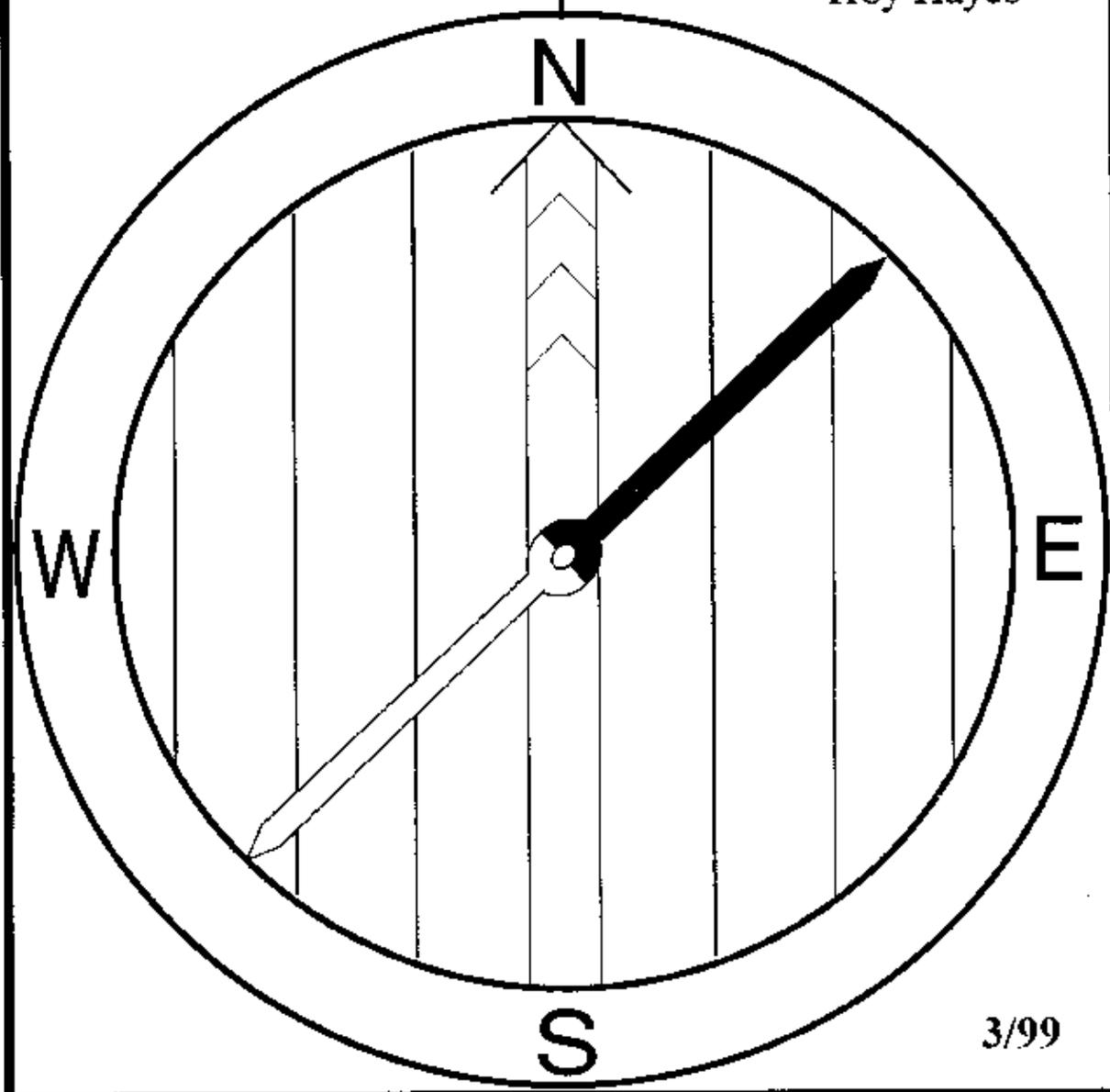


# The Pathfinder

A Scouter's Guide  
To Outdoor Adventure



Edited By  
Troy Hayes





## Preface

As a new Scoutmaster, I wanted to take my troop on different kinds of adventure. But each trip took a tremendous amount of preparation to discover what the possibilities were, to investigate them, to pick one, and finally make the detailed arrangements. In some cases I even made a reconnaissance trip in advance in order to make sure the trip worked. *The Pathfinder* is an attempt to make this process easier.

A vigorous outdoor program is a key element in Boy Scouting. The trips described in these pages range from those achievable by eleven year olds to those intended for fourteen and up (high adventure).

And remember what the Irish say: The weather determines not whether you go, but what clothing you should wear. My Scouts have camped in ice, snow, rain, and heat. The most memorable trips were the ones with "bad" weather. That's when character building best occurs.

Troy Hayes  
Warrenton, VA

[Preface revised 3-10-2011]

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## **Backpacking: Bird Knob**

**LOCATION:** Massanutten Mountain, Virginia.

**DESCRIPTION:** An 8.5 mile circuit hike with an elevation change of approximately 1000 feet. It follows the ridge of the mountain past interesting rock formations and past outstanding views of the Shenandoah Valley. Camping is at a meadow near Bird Knob. The pond in the far corner of the meadow has a lot of wildlife, but it's not an appealing source of drinking water. However, there is a crystal clear pond about 1/8 mile further on the circuit trail which is a good source of water. Still a bit further on the circuit trail, there is a gravel road which could be used to supply treated water or heavy gear. Note that this is about 1/4 mile from the meadow. Hurricane Fran knocked down a lot of trees in 9/96.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Warrenton, Virginia, take 211 west for 52 miles to the New Market Gap picnic area on the left, just across from Sager's Family Restaurant. This is the trailhead. If the picnic area is closed for the season, then continue on 211 to the visitor center at the top of the mountain and park there.

**TRAIL DIRECTIONS:** From either the picnic area or the visitor center, follow the white-blazed trail that connects them for a short distance and then turn onto the orange-blazed trail. This is the Bird Knob Trail. Follow the orange-blaze trail to the top of the ridge. After 1.3 miles there are excellent lunch spots on the rocky overlooks, the second one being the best. Dry camping spots are nearby. After hiking further the trail splits. Follow the white-blazed trail to the right, eventually reaching the meadow, which is a good place to camp. Bird Knob is straight ahead and requires bushwhacking, but offers very limited views. The circuit trail follow the left edge of the meadow and becomes a fire road. In about 1/8 miles there is a spur road that leads left a short distance to a crystal clear pond. The main trail leads right up to a gravel road. This point is accessible by car. Turn left and follow the gravel road until it turns sharply right. Go straight ahead over the dirt mound and pick up the orange-blazed trail. When the trail splits stay to the right (the left trail goes a short distance and ends; a creek is a few steps to the left). Note the huge ant hills along the way. Follow the trail to a clearing and leave by the smaller trail on the left. A short distance takes you to the point where the white-blazed trail forked on the way up. Continue on the orange-blazed trail, retracing your steps back to your car.

**EMERGENCIES:** U.S. Forest Service Ranger, (540) 984-4101.

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Luray is the closest town. On 211-Business east of 340 are McDonalds, Hardees, KFC, and Pizza Hut.

**CAMPING:** Primitive camping in the meadow near Bird Knob. For water pass up the murky pond in the meadow for the crystal clear pond about 1/8 mile further along the circuit hike, or bring in water by car to a point about 1/4 from the meadow (directions below). No permit required. Fires allowed.

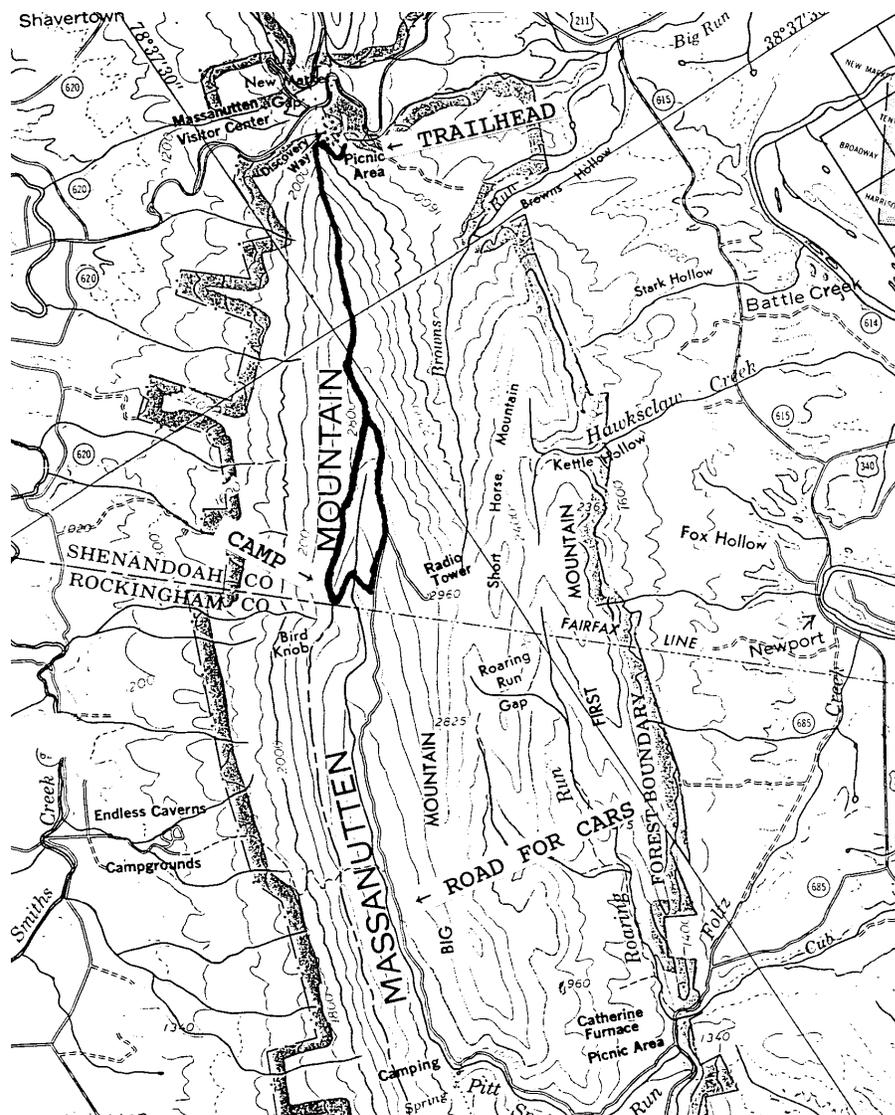
**CAR ACCESS:** From the picnic area go east on 211. After 2 mi turn right onto US-340. After 5.6 mi turn right onto 685. After 1 mi there is a sharp curve to the right. Turn left onto the

unmarked gravel road at this curve. You'll shortly see a sign **A**George Washington National Forest<sup>®</sup>. Pass Catherine Furnace and then take the right fork. Follow the road as it runs beside the stream toward the radio tower. After about 5 mi from the fork, park at the gated road on the left that leads to the meadow camp site.

MAPS: *Massanutten Mountains - South Half (Map H)* by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. Don't confuse the county boundaries [long & short dashes] with trails [short dashes]. For an area map use the George Washington National Forest Map, Lee Ranger District, Windsor Knit Road, Route 4, Box 515, Edinburg, VA 22824, (540) 984-4101.

GUIDEBOOKS: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, *Circuit Hikes in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania*. For national forest information, contact Lee Ranger District.

SUBMITTED 9/96 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.



## **Backpacking: Bull Run - Occoquan Trail**

LOCATION: Bull Run-Occoquan Trail, near Centreville & Clifton, Virginia.

### DESCRIPTION:

This write up describes a 7.5 mile hike from Hemlock Overlook to Bull Run Regional Park. With a reservation camping is permissible at either end. Thus, this information could be used for a day hike or a 15 mile backpack. There are also options for starting at Fountainhead Park or Bull Run Marina. The total trail is 17 miles long.

The Indian word "Occoquan" means "at the end of the water". Early English colonists applied the name "Run" to a stream unaffected by the tide. This beautiful trail at times parallels Bull Run and at other times winds over rolling hills and through deep ravines, crossing numerous creeks. Wildlife includes deer, raccoon, skunk, opossum, squirrel, beaver, rabbit, bald eagle, red-tailed hawk, turkey vulture, blue heron, and Canadian goose. The area is also rich in history. Earthen forts were built during the Civil War to guard strategic crossings along Bull Run.

### DIRECTIONS:

#### To Hemlock Overlook.

From Centreville take 29 toward DC.

Turn right onto Clifton Road (645).

At Clifton take the right fork (still 645).

At the stop sign go straight on Main Street, which becomes Kincheloe Road.

After 0.8 miles turn right at the stop sign onto Yates Foard Road.

Go 1.6 miles to the Hemlock Park, which is the hikeoree trailhead.

#### To the camp ground (Bull Run Regional Park).

From Centreville take 29S for 2.2 mi past I-66; turn left onto Bull Run Post Office Rd..

After 1.0 mi at a sharp curve, turn right onto Bull Run Drive.

After 1.0 mi enter Bull Run Regional Park.

Continue straight for 1.0 mi to Group Camp Site B (near Shelter 8).

MEDICAL: Manassas

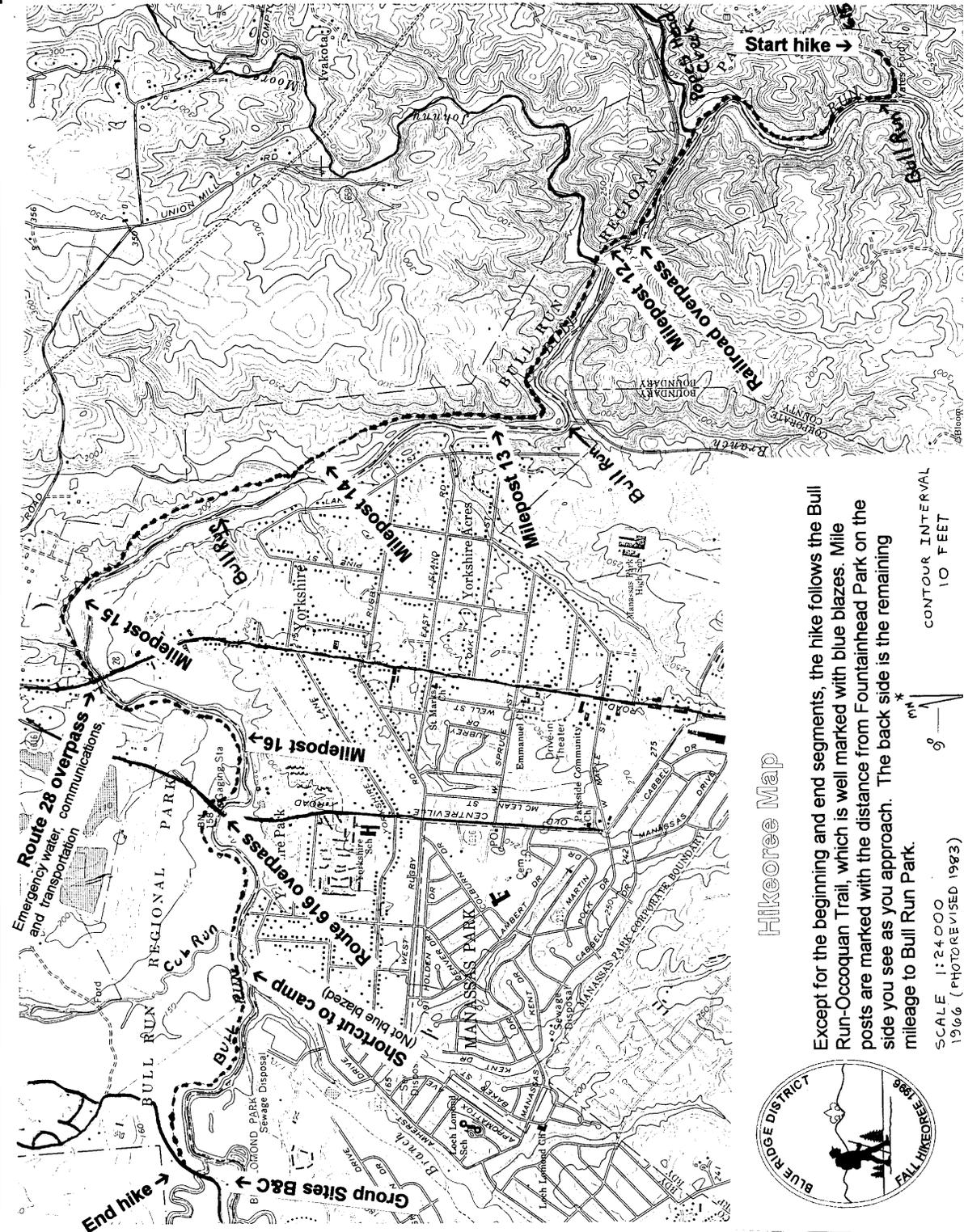
FOOD AND SUPPLIES: Manassas & Centreville.

CAMPING: There's a family campground, but the better plan is to reserve one of the 3 group camping sites, reserved by calling NVRPA (below).. Sites "AB" and "AC" are most convenient to the trail. Ground fires are prohibited except at the two established fire rings. Gathering firewood is prohibited. Therefore, if you want a fire, bring your own wood and something to keep it off the ground. You may find it easier to bring your own water.

MAPS: Topo Manassas, VA. A free map of the Bull Run - Occoquan Trail is available from REI.

CONTACTS: Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, 5400 Ox Rd, Fairfax Station, VA 22039, (703) 352-5900. Bull Run Regional Park (703) 631-0550. Hemlock Overlook Regional Park, (703) 830-9252.

SUBMITTED 10/96 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.



Hikeoree Map

Except for the beginning and end segments, the hike follows the Bull Run-Occoquan Trail, which is well marked with blue blazes. Mile posts are marked with the distance from Fountainhead Park on the side you see as you approach. The back side is the remaining mileage to Bull Run Park.

SCALE 1:24,000  
 1966 (PHOTO-REVISED 1983)  
 CONTOUR INTERVAL  
 10 FEET



## Backpacking: Corbin Hollow - Nicholson Hollow

**LOCATION:** Corbin Hollow/Nicholson Hollow, Shenandoah National Park. The nearest major city is Front Royal Virginia.

**DESCRIPTION:** This strenuous three day, two night, 15.8-mile circuit hike provides the hiker with splendid western views from the top of Stony Man Mountain, a chance to view a restored mountaineers cabin and two great swimming holes. Total elevation change is 3200 feet. This is my very favorite Philmont shakedown hike. No open fires are allowed in the Shenandoah National Park. Call for the latest information on permits.

### DIRECTIONS:

From Northern Virginia, take Route 66W to Exit 10A (Gainesville/Warrenton).

Follow Route 29 for 17 miles; turn right on 15/29 business (Warrenton/Winchester).

Follow Route 29 business for 2 miles. At the third traffic light turn right on to Route 211.

Follow route 211 for 27 miles. At the Sperryville Emporium, turn left on to Route 522. Follow Route 522 over a small bridge and immediately turn left.

Follow Route 522 for another 0.5 mi and turn right on to Route 231.

Follow Route 231 for 7.8 mi. Turn right at brown  sign.

Follow Route 601 for 0.4 mi and cross over a single lane bridge.

Turn right and continue to follow Route 601. Go past Old Rag Overflow Parking Lot on your left and go an additional 0.5 mi until you see parking spaces on your right next to what appears to be a dirt road. This is the trailhead. If the parking places are full, backtrack to the overflow lot.

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Warrenton has McDonalds, Wendys, Burger King, and Pizza Hut on 15/29 business.

### TRAIL DIRECTIONS:

Begin by hiking up the paved Weakly Hollow Fire Road. At the gate, stop and fill out a back country self-registration form found in a box just at the start of the trail going up Old Rag. Continue beyond the gate along the fire road. After hiking approximately 1.5 mi you will cross a vehicle- capable steel bridge. 200 yards beyond the bridge, look for a concrete trail post on your right. Camp 1 will be to your left off the trail. The camp has room for several tents and is hard to find in the dark.

On the second day, leave Camp 1 and follow Corbin Hollow Trail for 2 mi to the Old Rag Fire Road. Continue up the Old Rag Fire Road for 1.3 mi, past a ranger's cabin to an area known as Comer's Deadening, where it intersects with the Skyland-Big Meadows Horse Trail. **This is easy to miss and adds miles to your hike!** Follow the horse trail for 1.3 mi across the Skyline Drive. Follow the paved road 0.3 mi into Skyland and stop for a soda at the gift shop if it is open. Retrace your steps back to the entrance to Skyland and head north along the relocated Appalachian Trail (Nature Trail). In 0.4 mi, come to the 0.4 mi loop trail around the summit of Stony Mountain. If it is a clear day, be sure to take in the great views. Continue along the Appalachian Trail for 2.3 mi to the intersection Nicholson Hollow Trail. Turn right and follow the trail 0.1 mi over the Skyline Drive and down the east side of the ridge. Follow

the trail for 1.9 mi passing Corbin Cabin, and cross the Hughes River. Camp 2 will be on the north side of the river, 200 yards east of the cabin. This is a beautiful camp site in the pines looking down at the Hughes River. Be sure and visit the cabin. If there are weekend renters, ask if you can look inside.

