ledges (10 ft high). Trail then descends back down into Skylands gardens (not steep). Hike is rated B- because of rock ledges even though it is only 4+ miles.

Flex hike is either through extensive Skylands Botanical Gardens (beautiful this time of year) or trail to Shepherd Lake returning to Skylands via paved road (about 2 miles) or both Gardens and Shepherd Lake trail.

Directions: Take Route 17 North into NY State. Take Sterling Forest exit from 17N (before Sloatsburg). Follow Sterling Mine Road (CR72) west for 8 miles past Ringwood Manor entrance on the right. Shortly after this take left onto Morris Ave up to Skylands Toll Booth (no fees on weekdays) and park in Parking Lot A on left immediately after Toll Booth.

#### C -6 Governor Mountain Loop in Ringwood

This hike is a loop hike to Governor Mountain and return, with two nice view points over Wanaque Reservoir. It can be adapted to be several different lengths, depending upon where you park to start the hike. The hike described here is the hike from Ringwood Manor parking lot B. Alternate hikes can start from Morris Road (exit off Sloatsburg Road and pass the entrance to Skylands and go to a small roadside parking area near a bridge over a stream and swampy area). This hike is only slightly shorter (5.5 miles), starting out on the white blazed Cross Over Trail and joining the Yellow Blazed Cooper Union Trail which leads to Governor Mountain as described below. The shortest version of the hike (2.4 miles), which may be suitable for a flex hike, except for the climb to Governor Mountain, and the short steep descent on the back side of the lookout points, but does avoid the swampy area described below. In addition, flex hikes of a variety of lengths are possible around Ringwood Manor, at Skylands around that property and at the Arboretum (both of which are off Morris Road). The 6 mile hike starts at Parking Lot B in Ringwood Manor. From the Parking Lot, follow the road at the right end (opposite where you drove in), heading to the left to the picnic area and adjacent to Ringwood Brook. You will soon see the trail head for the Red and the White Trails on your right (they employ a combined marker of a Red slash on White). Cross over the two footbridges over Ringwood Brook. Note: At this time (August 2017) the second bridge is closed and so the longer hike is best started from Morris Road. The trail bears to the right and heads up a short slope before coming to Sloatsburg Road (the guardrail is high and Sloatsburg Road is busy, be

cautious). Cross the Road and head slightly to the right where the Red/White Trail Markers will point you uphill and into the woods. Shortly the trail will split. The Red trail will continue uphill and slightly to the left, while the White. Either one will take you to the Yellow Cooper Union Trail, on which you travel for most of the hike. The Red involves slightly more climbing than the White, taking the higher path. If you proceed on the White Trail, you will shortly come to the point where the Yellow Cooper Union joins from the left and the White exits left with the yellow. Proceed straight ahead on the Yellow Cooper Union. You will return on this trail to the parking lot at the end of your trip. After a short stretch you will cross paved Morris Road. You will then cross a pipeline, an unmarked trail (one of several you will encounter), a small stream, and more unmarked trails. It is not always easy to determine which is the Yellow Trail at these junctions, but stay with the Yellow trail. You will pass some buildings on the left and a school on the right, come to a small footbridge across a brook. From there you will start the gradual incline up Governor Mountain. Next you come to the split in the trail (both Yellow) to the right and left for the Governor Mountain Loop. Either way will work, with the primary determinant whether you want to go “up” or “down” the short steep section just after the view points (if you go right it is after the view points). There are two view points, the first (which is sometimes used illegally as a campsite) with a somewhat obstructed view, the second more open and a better view. Continue on the loop until you meet the yellow trail again at the split and then retrace your steps to the parking lot. Driving Directions: Take route 17 North toward Mahwah until it joins the New York Thruway (I-287), merge onto I-87/17 North/New York State Thruway following it to Exit 15 A for 17 North to Sloatsburg/Suffern. Turn left on Route 17 Follow 17 North until you shortly come to the right exit (County Road 72W to 17S/Ringwood/Sterling Forest/West Milford). This is Sterling Mine Road, following that until it becomes Sloatsburg Road (both signed County Road 72) which will eventually come to Ringwood Manor on the right. Regular hikers turn into Ringwood Manor and State Park and go past the entrance station, past the first parking lot and follow directions to parking lot B. Flex hikers should go past Ringwood Manor and turn left into Morris Road and go past the entry station for Skylands to go into the Parking Lot at the double eagles.

#### B-7 Mount Defiance/Glasmere Ponds Loop from Shepherd Lake

This loop hike climbs to the summit of Mount Defiance, with panoramic views, and passes several scenic ponds. See for hike description:  
<http://nynjtc.org/hike/mt-defiance-ringwood-state-park>

Flex hikers park at the Skylands Manor Lot and take the loop hike and follow local trails.

