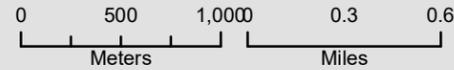
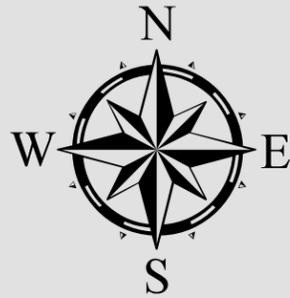


Belknap Range Trails

This trail map is dedicated to Dave Roberts who created the first comprehensive hiking map of the Belknap Mountain Range.

-  Blazed Trails
-  Belknap Range Trail
-  Lookout
-  Iron Mine
-  Gates
-  Paved Roads
-  Class V/VI Rds./SnowMo Trails
-  Wetlands



Dave Roberts mapped several features of historical interest in the Belknaps. These have been placed on this map with symbols on the map grids indicated below.

Symbol	Feature	Grid
CK	Old charcoal kiln from 1800's	H6
HR	Roof blown off Mt. Major hut in 1928	E11
PW	Plane wreck in 1973	E4
QS	Quarry site from 1800's	E8
TB	Three-sided fieldstone marks town corners	F8
TP	Utility poles: first power line to Gilford	E9,F9

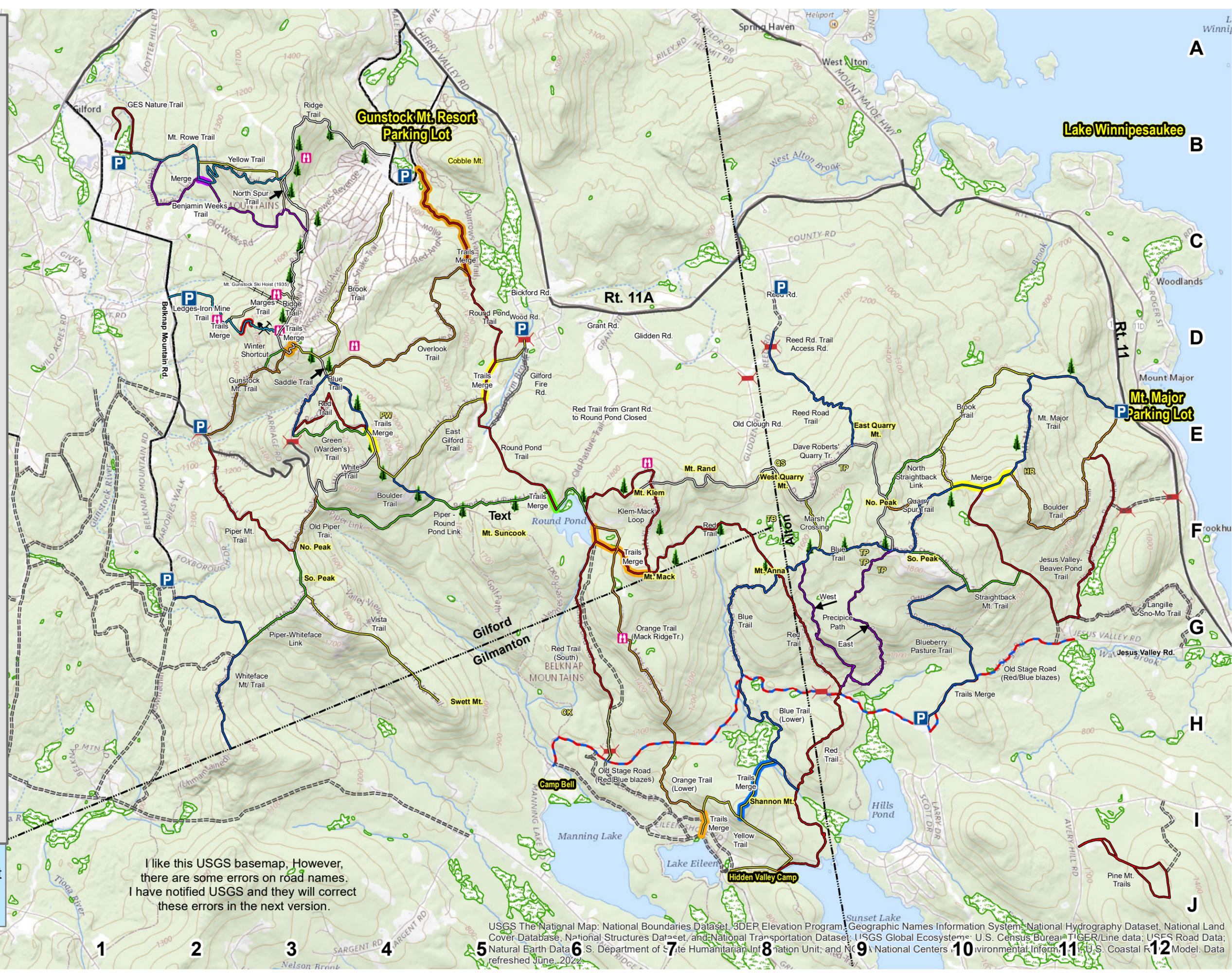
Map by Weldon Bosworth - 2/8/2023

Trails GPS'd by R. Andrews, S. Zimmer & W. Bosworth
 Reviewed by Hal Graham, Steve Zimmer & Dan Tinkham.
 GIS help - Norma Sorgman

Not responsible for errors or omissions

Many of these trails are on private property. Please respect the landowner's rights and use these trails with care

I like this USGS basemap. However, there are some errors on road names. I have notified USGS and they will correct these errors in the next version.



Primary Trails in the Belknap Range

For more comprehensive descriptions, see www.belknaprangetrails.org or the AMC Southern NH Trail Guide 4th edition. Trail summaries are followed by notes on distance covered, elevation gain, approximate hiking times and degree of difficulty. When trails merge and are blazed with two colors they are labeled “merge” in all parts of the Belknap Range except on the Griswold Scout Reservation where they are, by convention, termed “connectors”.

BELKNAP RANGE TRAIL

The Belknap Range Trail (blazed with pine tree – see map legend on reverse side) extends from the Gunstock Mountain to Mt. Major using all or part of several other trails along the way. Gunstock Mt. Resort parking lot to Mt. Major parking lot, to Mt. Major parking area 12.5 mi. (20.1 km.) 3850 ft. (rev1150 ft.), 8 hr. 10 min.