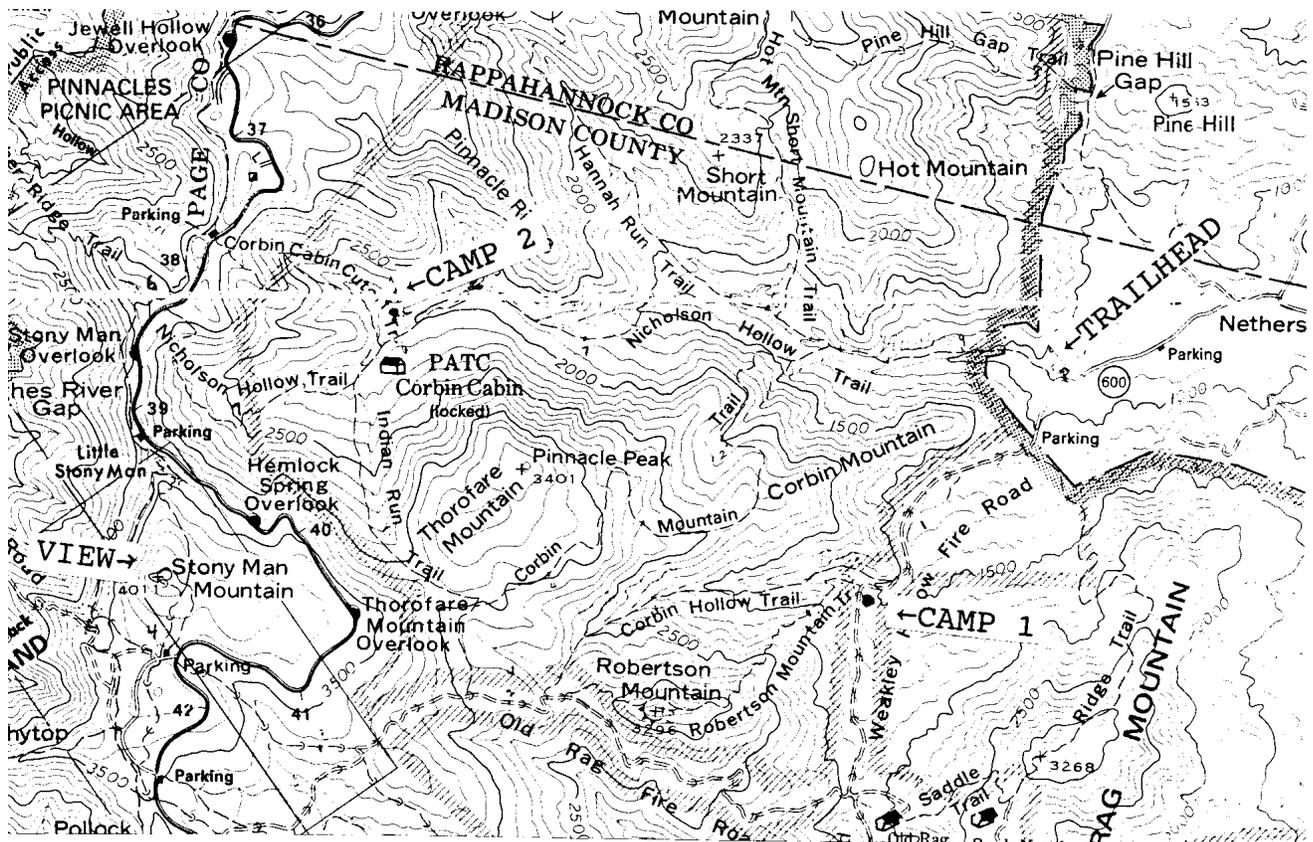
On the third day, follow Nicholson Hollow Trail 4 mi to the parking area. You will have four stream crossings, so plan to carry sneakers if it is high water. There are two great swimming holes. The first is off to the left of the trail, just before you cross from the south to the north bank, 1.5 mi from Camp 2. The second is another 0.5 mi down the river on your right.

MAPS: PATC Map Number 10, Shenandoah National Park, Central District.

GUIDEBOOKS: Appalachian Trail Guide, Shenandoah National Park, available from EMS, HTO or REI.

CONTACTS: District Ranger, Shenandoah National Park, Route 4, Box 348, Luray, VA 22835, (540) 999-2229.

SUBMITTED 12/94 by Cooper Wright, T-1519, 7720 Hayfield Road, Alexandria, VA 22315.



## **Backpacking: Dolly Sods (2 day trip)**

**LOCATION:** Dolly Sods Wilderness Area, Monongahela National Park. The nearest large town is Elkins, West Virginia.

**DESCRIPTION:** One night, 4-mile round-trip backpack. More than 25 miles of trails are found within the Dolly Sods area. At an elevation of 4000 feet, this area is subject to cold and wet weather almost any time of the year. You don't have to *worry* about rain because you can pretty well plan on it since the Sods receives 55 inches of precipitation annually.

**DIRECTIONS:** (about 3 hours from Warrenton, VA.)

From Northern Virginia, take I-66W to I-81S.

After 3 mi, take 55W.

Pass through Wardensville, Baker, Moorefield, and Petersburg. About 6 mi past Petersburg, turn right at the sign for Dolly Sods

onto WV-28/7 (Jordan Run Rd, shown as Route 4 on some maps).

In about 1 mile, turn left onto FS-19.

At the top turn right onto FS-75.

Continue just north of Red Creek Campground to Trailhead 511 (Blackbird Knob Trail). This area is famous for the sub-arctic plains.

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Front Royal has a McDonalds at Exit 6. Moorefield has a Dairy Queen on 55 and a McDonalds on 220 just N of 55. Petersburg has a McDonalds, Dairy Queen, Subway, and Pizza Hut.

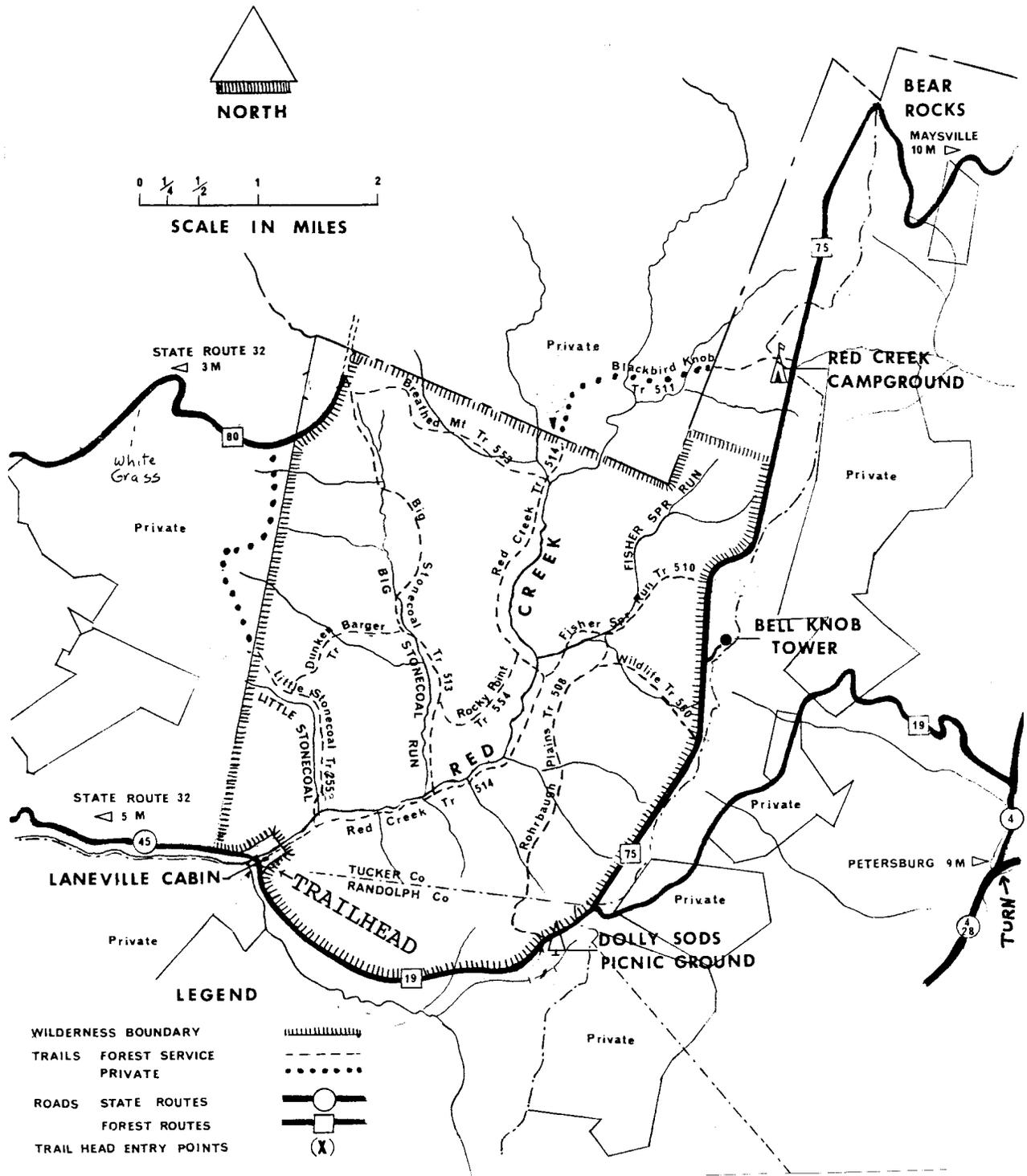
**TRAIL DIRECTIONS:** Starting at trail marker 511, follow 511 (Blackbird Knob Trail) west. The trail skirts a spruce-covered knob (excellent camp sites) and affords a splendid view from a sandstone outcrop at 0.24 mi. At 0.3 mi watch for a rock cairn where the trail turns sharply left. Just before Red Creek are more good camp sites. The trail ends at Red Creek Trail (514), but one could continue on to the top of Cabin Mountain where rock outcrops offer spectacular views of Canaan Valley. Turn left on Red Creek Trail and follow it to the camping sites where the trail and the creek meet. Nearby there are good swimming holes with sandy beaches.

**MAPS:** West Virginia quads for *Hopeville* and *Laneville*. A general map for the area is the Forest Service map *Monongahela National Forest*.

**GUIDEBOOKS:** *Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide* by Bruce Sundquist, 1988, pp. 164-181, available from EMS, HTO, or REI.

**CONTACTS:** District Ranger, Potomac Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service, Rt. 3, Box 240, Petersburg, WV 26847, (304) 257-4488.

**SUBMITTED 10/92** by Gene Mitchell, T-966, 121 Forest Ridge Drive, Sterling, VA 20164.



## **Backpacking: Dolly Sods (3 day trip)**

**LOCATION:** Dolly Sods Wilderness Area, Monongahela National Park. The nearest major city is Elkins, West Virginia.

**DESCRIPTION:** This three day, two night, 15-mile circuit hike provides the hiker with a wonderful variety of activities including a rope swing into a 12-foot deep swimming hole, arctic-like tundra with blueberries in late summer and incredible views from the top of Lion's Head, a massive outcrop of white sandstone. Total elevation change is 1300 feet.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Northern Virginia, take I-66W to I-81S. After 3 mi, take 55W. Continue for 95 mi, passing through Wardensville, Baker, Moorefield, and Petersburg. About 6 mi past Petersburg, turn right at the sign for Dolly Sods onto WV-28/7 (Jordan Run Rd, shown as Route 4 on some maps). In about 1 mile, turn left onto FS-19. This road climbs to FS-75, turn left. Continue on FS-75 until it crosses the bridge over Red Creek and make an immediate right into the parking lot for the Laneville wildlife manager's cabin. It's about 3 hours from Warrenton, VA.

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Front Royal has a McDonalds at Exit 6. Moorefield has a Dairy Queen on 55 and a McDonalds on 220 just N of 55. Petersburg has a McDonalds, Dairy Queen, Subway, and Pizza Hut.

**TRAIL DIRECTIONS:** Take Red Creek Trail (TR-514) northeast out of the parking lot. There are several first night camp sites within the first 1.5 mi. On the second day, continue along Red Creek Trail, some of which was washed out during the 1985 flood. Cross the creek and follow the trail for 3.5 mi until it intersects with Breathed Mountain Trail (TR-553). Continue on the Red Creek Trail for another 0.25 mi until you come to the Forks with its sandy beaches, places to swim and a great spot for lunch. To reach the rope swing, walk down the Red Creek for about 0.1 mi. Go back to Breathed Mountain Trail and follow it up to the open tundra area until it intersects with Big Stonecoal Trail (TR-513) in 2.5 mi. Follow the Big Stonecoal Trail for about 2 mi until you come to excellent campsites in a pine stand along the creek. This used to be the site of an old logging camp. On the third day, follow Big Stonecoal Trail for 1.1 mi until the intersection with Rocky Point Trail (TR-554). Hide your packs unless you want to take them to the top of Rocky Point. Follow the Rocky Point Trail until you see very faint signs of a trail leading up to Rocky Point on the left. It is all bushwhacking to the top, but it is worth the magnificent views of the Red Creek Canyon. Head back to the Big Stonecoal Trail and follow it down to the crossing of Red Creek in 1.3 mi. Follow the Red Creek Trail (TR-514) 1.5 mi to the parking lot.

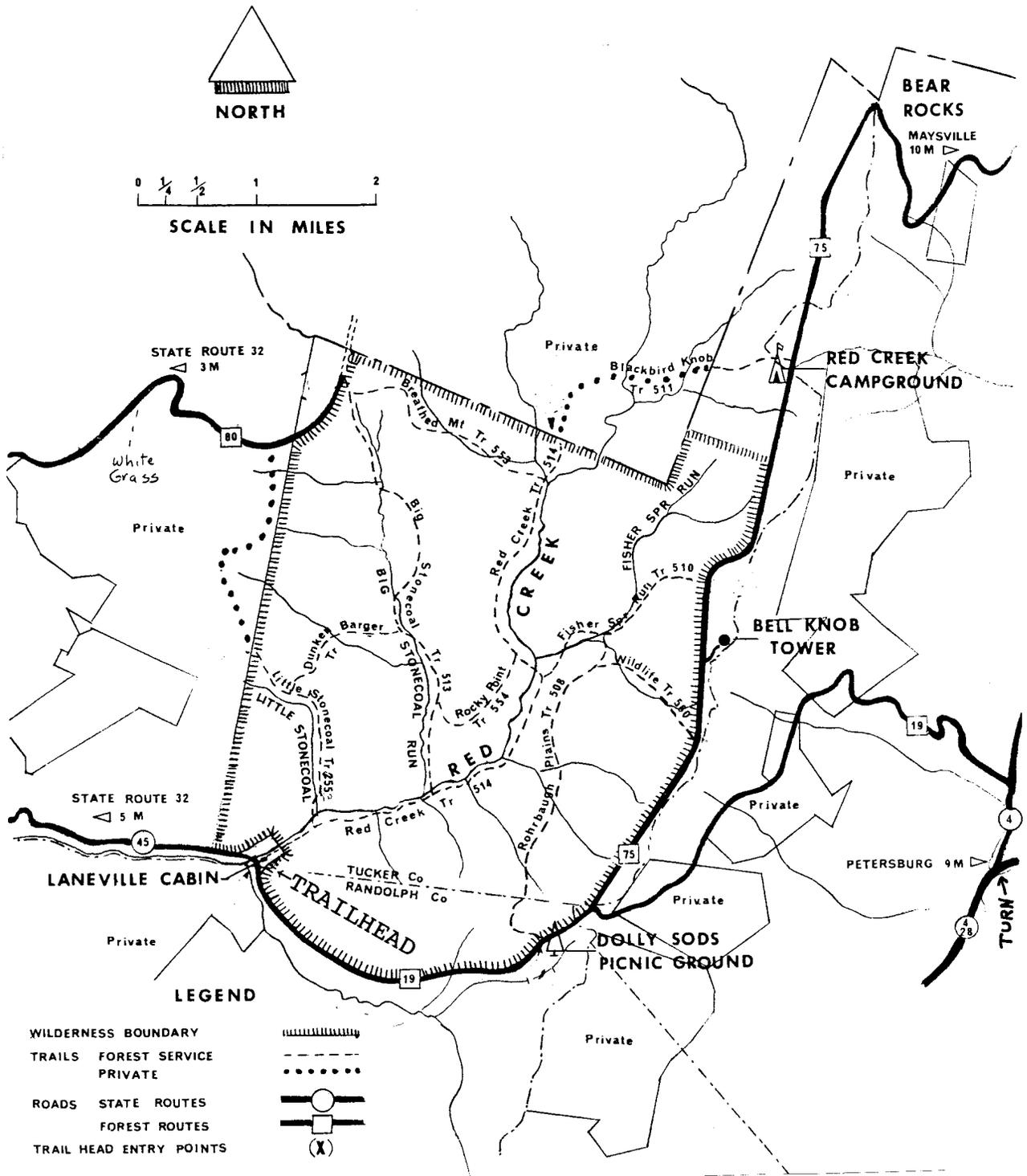
**MAPS:** West Virginia quads for *Hopeville*, *Laneville*, *Blackbird Knob* and *Blackwater Falls*. A general map for the area is the Forest Service map *Monongahela National Forest*. Because the trails are not very well marked, topos are an absolute necessity.

**GUIDEBOOK:** Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide by Bruce Sundquist, 1988, pp.164-181, available from EMS, HTO or REI.

**CONTACTS:** District Ranger, Potomac Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service, Rt. 3, Box 240,

Petersburg, WV 26847, (304) 257-4488.

SUBMITTED 12/94 by Cooper Wright, T-1519, 7720 Hayfield Road, Alexandria, VA 22315.



## Backpacking: Otter Creek Wilderness

**LOCATION:** Otter Creek Wilderness, part of the Monongahela National Forest, just east of Elkins, WVA.

**DESCRIPTION:** Otter Creek is the second largest wilderness in WVA, including over 20,000 acres. This is true wilderness: trails are rough and there are no bridges over streams. There are no trail signs once you leave the trailhead, so map and compass skills are essential.

**PRECAUTIONS:** During hunting seasons hikers should wear blaze orange.

### DIRECTIONS:

From Northern Virginia take I-66 W to I-81 S.

After 3 mi, take 55W for 95 mi (2 HR, 10 MIN) to Harman.

Continue on 55/33 to Alpena Gap at the top of Shavers Mountain. Parking lot on right.

**MEDICAL:** Elkins

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Best bet is Petersburg.

**CAMPING:** No designated campsites. Fires permitted. Group size limited to 10 people. Permit not required.

**MAPS:** A brochure/trail map is available from Cheat Ranger District. The topos are Bowden, Harman, Mozark Mountain, and Parsons (WVA).

**GUIDES:** *Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide*, Allen de Hart, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, 1993.

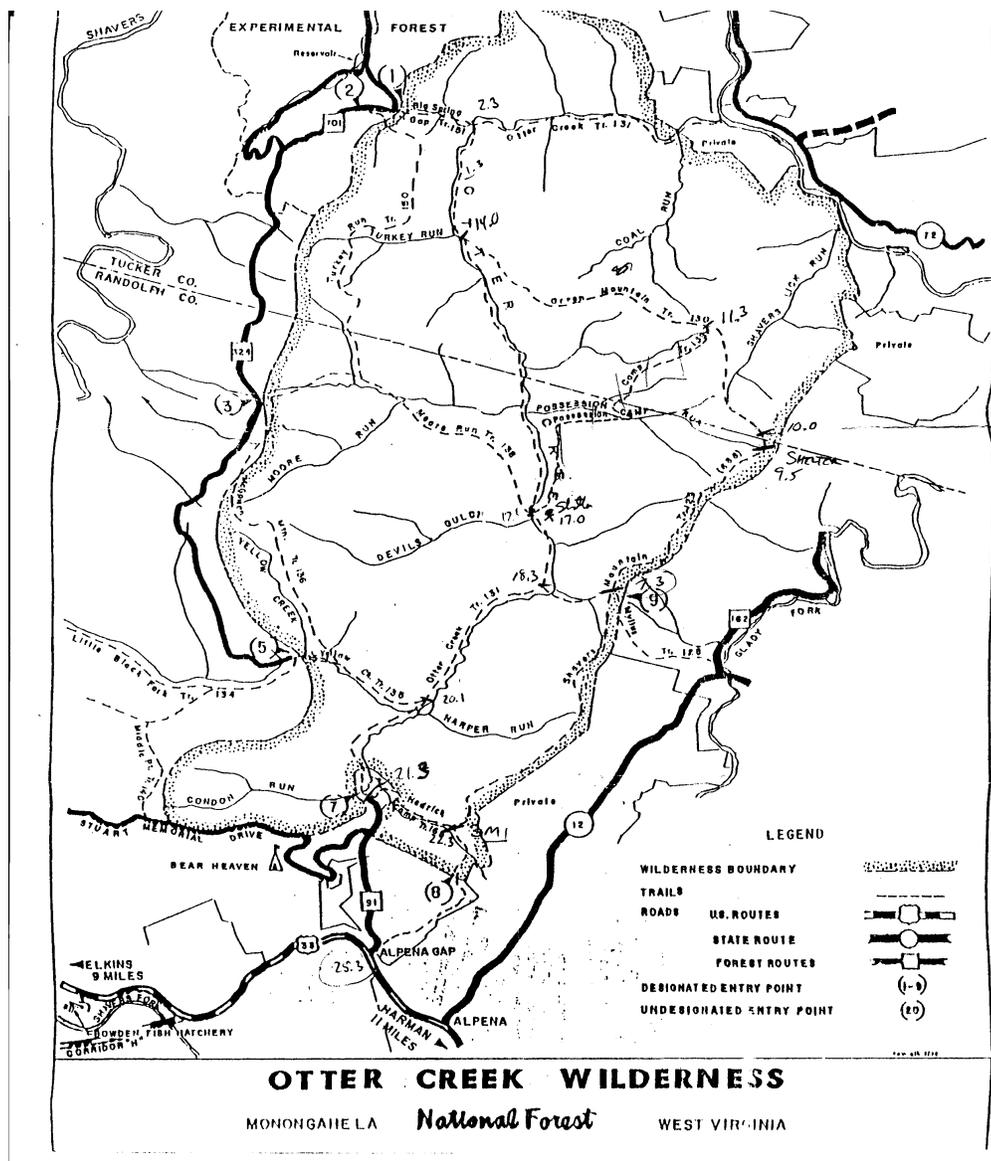
**CONTACTS:** USDA Forest Service, Cheat Ranger District, PO Box 368, Parsons, WV 26287, (304) 478-3251, M-F 7 AM - 4:45 PM.

### TRAIL DESCRIPTION:

- 0.0 Alpena Gap. Elev 3022 ft. Head NE on the Shavers Mountain Trail (#129).
- 3.0 Pass Hedrick Camp Trail (#165), denoted by a cairn (rock stack). Continue up to top of Shavers Mountain, 3815 feet. After descending and just when the trail becomes more level, there=s a small campsite with water 50 yards west (4 hours from trailhead).
- 7.3 Mylius Trail (#128), 4.5 hours from trailhead.
- 9.5 Shelter. 6 hours from trailhead. Open area for tents. Good view. Water 150 yds N of trail junction, or, if dry, go 110 paces N of trail junction to a blazed tree on the left and follow the faint trail 1000 ft W to a spring.
- 10.0 Junction with Green Mountain Trail (#130). Turn left. High bogs.
- 11.3 Junction with Possession Camp Trail (#158). Continue on. Just before starting the steep descent to Otter Creek, bushwhack N for 200 yds to a good vista.