Driving Directions: Take route 17 North toward Mahwah until it joins the New York Thruway (I-287), merge onto I-87/17 North/New York State Thruway following it to Exit 15 A for 17 North to Sloatsburg/Suffern. Turn left on Route 17 Follow 17 North until you shortly come to the right exit (County Road 72W to 17S/Ringwood/Sterling Forest/West Milford). This is Sterling Mine Road, following that until it becomes Sloatsburg Road (both signed County Road 72) which will eventually come to Ringwood Manor on the right. Flex hikers go into the Parking Lot at the double eagles. Regular hikers turn left onto Morris Road and then left onto Shepherds Pond Road and go to the Shepherds Pond parking lot.

B+-5 Mount Defiance/Skylands Manor Loop from Shepherd Lake in Ringwood

This is a loop hike that climbs to panoramic viewpoints on Mount Defiance and traverses the historic Skylands Manor area. See detailed description at <http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/mount-defianceskylands-manor-loop-shepherd-lake>. Also refer to Trail Conference Map #115 and MapmyHike at the following <http://www.mapmyhike.com/workout/137663817>.

Several notes: there are a few long gradual ascents, notably at the beginning and end; and sticks and boots are needed.

Flex hikers: Start at the Ringwood Manor House parking lot. Follow the blue marked Manor trail for a 3 mile fairly easy circular hike. Map is available in the office. Directions to the Ringwood Manor House are below.

Driving Instructions:

Take Route 17 north to NYS Thruway exit 15A. Continue on 17N for 1.4 miles to exit to Sterling Forest. Take Sterling Mine Road (becomes Mill Pond then Sloatsburg Road) for about 4.7 miles to Morris Road (about 0.5 mile after Ringwood Manor). **Note: flex hikers turn into the Ringwood Manor House at the sign prior to arriving at Morris Road.** Turn left on Morris Road, go 1.3 miles to Shepherd Pond Road. Turn left and go 0.7 miles to parking lot (bear left after gate house). Parking fee at gate house may be required. Use NJ Senior Citizen Pass for free parking.

C-6 Ringwood Manor Mine Tour

C-5 Skyline Drive Manor

C-5 Monksville Dam (Two Mines)

C-5 Long Pond Mine Area

B-5 Indian Hill Trail

This is a 5 mile B- loop hike on the Indian Hills Trail at the Northern end of Sterling Forest State Park. Route includes several uphill stretches with gradual downhill walks. Flex hike would be to walk a lesser distance and return to the cars.

Driving Instructions: Take Route 17 North through Sloatsburg, Tuxedo, past the turn off to Route 17 A (two traffic lights there), past the Red Apple Restaurant on the right from which go .3 of a mile into Southfields. There turn left on to Orange Turnpike, County Route 19, and go 1.3 miles up the hill on the Turnpike, keeping to the right at any road forks. Very near to the end of that distance, there will be a road sign on the right (with a yellow background on which are black markings) indicating an intersection with a road on the right ahead. Shortly beyond that sign, also on the right is a smaller brown sign reading in white letters " Indian Hill" with an arrow to the right, after which there is a dirt road slanting to the right. Turn on to that dirt road and follow it a little distance finally bearing right up a small hill to the parking area. There is a sign board on the left as you enter the parking area. The trail starts behind that board.

## **VERMONT TRAILS**

A-5.4 Shrewsbury Peak Loop

Difficult 5+ mile hike that gains 1400 feet altitude up to a great scenic view at the summit. See for details: <http://trailfinder.info/trail.php?id=418>. Not suitable for flex hikers.

## **Warwick New York**

C-5 Appalachian Trail next to Mt. Peter

We park at the Ice Cream Store, walk across the street and pick up the Appalachian trail. The trail proceeds to the south gradually up to a lookout point

above Greenwood Lake. We walk our desired distance, have lunch at the overlook and return, or have lunch at the Bellvale Creamery. Ice Cream stop follows on nice days. (Can add 1.8 mile extension to Valley View and return on Blue Trail which is probably hilly)

Flex hike opportunity is to walk less distance on the trail and return to the parking lot, or walk to road to the old Prison (now closed) that starts at the bottom of the hill down from the Ice Cream store.

Driving instructions: Take Route 17 into NY State and turn left on Route 17A past Tuxedo Park. Stay on Route 17A until you will see the ice-cream parlor (Bellvale Farms Creamery) on your right. Park across the street in the lot.

#### C-6 Warwick Valley to the Prison

We park at the Ice Cream store (Bellvale Farms Creamery), walk down the hill and follow the road around to the State Prison, have lunch outside the Prison gate or along the road, and walk back. Road is all paved and flat except for the long hill at the start and the end. For those who don't want to walk up or down, we use a car shuttle. Walk is very scenic through dairy and other farm lands.

Driving instructions: Take Route 17 into NY State and turn left on Route 17A past Tuxedo Park. Stay on Route 17A until you will see the ice-cream parlor (Bellvale Farms Creamery) on your right.