MT. MAJOR AREA

There are three trails to the Mt. Major summit that originate from the trailhead parking lot on NH11. The large parking area is 4.2 mi. north of Alton Bay and 2.4 mi. south of the NH11 and NH11A junction.

Mt. Major Trail (Belknap Range Trail) (blazed blue) leads from the right side of the parking lot and ascends approximately 0.7 mi. (1.7 km) northwest to the junction of the Brook Trail (blazed yellow). The Mt. Major Trail then turns south and in 0.8 mi. reaches the Mt. Major summit. 1.5 mi. (2.4 km), 1150 ft., 1 hr. 20 min. Moderate.

Brook Trail (blazed yellow) continues northwest from the junction with the Mt. Major Trail and then turns south and then southeast and east to approach Mt. Major summit from the west where it merges with the Belknap Range Trail then turnes east to the Mt. Major summit (total of 1.7 mi. (2.7 km) from where it initialy leaves the Mt. Major Trail junction (925 ft.,1 hr. 25 min.) and 2.1 mi. (3.4 km) from the parking lot). Moderate.

Boulder Loop Trail (blazed orange) leads from the left side of the parking lot and ascends southwest and the northwest to the Mt. Major summit, a total distance of approximately 1.6 mi. (2.6 km), 1150 ft., 1hr. 25 min. Moderate.

Dave Roberts Quarry Trail -The Quarry Trail (blazed white) has been dedicated to Dave Roberts, a pioneer in creating, maintaining and mapping hiking trails in the Belknap Range. It provides an interesting ridge traverse from the south peak of Straightback Mt. to Mt. Klem, passing several viewpoints and crossing over or near the summits of the north peak of Straightback Mt. (1,910 ft.) and the unofficially named summits of East Quarry Mt., West Quarry Mt., and Rand Mt. Distances from Belknap Range Trail near south summit of Straightback Mt. (1,830 ft.):to East Quarry Mtn. summit (1,890 ft.): 1.1 mi. (1.8 km), 250 ft., 40 min., to West Quarry Mtn. summit (1,894 ft.): 1.7 mi. (2.7 km), 350 ft., 1 hr., to Rand Mtn. summit (1,883 ft.): 2.7 mi. (4.3 km),650 ft., 1 hr. 40 min., to Mount Klem Loop (1,970 ft.): 3.3 mi. (5.3 km), 950 ft.: 2 hr. 10 min. Difficult in spots.