- 14.0 Junction with Otter Creek Trail (#131). 2 hr 45 min from shelter. Turn N (left). There are good campsites on both sides of the stream. Halfway to Moore Run is another campsite (1 hr 20 min). 50 yds downstream of Moore Run is a nice waterfall and swimming hole.
- 17.4 Junction with Moore Run Trail (#138), 2 hr from Green Mountain Trail. Just beyond is another campsite.
- 18.5 Junction with Mylius Trail (#128) after 1 hr. Halfway to Yellow Creek is a campsite.
- 20.3 Junction with Yellow Creek Trail (#135) after 45 min.
- 21.5 Junction with Forest Road 91.
- 25.3 Trailhead at Alpena Gap, 1 hr, 10 min from Yellow Creek.

SUBMITTED 10/97 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.



## **Backpacking: Saint Mary's Trail**

**LOCATION:** George Washington National Forest, near Steeles Tavern, about 14 miles south of Waynesboro, Virginia.

**DESCRIPTION:** This is a 15 mile circuit backpack hike in the Saint Mary's River Wilderness Area, which is part of the George Washington National Forest. This hike will meet the Backpacking Merit Badge requirement of a hike covering 15 miles over three days. The first day is short to allow a Friday afternoon start.

**PRECAUTIONS:** Wear a blaze orange hat during hunting season, October - January. Some streams are intermittent. Some streams may require wading. The second night's camp has no water.

### **DIRECTIONS:**

From Charlottesville take I-64 west to Waynesboro. Take 340 south. Take 11 south to Steele's Tavern. Turn left onto 56. After 1 mile turn left onto 608. After 2.5 miles and passing under the railroad, turn right on 41. Go 1.9 miles to the parking lot at the end.

**MEDICAL:** Waynesboro Community Hospital, on Popular Ave, 3 blocks south of Main St (Rt 340).

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Staunton or Charlottesville

**CAMPING:** Car camping is available at Sherando Lake. Reservations may be made for group camping. The lake has a swimming beach.

**MAPS:** Topos are *Vesuvius* and *Big Levels* (both Virginia).

**GUIDEBOOKS:** *Hiking Virginia's National Forests*, fifth edition, 1994, Karin Wuertz-Schaefer, The Globe Pequot Press.

**CONTACTS:** Pedlar Ranger District, George Washington National Forest, 2424 Magnolia Ave, Buena Vista, VA 24416, (540) 261-6105.

**SUBMITTED** 10/95 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.

## Saint Mary's Trail Description

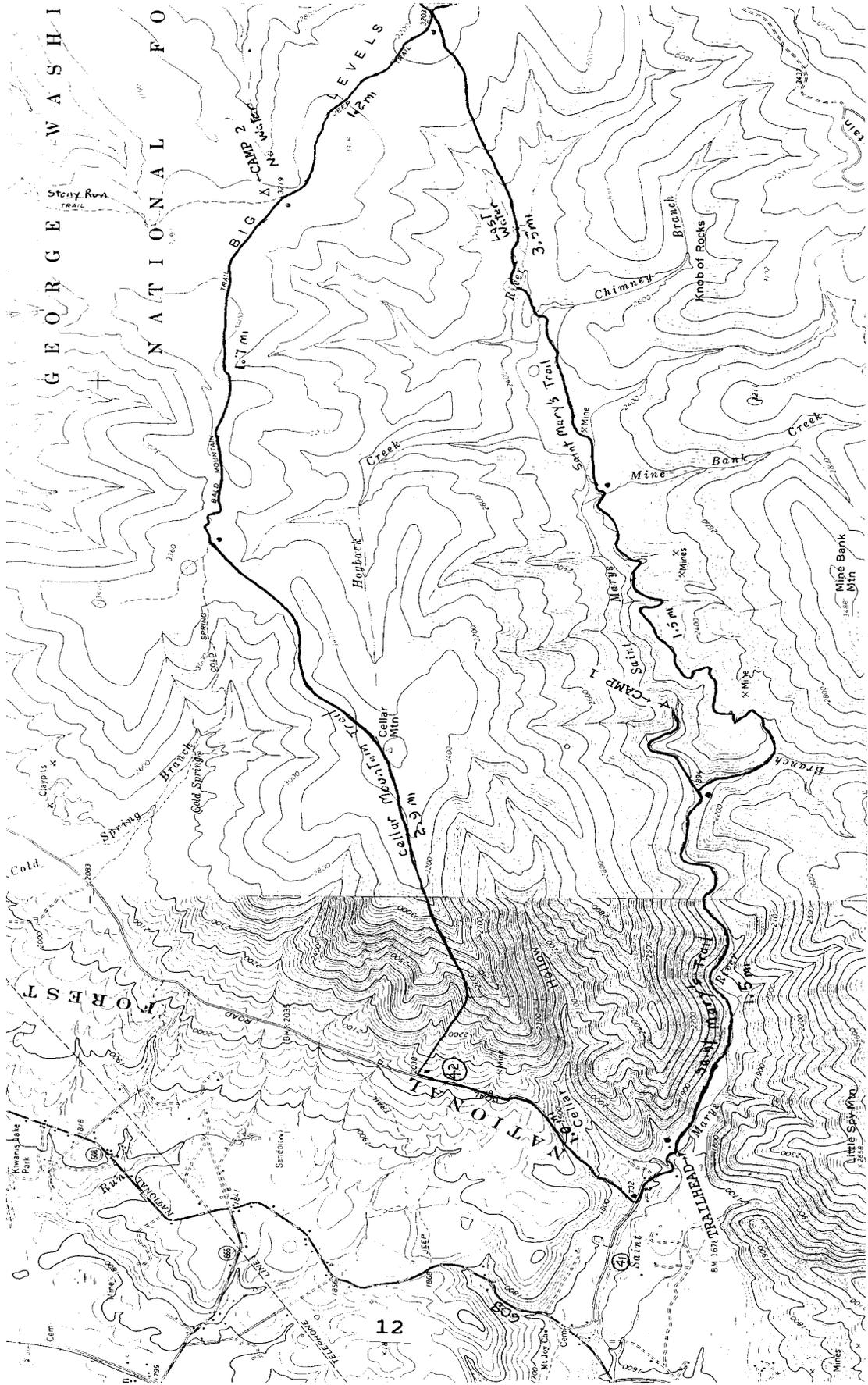
Saint Mary's Trail (#500, blue blazes): 1500 ft climb in 6.5 miles. There are several nice campsites along the stream at the beginning of the hike. After 1 mile cross the river. In another 0.5 mile the spur trail to the left leads to nice swimming holes and after 0.5 miles a beautiful waterfall near sheer cliffs. No camping or fires on the spur trail.

Returning to the junction, the main trail follows Sugartree Branch and then passes several mines. At about the 3-mile point, Mine Bank Trail leads off to the right. Shortly thereafter cross Mine Bank Creek. Cross streams 3 more times. At the last crossing, get your water for the dry camp up high. At the 6-mile point the trail splits, stay left. A spur trail leads to Green Pond. Turn left onto Big Levels Primitive Road.

Big Levels Primitive Road (#162, no blazes): mostly level. Go NW for 1.2 miles to Stony Run Trail. Here the road's name becomes Bald Mountain Primitive Road. Camp here, or continue up a rise to a pond with a campsite, or to a spur that goes 200 yard to the right to a campsite (all are dry).

Bald Mountain Primitive Road (#162, no blazes, a continuation of Big Levels Primitive Road): From the junction with Stony Run Trail, continue 1.7 miles W to Cellar Mountain Trail.

Cellar Mountain Trail (#501, blue blazes): 2.9 miles SW to Route 42, 280 ft climb, 1700 ft descent. There are nice views over the valley and several large ant hills. There's a dry campsite about half way. Turn left on Route 42 for 1 mile, then left on 41 for 0.5 miles to return to your car.



Saint Mary's Trail

## Backpacking: Sherando Lake

LOCATION: George Washington National Forest, near the intersection of the Blue Ridge Parkway and 664, about 14 miles south of Waynesboro, Virginia, just off Route 664. It takes \_\_\_ hours to drive the \_\_\_ miles from Warrenton.

DESCRIPTION: This is a 20 mile circuit backpack hike that leaves from Sherando Lake. This hike will meet the Backpacking Merit Badge requirement of a hike covering 15 miles over three days. The first day is short to allow a Friday afternoon start.

PRECAUTIONS: Wear a blaze orange hat during hunting season, October - January. Some streams are intermittent. Some streams may require wading.

### DIRECTIONS:

From Charlottesville take I-64 west for about 20 miles.

Take the Blue Ridge Parkway south.

After \_\_\_ miles, turn right onto 664, which goes to the campground.

At the campground follow the road to the upper lake.

Beside the dam that forms the upper lake there is a grassy meadow. The trail leaves from the far side of this meadow.

Park at the group camping lot.

MEDICAL: Waynesboro Community Hospital, on Popular Ave, 3 blocks south of Main St (Rt 340).

FOOD AND SUPPLIES: Charlottesville

CAMPING: Car camping is available at Sherando Lake. Reservations may be made for group camping. The lake has a swimming beach.

MAPS: Topos are *Sherando* and *Big Levels* (both Virginia).

GUIDEBOOKS: *Hiking Virginia's National Forests*, fifth edition, 1994, Karin Wuertz-Schaefer, The Globe Pequot Press.

CONTACTS: Pedlar Ranger District, George Washington National Forest, 2424 Magnolia Ave, Buena Vista, VA 24416, (540) 261-6105.

SUBMITTED 10/95 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.

### Sherando Lake Trail Description

White Rock Gap Trail (#480, orange blazes): SW for 2.5 miles, 600 ft climb, picturesque stream. Campsite after crossing small creek (1 mi), beautiful campsite with swimming hole after trail returns to main stream (2 mi), ends at Blue Ridge Parkway.

White Rock Falls Trail (yellow blazes): N for 2.5 miles, 600 ft descent, 800 ft climb, stream, falls, rhododendron (bloom June-July), cliffs, campsite on stream, ends at Slacks Overlook on Blue Ridge Parkway.

Spur trail from Slacks Overlook to Slacks Trail.

Slacks Trail (#480, blue blazes): 400 ft climb N to Torry Ridge Trail.

Torry Ridge Trail (#507, yellow blazes): W for 0.25 miles to a radio tower on top of Bald Mountain, a 1/4-mile spur road leads to Big Levels Primitive Road (turn right).

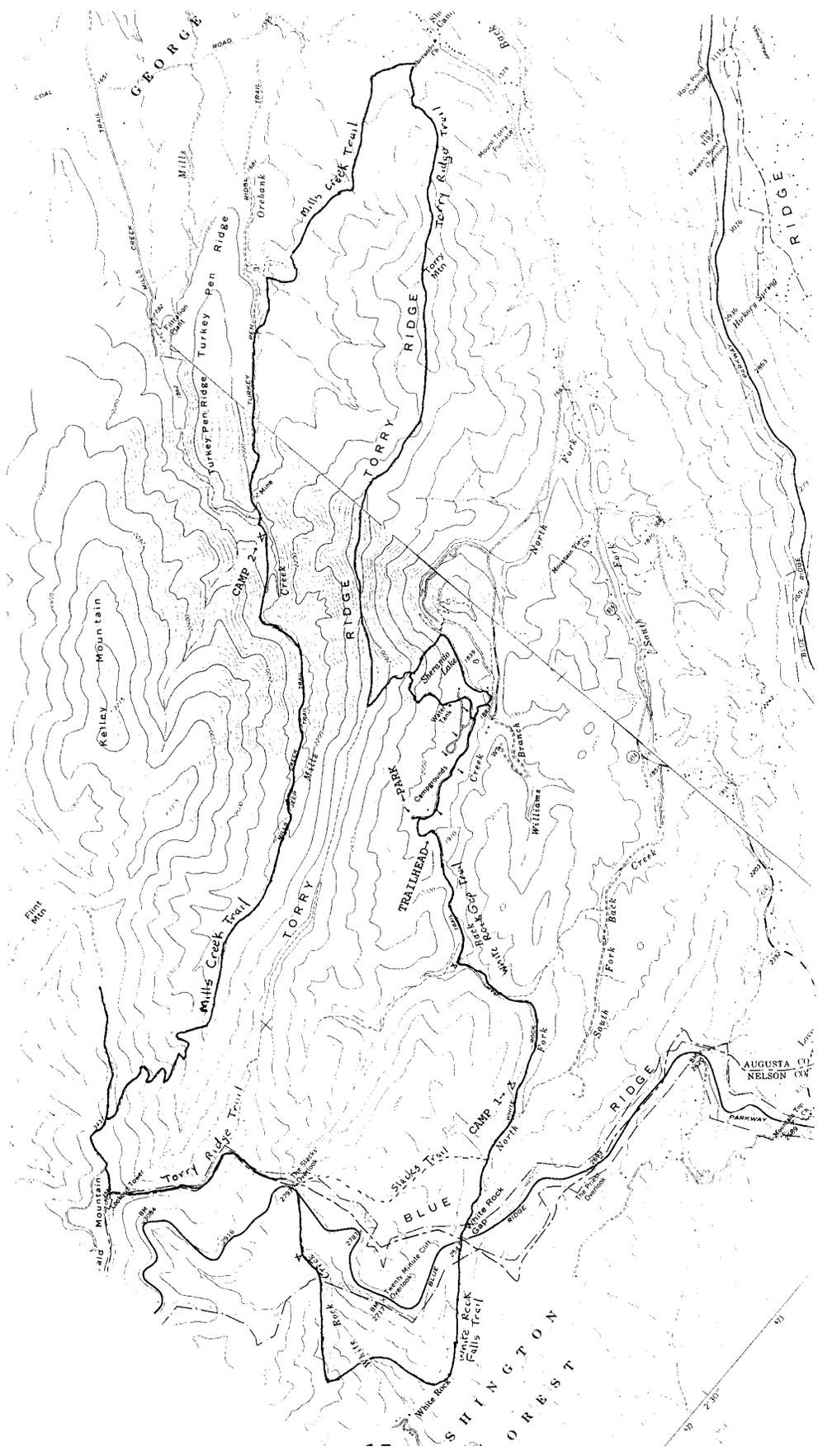
Big Levels Primitive Road (162, no blazes): NE for 0.25 miles.

Mills Creek Trail (#518, blue blazes): NE for 6.8 miles, 1700 ft descent. Plan to camp after about 3.8 miles along the stream near the Reservoir Trail. Continue the next day for 3 miles to the Torry Ridge Trail.

Torry Ridge Trail (#507, yellow blazes): SW for 3.2 miles to the second trail that leads down to Sherando Lake (the first is the Blue Loop Trail), 1100 ft climb.

Spur trail descends 900 ft and 1.7 miles to Sherando Lake, passing Lookout Rock along the way. At the fork take the more direct Blue Loop Trail to the right or the more scenic Yellow Trail to the left, followed by a left on the Lakeside Trail. Upon reaching the main road in the camp, turn right to return to your car.





Sherando Lake Backpack

## Backpacking: Signal Knob

LOCATION: Elizabeth Furnace, Massanutten Mountain, near Front Royal, Virginia.

DESCRIPTION: This is a 15.5 mile circuit hike of moderate difficulty that goes through Mudhole Gap, an interesting narrow gorge, past the Strasburg Reservoir, past Signal Knob and Buzzard Rock Overlook. If done over 2 nights, it counts as one of the trips required for the Backpacking Merit Badge.

PRECAUTIONS: Wear a blaze orange hat during hunting season, October - January.

DIRECTIONS: From meeting time in Warrenton to campsite (CW direction), allow 2 hours and 15 minutes.

I-66 west. Exit at Front Royal on 340 south.

After 1 mile turn right on 55 west.

After 5 miles turn left on 678.

After 3.4 miles park on the right at the Signal Knob parking lot.

EMERGENCIES: U.S. Forest Service Ranger, (540) 984-4101.

FOOD AND SUPPLIES:

McDonalds at 340 & I-66. Country stores along 55.

CAMPING:

Backpack camping: No permit required. Fires allowed.

Car camping: Elizabeth Furnace Group Camping Area. Reservations from U.S. Forest Service, Lee Ranger District, Route 4, Box 515, Edinburg, Va 22824, Car camping also at Elizabeth Furnace Family Campground on a first-come basis.

MAPS: For an overview of the area, get the *George Washington National Forest* map from the U.S. Forest Service (540) 984-4101. Also available is a trail map of the Signal Knob area. For topo maps, get the *Massanutten Mountains--North Half (Map G)* by the Potomac Appalachian Train Club. Or 7.5' quads for Strasburg and Toms Brook.

GUIDEBOOKS: *Guide to the Massanutten Mountain*, Potomac Appalachian Train Club, 1987, pp. 32-33. The reason given by the guide for hiking the loop in the clockwise direction is no longer valid since the trail is continuous, eliminating the need for bushwhacking.

SUBMITTED 4/98 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Virginia, (540) 347-0817.

## Signal Knob Trail Description - clockwise direction

Note: clockwise direction is good for a late afternoon start.

0.0 miles: Signal Knob parking lot (south end). Take white-blazed Big Blue Spur Trail.

0.5 miles: Bear Wallow-Big Blue Trail (blue & white blazed). Bear right.

1.3 miles: Just after a stream, turn left on Bear Wallow Spur Trail (white blazed). Go a bit further and find good camping spots near a stream (2 hours, 15 minutes from Warrenton).

1.5 miles: Turn right on logging road, uphill. Continue on logging road over easy terrain. A very short spur road to the right leads to a good, dry camp. The creeks shown on the topo maps may be dry. A blue-blazed trail to the left leads back down to 678.

4.6 miles: End of road. Continue on the trail.

5.6 miles: Reach trail along Little Passage Creek (reliable water). Turn right. The road fords the stream five times and passes through the narrow gorge of Mudhole Gap. Several spots to eat lunch or even camp.

6.4 miles: Intersect Little Passage Creek Trail (orange blazed). Turn right. This is a gravel road for a short distance. An alternative is to pick up the Big Blue Trail to the west and then rejoin the Little Passage Trail north of the Strasburg Reservoir.

8.1 miles: Strasburg Reservoir (4 hours & 45 minutes from campsite at 1.3 miles). Good camping spots N & E of Reservoir.

9.2 miles: Bear Wallow-Big Blue Trail to right (blue blazed). Continue straight. Good place to get water before losing stream.

10.5 miles: Signal Knob. As you near the top, take the spur trail to the left that goes to the actual overlooks before rejoining the Signal Knob Trail. There are a few dry campsites near the overlook.

11.5 miles: Pass Meneka Peak Trail on right (white blazed).

12.7 miles: Fort Valley Overlook. Continue through rocky area.

13.3 miles: Buzzard Rock Overlook. Dry camp. Continue downward, eventually paralleling a stream and passing a cabin on the right. Potential camping spots.

15.0 miles: Signal Knob parking lot.

## Signal Knob Trail Description - counter-clockwise direction

Note: an alternative if starting in the morning.

0.0 miles: Signal Knob Trail parking lot. Take the Signal Knob Trail, which is the second trail on the left (yellow blazed). Pass a cabin on the left and pick up a stream on the right. Camping possibilities along the stream. This stream is the last water until the other side of Signal Knob.

1.7 miles: Buzzard Rock Overlook. Dry campsite. Continue up the rocky trail toward Signal Knob, passing the Fort Valley Overlook.

3.4 miles: Meneka Peak Trail goes off to the left (white blazed).

4.4 miles: Signal Knob. A spur trail to the right leads to the knob and then rejoins the yellow blazed trail. There are a few dry campsites on the knob.

5.7 miles: Intersect Bear Wallow-Big Blue Trail (blue blazed). Water can be obtained from the stream. Continue straight. An alternative would be to turn right and follow the Big Blue Trail, rejoining the described route south of Powells Fort Camp. There are reported to be nice views going this way.

6.8 miles: Strasburg Reservoir. Camping spots north and east of Reservoir. Continue south on Little Passage Creek Trail (orange blazed).

8.5 miles: Just after passing the road to Powells Fort Camp, the road continues straight, but the trail turns left through Mudhole Gap, which is a beautiful trail that parallels a stream and offers numerous camping possibilities.

9.3 miles: Turn left onto a trail that becomes a logging road after a short distance. The creeks along this road may well be dry. There're no good camping sites for 3 miles when a short spur trail leads left to a couple of dry campsites.

13.5 miles: Turn left onto Bear Wallow Spur Trail.

14.5 miles: Turn right onto Bear Wallow-Big Blue Tr (blue/white blazed). Camping spots near a stream along the way.

15.0 miles: Signal Knob parking lot.

**PLAN AHEAD!**

Any round trip to Signal Knob from a parking area along Fort Valley Road is between 9 and 12 miles.

Most hikers average under 2 mph, so give yourself more than 6 hours.

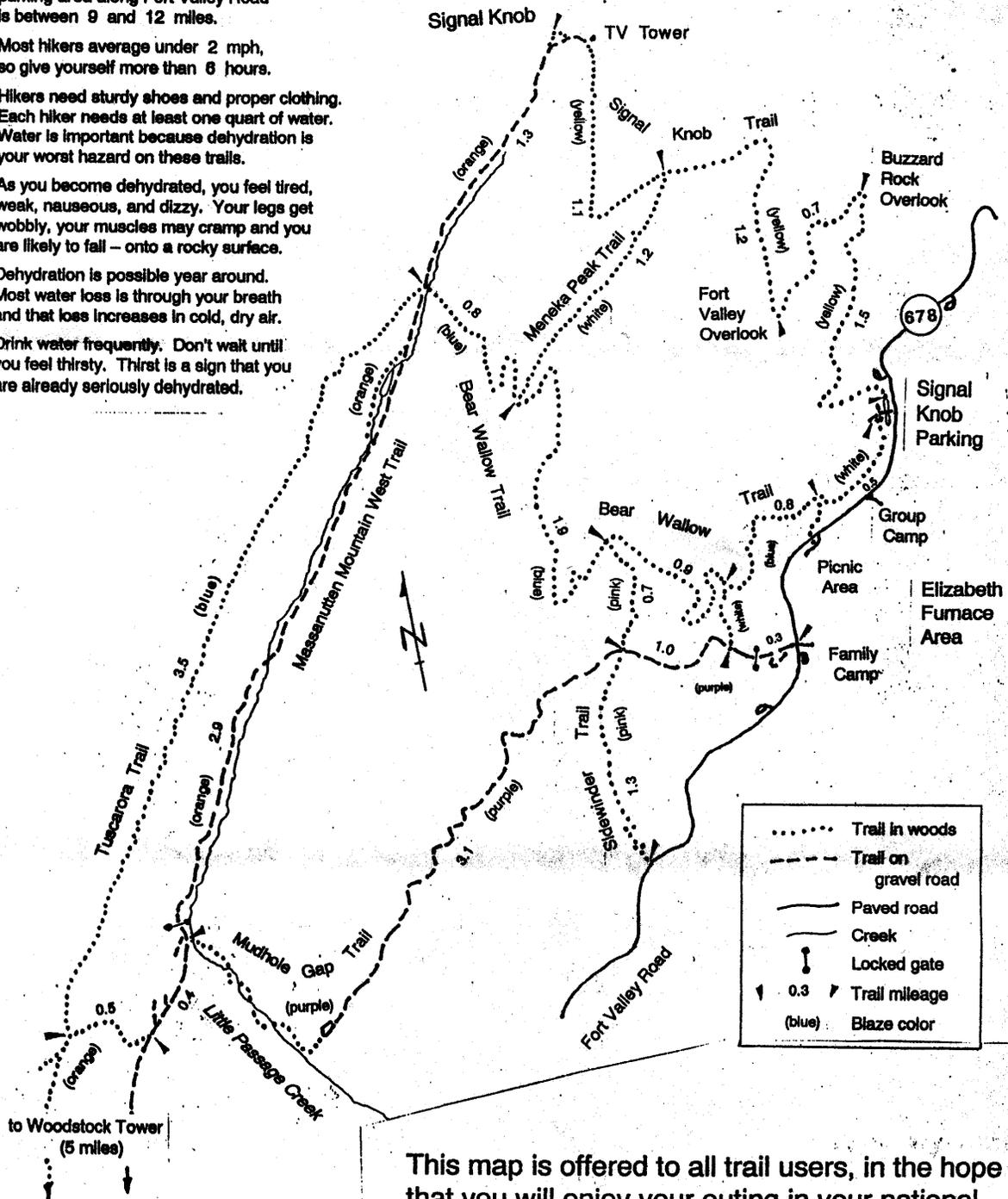
Hikers need sturdy shoes and proper clothing. Each hiker needs at least one quart of water. Water is important because dehydration is your worst hazard on these trails.