#### C-6 Appalachian Trail through Bull Field

We park at a small parking field along Rt.94 near Warwick NY where the Appalachian Trail crosses the road. This is a walk in/walk out hike that crosses a large open field and picks up a boardwalk that crosses over marshland. We walk to the end of the boardwalk and turn around. Terrain is flat but can be muddy at times. Lunch is at a bridge crossing a stream on the way back. Those wanting to walk less distance, can stop at the bridge and either wait for the main group or turn around and go back.

After the hike, a stop at the Bellvale Creamery for Ice Cream is optional but highly recommended.

Driving instructions: Take Route 17 into NY State and turn left on Route 17A a mile or two past Tuxedo Park. Stay on Route 17A heading towards Warwick, go past the Bellvale Farms Creamery on the right, and look for a "T" in the road which is the intersection with Rt. 94. Turn left onto Rt. 94; continue about 5 miles on Rt. 94, go past the Heaven Hill Nursery, to the Rt. 515 intersection that goes off to the right. Immediately past the Rt. 515 intersection, look for a small

sign on the left indicating that the Appalachian Trail is crossing the road. Parking is at a small open space on the left.

## **Norvin Green State Forest**

### **B-5 Lake Sonoma/Overlook Rock/Manaticut Point Short Loop from Crescent Drive**

This loop hike goes by Lake Sonoma and climbs to Overlook Rock and several other panoramic viewpoints. See (<https://www.nynjtc.org/hike/lake-Sonoma-and-overlook-rock-manaticut-point-trail#dialog-hike-description>) for complete description.

Flex hike would be to follow a shorter route or visit Ringwood which is close by.

#### Directions:

Take Skyline Drive to its northwestern terminus at Greenwood Lake Turnpike (County Route 511). Turn left and proceed south for 1.6 miles to West Brook Road. Turn right onto West Brook Road and cross the Wanaque Reservoir on a narrow causeway. At the next T-junction, turn left and proceed for 0.8 mile to Magee Road. Turn right onto Magee Road and take the first left onto Burnt Meadow Road. Continue for 0.9 mile and turn left at the second intersection with Crescent Drive. Continue for 0.2 mile until you reach a huge boulder on the right side of the road, just beyond a curve. Park along the side of the road.

### **B-7 Weis EcologyCenter - High Point Vista Loop "A"**

This hike is well worth the effort to reach one of New Jersey's most spectacular 360 degree views at the summit of Wyanokie High Point, from which on a clear day you can see the Manhattan skyline as well as the Ramapo Mountains and the Wanaque Reservoir. The hike is classified as a solid "B" because it has a steep climb for the first 45 minutes over some very rocky terrain and then several ups and downs after High Point.

Start on the Green trail, turn left on the Blue/Yellow and continue on the Blue trail to the top of the ridge, where it meets the Red coming in from the right. Take Red up to High Point and follow it back down the other side. Make a left on Yellow. Take a right on Blue/Yellow and follow it back to the Green and on to the Weis Center.

### B+ 7 Weis Ecology Center - High Point Vista Loop “B”

This hike is well worth the effort to reach one of New Jersey’s most spectacular 360 degree views at the summit of Wyanokie High Point, from which on a clear day you can see the Manhattan skyline as well as the Ramapo Mountains and the Wanaque Reservoir. The hike is classified as a solid “B+” because it is a steady climb over some very rocky terrain and has some steep ups and downs.

Start on the Green trail until it meets the White trail coming in from the left. Then follow the White trail to the Blue trail. Turn right on the Blue trail and follow it past where it is joined by the Red up to High Point. This takes about an hour and 15 minutes. After taking in the spectacular view proceed on the Red trail as it descends northeastwards from High Point. About ½ hour down there are a couple of downed trees that make a fine place for lunch. Continue on Red, which is joined from the left by Yellow and stay on Red/Yellow, passing the Blue Mine entrance. The trail maps become somewhat confusing here, but stay on the Yellow until it is joined from the left by Orange. Take the Orange towards the Roomy Mine, which will shortly appear on your right. Then continue on the Orange, over a waterfall, and on to the Yellow, which comes in from the left. Follow the Yellow to the Blue/Yellow to the Green and back to the Weis Center.

An option that makes the hike a little shorter (taking the + off of the B+) is to skip the mines and take the Yellow trail to the left when it meets the Red trail.

### B-3 Weis Ecology - Roomy Mine and Wyanokie Falls

This hike, classified by the Weis Center as “easy” (which it is not) and “perfect for families” features mines and a waterfall. Start on Green to Yellow/Blue (a steep rocky climb) and follow it until the Yellow branches off to the left. Take the Yellow until you see the trail head for the Orange on your left. Follow Orange past Wyanokie Falls until you see a large rock on your left. Turn right then left on Orange and follow to the Roomy Mine. Return by following the Orange until it meets the Yellow/Red, turn right and follow until the Yellow branches to the right. Follow the Yellow to Yellow/Blue to Green and back to Weis.