North Straightback Link (blazed green) begins at a point where the Brook Trail (blazed yellow) turns left away from the brook. from intersection with Brook Trail to North Straightback Mt. summit (1910'): 0.5 mi. (0.8 km), 600 ft., 35 min. Moderate.

Reed Rd. Trail (blazed blue) leaves the SPNHF parking lot at the end of Reed Rd. and ascends to the saddle between East and West Quarry Mts. where it intersects the Dave Roberts Quarry Tr. 1.25 mi. (2.0 km), 800 ft.,1 hr. Easy/ Moderate.

Jesus Valley-Beaver Pond Trail (blazed red) leaves the Mt. Major Boulder Loop Trail at about 0.4 mi from the parking lot and follows the elevation contours south to Jesus Valley Rd. (1.2 mi; 1.9 km), turns west another 0.2 mi. before it starts ascending the south slope of Mt. Major and continues to join the Belknap Range Trail at 2.6 mi. (4.2 km), approximately 2 hr. Elevation gain from Jesus Valley Rd., 925 ft.

Blueberry Pasture Trail (blazed blue) departs east from the end of Alton Mt. Rd. where there is limited parking just past the last house on the left. This is private property so please respect the landowner’s rights. The Blueberry Pasture Trail heads east directly from the parking lot. Once you reach an open field with the Finnish scarecrows (Silent People) the trail merges with the Old Stage Rd and continues northeast for another 0.4mi. Here it leaves the Old Stage Rd. and heads north. The trail ascends another 1.2 mi. (1.9 km) where it meets the Straightback Mt. Trail. 1.6 mi, 625 ft. 1hr. 10 min. Easy/ Moderate.

Straightback Mt. Trail (blazed green) connects the Jesus Valley-Beaver Pond Trail with the Belknap Range Trail. 0.9 mi.(1.4 km), 50 min. Moderate.

Precipice Path (blazed purple). This trail can be accessed from the Belknap Range Trail or the Old Stage Rd. From the Belknap Range Trail (blue blazes), the east portion of the trail departs to the south approximately 0.1 mi. west of the south summit of Straightback Mt. passes through varying terrain. It crosses a brook and steeply follows it down beside the cascades. It then crosses the same brook at makes a SW swing, traverses through an old grown-in pasture. As it nears the Old Stage Rd. at about 1.3 mi. (2.0 km) there is a spur trail that leads west to the Old Stage Rd. and the Red Trail. **Do not follow this spur trail**, instead continue north on the western leg of Precipice Path. This western leg ascends a talus slope along side the waterfall and then a short climb up the face of the cliff and continues further north to join the Belknap Range Trail at approximately 2.2 mi. (3.2 km) and then east back to where the hike began for a total of about 2.8 mi (4.5 km) to complete the loop hike. Very difficult in spots.

MT. ROWE

Mt. Rowe trail (blazed blue) starts at the southeast corner of the Gilford Elementary School parking lot and ascends to the ridge between Gunstock Mt. and Mt. Rowe where it intersects the Ridge Trail. 1.7mi (2.7 km), 1100ft., 1 hr, 20 min. Moderate.

Benjamin Weeks Trail (blazed purple) diverges from the Mt. Rowe Trail at about 0.3mi from the Gilford Elementary School parking lot. From there it ascends to join the Ridge Trail approximately 1 mi north of the Gunstock Mt summit. From first junction with Mt. Rowe Trail. 1.7mi. (2.7 km), 800 ft., 1hr. 20 min. Moderate.

GUNSTOCK MOUNTAIN

Brook Trail (blazed yellow)_from the Gunstock Resort parking lot (930') to Gunstock Mt summit (2250 ft.): 1.7 mi. (2.7 km.), 1300 ft., 1 hr. 30 min. Moderate.

Gunstock Mt. Trail (blazed orange) from approximately 0.1 mi from the lower Carriage Road’s lower parking lot to Gunstock summit (2245 ft.): 1.1 mi. (1.8 km), 1200 ft., 1hr:15 min. Difficult in spots.