As you become dehydrated, you feel tired, weak, nauseous, and dizzy. Your legs get wobbly, your muscles may cramp and you are likely to fall - onto a rocky surface.

Dehydration is possible year around. Most water loss is through your breath and that loss increases in cold, dry air.

Drink water frequently. Don't wait until you feel thirsty. Thirst is a sign that you are already seriously dehydrated.

**Trails to Signal Knob**



This map is offered to all trail users, in the hope that you will enjoy your outing in your national forest and will arrive safely back at your vehicle.

U.S.D.A. Forest Service, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, Lee District, Edinburg, VA 540-984-4101

5/98

## Backpacking: Wolf Gap

LOCATION: Wolf Gap, West Virginia - Virginia

DESCRIPTION: A strenuous, but rewarding, circuit backpack that covers 24 miles of beautiful country side. The total elevation gain is approximately 3700 feet. Should be done as a 3-day hike. Highlights include 3 outstanding overlooks: Tibbet Knob, Half Moon Lookout, and Big Schloss. Recommend doing the hike in a clockwise direction, since the Long Mountain Trail (also called Crack Whip Mountain Trail) gets confusing at the north end. Expect to lose the trail and plan to bushwhack using a map and compass. By going clockwise, you will be aiming at a broad target, a paved road which runs down Trout Run Valley and becomes 675 at Wolf Gap. Note that as of 3/99 the forest service is planning to reroute Long Mountain Trail.

PRECAUTIONS: Wear an orange hat during hunting season (Oct-Jan). Recommend a minimum of 2 quarts of water per person in hot weather. There is no water for the first four hours of the first day or for the last four hours of the last day. The trail evaporates at the northern end of Long Mountain Trail, requiring the hiker to bushwhack using a map and compass.

DIRECTIONS: About 1.5 hours from Warrenton. Take I-66 west, then I-81 south. After 16 miles take the Woodstock Exit, 42 south. Go 5.5 miles and turn right onto 675. Just after crossing the bridge, turn left (still 675). Continue on 675, taking care not to miss the right fork 675 makes. After 6.6 miles reach Wolf Gap Campground. Park there.

FOOD AND SUPPLIES: Grocery store on 675. Fast food at Woodstock on 42, just north of I-81.

CAMPING: Wolf Gap Campground has 10 camp sites, pit toilets and a water pump. Open all year. Fills up on weekends. Primitive camping at numerous places in the area, e.g, Tibbet Knob Trail and 691, along 691, at the trailhead for Long Mountain (Crack Whip) Trail.

MAPS: For an overview of the area, get the *George Washington National Forest* map (Forest Supervisor, US Forest Service, Harrisonburg, VA 22801). Most of the hike is covered by the *Wolf Gap, W.VA.-VA.* quad (1986), but *Baker* and *Woodstock* quads cover small, but critical parts. Transfer those parts to the Wolf Gap map and you'll need only one map.

GUIDEBOOKS: *Hiking Virginia's National Forests*, by Karin Wuertz-Schaefer, The East Woods Press, 1980. Covers Half Moon and Mill Mountain trails.

CONTACTS: Trail maintenance done by Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Stonewall Brigade, Will (540) 477-2971.

SUBMITTED BY: Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817, 5/98.

## Trail Description for Wolf Gap

The Tibbet Knob trailhead is directly across 675 from the campground road. There are several dirt barriers to inhibit vehicles. After a short distance a yellow blazed trail breaks off to the left. The trail climbs about 700 feet to Tibbet Knob. Near the summit at the double yellow blaze, the trail goes up the chute rather than along the base of the rocks. It takes about 1.5 hours to the summit, a nice place for lunch. Continue on for about 45 minutes to gravel road 691 and turn right. It takes another hour to cover the 2.5 miles and 400 feet of elevation before turning right onto the Long Mountain Trail (also called Crack Whip Mountain Trail). At a subsequent trail junction a purple trail to Trout Pond goes left; stay on the yellow trail (Trout Run Road). After crossing the nice size creek, look for a large clearing on the left in which to camp, about 6 hours from the start.

Day 2: Continue on Long Mountain Trail north. At a large clearing, the trail turns sharply right (the house on the topo appears to be gone). After 10 minutes of uphill, the yellow trail bears left at a rock cairn. After 10 minutes more, turn right at the tee. Continue another 20 minutes to a large log pile and clearing (along the way a side trail branches off to the right). There's a yellow trail to the immediate right that may connect with the side trail just mentioned. Don't take this, but cross the clearing and take the trail on the right that continues in a NE direction. Arrive at a junction with four dirt roads to choose from. The fun is about to begin. Take the road on the right until it suddenly ends. Bushwhacking on a compass bearing of 70° will reunite you with the yellow trail, which runs along the top of a narrow ridge on the right side of the valley. Or, if you can't find old yellow, a bushwhack of 70° will take you to the paved road. If you find the yellow trail, it will leave the ridge via a series of switchbacks down to the paved road that runs down Trout Run Valley. Turn right. If you were lucky enough to come out on the trail, the Halfmoon Trail will be 1.1 miles up the road on the left (25 minutes). Pass by a short, private road to a bridge. Look for a trailhead sign on a public gravel road that curves down to a bridge, which is the Halfmoon Trailhead. Follow the yellow blazes, barring right after 10 minutes and again 20 minutes later. After about 45 minutes, arrive at a creek crossing and campsite. Decision time: camp here (making day 3 longer) or continue on and up for another 1.5 hours (2 hours if you visit Half Moon Lookout) to the next camp site at a spring. Continue climbing about 400 feet to the junction with Half Moon Lookout Trail. Follow the left white blazed trail for 0.8 miles to the spectacular Half Moon Lookout. Return and continue on the yellow trail. After 15 minutes arrive at the junction with the Pond Run Trail (left) and a spur trail to a lookout (right). This is a good camp site and there's a better one 10 minutes straight ahead. A stream can be accessed 50 yards to the left or 50 yard straight ahead. The second day took about 8 hours.

Day 3: Continue straight on the blue trail. In one place the trail has been rerouted to allow reseeding. Continue hiking 35 minutes to the junction with Mill Mountain Trail (straight) and Little Stony Creek and Peer Trails (left). Continue straight on the orange blazed trail, reaching the summit of Mill Mountain at 3293 feet, where you find a spur trail to the remains of an airway beacon. It's now downhill to Sandstone Spring, a good place to camp or eat lunch. This is about 1.5 hours from the Pond Run Trail junction, and it is the last chance to get water. Follow the undulating ridge until you see Big Schloss, a large outcropping of rocks. The not-to-be-missed summit is climbed by a spur trail on the south side (10 minutes). The view is stupendous, affording the hiker an overview of the entire 24-mile hike. Returning to the main trail, continue 1 final hour, as the trail goes down and then over the last mountain to the Wolf

Gap Campground. The third day took 8 hours.



## **Beach Camping: Cape Henlopen (Beach)**

**LOCATION:** Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware

**DESCRIPTION:** Ocean-front park that has 3020 acres of open shoreline, bayshore excellent for crabbing and pier fishing, pine lands, and cranberry bogs. Has famous "walking dunes", nature trails, nature center, and observation tower. Be sure to walk in the bay at low tide.

**DIRECTIONS:** The park is one mile east of Lewes in Sussex County, Delaware, near the boarding station for the Cape May-Lewes Ferry. It's about a 4 hour drive from Warrenton, Va.

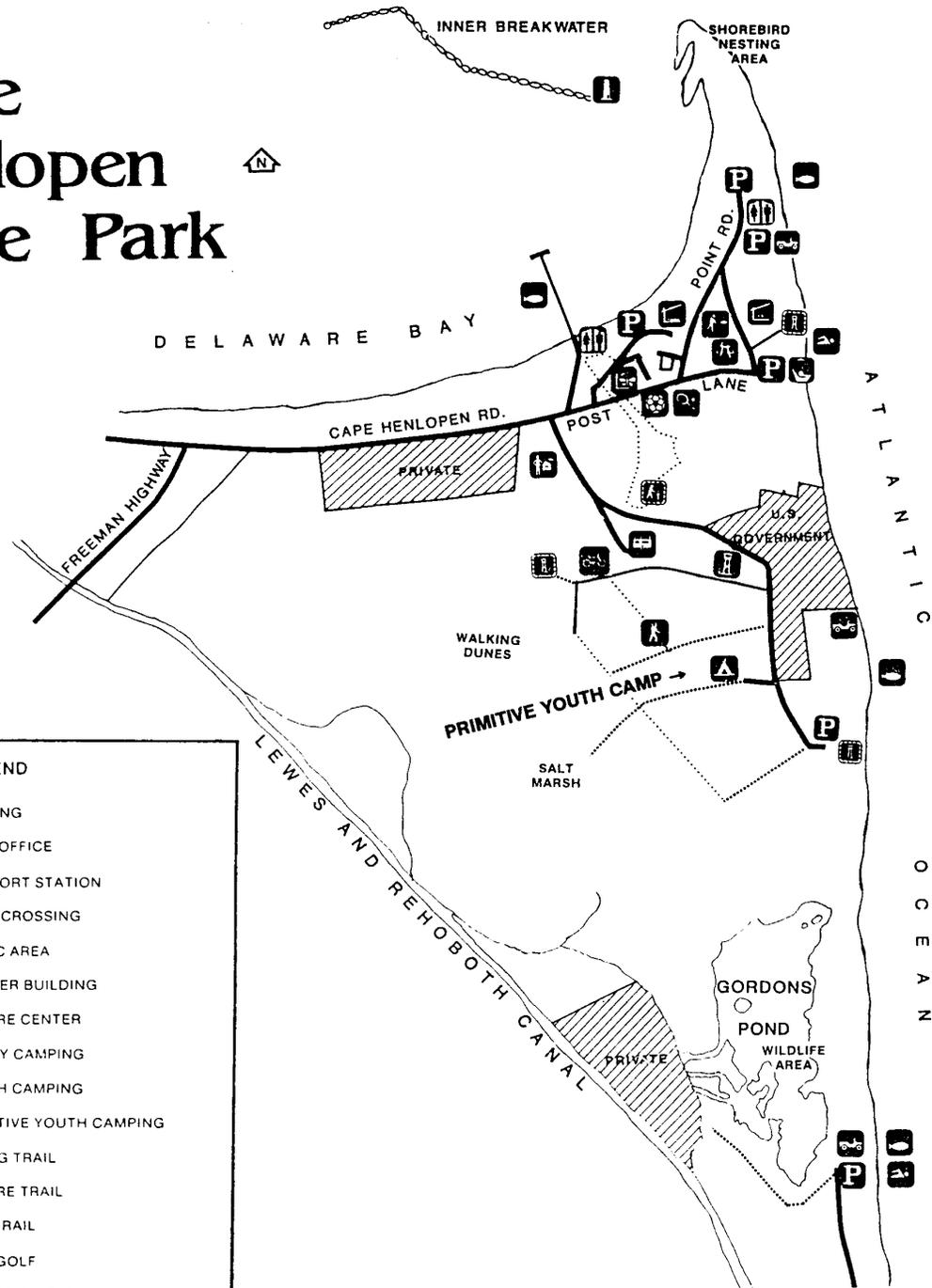
**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Lewes has country stores and gas.

**CAMPING:** The so-called "primitive" youth camping area has portajohns, water, and firewood available. There are several campsites, some on grass and some in the woods. It's probably called primitive because troops must bring their own volleyball for the volleyball court. The ocean is one quarter mile away. Cost is \$1 per night per person.

**RESERVATIONS:** Cape Henlopen State Park, 42 Cape Henlopen Drive, Lewes, Delaware 19958, (302) 645-8983.

**SUBMITTED 9/91 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.**

# Cape Henlopen State Park



LEGEND	
	PARKING
	PARK OFFICE
	COMFORT STATION
	DUNE CROSSING
	PICNIC AREA
	SHOWER BUILDING
	NATURE CENTER
	FAMILY CAMPING
	YOUTH CAMPING
	PRIMITIVE YOUTH CAMPING
	HIKING TRAIL
	NATURE TRAIL
	BIKE TRAIL
	DISC GOLF
	ATHLETIC FIELD
	TENNIS
	SWIMMING
	FISHING
	OBSERVATION TOWER
	OVERLOOK
	LIGHTHOUSE

Location: Cape Henlopen State Park is one mile east of Lewes in Sussex County near the boarding station for the Cape May-Lewes Ferry.

## **Beach Camping: Sandbridge Beach, Virginia**

**LOCATION:** Sandbridge Beach, Virginia, just south of Virginia Beach.

**DESCRIPTION:** Sandbridge Beach is less crowded than Virginia Beach. The North Bay Shore Campground offers family camping 3 miles from the ocean.

**DIRECTIONS:** 3.5 hours from Warrenton.

Take I-95 south (rest area about 20 miles south of Fredericksburg). Just north of Richmond, take I-295 toward Va Beach (left exit).

Take I-64 east (rest area about 12 miles east of I-295).

In Norfolk take Va Beach-Norfolk Expressway (Rt 44) to Va Beach.

At exit 8 take Birdneck Road south (right).

Turn right onto General Booth Boulevard (traffic light).

Turn left on Princess Anne Road (7-11 on corner).

At next traffic light, turn left onto Sandbridge Road.

Follow Sandbridge Road, forking right.

After passing the cemetery, turn right onto Colechester Road.

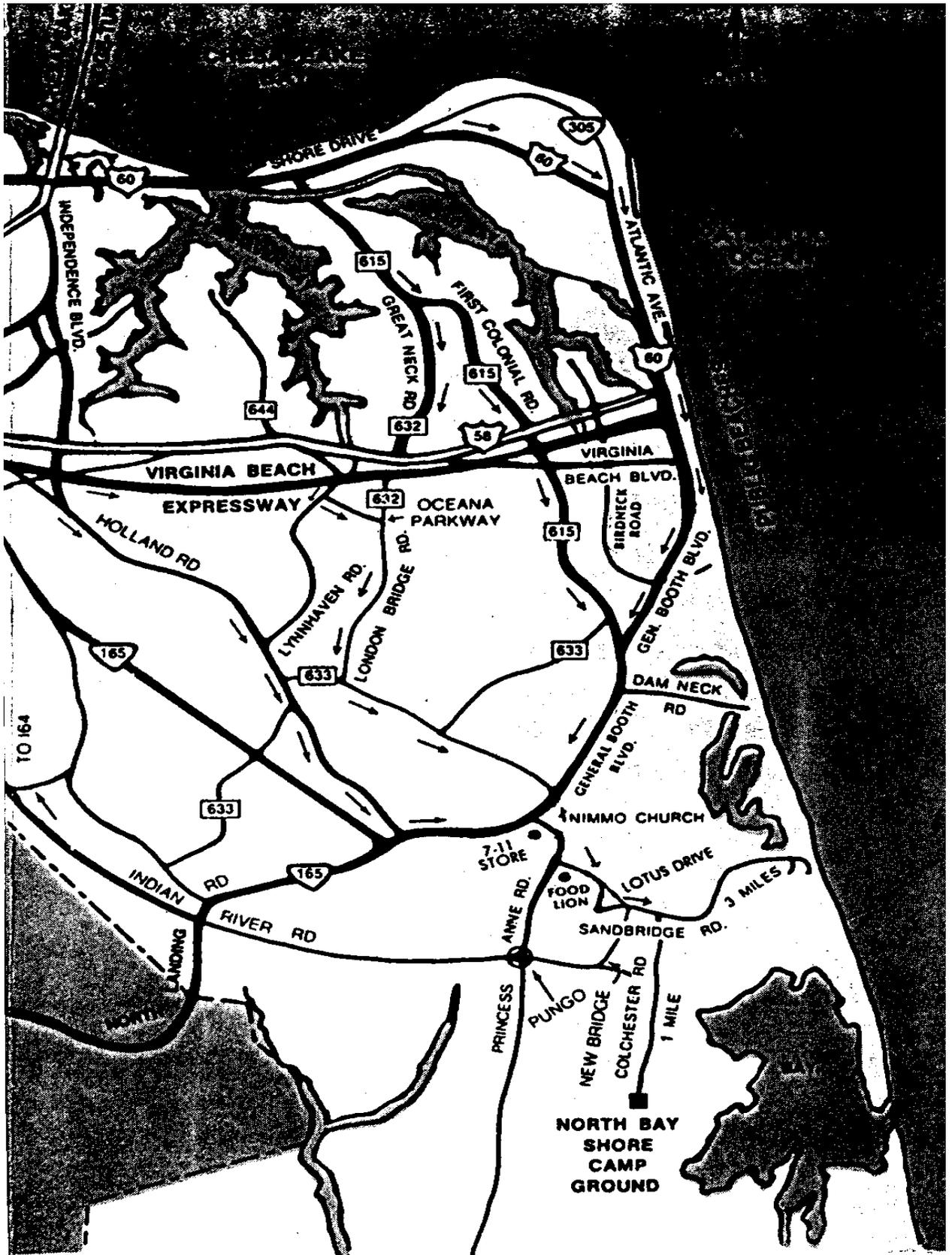
The North Bay Shore Campground is at the end of the road.

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Campground store: Sandbridge has stores.

**CAMPING:** North Bay Shore Campground, 3257 Colechester Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23456, (804) 426-7911. Open April 15-October 1.

Facilities include hot showers, swimming pool, laundry, boat rental. Bring insect repellent.

**SUBMITTED 6/94 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.**



## **Beach Camping: Virginia Beach**

**LOCATION:** Seashore State Park, 2500 Shore Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23451, (804) 481-2131.

**DESCRIPTION:** The park is located on the Chesapeake Bay, about 3 miles from the Atlantic Ocean. The bay beach is a short walk from the campsites. It is suitable for fishing or swimming, although the wave action is minimal. However, if you turn left on Route 60 and go about three miles, you will be at the ocean. Park on any side street on the left. 68th Street is a good choice since there is a public facility with showers and picnic tables right there. Seashore State Park also has 17 miles of hiking and biking trails.

**DIRECTIONS:** 3.5 hours and 185 miles from Warrenton.

Take I-95 south (rest area about 20 miles south of Fredericksburg), I-295 (left exit), I-64 east (rest area about 12 miles east of I-295), 10 miles after the Hampton Roads Tunnel, take 13 north, after 4.5 miles turn right on 60 east, after another 4.5 miles the campground will be on the left.

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Campground has a store.

**CAMPING:** Camp sites hold a maximum of 6 people and should be reserved in advance. An individual reservation guarantees you a site which you choose from the ones available at the time of your arrival. Groups may reserve a specific set of adjacent camp sites. At least 3 sites must be reserved, but if the group shows up and needs fewer, a refund will be made. Groups are assigned to the "E" loop, which suffers from the noise of nearby route 60. Camp sites next to the beach (C, D, G) are much quieter, but can't be reserved by a group. Camp sites have a fire grill and a picnic table. The campground has showers, flush toilets, and water. Bring your own firewood.

**RESERVATIONS:** Seashore State Park, 2500 Shore Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23451, (804) 481-2131.

**SUBMITTED 9/95 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.**

# SEASHORE STATE PARK AND NATURAL AREA

## Virginia Beach

Welcome to Seashore State Park and Natural Area. Its bayside camping, vacation cabins and unique natural area have long made Seashore Virginia's most popular state park. To make your visit a safer and more pleasant one, we ask that you observe the following regulations. Additional information can also be found on the reverse side.