Note: The Weis Center is not open on Tuesdays, which means the rest rooms will not be available. Plan on using trees. Also, bring your walking sticks and good boots.

Driving instructions: Proceed north on Route 208 to Route 287 south. Take Skyline Drive exit (57) turning right at the end of the ramp. Proceed over the mountain approximately 5 miles to Ringwood. Bear left at the first stop sign. At



the second stop sign Skyline Drive ends. Turn left there onto Route 511 south and continue approximately 1.7 miles to Westbrook Road. Turn right onto Westbrook Road. When it forks, bear to the left. After the fork, take the second left turn onto Snake Den Road, which also forks – bear left. Look for the Weis Ecology Center sign and the outer parking lot about 1/3 mile from this fork. Note that starting from when you turn onto Westbrook Road you will begin to see blue and white signs for the Weis Center. Also, please be careful on these roads; they are narrow and have numerous sharp curves.

B-7 Outlook Rock loop from West Brook Road (needs to be checked out and rated)

BLUE MINE WALK FROM WEIS: (Needs to be checked out and rated)

On this short 2-mile walk, you'll pass a babbling brook, a small waterfall, and the sites of two interesting old iron mines. Bring a flashlight to explore the "Roomy Mine"! Start on the Red trail to Blue mine, then turn around and follow the Yellow blazes back over Roomy Mine, cross the red trail for a view of Wyanokie Falls, and end back at the parking lot.

HIGH POINT VISTA/MINE LOOP FROM WEIS: (Needs to be checked out and rated)

This 3-mile hike is well worth the effort to reach one of New Jersey's most spectacular 360 degree views. From the summit of Wyanokie High Point, you'll see the Wanaque Reservoir, the Ramapo Mountains, and even the Manhattan skyline. Bring your camera! Start on the Green trail, turn left onto Blue and climb to the top of the ridge where you will meet Red. Take Red up to high point and follow it back down the other side and back to Weis.

STREAM-HOPPER FROM WEIS: (Needs to be checked out and rated)

This 7-mile hike begins fairly easily, but then becomes more challenging. Once you hit the yellow trail, you'll begin your journey up and down three of Norvin Green's scenic peaks. And be prepared to hop from rock to rock to cross a few streams that run across your path. Take Green all the way up to where red crosses the trail. Turn right onto Red, then left on Yellow. Follow yellow until it hits Orange. Follow orange, and then right onto Red, and follow red back to Weis.

KNIFE'S EDGE FROM WEIS: (Needs to be checked out and rated)

This popular 7-mile hike through rugged terrain offers spectacular views, giant boulders, an iron mine, and a few steep climbs. You can also enjoy a few side trips to other sights such as the Roomy Mine and a vernal pond. Start on Red and Yellow from the parking lot. Turn left onto White, then right onto Yellow. Take a right onto the Blue trail and follow blue back to Weis.

WILD WYANOKIE CIRCUIT FROM WEIS: (Needs to be checked out and rated)

This 8-mile hike over rugged terrain takes you through some of the wildest sections of Norvin Green State Forest. The route includes a scenic waterfall and optional side trips to other viewpoints. Start on Green, and turn left onto Red. Take a left onto Orange and then left onto Yellow. At the blue trail, turn left and follow the blue blazes back to Weis. Optional: from Blue, follow white to Chickahoki Falls and take Yellow back to Blue.

## Western New Jersey

### C-8 Duke Farms

This will be an easy walk on the 18 miles of paths in the 2000 acre Duke Farms Environmental Site in Hillsborough NJ. Duke Farms is a privately owned Garden/Park developed and landscaped by the Duke Family over many years. Exact route to be selected on site. Flex hike will be on the same trails, distance to be determined by the group. Go to: [www.dukefarms.org](http://www.dukefarms.org) for more information.

Driving: Take 287 South to Exit 17 US202/206 towards Somerville. Stay on US 206 South. In 2 miles, turn right onto Dukes Parkway. Drive 1.3 miles to the entrance. For GPS: 1112 Dukes Pkwy, W. Hillsborough NJ 08844. About 1 hour drive.

### B-6.5 South Mountain Reservation

A loop hike that includes a panoramic viewpoint, a scenic waterfall, and a stroll along a pleasant stream. Basic route is to follow the blazed yellow Lenape trail outbound to the Hemlock Falls, a scenic waterfall and good spot for lunch. The return is on the white blazed Rahway trail. After a rocky uphill at the beginning, the trail is mostly flat with roots and rocks. Should not be done is very wet

weather conditions. Several flex hikes are available on the trails and bridal paths in the park. See Trail Conference site:

<http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/south-mountain-reservation>. Map is available on line.

#### C-8 Blairstown Rail Trail from the Airport

The converted rail trail starts at the Blairstown airport, is dirt and cinders, fairly flat and mostly in the shade. This hike is a pleasant walk to the aquaduct where we have lunch and either return or walk further as desired.

Directions: Take Route 80 west to 521 north, Exit 12. Follow 521 north to a left turn onto 94 south. You can either turn left and follow the first airport sign right after the turn onto 94 South (and travel about 4 miles) or follow 94 south through Blairstown. At the light, look for the airport sign and turn left. That will be Lambert Road. Follow that to the airport. Either way gets you there. When you arrive at the airport, turn right into the parking lot. Address for GPS is 36 Lambert Road, Blairstown 07825.

#### C+ 4.5 Tourne County Park – Boonton / Denville Townships, Morris County, NJ

This easy-to-moderate 4.5 mile loop follows well-worn trails passing through wooded areas that include lakes, picnic areas, a swamp (which we skirt), a wildflower preserve area (through which we pass) and some views. The trail has a few moderate hills and is rocky in parts, but the footing is generally quite good and it is not unusual to see families hiking and individuals walking their dogs. It is a good winter hike and flex hikers have various options.

From the kiosk in the first parking lot on McCaffrey Lane, which is on the right side of the road, proceed across the paved road and look for the three blazes indicating the beginning of the red trail. Follow the red trail south along the east side of the park passing Rattlesnake Meadow (the aforementioned swamp) on your right. After about 1 mile the red trail takes a sharp right at the north end of Birchwood Lake, crosses the white Ogden Trail and climbs to a ridge line, which it then follows north. Continue to follow the red trail, watching carefully for the blazes, as there are several unmarked trails that cut across it. Eventually the red trail crosses a paved road and through a picnic area that has a parking lot, a children's play area and tables. This is about 1.5 to 2 hours into the hike and may be a good place to eat lunch. Continue following the red trail to the right of the picnic area for about 500 feet until the DeCamp Trail comes into it from the left. Take the DeCamp Trail to the top of Tourne (900 ft.), which offers good views on clear days. This could be another place for lunch. Continue on the DeCamp Trail, looping back to the red trail, which after a short distance takes a sharp left

and passes through the Wildflower Trail area. After a short distance the red trail ends at the paved McCaffrey Lane. Turn left on this road and climb the 100 feet or so to the parking lot where we started.

Flex hikers have two options. They can follow the group on the red trail, but skip the DeCamp Trail to the top of Tourne (just continuing on the red trail until it meets up with McCaffrey Lane) or take the White Ogden Trail that we cross, which is wide and flat, back to McCaffrey Lane. At this paved road they could go left for about 400 feet to the aforementioned picnic/children's play area and wait for the rest of the hikers to have lunch or turn right and return to the parking lot.

See <http://www.mapmyhike.com/workout/453765873> for plot of route.

Notes: 1. Restroom facilities at the picnic/children's play area. 2. There are maps available at kiosk at the parking lot.

**Driving instructions:** Go on Rte. 80 west to the Denville exit. Go on rte. 46 EAST through Denville to Mountain Lakes. Turn LEFT onto the BOULEVARD through Mountain Lakes. Bear LEFT at fork onto POWERVILLE ROAD. Turn at first LEFT, McCAFFREY LANE which is the access road to the park. Park at the first small lot, the entry to the Red Trail is nearby.

#### B/C-5 Pyramid Mountain/Turkey Mountain (Boonton NJ)

A variety of B and C hikes can be selected all leaving and returning from the Park parking lot. Park map is available to select from.

The Tripod Rock Option is a C+ 4+ mile route on the Pyramid Mountain side that leaves the parking lot, follows along the lake and then up Pyramid Mountain to Tripod Rock. Specifically, we go clockwise from the Blue, to White, to Orange, to Yellow trails. We stop for lunch at Tripod Rock and then return back to the parking lot. This route has a gradual elevation gain. The route may be done in reverse which has an easier uphill segments

The Bear Rock, Whale Head Rock, Eagle Cliff Option is a B 7 mile loop hike that follows various trails out and back, and can be done in either direction as determined by the Hike Leader. Route also includes Tripod Rock and Lucy's Overlook. Trail is rocky with some hills.

The High Mountain and Bear Rock Option is a B 6 mile hike going clockwise from the parking lot on the Blue trail to High Mountain and then on the Yellow trail to Bear Rock. We go North on the Blue trail and East on the Red and White trails arriving at the beginning of the Orange trail where we have lunch. We return South beside the lake on the Orange and Yellow trails to the parking lot.

The Eagle Cliff Option is a B 5 mile hike that goes out on the blue, then yellow, then orange trails. Return is on the white trail to the red that goes past Eagle Cliff, then follows the blue to the yellow back to the parking lot. See the following for details: <http://www.mapmyhike.com/workout/209975065>.

Flex Hike: Proceed north on the Blue trail to the Yellow to the Orange and return the same way. Distance is variable based on the decision of the group.

Directions: Take Route 287 South to Route 23 North. Follow 23 North to Route 511 South. This will be a jughandle u-turn at a traffic light. Follow Route 511 South about 4 miles to the parking lot for Pyramid Mountain County Park.