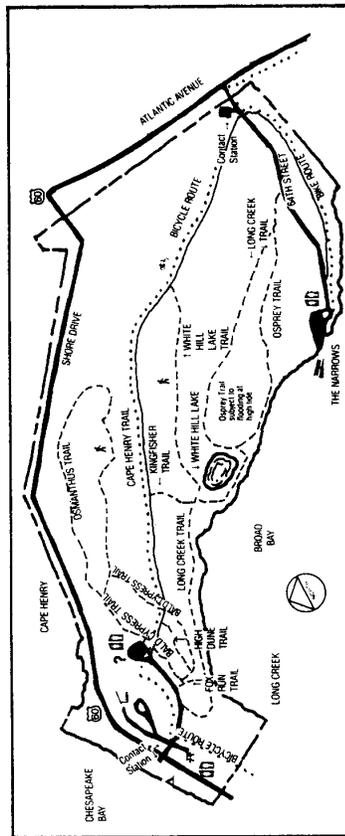
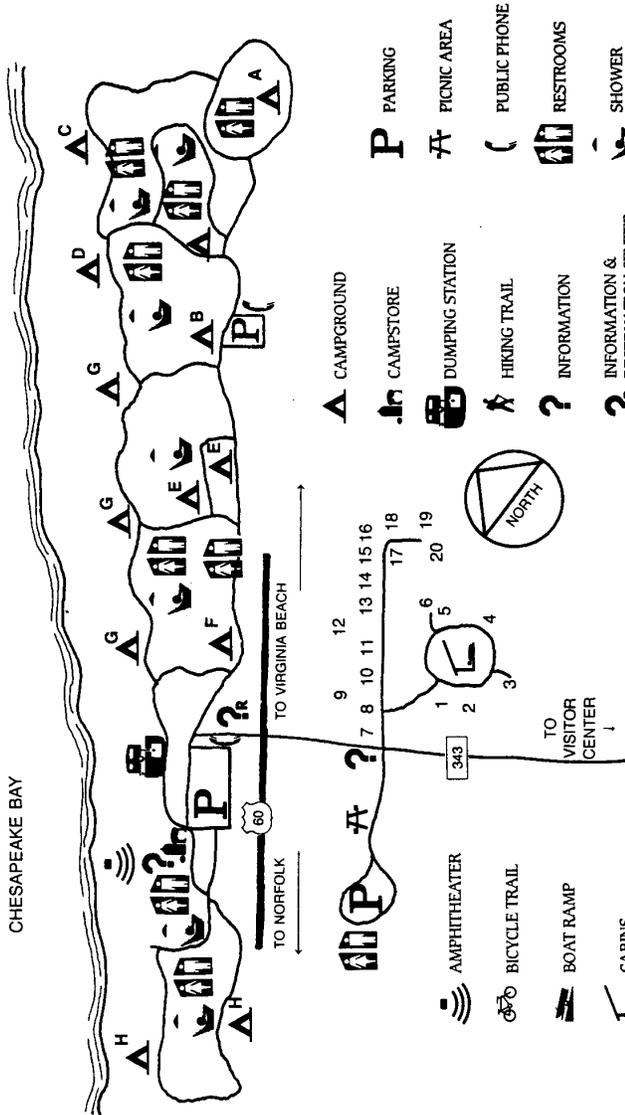
Help preserve your park. Please don't cut or mar any plants or trees. Collecting animal or plant life is allowed only for scientific purposes by permit from the Richmond headquarters. Collection of firewood, whether downed or dead is prohibited.

Campground "quiet hours" are observed from 10:30 PM to 8:00 AM. Fires must be kept in fire grills. Maximum camping stay is 14 nights.

Please help us keep the park clean by placing litter in the park's trash dumpsters.

Pets are permitted in all state parks, but they must be kept in an enclosed area, or on a leash, not to exceed 6 feet, at all times.

For further information, contact:  
 Seashore State Park and Natural Area  
 2500 Shore Drive  
 Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451  
 (804) 481-2131  
 or  
 Virginia State Parks  
 203 Governor Street  
 Suite 306  
 Richmond, VA 23219  
 (804) 786-1712



Color coding and mileage for the trails at Seashore State Park.

MILES	TRAIL	COLOR
1.5	Bald Cypress	Red
3.1	Osmanthus	Blue
6.0	Cape Henry	Dark Green
0.25	High Dune	Light Yellow
0.6	Kingfisher	White
1.4	White Lake	Pink
0.3	Fox Run	Yellow
5.0	Long Creek	Orange
1.2	Osprey	Green

## **Camping: The Flying Circus**

**LOCATION:** The Flying Circus, Bealeton, Virginia (between Warrenton and Fredericksburg just off US 17)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Flying Circus is a barnstorming airshow featuring open cockpit biplanes doing aerobatics and other stunts. It is held every Sunday at 2:30 from May through October. With the Scout discount adults pay \$6 and children (12 & under) pay \$1. Open cockpit rides are available for \$30. If you set it up in advance, the staff will give the Scouts a pre-brief on the airshow as well as a pre-flight inspection of an aircraft (Aviation Merit Badge).

**DIRECTIONS:**

From Warrenton take 29 south for 7 miles.

Turn left onto 17.

After 7 miles turn left onto 644.

**MEDICAL:** Hospital in Warrenton on 29 business.

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Bealeton has a McDonalds and a supermarket.

**CAMPING:** The campsites are wooded and picnic tables, portajohns, water, and firewood are available. The cost is \$1 per person per night.

**CONTACTS:** Flying Circus, (540) 439-8661. A free hanger tour is available. Some of the requirements of the Aviation Merit Badge can be completed.

**SUBMITTED** 10/92 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.

## Camping: Fort Belvoir

LOCATION: Fort Belvoir, Virginia

DESCRIPTION: Fort Belvoir's Scout camping area has a pavilion, an athletic field, rest room, and a water source. Meals and showers are available through the Post Field House if requested with your reservation. Fires are allowed with a permit. Each Scout must have a parental consent and release form. The release form plus a group application must be submitted 3 weeks before the planned camping date.

DIRECTIONS: From Washington take I-95 south. Exit on Backlick Road and follow it south to the fort.

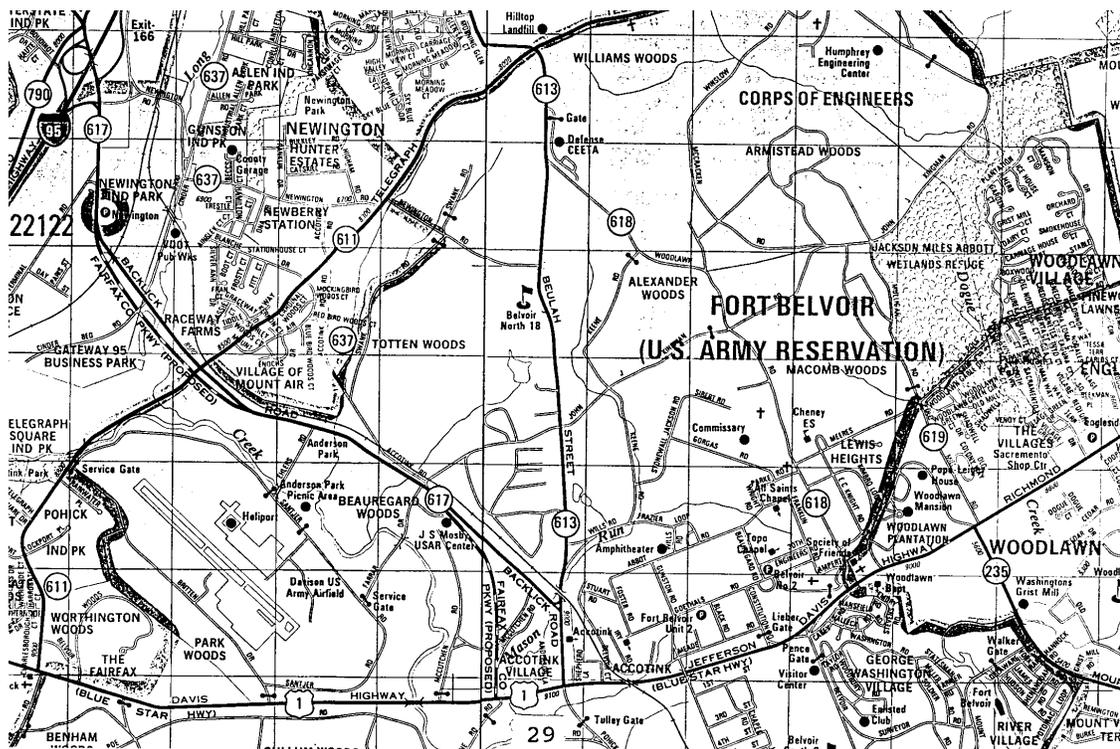
CONTACTS:

ATTN: Boy Scout Coordinator

Training Division  
Directorate of Plans, Training, and Mobilization  
U.S. Army Fort Belvoir  
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5055

(703) 664-2125

SUBMITTED 2/94 by Ed Curle, Oakton, Va, (540) 347-0817.



## **Camping: Williamsburg**

LOCATION: Williamsburg, Virginia

DESCRIPTION: Life as it was in the colonial era. Williamsburg was the capital of Virginia from 1699 until 1780. Nearby Jamestown shows the history of the earliest settlers around 1607. It includes replicas of 17th-century ships, an Indian village, and a reconstructed fort. Camp at BSA Camp Chickahominy.

DIRECTIONS: Camp Chickahominy

I-95 south to I-295 east.

Take I-64 east.

Take exit 234 (Lightfoot) and turn right.

At 60 turn left.

After 1 block turn right onto Centreville Road (614).

Go 3-4 miles and fork right onto Jolly Pond Road (632).

Camp Chickahominy is 1 mile on the right.

CAMPING: Permit is required one week in advance.

Boy Scouts of America  
Peninsula Council  
11725 Jefferson Avenue  
Newport News, VA 23606

(804) 595-3356 or (804) 877-5085

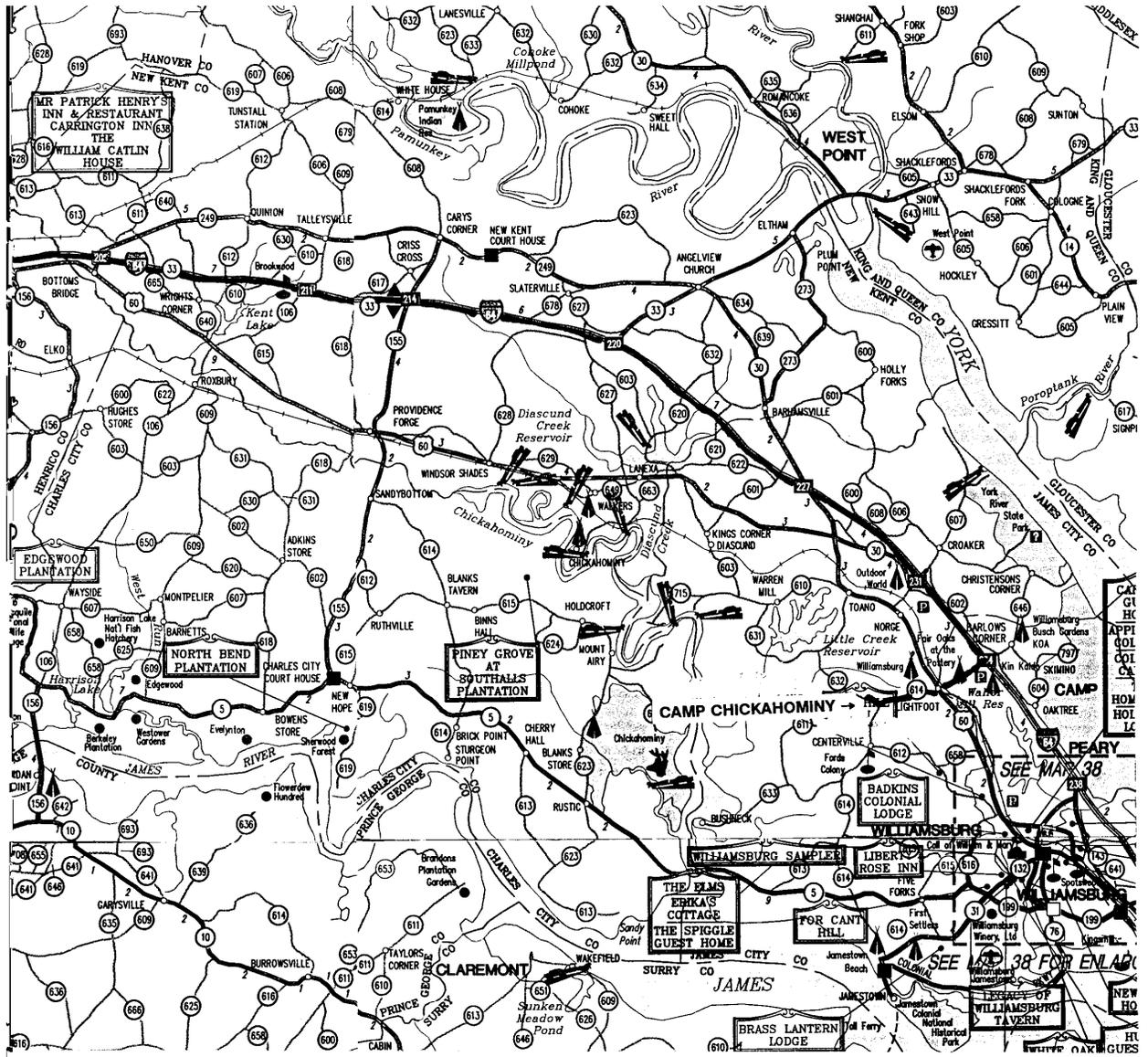
CONTACTS:

Williamsburg Visitor Center, (800) 447-8679, open daily 9-7 . The Royal Governor's Pass provides admission to all exhibits in the historic area, including the Governor's Palace. The price is \$26.50 for adults and \$15.75 for ages 6-12.

Jamestown Settlement, (804) 229-1607, open daily 9-5. Admission \$9 for adults and \$4.40 for ages 6-12.

SUBMITTED 2/94 by Ed Curle, Oakton, Va, (540) 347-0817.

# Williamsburg/Camp Chickahominy



## Canoeing: Great Dismal Swamp

### LOCATION:

The Great Dismal Swamp, off US-17, Chesapeake, Virginia, near Wallaceton.

### DESCRIPTION:

The largest swamp in the Eastern United States, over 100,000 acres. Includes beautiful and pristine Lake Drummond with its Cypress trees. The trip is 3.5 miles from the mouth of the Inland Waterway System. A small boat launching ramp is located along US-17 approximately one mile from the feeder ditch which leads to the dam and the lake. At the end of the 3.5 miles is a dam which separates the canal from Lake Drummond. The lake is about one mile from the dam, which gives you the impression of entering an ocean from a jungle. The swamp is hauntingly beautiful with its vine-draped trees and impenetrable morasses. Fishing is good.

### DIRECTIONS:

Take I-95 south (rest area about 20 miles south of Fredericksburg), I-295 (left exit), I-64 east (rest area about 12 miles east of I-295),  
In Hampton, take I-664 and go through the Monitor-Merrimac Tunnel.  
Take US-17 south until the put-in point just south of Wallaceton.  
Park at the feeder ditch, or better, ask to park at the nearby service station.

### CAMPING:

There is a campground operated by the Corps of Engineers at the dam which separates the canal and Lake Drummond. It is accessible only by water via the canal and the feeder ditch leading to the dam. The campground has two camp fire areas, cooking grills, tables, and two latrines with water. Bring your own firewood. For information concerning camping call (804) 421-7401.

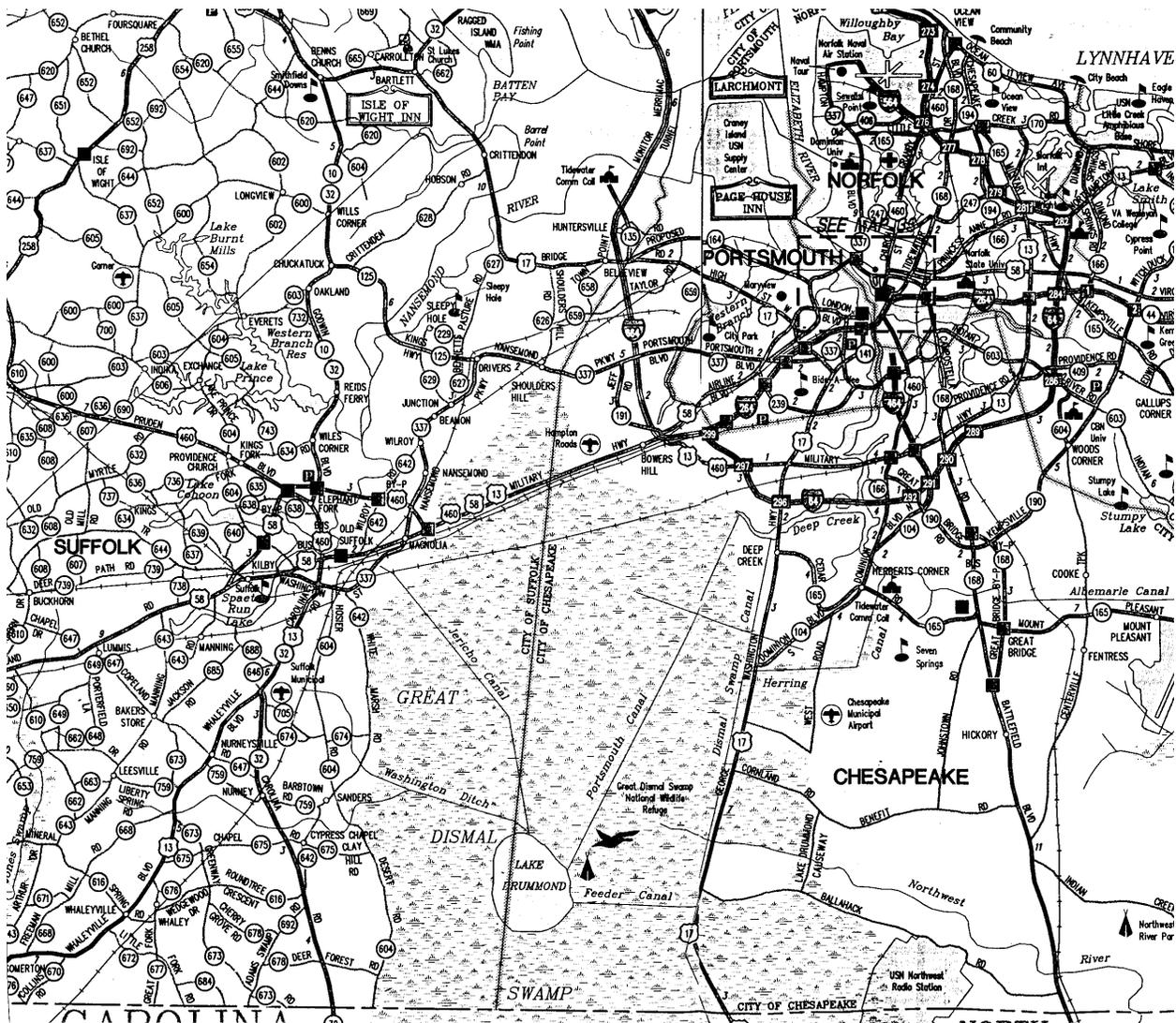
### GUIDEBOOKS:

*The Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge*, Department of the Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, PO Box 349, Suffolk, Virginia 23434, (804) 986-3705.

CONTACTS: Managed by US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.  
Contact Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, PO Box 349, Suffolk, VA 23439.  
(804) 986-3705.

SUBMITTED: 1992 by Steve Banks, Springfield, Va., (703) 644-7594. Updated 4/96.

# Great Dismal Swamp



## **Canoeing: Potomac River, Brunswick to Point of Rocks**

**LOCATION:** The Brunswick to Point of Rocks portion of the Potomac is located in the upper Potomac River within Frederick County, Maryland and Loudoun County, Virginia.

**DESCRIPTION:** This 4.2 mile stretch of the Potomac River is characterized by plenty of fast water, pools, islands, and undeveloped, wooded shoreline. It can easily be covered in one day by canoe, but the fishing is good to excellent and serious fishing requires that it be traversed in two days with a camp stop on one of the many island shorelines.

### **DIRECTIONS:**

From the west, take US 340 east and cross the Potomac River at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. From the east take US 340 south from Frederick, Maryland.

The put-in is at the Lock 30 (C&O Canal) boat ramp at Brunswick. The take-out is the boat ramp under the US 15 bridge at Point of Rocks. There is also a ramp on the Virginia shore near US 15. MD 464 connects Brunswick with Point of Rocks.

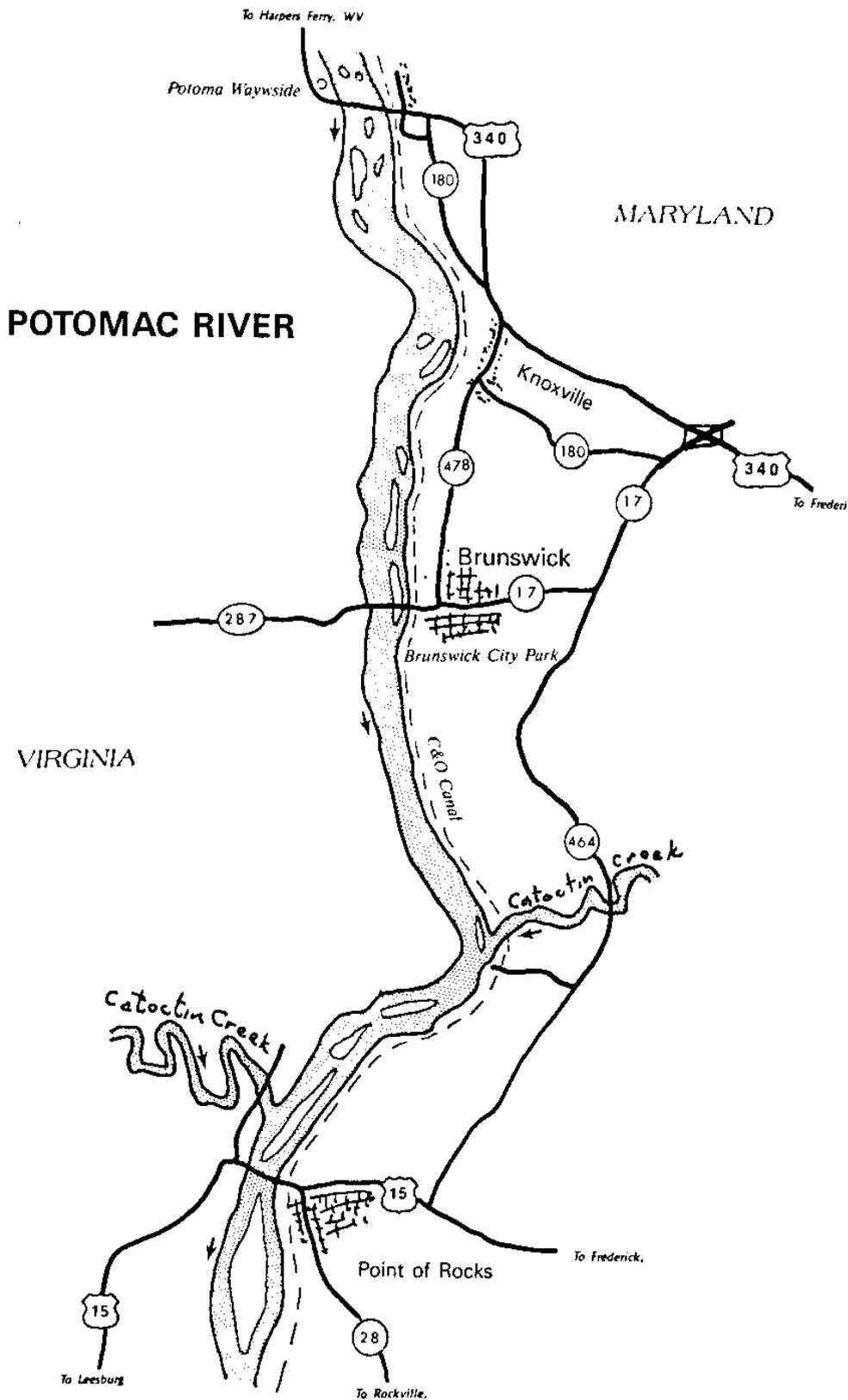
**CAMPING ON THE RIVER:** The greatest concentration of islands for camping is located on the last 1.5 mile stretch of the river above Point of Rocks. Island camping is very popular in this area, so there may be a lot of competition.

**CAUTION:** Don't camp where the grass is short if there is fresh manure or hoof prints. Free range cattle enjoy the islands also.

**RIVER LEVEL:** Call (703) 260-0305 for the gauge report from the U.S. Geological Survey. The Point of Rocks gauge should read 1.3 feet or lower for a safe trip.

**SUBMITTED:** 9/95 by Don Statter, Lusby, MD, (410) 326-6958.

# Brunswick to Point of Rocks portion of the Potomac



## Canoeing: Potomac River, The Trough

**LOCATION:** The Trough, a stretch of the South Branch of the Potomac River between Moorefield and Romney, West Virginia.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Trough is a beautiful stretch of the South Branch of the Potomac River. Rapids are easy (Class 1) at moderate or low water levels, but some could be of medium difficulty (Class 2) at higher water levels. There are no dams or other obstructions on the river. Put-in and take-out points are good. Bald eagles may be seen. It takes about 7 hours to paddle the 11 miles. There are primitive campsites about midway.

### DIRECTIONS:

Take US-50 west out of Winchester 43 miles to Romney, WV.  
Past Romney and just before crossing the river, turn left at the sign to Camp Wapacoma.  
Drive 9.7 miles to Sportsman Public Access #10 (take-out point).  
Make sure to walk down to the river and see what the takeout point looks like.

Turn right out of the public access. Continue 11 miles to the end of the road.  
Turn right and drive 1 mile to 220. Turn right and cross the river.  
The put-in point is immediately on the right.

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Romney has a McDonalds, a Superfresh, and gas stations.  
Winchester has everything.

**CAMPING ON THE RIVER:** After 3 or 4 hours of canoeing, look for places on the right. The key landmarks are a flat area at the rivers edge, a steep bank with a trail leading up to a small plateau from which the mountain rises. The primitive campsites are on the plateau and will hold about 6 tents. About 20 minutes further down the river is a similar, but somewhat larger site. This site has an additional landmark, namely, a large rock formation on the left of the river and slightly downstream has a grain that swirls up and then down, looking like a giant fingerprint.

**MAPS:** Topo maps are *Moorefield, Old Fields, Sector, and Keyser*.

**GUIDEBOOKS:** *Wild Water West Virginia (Volume I)*, Davidson, p.40.

**RIVER LEVEL:** Call 703-260-0305 for the gauge report from the U.S. Geological Survey. Springfield gauge needs 2 feet minimum for this trip.

SUBMITTED 8/91 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.

## Canoeing: Rapidan & Rappahannock Rivers

**DESCRIPTION:** Germanna Ford (Route 3) to Old Mill Park (underneath Route 1 bridge in Fredericksburg), 28 miles, 2 days. This trip combines scenic beauty and exciting whitewater. Wildlife is abundant, including smallmouth bass, bluegill, and other fish. Campsites are plentiful. The trip can be shortened 2.5 hours by putting in at Elys Ford (Route 610) and another 2.5 hours by taking out at Motts Landing. The serious Class 3 whitewater is the final mile before taking out at Old Mill Park.

Germanna Ford (Route 3) to Elys Ford (Route 610): 8 miles, 3 hours. Class 1, no hazards, beautiful scenery, good fishing, wildlife.

Elys Ford (Route 610) to confluence with Rappahannock: 6 miles, 2 hours, Class 2, no hazards. Camp at the confluence on the wedge of land between the Rapidan and Rappahannock Rivers. If this is occupied, there are several other campsites on the left and right, starting at the confluence.

Confluence with Rappahannock to Motts Landing: 9 miles, 3 hours. Class 1-2 with one Class 2-3, no hazards. If you want to avoid the Class 3 whitewater, then take out at Motts Landing which is on river right. If you miss, the Clore Brothers takeout is just a bit further on the right. If you plan to do the portage and Class 3 whitewater in Fredericksburg, ask permission to leave heavy camping gear at Clore and pick it up later..

Motts Landing to Old Mill Park (Fredericksburg): 4.5 miles, 3 hours. Class 3 at moderate water levels. This includes one strong Class 3 rapids and 4 Class 2-3 rapids. Be sure to read Grove's book before attempting this section. Hazards include a 20-foot dam 1 mile below I-95, which must be portaged on the left, and possible debris in the final mile of the trip. The take-out is just past the Route 1 bridge on the river right.

### DIRECTIONS:

#### Directions to Germanna Ford (Route 3) put-in:

Take 29 south out of Warrenton.  
At Brandy Station (caution light), turn left on 663. Turn left at the stop sign.  
After 1 block, turn right onto 669. After 5.7 miles, turn left onto Route 3.  
After 5.2 miles take first right after crossing Rapidan River.  
(Note: water may be swift for first 100 yards.)

#### Directions to Elys Ford (Route 610) alternate put-in:

Take 29 south out of Warrenton.  
At Brandy Station (caution light), turn left on 663.  
Turn left at the stop sign. After 1 block, turn right onto 669.  
After 5.7 miles, turn left onto Route 3. After .2 miles turn left onto 610.  
After .8 miles, 610 crosses the Rapidan (put-in point).

Directions to Motts Landing alternate take-out:

From Warrenton, take 17 south to I-95 south. Exit from I-95 onto 3 west.  
At third traffic light, turn right on 639 (Bragg Road).  
After 0.7 miles turn left onto 618 (River Road).  
Clore Brothers Outfitters is on the right. Motts Landing is just beyond.

Directions to Old Mill Park take-out:

Take US-17 south from Warrenton. Continue underneath I-95 on 17 Business.  
After crossing the Rappahannock River, take the first right.  
Two more right turns should take you to Caroline Street.  
Follow Caroline Street to entrance of Old Mill Park. (Note: Old Mill Park entrance may be closed. If so, canoes can be carried up the hill from the pavilion.)

FOOD AND SUPPLIES: Warrenton, Culpeper, Fredericksburg.

CAMPING ON THE RIVER: There are numerous primitive camping opportunities. There is an excellent site on the wedge of land between the Rapidan and the Rappahannock, 6 miles (2 hours) from Elys Ford. From this campsite, there are two good campsites directly across the Rappahannock. There are also good campsites just down river on the right.

MAPS: river maps available from outfitters

GUIDEBOOKS: *Virginia White Water*, H. Roger Corbett (good maps). *Classic Virginia Rivers*, Ed Grove (detailed river description).

RIVER LEVEL: Call 703-260-0305 for the gauge report from the U.S. Geological Survey. Minimum levels for this trip are 1.1 on the Culpeper gauge and 3.3 on the Remington gauge. Maximums are 2.5 for Culpeper and 5.0 for Remington. Can also call Rappahannock River Campground or Clore Brothers Outfitters.

OUTFITTERS: Clore Brothers Outfitters, (540)786-7749, at Motts Run Landing (near Fredericksburg, Va.) will provide canoes, paddles, life vest, and shuttle service. Also, Rappahannock River Campground, Richardsville, Va (540-399-1839).

SUBMITTED 6/95 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.



## Canoeing: Rappahannock River (One or Two Days)

**DESCRIPTION:** The section north of Fredericksburg, Virginia, offers possibilities of one day trips or a great overnights. For novice paddlers try the one-day 11 mile trip from below Kelly's Ford to Rappahannock River Campground. If desired, the trip can be continued on the second day by going 13 miles from the campground to Motts Run. For the more experienced paddler, put in at Remington and experience the thrill of Kellys Ford, a Class 2-3 rapids. This is believed by some to be the best overnight canoe trip in Virginia. The Rappahannock River is a wild, unpolluted stream that offers superlative whitewater, outstanding fishing, and beautiful scenery. Rapids are Class 1 and Class 2. Canoeable most of the year except following a long, dry spell.

### DIRECTIONS:

#### Directions to Remington Put-in (experienced paddlers):

Take 29 south out of Warrenton. At Remington take 29-business.  
The put-in is on the south side of the bridge.

#### Directions to Kellys Ford Put-in (novice paddlers):

Take 29 south out of Warrenton.  
Stay on 29 as it bypasses Remington.  
2.2 miles after crossing the Rappahannock River, turn left onto 674.  
Turn left onto 620. The put-in point is at the bridge.

#### To Rappahannock River Campground (takeout or overnight camp)

From Kellys Ford Bridge Put-in, take 620 away from the river.  
After about 6 miles turn left on 610.  
Drive 6 miles to Richardsville and turn left on 619.  
After 2.7 miles, left on 683. Go 1.4 miles to Rappahannock River Campground.

#### From Rappahannock River Campground to Motts Run takeout:

(About 1 hour, 15 minutes round trip.)  
Right on 683, go to end. Right on 619, go to end (Richardsville)  
Left on 610. Left on 3. Immediate Left on 618.  
After several miles, turn left after sharp downhill.

#### From Rappahannock River Campground to Warrenton

Leaving the campground, turn right on 683.  
Turn right on 619. Turn right on 610 at Richardsville. Turn right on 620.  
Turn left on 674. Turn right on 29.

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Warrenton, VA; Fredericksburg, VA.

### CAMPING ON THE RIVER:

Rappahannock River Campground is a car-accessible, really nice commercial campground

that caters to paddlers. It is near Richardsville, Va (540-399-1839). It has canoe rentals, a telephone, snack bar, toilets and showers. Campsites have a fire ring and picnic table.

For those carrying their camping equipment in their canoes, there are numerous primitive camping opportunities. Good campsites include Snake Castle Rock (left), the islands near Rappahannock River Campground, and several areas at the confluence with the Rapidan (left and right).

MAPS: River maps available from outfitters. See the map of the Rappahannock River on page 48.

GUIDEBOOKS: *Virginia White Water*, H. Roger Corbett (good maps). *Classic Virginia Rivers*, Ed Grove (detailed river description).

RIVER LEVEL: Call 703-260-0305 for the gauge report from the U.S. Geological Survey. Remington gauge needs 3.3 feet minimum for this trip. Can also call Rappahannock River Campground, near Richardsville, Va (540-399-1839).

OUTFITTERS: Rappahannock River Campground, Richardsville, Va (540-399-1839), will provide canoes, paddles, life vest, shuttle service, and campground for \$40 per person ('92 rate for Scouts). Also, Clore Bros. at Motts Run Landing (near Fredericksburg, Va.) (540)786-7749.

SUBMITTED 5/99 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.

## Rappahannock River Information

Optional section for experienced paddlers: Remington to the bridge at the end of Kelly's Ford is 4.5 miles and takes 1.5 hours. Class 2-3 rapids.

Leaving from Kelly's Ford, the power line is 4 miles.

Farm on the left is 7 miles.

Rock Castle (very large rocks on left) is 8 miles (good camping spot).

Summerduck Run is on the left at 10 miles.

Big island with good beach and camping spots.

Caution: stay to the right of islands to avoid missing Rappahannock River Campground.

Rappahannock River Campground is on right at 11 miles.

Takes 5 to 6 hours, including lunch.

Takes about 6 more hours to Motts Run.

From Rappahannock River Campground, Deep Run on left at 2.

Richland Run on left and large island at 4 miles.

Confluence of Rapidan on right at 5 miles.

LaRoque Run on right at 7 miles.

Horsepen Run on left at 9 miles.

Motts Run Landing on right (large parking lot) at 13 miles.

## **Canoeing: Rappahannock River (5 Day Trip)**

**LOCATION:** Rappahannock River in Northern Virginia.

**DESCRIPTION:** This is a high adventure trip for older Scouts looking to earn the Fifty Miler Award. It takes five days to canoe the 65 miles from Orlean, where the river first becomes canoeable, to Fredericksburg, where the river becomes totally flat. The first two days involves mostly flatwater with occasional riffles. These days require patience and stamina. There's a major rapids on each of the three remaining days, requiring skill to successfully maneuver through the Class 2 and Class 3 rapids. The Rappahannock offers serenity, good whitewater, outstanding fishing, and beautiful scenery.

**PRECAUTIONS:** Either carry drinking water with you or be prepared to purify silty water, i.e., don't depend on a pump-filter unless it can be cleaned in the field if it should become clogged.

**DIRECTIONS:**

**Orlean Put-in:**

From Warrenton, take 211 west. Turn right on 688. Turn left on 647.  
The put-in is where 647 crosses the river.

**Old Mill Park take-out:**

Take US-17 south from Warrenton. Continue underneath I-95 on 17 Business.  
After crossing the Rappahannock River, take the first right.  
Two more right turns should take you to Caroline Street.  
Follow Caroline Street to entrance of Old Mill Park. (Note: Old Mill Park entrance may be closed. If so, canoes can be carried up the hill from the pavilion.)

**Motts Landing alternate take-out:**

From Warrenton, take 17 south to I-95 south. Exit from I-95 onto 3 west.  
At third traffic light, turn right on 639 (Bragg Road).  
After 0.7 miles turn left onto 618 (River Road).  
Clore Brothers Outfitters will be on the right and Motts Landing just beyond.

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Warrenton, VA; Fredericksburg, VA.

**CAMPING:** see trip description below for recommendations.

**OUTFITTERS:** Rappahannock River Campground, Richardsville, Va (540-399-1839), will

provide canoes, paddles, life vest, shuttle service, and campground for \$40 per person ('92 rate for Scouts). Also, Clore Bros. at Motts Run Landing (near Fredericksburg, Va.) (540)786-7749.

MAPS: river maps available from outfitters

GUIDEBOOKS: *Virginia White Water*, H. Roger Corbett (good maps). *Classic Virginia Rivers*, Ed Grove (detailed river description).

RIVER LEVEL: Call 703-260-0305 for the gauge report from the U.S. Geological Survey. Remington gauge needs 3.3 feet minimum for this trip. Can also call Rappahannock River Campground, near Richardsville, Va (540-399-1839).

OUTFITTERS: Rappahannock River Campground, Richardsville, Va (540-399-1839), will provide canoes, paddles, life vest, shuttle service, and campground for \$40 per person ('92 rate for Scouts). Also, Clore Bros. at Motts Run Landing (near Fredericksburg, Va.) (540)786-7749.

SUBMITTED 2/94 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.

## Rappahannock River 5-Day Trip Description

Segment Facts	Miles	Road & Other Landmarks, Time( hours= minutes@), Campsites
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===== 647 (Orlean put-in)=====
  7 gradient      6      3'17", portage required.
 1,2 class ----- 645 -----
13.5 miles  6.5      3', pretty rocks, camp-1 on sandy plateau
 5 hours          above beach, left, 3 mi before 613
                    ----- 613 (Waterloo) -----
                    1      alternate camp-1, river right
===== 211 =====
 3.5 gradient     5      2'
  A,1 class ----- 802 -----
 18 miles  7      2'30"
 8 hours ----- 621 -----
                    3      1' to camp-2, sandbar on R, after rapids
                    ----- Hazel River -----
                    2      0'50"
                    ----- 29 Bypass -----
                    2      0'10"
===== 29 Business (Remington)=====
 10 gradient     3
 1-3 class ----- pipeline (yellow striped poles)-----
 4.5 miles  3
 1.5 hours ----- Kellys Ford Rapids -----
                    1      Possible camp at Sandy Beach, right
===== 620 (Kellys Ford Bridge)=====
 6 gradient      6      1'4"
 1-3 class ----- power line -----
 24 miles  3      Possible camp, R, where large rocks jut
 12 hours          out, but bad mosquitoes
                    ----- farm -----
                    4      Good camp-3 at Castle Rock, L, sandy, rope
                    swing, pool, 1'30" from power line. Alternate
                    camp-3 on islands before RRC.
                    ----- Rappahannock River Campground (RRC)-----
                    1      Pay camping, phone, candy and soda.
                    ----- Deep Run on left -----
                    2.5    Camp area & rope swing, road access.
                    ----- Rapidan River (Confluence Rapids) -----
                    1      2'45" from RRC, camp-4 sites R or L.
                    ----- Blankenbakers landing & long sand bar on R
                    1.5
                    ----- Scotts dam site -----
                    5.5    Sandy camp area on R just past rapids.
===== Motts Run Landing, Clore Brothers Outfitters
 13 gradient     Current river info & phone at Clore.
 30 grad(1 mi)----- I-95 -----
 1-3 class
 4.5 miles ----- dam (portage on left) -----
 2.5 hours
                    ----- Falmouth Rapids -----