C+-4 Silas Condit Park (Kinnelon NJ)

This is a short but hilly walk over good trails in a small park around a picturesque lake. Park on the left in the first spots you come to after the entrance, near a maintenance shed. The trail starts in back of the shed and travels uphill to the lake. Walk the trails around the lake and head north on the trail behind the ballfield. Follow the trail around to the end of the divided parking lot. There connect with the trail continuing north. At the end of this trail, turnaround and retrace your steps back to the lake. Have lunch at the picnic tables around the lake. After lunch, walk south along the trail or the road to the cars. (Map is available)

Directions: Take 287 South to 23 North towards Kinnelon. In order to turn left onto Kinnelon Avenue, take the jug handle turn by getting off Route 23 at the signs for Butler/Kinnelon, Kinnelon Road. At the stop sign, make a left turn, and proceed across Route 23 onto Kinnelon Road. Continue about one mile to Park Entrance on the right. Park in the spots on the left near the maintenance shed (before the main parking lots).

C-8 Allamuchy Mountain State Park (Deer Park Trail to Deer Park Pond)

This 8 mile easy to moderate loop hike goes over a fairly narrow rocky trail through varying terrains including a panoramic viewpoint over the Delaware Water Gap and follows the shore of scenic Deer Park Pond. Lunch is at a scenic view at the pond, around 12:15 – 12:30. If hike is during bug season, use lots of insect repellent. Refer to Hike of the Week web site for a complete description. [www.nynjtc.org/trails/record/20070309.html](http://www.nynjtc.org/trails/record/20070309.html).

Flex hike opportunity is to walk to the viewpoint over the Delaware and return, about one hour each way.

Directions: Take Route 80 west to Exit 19 (Hackettstown/Allamuchy/Andover). Turn left at the bottom the ramp and continue south on County Route 517 for 2.1 miles to Deer Park Road on the left (not well marked). Turn left onto Deer Park Road and continue to .7 miles to a parking area at the entrance to the park.

B-5 Apshawa Preserve Outside Loop

This loop hike follows the 5 marked trails around the outside loop of the park. Route includes scenic views over the Jersey Highlands and Butler reservoir, plus waterfalls, a dam, ruins... and even a brief glimpse of the NYC skyline. Trail map is:

[http://www.njconservation.org/documents/Apshawa\\_trailmap20130920.pdf](http://www.njconservation.org/documents/Apshawa_trailmap20130920.pdf)

Flex hikers can take one of many shorter routes; refer to the trail map

Directions to the [Apshawa Preserve](#) site: Route 287S to Exit 53 – County Road 694 toward County Rd 511/Bloomingdale/Pompton Lakes. Turn left onto Hamburg Turnpike. Follow Hamburg Turnpike for a while. Then right onto Macopin Road, then left onto Northwood Dr to the Parking Lot. Immediately look to the right for “Apshawa Preserve, New Jersey Conservation Foundation” sign. Large dirt lot.

C-5 Beaver Lake Circuit – Updated Directions

This hike will start and end at Jim Sutherland's Lake House. Regular hike and flex hikes will be set when we get there.

**WELCOME TO BEAVER LAKE**

**Activities: Swimming, canoeing, hiking, or just sitting.**

**Bring: Swim suit, sunscreen, hat, towels, insect repellent, sunglasses and mellow sense of humor**

**Directions :** Plug Beaver Lake or 14 Dumont Point Road, Hardyston, NJ into Mapquest or your GPS. If that doesn't work, try Beaver Lake, or Franklin, NJ 07416. Beaver Lake is on Rt.23 going north before you get to Franklin.

OR

Get on Route 287 and take exit 52 to Route 23 north towards Butler. Stay on Rt. 23 north for about 14 miles. Just after the junction of routes 23 and 515 the road becomes a single lane road in both directions. From there you have about 3.1 miles to the Beaver Lake turn.

Continue on Rt. 23 for 3 more miles until you see a blue and white watershed sign on your right as well as a green and white sign that says "mile 30", slow down and put on your left blinker. You will then go over a stone bridge, immediately after which, on the left, is the entrance to Beaver Lake Road between two stone pillars. Be careful, it comes up very quickly and you will not see the entrance until you are a few feet away. ( If you miss that left turn and you have time, go off Rt. 23 to the right into "Beaver Lake Auto", which is directly across from the entrance, and wait until it is clear to cross over. If not you must continue on the main road down the hill before you can do a "U" turn and come back.)

Beaver Lake road descends quite steeply and crosses a railway line, then continues on through the woods. Follow the road about a mile and you'll come to a house on your right and a gate across the road. Pull up to the keypad on the left and dial 2014 or 3014 and press call. We will buzz you in.

Once through the gate, keep to the left. Go around the tennis courts and follow the road left, clockwise around the lake. You'll go over the dam and a small bridge and up into the woods, past a few cottages. Soon you'll see a sign pointing off to the right with a series of names listed on it, including Sutherland – turn right, then keep on the second dirt road from the left as you drive through the trees. We're about four houses in – there's a big log cabin-looking cottage, and we're the one after that, Number 14.

You can park next to the house, the wall or in the space next to the garage across from the cottage.

Bron's cell number is 201-546-2693 and Jim is the next number - 2694. Your cell phone may not work once you leave Route 23, so sometimes it is easier to call us on your cell phone before leaving Route 23 to warn us that you are close.

## B - 6 Beaver Lake Ridge Trail

This hike leaves from Jim Sutherland's cottage on Beaver Lake and follows a paved road for about half a mile before branching out onto an old dirt logging road that gradually ascends to a lookout over Franklin, NJ. The route then leaves the road and winds through the woods and along the ridge before descending to an

abandoned railroad bed and meeting up with Beaver Lake Road (paved), which ascends back up to the lake. We will stop at a couple of lookouts with good views. Total hike - 6 miles.

Flex hike – 4 miles – start as above and walk as far as the last lookout before the descent, then follow a short trail to the logging road and return the way we came.

### C+ 5 Beaver Lake to Edison

This hike starts from the east shore of the paved road that almost circumnavigates Beaver Lake. It follows an old logging road that initially ascends the ridge for about .5 of a mile and then levels off for most of the way to Edison, where Thomas Edison established a large mining operation that at one time employed 500 workers. It was closed in 1900, but there is ample evidence of its existence. The logging road to Edison winds in a southerly direction through a pleasant wooded area and has some ups and downs, but nothing very strenuous. There are, however, some stretches with loose stones.

We return via an Audubon trail heading east and then north, reconnecting with the logging road on which we came. This trail has a couple of steeper (but short) ups and downs and rocky areas, but again, nothing overly strenuous. It skirts a swamp and leads to a rock ledge, which has a spectacular view of the swamp and the surrounding area. This would be a good lunch spot, as it is 2 hours into the hike, but another option is to return to the lake (another 30 minutes) and Jim Sutherland's dock for lunch.

#### Notes:

1From the trailhead described, this hike is about 5 miles and takes about 2.5 hours to complete. If anybody feels they want a bit more of a challenge, they can depart from the Sutherland cottage, which adds approximately 1 more mile each way on the paved road.

1Boots are recommended because of the rocks in some parts of the trail. Insect repellent is essential because at certain times of the year there are some very persistent deer flies and mosquitoes.

#### FLEX HIKES

1The hike around the lake is a pleasant 3 miles, mostly on paved road, with some nice views. It takes about an hour and 30 minutes and has a few long hills.



2Another option is to go with the other hikers from the trailhead as far as the turnoff to the lookout over the swamp, take the turnoff to the ledge and return to the Sutherland cottage, including the .9 of a mile on the paved road (mostly downhill) from the trailhead. This would be about 3 miles also.

C-11 Wallinskill Valley Railtrail - Sussex Branch Trail North to Andover

Starting at the trail head on Waterloo Road just off Routes 206 and 80, we walk north along the trail into downtown Andover, have lunch at the gazebo and return. Shops are available to buy coffee or snacks. Flex hikers can walk any distance roundtrip and return to the railhead. The trail passes through Allamuchy Mountain State Park that has 14 miles of marked trails that can be explored and evaluated.

Driving instructions: Take Route 80 West to exit 25 and follow Route 206 north towards Newton. Turn left onto Waterloo Road and follow the road a short distance to the trail head on the right.

-11 Paulinskill Valley Railtrail/Boathouse Restaurant on Swartswood Lake

From the Trail Head, we can go either north or south on an out-and-back hike. Distance and time to be determined by the group. For a hike with lunch at the Boathouse ([www.theboathouserestaurantonline.com](http://www.theboathouserestaurantonline.com)), we should cover 6-8 miles in under 3 hours and make it to lunch at 1:00. Flex hikers can set their own pace.

Driving instructions: Take route 208 to 287 and finally to Route 23 West, continue on 23 until you reach an exit marked Oak Ridge Rd. This is a right hand exit that jugs left, go thru the light and continue for several miles until you see a large Lukoil gas station on your right, make an immediate Right turn and follow this road (Ridge Road that becomes Glen Road) all the way to Sparta. Then you make a Right turn at the bottom of the steep hill by the traffic light at a T intersection, continue for a half mile over the railroad tracks to the traffic light, where you turn left onto 517 South then onto Route 15 West until you get to Lafayette. There you turn to the Left and take Route 94 towards Newton, after a couple of miles, at the traffic light you turn Left onto Route 206 into Newton. Continue for a couple of miles, then when you see the Mc Donald's on your right, you want to make a Right turn and park across from Mc D's in the Mall parking Lot where we will meet up to go "Convoy" style to our final destination: the PAULINSKILL VALLEY TRAIL.

Option is to take Route 80 west to Route 15 West and follow that into Lafayette. Then pick up the route from above.