===== US 1 (Fredericksburg take-out) =====

```

See map, p. 48.

## Canoeing: Shenandoah River, Compton Rapids

**LOCATION:** Shenandoah River, South Fork, from Bixlers Bridge (mile 1) to the Shenandoah River Outfitters (SRO) takeout (mile 19). The nearest town is Luray, Virginia.

**DESCRIPTION:** A beautiful 18 mile trip down the Shenandoah valley with really nice views of the mountains. The rapids are gentle (Class 1) for the most part. Scout groups may camp by permission at Foster's Boat Landing. Near the end of the trip is Compton Rapid (Class 2), which adds a bit of excitement and the best chance of swamping. It is recognized by the high bluff and railroad track high above the river. The trip can be shortened at either end by varying the put-in or take-out points.

### DIRECTIONS:

**Put-in:** Take 211 out of Warrenton to Luray, about 42 miles. Stay on the 211 Bypass around Luray, exit on Business-340 South (left). After 0.3 mile turn right onto Mechanic Street (675). Go 3.4 miles to Bixlers Bridge (675 is marked 654 for a short way). Cross Bixlers Bridge and turn right onto 684. Put-in immediately on right.

**Camp:** Go 7.3 miles to Foster's Boat Landing (get permission to camp). An alternative site is at Goods Mill (Falls) Landing (continue 0.9 miles and bear right on 684).

**Take-out:** From Foster's continue on 684 for 0.9 miles, bear left on 717, and go 4 miles to Shenandoah River Outfitters (SRO) Takeout.

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Luray, Virginia. Snacks at Shenandoah River Outfitters.

**CAMPING:** Car camping at Goods Mill (Falls) Landing (mile 13). This is a primitive camp with only a pit toilet. First-come, first served.

Car camping at Foster's Landing. Up until 1999 you needed to get a Special Use Permit from the Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries in Richmond (804-367-1000). On 5/5/99 an agent there said the permit was no longer needed. Camping is allowed but needs to be 100 yards from the boat ramp.

Canoe camping. There are canoe campgrounds between mile 13 & 14 and also between mile 17 & 18. It is OK to camp anywhere on the left bank between Seakfords (mile 16) and SRO takeout (mile 19), since it is national forest.

**MAPS:** SRO has a good river map. For a topo map get Potomac Appalachian Trail Club *Massanutten Mountains, North Half (Map G)*, available at backpacking stores. For an overview of the area, get the *George Washington National Forest* map (Forest Supervisor, US Forest Service, Harrisonburg, VA 22801).

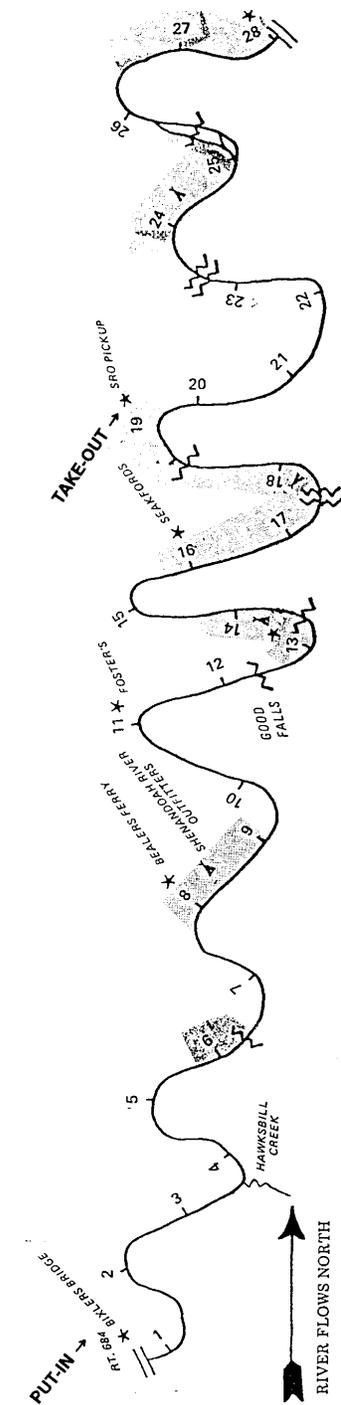
**GUIDEBOOKS:** *Virginia White Water*, H. Roger Corbett (good maps). *Classic Virginia Rivers*, Ed Grove (detailed river description).

**RIVER LEVEL:** This stretch is canoeable most of the year except after a long dry spell.

Call 703-260-0305 for the gauge report from the U.S. Geological Survey. A reading of at least 1.6 feet on the Front Royal gauge is needed for the trip.

OUTFITTERS: Shenandoah River Outfitters, RFD 3, Luray, VA 22835. (540) 743-4159, 8 am - 5 pm). Scout discounts are available. EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS: National Forest Ranger (540) 984-4101; Shenandoah River Outfitters (540) 743-4159.

SUBMITTED 6/93 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.



KEEP LITTER WITH YOU  
RESPECT THE RIVER.  
DO NOT TRESPASS ON PRIVATE LAND

MAP SYMBOLS:

- Numbering System on Left Bank = Mile Markers
- White Water Rapids
- Boat Landing
- Camping Areas - Government Canoe camps
- Yellow Sign Markings = National Forest Lands
- LOW WATER BRIDGES ARE DANGEROUS - keep canoes away from low water bridges
- George Washington National Forest

- ★ 7 Good Fishing just pass 7 and across river on right bank good bluegill fishing - bass in riffles below that point
- ★ 8 Bealer Ferry Boat Landing - left bank Gov't land, right bank private land - NO CAMPING WITHIN CANOE LAUNCH AREA -
- ★ 9 SHENANDOAH RIVER OUTFITTERS - Vehicle access to river here - NO CANOE pickup on river here - gov't land primitive camping from 200 yds. below No. 8 to No. 9 - water and supplies 1/2 mile from river follow dirt road
- ★ 11 Fosters Boat Landing - between No. 11 to No. 13 stay to the far left bank, deeper channel
- ★ 12 Rapids - below 12 - stay left about 20 yds off left bank - private land both sides of river
- ★ 13 Good Falls Boat Landing on left side of river - directly across river right bank is all private - PLEASE KEEP OFF
- ★ 16 Seakfords Boat Landing - No camping at landing - Gov't land left bank, private land right bank
- ★ 17 Compton Rapid - good swimming below rapids - Gov't land left bank - private land right bank (see diagram)
- ★ 19 Final Pickup left bank - no more pickups until BENTONVILLE
- ★ 23 Rapids just ahead - Chute on left hand side
- ★ 24 Government Canoe Campground - Gov't land left bank - private land right bank
- ★ 25 Hazard Mill Campground - picnic area - campground and water 1/2 mile from river - Gov't land left - private land right side of river - river splits here, right fork is main branch
- ★ 28 Bentonville Boat Landing - dangerous low water bridge - keep canoes away from bridge - portage left side of river as close to bridge as possible - boat landing and pickup area on downstream side of bridge

- ★ Low Water Bridge - portage left side of river on down stream side of bridge.
- 2 & 3 Private land both sides of river - good fishing
- 6 Rapid - go through center - small portion of Gov't land left bank - private land right bank

## Canoeing: Shenandoah & Potomac Rivers, The Staircase

LOCATION: Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers, near Harpers Ferry

### DESCRIPTION:

Known as the Staircase, this part of the Shenandoah River is one of the most popular and exciting canoe trips in the area. The beautiful river combines with whitewater excitement to make this a memorable day trip. Bull Falls is a solid Class 3 rapids, since it involves maneuvering over a three foot drop. Whitehorse Rapids is a Class 2/3, with great standing waves. The takeout involves hauling the canoes up a short, but steep hill.

PRECAUTIONS: Bull Falls is a solid Class 3 rapids. Post rescuers on the rocks with throw ropes. Whitehorse Rapids can also be tricky.

### DIRECTIONS:

To put-in at Millville, WV (60 miles from Warrenton, 1 3 hours):

From Warrenton take 17 north to Paris. Left onto 50.

After 9 miles turn right on 340 (McDonalds).

Staying on 340 will involve a right turn at one point.

After 25 miles turn right on Bloomery Road (27).

Drive 2 miles, taking the left fork over the railroad tracks along the way.

Just after crossing the second railroad tracks, turn left into River and Trail Outfitters.

It costs a dollar a boat to put in here and park securely. A shuttle service is also available.

Directions to Cindy Dees Restaurant (popular meeting place; good food):

Going north on 340, cross the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers. Take the first right, Cindy Dees in on the left. The pay phone there is (301) 834-9491.

To take-out on Route 340:

From the put-in at Millville, return to 340 and turn right.

After 3.4 miles (just inside Virginia) park in lot (\$3/car). Note: the old takeout point on river left at Sandy Hook Road is no longer available since crossing the railroad tracks is no long permissible.

RIVER LEVEL: This stretch is canoeable most of the year except after a long dry spell. Call 703-260-0305 for the gauge report from the U.S. Geological Survey. A reading of 1.8 to 5.5 feet on the Millville gauge is needed for the trip.

FOOD AND SUPPLIES: On 340 south of Harpers Ferry. Also Berryville. McDonalds at intersection of 50 and 340.

MAP: See next page.

GUIDEBOOKS: *Virginia White Water*, H. Roger Corbett (good maps). *Classic Virginia Rivers*, Ed Grove (detailed river description).

OUTFITTERS:

River and Trail Outfitters, (301) 695-5177.

Blue Ridge Outfitters, Box 750, Rt 340, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425, located on 340 south of Harpers Ferry, (304) 725-3444.

SUBMITTED 6/95 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.

### River Description -- Shenandoah & Potomac Rivers

Mercifully, this trip begins with some flatwater, giving canoe partners a chance to remember the J-stroke and how to work together.

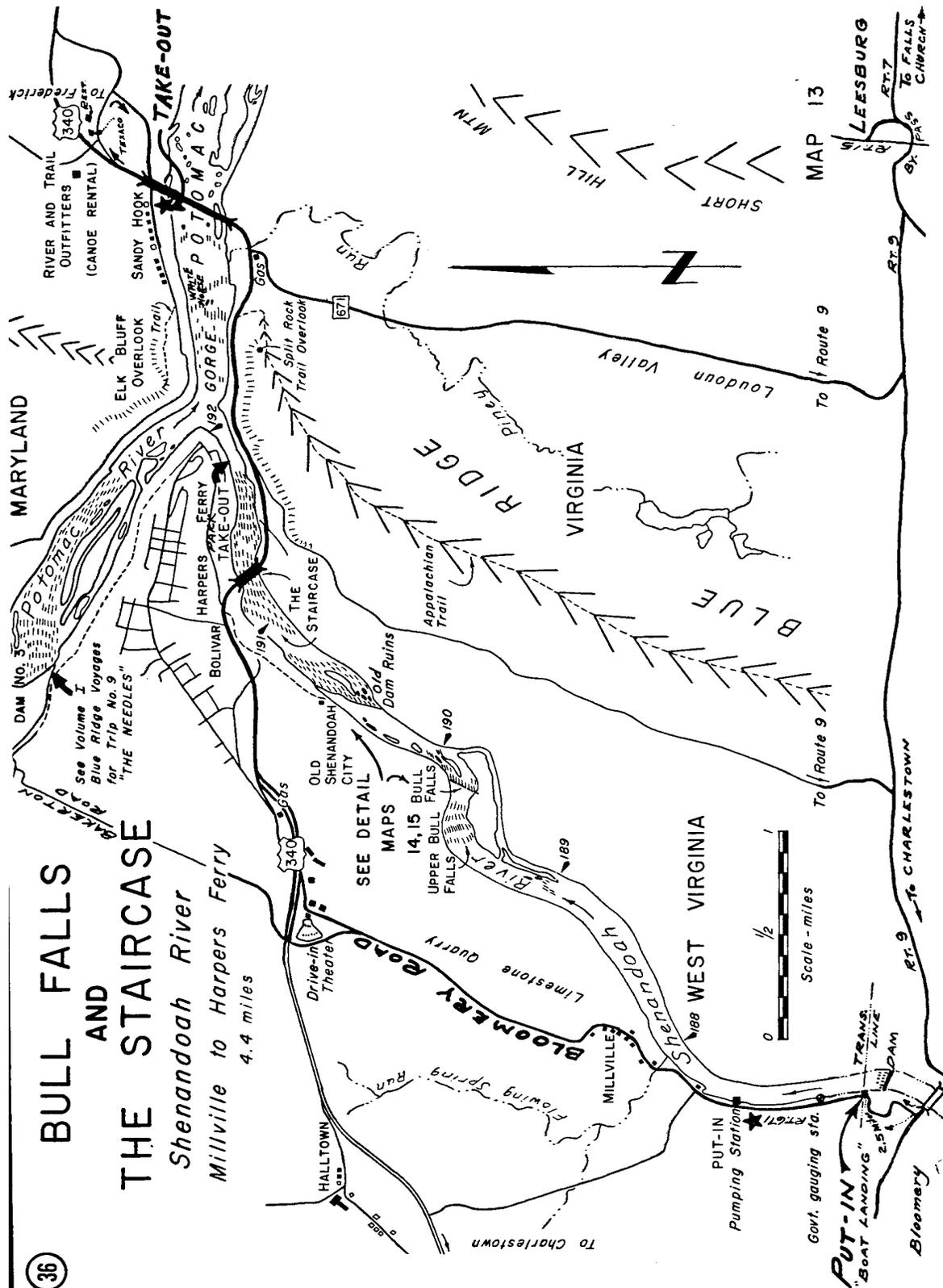
The fun begins with a Class 2 rapid with ledges and large rocks. The river then narrows and picks up speed before cascading 3 feet over Bull Falls, a solid Class 3 rapid. Stop on the rock ledge and scout the rapids. The classic chute is the third notch from the left. The fourth chute is called Suicide, because of a hidden rock at the bottom.

After a bit more whitewater, look for a lunch spot on either side before the Staircase begins. This is a series of ledges from several inches to several feet.

Work the Staircase on the left up to the bridge and then center thereafter.

At Harper's Ferry the Shenandoah River joins the Potomac. Stay on the far left side of the river. The rapids continue, ending with the Class 2-3 Whitehorse Rapids (large standing waves) . Take the left path through these.

After Whitehorse move to the right side of the river and take out at the small creek about 100 yards upstream from the bridge. There=s a steep portage up to the road. Allow about 3 to 4 hours for this 6.5 mile trip.



**36** **BULL FALLS AND THE STAIRCASE**  
 Shenandoah River  
 Millville to Harpers Ferry  
 4.4 miles

**36**

## **Caving: John Brown's Cave**

**LOCATION:** John Brown's Cave, near Harpers Ferry, WV.

**DESCRIPTION:** A muddy cave with ups and downs and a tunnel that will let you know if you are claustrophobic. Go with a guide, wear helmets, and prepare to stretch your beliefs on how muddy a person can get. Allow about 4 hours inside the cave.

**CAUTIONS:** A helmet with a headlamp plus two backup sources of light are essential. Keeping the group together is essential. Having a guide familiar with the cave will avoid getting lost or into passages that are too difficult for the group.

**DIRECTIONS:**

From Warrenton take 17 north to Paris. Left onto 50.

After 9 miles turn right on 340 (McDonalds).

Staying on 340 will involve a right turn at one point.

Just after crossing the Shenandoah River turn left on Bakerton Rd (Rt 27).

After 1.5 miles turn right immediately after going through tunnel.

Go about 1/4 miles and park along side the road.

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Harpers Ferry

**MAPS:** The cave is only partially mapped. Go with a guide.

**GUIDEBOOKS:** A good introduction to caving may be found in the Boy Scoutfield Book, pp. 415-423. General caving information can be obtained from the National Speleological Society, Cave Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35810, phone (205) 852-1300.

**OUTFITTERS:** The National Speleological Society can also give local contacts that may volunteer to guide Scouts

**SUBMITTED** 1/92 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.

## Rock Climbing: Carderock

**LOCATION:** Carderock is in Maryland, just west of where I-495 goes over the Potomac River.

**DESCRIPTION:** Close to Washington, DC, and located on the Potomac, Carderock is a very popular rock climbing area. It is well suited for top roping, in which the belay rope goes through a piece of protection at the highest point in the climb.

**PRECAUTIONS:** Helmets, climbing ropes and hardware are absolutely essential. An experienced rock climber should lead the group in order to assure safe techniques.

**DIRECTIONS (45 miles from Warrenton):**

Take the Capital Beltway (I-495) toward Rockville, Maryland.

Just after crossing the Potomac into Maryland, take Exit 41.

Follow the George Washington Parkway north.

Take the Carderock Recreation Area exit and turn left.

Go under the canal, turn right, and park in the last parking lot.

**CAMPING:** No camping in the park. Good camping can be found in Prince William Forest which is just off I-95 about one hour from Great Falls. Contact the Visitor Center at (703) 221-7181. Camping is also available at Bull Run Regional Park, Centreville, Virginia. Take I-66 west, exit on 28 south, take 29 west, follow signs to park. 150 campsites, swimming pool, miniature golf. Open April through November. Reservations (703) 631-0550.

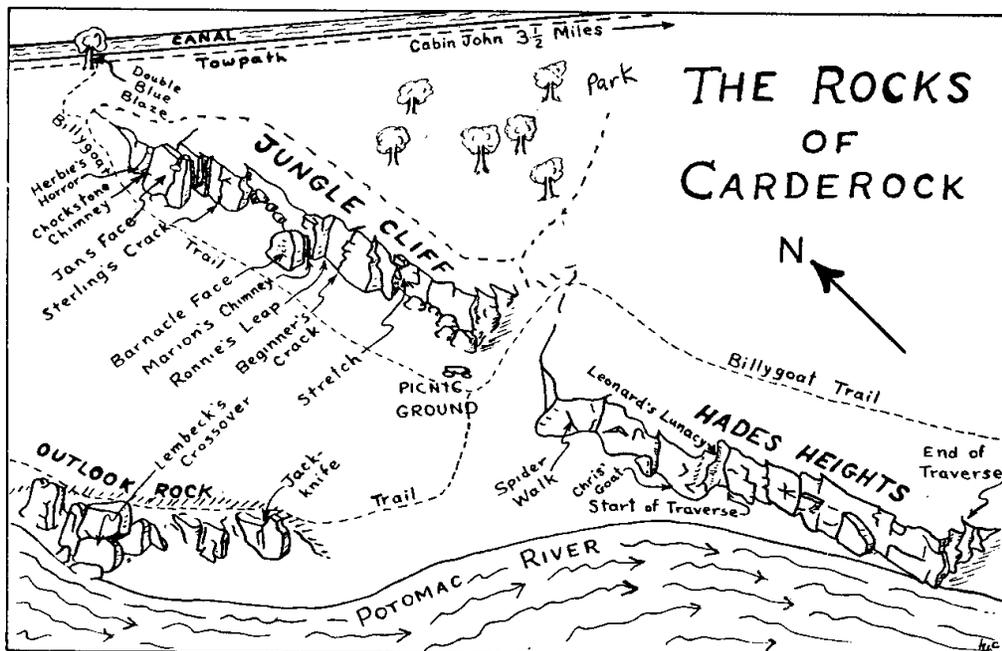
**GUIDEBOOKS:** *Carderock: Past and Present--A Climbers' Guide*, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, available from REI, EMS, or HTO. This guide is highly recommended.

**OUTFITTERS:** The Outdoor School, P.O. Box 815, Great Falls, VA 22066, (703) 759-7413. The cost depends on the group size. The weekend rate for a group of 9 - 12 is \$61 per person.

**CLIMBING SUGGESTIONS:** From the parking lot walk past the restrooms toward the cliffs along the board-walk trail. You will come out at the top of the cliffs. At the information sign, the walk down (scramble down) is just to the left. This walk-down is the dividing line between Jungle Cliff to the right and Hades Heights to the left. Just to the right of the information sign is the top of Beginner's Crack. The trail to the right of the information sign leads down to the base of the cliffs.

The following table gives some of the easier climbs, along with the difficulty rating and the page in the guidebook. Ratings for belayed climbing go from 5.0 to 5.13. In the 5.0 - 5.4 range there are two handholds and two footholds for every move; the holds become progressively smaller as the number increases. In the 5.5 - 5.6 range the two handholds and two footholds are there, but the beginner may have trouble finding them.

Good Climbs for Beginners		
Name	Difficulty	Guidebook page
Jungle Cliff (left to right facing cliff)		
Jan's Face--Left Edge	5.3	32
Jan's Face--Margie's Chimney	5.0	33
Upper Wall Crack	5.3	47
Beginner's Crack	5.3	47
Beginner's Face	5.4	47
Hades Heights (left to right facing cliff)		
Kindergarten	5.0	51
The Nose	5.3	51
The Crack	5.3	56
Nubble Face	5.0-5.4	56
The Garbage Chute	5.0	61
The Laundry	5.1	63



SUBMITTED 10/95 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.

## Rock Climbing: Great Falls

**LOCATION:** Great Falls Park, Virginia. Great Falls Park is located on the Virginia side of the Potomac River approximately 25 miles northwest of Washington, D.C.

**DESCRIPTION:** The park offers spectacular views of the Potomac rapids and rocky wilderness where bald eagles can be seen. The climbing area is a gorge over a mile long and between 40 and 80 feet high. It is well suited for top roping, in which the belay rope goes through a piece of protection at the highest point in the climb.

Climbing is done in conjunction with a day long climbing techniques and climbing course run by The Outdoor School of Great Falls, Virginia. Programs are designed for groups of 6 or more. Climbs are progressive in nature, starting with the very easy and moving on to the more difficult routes. All climbing and rappelling is geared to the abilities and requirements of those being taught. It is a day of challenges and of testing one's courage and confidence.

**PRECAUTIONS:** Helmets, climbing ropes and hardware are absolutely essential. An experienced rock climber should lead the group in order to assure safe techniques.

**DIRECTIONS** (45 miles from Warrenton):

Take the Capital Beltway (I-495) toward Rockville, Maryland.

Take exit 13 onto 193 west (Old Georgetown Pike).

Follow 193 for 4 miles and turn right onto Old Dominion. Go 1 mile to Great Falls Park.

After paying \$4 to enter, turn right and go to the parking area.

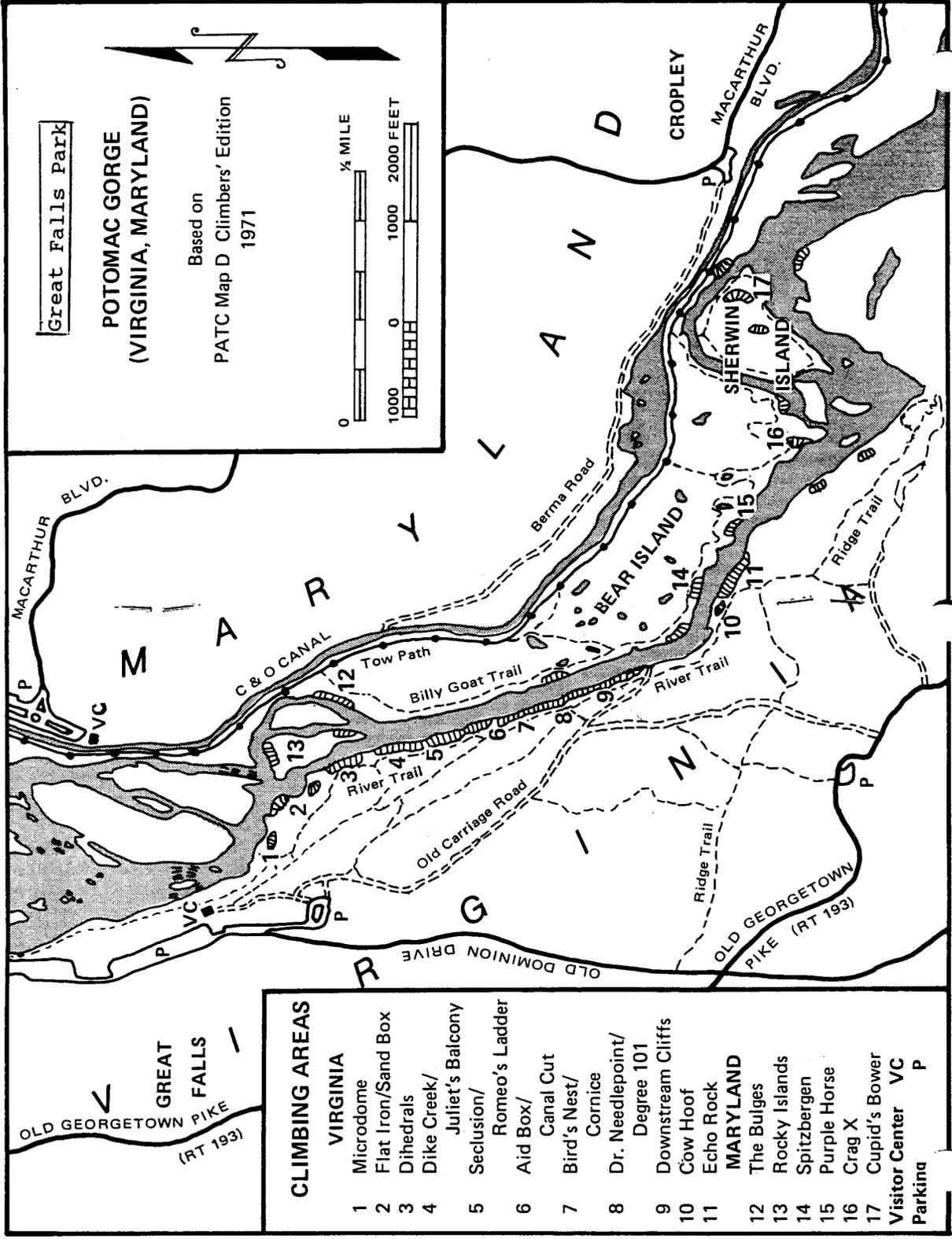
The climbing areas are accessible from the River Trail.

**CAMPING:** No camping in the park. Good camping can be found in Prince William Forest which is just off I-95 about one hour from Great Falls. Contact the Visitor Center at (703) 221-7181. Camping is also available at Bull Run Regional Park, Centreville, Virginia. Take I-66 west, exit on 28 south, take 29 west, follow signs to park. 150 campsites, swimming pool, miniature golf. Open April through November. Reservations (703) 631-0550.

**GUIDEBOOKS:** *Climbers' Guide to the Great Falls of the Potomac*, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, describes 185 routes, available from REI, EMS, or HTO. This guide is highly recommended.

**OUTFITTERS:** The Outdoor School, P.O. Box 815, Great Falls, VA 22066, (703) 759-7413. The cost depends on the group size. The weekend rate for a group of 9 - 12 is \$61 per person.

SUBMITTED 11/94 by Steve Banks, Springfield, Va, (703) 644-7594.



## Rock climbing: Little Devils Stairs

LOCATION: Little Devils Stairs, Shenandoah National Park, Virginia

DESCRIPTION: Less than an hours walk from the trailhead brings you to the beautiful Little Devils Stairs canyon with dramatic rock walls suitable for rock climbing. A very nice 5.5 mile circuit hike can be made by going up Little Devils Stairs and returning by way of Keyser Run Fire Road (left turn plus another left at the only other junction).

PRECAUTIONS: Helmets, climbing ropes and hardware are absolutely essential. An experienced rock climber should lead the group in order to assure safe techniques. Climbers should be on the lookout for loose rocks that can be pulled loose.

### DIRECTIONS:

Start at the intersection of 29-Business and 211 in Warrenton.

Go 25 miles and turn right onto 622 (2 miles past Washington, Va). Go 2 miles and turn left onto 614.

Go 3 miles until the road ends at the trailhead.

MEDICAL: Take 211 back to Warrenton. Turn right on 29. Hospital is 1/4 mile on the right.

FOOD AND SUPPLIES: Warrenton has fast food and supermarkets along 29-Business.

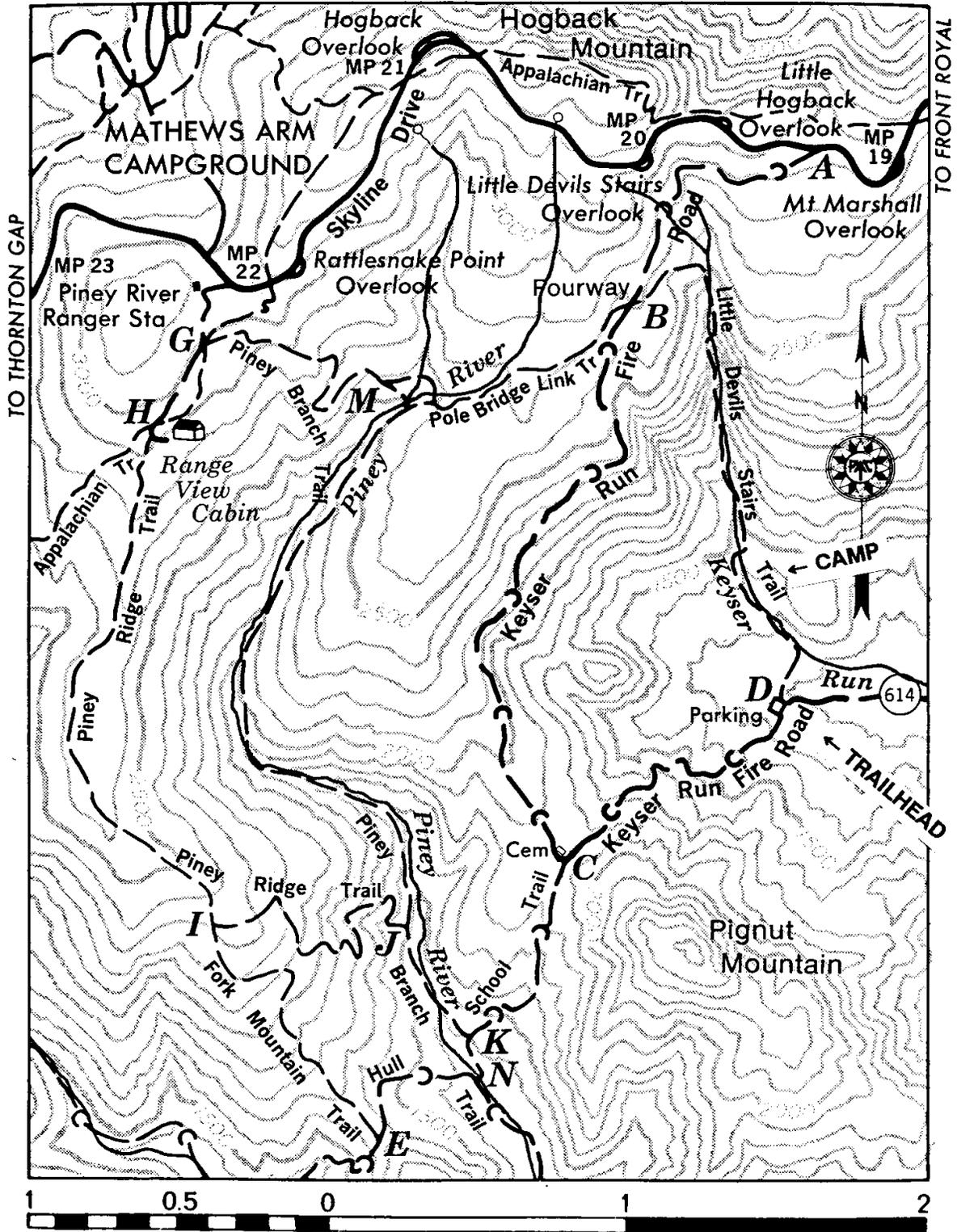
CAMPING: About a 30 minute walk from the trailhead, a large rock wall is visible on the right. Cross the creek at this point and climb a short distance to an excellent camping site that will hold several tents. From here it's about a 20 minute walk to the rock climbing area. There is reported to be another good camping site along this walk. A backpacking permit may be obtained by calling Shenandoah National Park at (540) 999-3500 on week days, 8:00 - 4:30. The maximum group size is 10 and groups should not camp within site of another group. Fires are not permitted, so plan to use backpacking stoves.

MAPS: *Shenandoah Nation Park, Northern Section*, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Map #9.

GUIDEBOOKS: *Circuit Hikes in Shenandoah National Park*, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 1986.

SUBMITTED 11/94 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.

# Little Devils Stairs



## **Ropes Course: Front Royal**

LOCATION: 4-H Center at Front Royal, Virginia.

### **DESCRIPTION:**

The Ropes Challenge Course consists of a series of initiatives and multiple obstacles for a group to work through. The program is designed for hands-on interaction and decision making. Everyone participates in the various activities that use not only physical skills, but mental skills as well. The program is designed to promote group cooperation, group and individual sense of accomplishment, individual self-esteem, communication, leadership and mutual trust. All parents must sign a release for Scouts to participate. It is recommended that parents take this course as well. The course takes all day (9 am - 5 pm).

### **DIRECTIONS:**

From Warrenton take 211 west for 19 miles and turn right onto 522.  
After 13 miles turn left onto Harmony Hollow Road.  
Follow the road 2 miles to the 4-H Center.

CAMPING: Allowed on the athletic field. It can be quite windy.

CONTACTS: 4-H Center, Jack Albert, (540) 635-7171. The normal cost is \$60 per person, although Scout discounts may be available.

SUBMITTED 11/93, Arthur McKenny, Warrenton, Va, (540) 349-1066.

## **Skiing Cross-Country: Canaan Valley**

LOCATION: Canaan Valley, WV.

DESCRIPTION: There are three separate XC areas.

**Canaan Valley Resort State Park** offers 18 miles of trails (no fee). Park at the XC center (rentals & trail maps) near the campground or at the lodge (snack bar). Deer Run and Mill Run Trails near the campground are good beginning trails. Cub Run and Middle Ridge Trails are good intermediate trails (do Middle Ridge clockwise to avoid an expert-only downhill). The Railroad Grade Trail is good if the creeks are frozen and the snow is deep.

**White Grass Ski Touring Center** has several miles of groomed trails (usage fee \$10), rentals (\$15) and has skiable snow when others don't. It offers group discounts. It serves superb home-cooked lunches. The 3-Mile Trail provides an easy access to the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area.

**Blackwater Falls State Park** has several miles of XC trails (modest fee) and a XC center with rentals (\$18). For expert skiers, there is an 8 mile trail connecting Blackwater Falls State Park with Canaan Valley State Park. Also for experts, one can purchase a one-time lift ticket (\$5) at Canaan Valley Ski Area, ride the lift to the top, and follow the Bald Knob trail pack to the parking lot. There's a similar deal from Timberline.

### DIRECTIONS:

From Warrenton take 17N to Winchester.

To bypass Winchester (recommended), take I-81S to 37N to 50W.

Take 50W through Romney (food & gas) to 93S.

Route 93 follows 42 for a short distance (watch for turns).

At Davis (food & gas) turn left onto 32.

In a bit Blackwater Falls State Park will be on the right.

A few miles will lead to Timberline, White Grass, and Canaan.

It's about 155 miles (3 hours, 30 minutes) from Warrenton.

An alternate route is 55. It's slightly more scenic, but is a more mountainous drive.

Distance and time are about the same.

From Northern Virginia take I-66 W to I-81 S.

After 3 mi, take 55W for 95 mi (2 HR, 10 MIN) to Harman.

At Harman take 32 N to Canaan Valley.

**CAMPING:** Canaan Valley State Park campground is open all year. Roads are plowed. Sites cost \$12 per night and have a fire ring and a picnic table. The heated bathroom has showers, washer, and dryer. The campground at Blackwater Falls is closed in the winter.

MAPS: XC trail maps are available at each of the XC centers. The quad for this area is *Blackwater Falls, W.VA.*

CONTACTS: Snow conditions: 800-CALL WVA. Also (304) 866-4828.

Canaan Valley Resort State Park, Route 1, Box 330, Davis, WV 26260, (800) CALL WVA or (304) 866-4121.

White Grass, Route 1, Box 299, Davis, WV 26260, (304) 866-4114. Blackwater Falls State Park, Davis, WV 26260,(304)259-5117 or 5216.

SUBMITTED 3/99 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.



## **Skiing Cross-Country: Hidden Valley**

**LOCATION:** Hidden Valley, twelve miles west of Somerset, Pennsylvania.

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Hidden Valley Ski Touring Center has 30 miles of groomed trails, including access to Kooser State Park and Forbes State Forest.

Weekend/holiday rates for 1997: trail fee \$10, rental \$12. The trail fee entitles you to ride a shuttle bus to the top of the mountain and cross-country ski down.

There's also a downhill skiing area with 17 slopes, 8 lifts including 1 quad lift. It is open daily from 9 AM to 10 PM. Snow tubing is also available.

**DIRECTIONS:** (176 miles from Warrenton, Virginia (4 hour drive)  
From Warrenton take 17 N to Winchester, I-81 N to just north of Winchester, 37 S for a short ways, 522 N for 40 miles to Hancock, I-70 W for 26 miles to Breezewood, Pennsylvania Turnpike for 52 miles to Somerset, 31N for 12 miles to Hidden Valley (left turn). Follow signs to Cross-Country Ski Center.

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Somerset has it all.

### **CAMPING:**

Tent camping at Kooser State Park near the XC center. Also in Kooser are 8 cabins with a wood burner, electric stove, refrigerator, outside pump, and nearby latrine. (814) 443-4620.

**MAPS:** Available from Hidden Valley Ski Touring Center

### **CONTACTS:**

Snow report: 800-443-7544-1-1.  
Hidden Valley ski information: 800-443-2600.  
Cross-Country Ski Center: (814) 443-8473.

**SUBMITTED 2/97** by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.  
Hidden Valley



## **Skiing Cross-Country: New Germany**

**LOCATION:** New Germany State Park, Garrett County, Maryland.  
The address is New Germany State Park, Route 2, Grantsville, MD 21536. (301) 895-5453

**DESCRIPTION:** New Germany is a beautiful park which includes 12 miles of marked XC ski trails. There's a nice mixture of beginner, intermediate, and advanced trails. Being in Garrett County there is usually abundant snow, an average of 100" each year. There is a warming hut complete with bathrooms and a snack bar. There's a \$2 per person per day usage fee, but this is waived for youth groups who have obtained a permit from Maryland State Forest and Park Service, Tawes State Office Building - E-3, 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401.

**DIRECTIONS** (with one stop, the driving time is about 3'15"):

From Warrenton, Virginia, take 17 N to I-66 W. After 5 mi exit onto 17 N.  
Go 8 mi to 50 W; go 17 mi to I-81 N. Go 4 mi to 11 S; go 1 mi to 37 S.  
Go 2 mi to 522 N; go 13 mi to 127 W. Go 11 mi to 29 N; go 8 mi to 9 W.  
Go 38 mi to I-68W (Cumberland). Go 20 mi to Exit 24, L on Lower New Germany Rd  
Go 1 mi and turn R; go 4 mi and turn R at the "T" intersection.  
Go 1.3 mi and turn L; go is 0.8 mi to park headquarters on the R.  
The skiing area is further on the L. Big Run State Park and still a bit further on the L.

**MEDICAL:** Cumberland

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Cumberland has McDonalds, Wendys, KFC, and Pizza Hut.  
There's not much between Cumberland and Winchester.

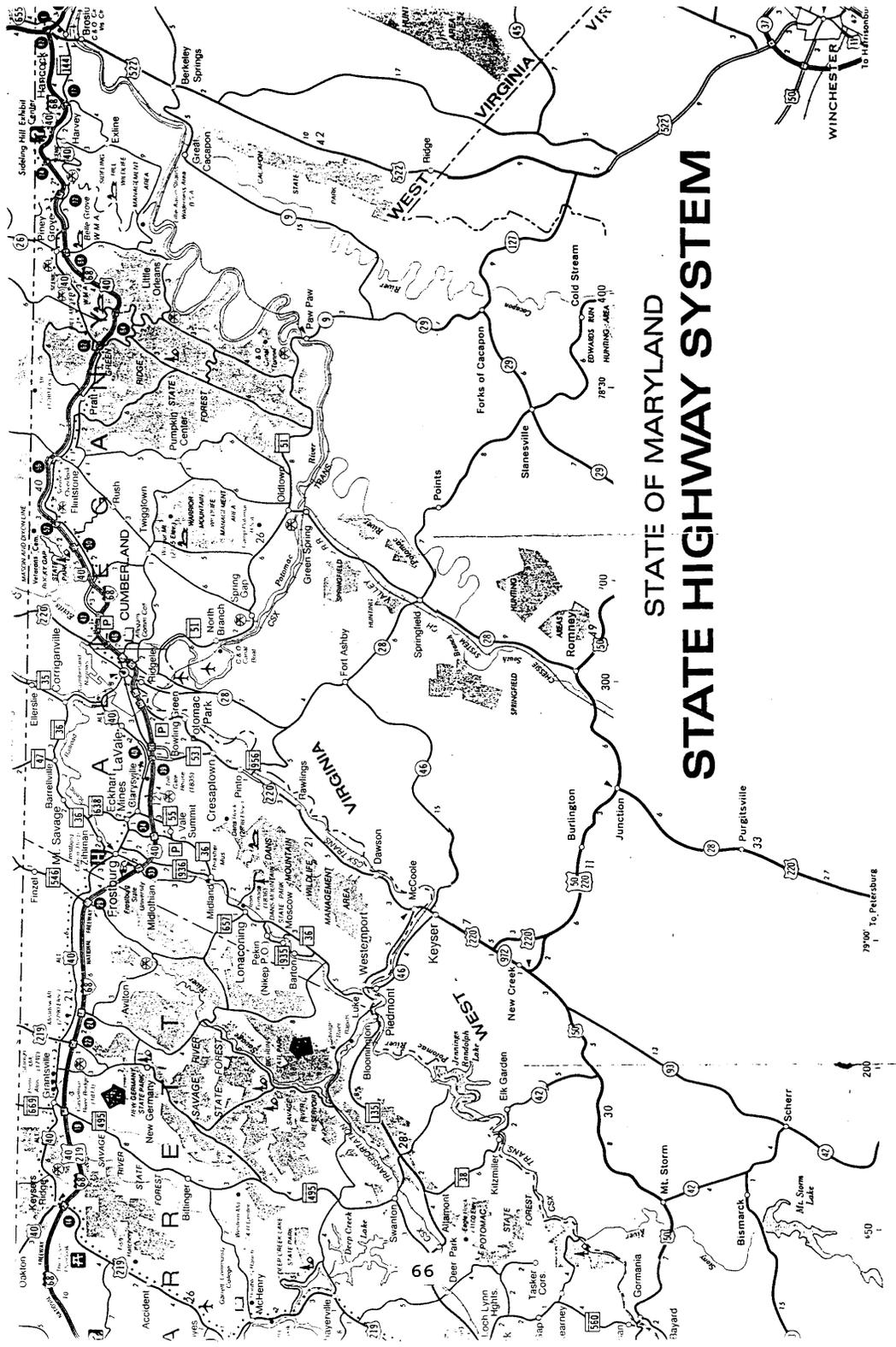
**CAMPING:** Although camping at New Germany is closed in the winter, there is camping about 8 miles away at Big Run State Park. The campsites are near a beautiful stream. Facilities include a fire ring, picnic table, water, and an excellent composting toilet. The permit mentioned above waives the per-person camping fee. Winterized cabins are available at New Germany. For reservations call (301) 895-5453 between 8 & 4:30, M-F.

**MAPS:** Trail maps available at warming hut.

**OUTFITTERS:** Ski rental is available 3 miles from the park. Call (301) 689-8515. Lessons are also available. Ski rental is also available at Deep Creek Outfitters (301-387-6977) in McHenry, which is west of New Germany on 219. Cost of 2-day ski rental is \$18 (2/94).

**SUBMITTED** 2/97 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.

Map to New Germany State Park



# STATE OF MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

## **Skiing Downhill: Canaan Valley**

LOCATION: Timberline Resort, Canaan Valley, WV.

### DESCRIPTION:

Downhill skiing resort that offers discounts to Boy Scouts: \$20 lift ticket, \$8 rental, \$10 dormitory housing, \$5 spaghetti dinner, and \$5 pancake breakfast (1992 prices). The dormitory has triple bunk beds (sheets & blanket provided), with a full bath for every 18 people. There are separate rooms for guys and gals. Unless you like to hear people walking above you wearing ski boots, go for the second floor. Cross-country skiing is available nearby at White Grass Ski Touring Center.

### DIRECTIONS:

From Warrenton take 17N to Winchester.  
To bypass Winchester (recommended), take I-81S to 37N to 50W.  
Take 50W through Romney (food & gas) to 93S.  
Route 93 follows 42 for a short distance (watch for turns).  
At Davis (food & gas) turn left onto 32.  
In a bit Blackwater Falls State Park will be on the right.  
A few miles will lead to Timberline, White Grass, and Canaan.  
It's about 155 miles (3 hours, 30 minutes) from Warrenton.

An alternate route is 55. It's slightly more scenic, but is a more mountainous drive.  
Distance and time are about the same.  
From Northern Virginia take I-66 W to I-81 S.  
After 3 mi, take 55W for 95 mi (2 HR, 10 MIN) to Harman.  
At Harman take 32 N to Canaan Valley.

SNOW CONDITIONS: 800-CALL WVA. Also (304) 866-4828.

### RESERVATIONS:

Canaan Valley State Park, 800-622-4121.  
Timberline, 800-843-1751. Offers indoor camping packages for groups.

SUBMITTED 2/92 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.

## **Skiing Downhill: Massanutten**

**LOCATION:** Massanutten Ski Resort, 10 miles east of Harrisonburg, Virginia, on Route 33.

**DESCRIPTION:** Snow making capability. Day and night skiing. Longest run is 400 feet. 1110 foot vertical drop. 5 lifts including 1 quad. Ski times: day 9 am-4:30 pm, night 5 pm-10 pm, half day (Mon-Fri) 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm. Rentals begin at 8:00 am. Special rates for groups, early season (through Dec 25), or March Madness (March 1 until closing). Whitetail has better slopes for intermediate and expert skiers.

**DIRECTIONS:** Allow 1'45" to go the 78 miles from Warrenton.

From Warrenton take 29 south.

After 46 miles, turn right at the caution light onto 230 west.

After 11 miles, turn right onto 33 west.

After 14 miles, pass Elkton (fast food).

After continuing 6 miles to a traffic light, turn right onto 644.

After 1 mile, turn left into Massanutten.

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Elkton also has a McDonalds at the eastern exit.

**GROUP RESERVATIONS:** (540) 289-9441, ext 5054.

**SUBMITTED 2/94 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.**

## **Special: Gettysburg Battlefield**

**LOCATION:** Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania.

**DESCRIPTION:** Camping at the youth group camping area in Gettysburg National Military Park. While touring the battlefield, Scouts can earn a patch for completing the Gettysburg Heritage Trail Program. The Visitor Center houses an impressive museum. The Electric Map program presents a graphic demonstration of the battle action through the use of colored lights, and the Cyclorama Center shows Pickett's Charge (reservations accepted 717-334-4474, small fee).

**DIRECTIONS:** Route 15N to Gettysburg. About 2 hours from Warrenton. Thurmont has convenient fast food.

**FOOD AND SUPPLIES:** Readily available in Gettysburg.

**CAMPING:** Youth groups only in the park. Site has portajohns, water, fire rings, and picnic tables. Firewood is available.

**CONTACTS:** Campground Coordinator, Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, PA 17325, (717) 334-1124.

**SUBMITTED 10/98 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.**

## **Special: Liberty Ship**

**LOCATION:** S.S. John W. Brown, a World War II Memorial Museum Ship in Baltimore.

**DESCRIPTION:** Over 2700 liberty ships were produced to ferry men and supplies across the ocean to support the war effort. Only the John Brown survives on the east coast. Scouts take a tour of the ship and sleep in the bunks stacked five high. Not too far away is the famous Baltimore Aquarium and Science Museum. Also close is Fort McHenry, the home of the Star Spangled Banner.

**PRECAUTIONS:** The ship has slippery decks, hard surfaces, and machinery. Scouts should be adequately supervised.

**CAMPING:** Sleep on the bunks once used by soldiers being transported. Cook in the galley. The spaces are not heated.

**CONTACTS:** Project Liberty Ship, PO Box 25846, Highlandtown Station, Baltimore, MD 21224, (410) 661-1550.

**SUBMITTED 12/96 by Troy Hayes, Warrenton, Va, (540) 347-0817.**

## **Special: Science Museum of Virginia**

**DESCRIPTION:** Launch a hot air balloon, fly a Piper Cub, take John Glenn's place in the Friendship 7 space craft, make sparks fly, experiment with chemicals you have in your kitchen, learn about computers, discover the stars. These and many other adventures await you when you visit the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond and participate in their overnight camp-in program. A side trip tour of the Virginia capitol building after the museum is an added attraction that can easily be scheduled before starting for home.

**DIRECTIONS:** Takes about 1 hour, 45 minutes from Warrenton (90 mi).

From Warrenton, Va, take US-17 south.

Take I-95 south (toward Richmond). McDonalds at Thornburg (48 mi from Warrenton).

There's a rest stop about 2/3 of the way down.

Take Exit #78 (Boulevard), right onto Boulevard Street.

At the light after Hardee's, turn left onto Broad Street.

The Science Museum of Virginia is at 2500 W. Broad St.

**FOOD:** Bring a bag supper or eat across the street from the museum at Pizza Hut, Dairy Queen, or Arbys. Another possibility is to eat at the McDonalds in Thornburg, about half way down from Warrenton (48 miles).

**CAMPING:** Plan to arrive at the museum between 5:30 PM and 6:30 PM. The program starts at 6:45 PM and ends at 10:30 AM the next day. The program can be either Friday-Saturday or Saturday-Sunday. A late night snack and breakfast are provided. Bring a sleeping bag, pad, pillow, and toothbrush. The cost is \$22.00 (Jan '96) per person plus spending money for the museum store or perhaps a soda.

**CONTACTS:** Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23220  
Group reservations: (804) 367-6552. Coordinators: Sue Cook (804) 367-8869 or Tracy Smith 367-2408.

**NOTES:** The program at the Science Museum of Virginia is designed for kids up through the seventh grade. Older kids may attend, but may find parts of the instruction too simplistic. However, the exhibits are excellent and the planetarium is first rate. Challenge the older Scouts to grasp some of the more sophisticated concepts. Expect to share the experience with several other groups, some of which may be Cub Scouts.

The Maryland Science Center in Baltimore has a camp-in program, but it is only for 4th & 5th graders. Its phone number is (410) 545-5929. The National Aquarium is setting up a camp-in program. Its phone number is (410) 576-3810.

SUBMITTED 4/93 by Jerry Lamont, ASM, T-180, Warrenton, Va.

Updated by Troy Hayes, 1/96.