For reference: McDonald's address for GPS is 13 Hampton House Road (Route 206) Newton 07860. To get to the Park entrance, turn right off 206 just past the McDonalds onto Newton-Swartswood Road and turn left onto Dove Island Road right after the bridge, and follow that to the Park entrance.

For the Boathouse, address is: 1040 West Shore Drive, Newton.

C-11 Paulinskill Valley Railtrail - Sussex Branch North from Andover to Newton

To be checked out. See [www.njparksandforests.net](http://www.njparksandforests.net) for Kittatinny Valley State Park web site. Also there is a very nice sandwich shop in Newton for lunch but may be too far for some hikers.

B-7 Cooper Mill Park – Black River/Bamboo Brook Trail Loop

This hike proceeds South from the northwest corner of the Cooper Mill Parking Lot, follows the Black River and Bamboo Brook in a nice 7 mile loop. Route has some hills but are mostly gradual and short. From the parking lot, we follow the blue-blazed Black River Trail through the Kay Environmental Center and back into the woods. Continue on the blue trail until you reach an intersection with the red trail that goes off to the right. Follow the blue trail another .4 miles to the Brook. Have lunch by the Brook and retrace your steps on the blue trail back to the intersection with the red trail. Take the red Conifer Pass Trail through the pine forest and open areas. At a T intersection with a wide dirt road, follow the green trail for about 75 feet. When the green trail turns left, stay on the road for about 600 feet to the intersection with the Blue Black River Trail. Turn left and follow the Blue trail back to the starting point. Refer to <http://nynjtc.org/hike/black-river-county-park-chester-nj> for hike description. Refer to <http://nynjtc.org/park/black-river-county-park> for a trail map. Refer to the following: <http://www.mapmyhike.com/workout/156420927> for detail trail data.

Flex hikers can either follow the above trails to the Kay Environmental Center and return, about 3.5 miles with one gradual hill, or take the Blue Blaze trail north from the parking lot as far as they want to go and return (latter route not checked out but appears to be flat)

Driving instructions: Take I-80 West to Exit 27A and continue south on Route 206 for 8.0 miles. Turn right onto County Route 513s and follow it for 1.2 miles to the entrance to Cooper Mill Park, on the left side of the road.

9/2/19

## POTENTIAL NEW HIKES TO CHECK OUT

### From Ed Collins:

#### Storm King State Park – Crows Nest Mountain from 9W (B+4)

This loop hike climbs to the North Peak of Crows Nest Mountain, with many spectacular viewpoints over the Hudson River and the Highlands. See Trail Conference Site: <http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/crows-nest-mountainhowell-trail-route-9w> for details and driving directions.

#### Watchung Reservation (Easy to Moderate regular and flex hikes)

This loop hike encircles the Watchung Reservation, passing ruins of an old mill, a historic village, a cemetery dating to the 1700s, a gorge, and a lake. About 8.5 miles probably a C+. See Trail Conference site: <http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/watchung-reservation>. There is also a shorter 4 mile easy C flex hike available for flex hikers. See the Trail Conference: <http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/watchung-reservation-short-loop>.

#### Eagle Rock Reservation (3.5 mile Easy Flex Hike)

This loop hike circles the Reservation, passing a panoramic viewpoint over the New York skyline) See Trail Conference site: <http://www.nynjtc.org/content/eagle-rock-reservation>.

## From Jim Sutherland

### Sterling Forest

Starting at Parking lot 14 next to Greenwood Lake and following the white trail (Lake-to-Lake) until it crosses the Sterling Ridge trail. Then turning north on the Sterling Ridge trail until it gets to the Red Trail (Fire Tower Trail) and return to the parking lot. Depending on time and enthusiasm we could continue on the Sterling Ridge trail to the Bare Rock trail (orange) then turn left, descending to the green, West Valley trail, turn left on that until it connects to the red trail, which leads us back to the parking lot. You can see this route on the Sterling Lake map.

The Trail Conference has a similar B-7 hike in Sterling Forest described as a loop hike combining a traverse of the Sterling Ridge with a walk on a woods road along scenic Sterling Lake. See: <http://nynjtc.org/hike/sterling-ridge-trailfire-towersterling-lake-trail-loop-route-17a>.

### The Paulinskill Valley Rail-Trail Sussex Branch -

This hike starts in Andover, where we finished last time and goes north to Drake's Pond, Newton and perhaps beyond.

## From Syd Robertson

### Ken Lockwood Gorge Wildlife Management Area

This is a 7.5 mile hike, but the submitter rates it easy and says it takes 3 hours. It goes through a beautiful gorge, with waterfalls and a lot of historic features. Sue and I did this hike a number of years ago and thought it was wonderful. Here is a link to the description: <http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/ken-lockwood-gorge-and-columbia-trail>. It is about 60 miles from Graydon out I-78 in Hunterdon County to the hike start.

## From Bob Stevenson

Ward Pound Ridge Northern Section