Overlook Trail (blazed orange) connects the main parking lot at the Gunstock Mountain Resort with the col between Belknap Mt. and Gunstock Mt. to Belknap Mtn.- Gunstock Mt. col (2000 ft.): 2.9 mi. (4.7 km.), 1150 ft. , 2 hr., to Belknap Mt. summit (2382 ft.) via Blue Trail: 3.4 mi. (5.5 km), 1550 ft., 2 hr. 30 min., to Gunstock Mt. summit (2250 ft.) via Saddle Trail and Brook Trail: 3.2 mi. (5.1 km), 1400 ft., 2 hr. 20 min. Difficult in spots.

Ridge Trail (blazed white) runs from the main parking lot at Gunstock Mountain Resort to the summit of Mt. Rowe, then continues along the ridge to the summit of Gunstock Mt. From Gunstock Mountain Resort parking lot (930 ft.) to summit of Mt. Rowe (1,690 ft.): 0.9 mi. (1.4 km), 750 ft., 50 min., to summit of Gunstock Mt. (2,250 ft.): 2.8 mi. (4.5 km), 1,500 ft., 2 hr. 10 min. Moderate.

Round Pond Trail (blazed red) connects the Gunstock Mountain Resort parking lot with Round Pond. 3.1 mi. (5 km), 1000 ft., 2hr. 5 min. Moderate.

Ledges-Iron Mine Trail (blazed blue). From the Weeks Conservation Area parking lot follow a woods road 0.45 mi (1,400') to a ledgy outlook. From there ascend another 0.25 mi. to the Iron Mine and then another 0.2 mi. to the Ridge Trail (blazed white).

Marge’s Trail From the ledge outcrop on the Ledges-Iron Mine Trail merge with Marge’s Trail which departs to the NE in another 0.1 mi. Marge’s Trail continues NE another 0.5 mi., passing the circa 1935 rope tow right-of-way and another overlook before arriving at the Ridge Trail (1900').

BELKNAP MOUNTAIN

Blue Trail (blazed blue) from the upper Carriage Rd. parking lot to Belknap Mountain summit (2382 ft.): 1.1 mi. (1.8 km.), 700 ft., 55 min. Moderate.

Green Trail (Wardens Trail) (blazed green) from the upper Carriage Rd. parking lot to Belknap Mountain summit (2382 ft.): 0.8 mi. (1.3 km),700 ft., 40 min. Moderate.

Red Trail (blazed red) from the Carriage Rd. parking lot to Belknap Mountain summit (2382 ft.): 0.9 mi. (1.4 km.),700 ft.,40 min. Moderate.

White Trail (blazed white) from the upper Carriage Rd. parking lot (1670 ft.) to Old Piper Trail (1800'): 0.4 mi. (0.6 km), 200 ft., 20 min., to Belknap summit (2382'): 1.4 mi. (2.3 km), 750 ft., 1hr. 5 min. Moderate.

East Gilford Trail (blazed yellow) from parking area off Wood Rd. (1,110 ft.) to junction with Boulder Trail (2 ,100 ft.): 1.4 mi. (2.3 km.), 1,000 ft., 1 hr. 10 min., to summit of Belknap Mtn. (2,382 ft.): 1.9 mi. (3.1 km.), 1,250 ft., 1 hr. 35 min. Difficult in spots.

Boulder Trail (blazed blue) starts at its junction with the Round Pond – Piper Link Trail and climbs the southeast slope of Mount Belknap to its intersection with the East Gilford Trail about 0.4 mi below the summit of Mount Belknap. From the base of the Boulder Trail to the intersection with the East Gilford Trail: (2100 ft.) 0.4 mi., 550 ft., 30 min. Difficult, particularly when wet or icy.

PIPER MOUNTAIN

Piper Mt. Trail (blazed red). Departs from approximately 0.1 mi from the lower Carriage Rd. parking lot and ascends directly to the northernmost summit of Piper Mt (2030 ft.). 1.3 mi. (2.0 km), 1000 ft., 1 hr. 10 min. Moderate.

Round Pond-Piper Link (blazed green) starts at the base of the Mt. Klem-Mack Loop Trail on the northeast corner of Round Pond and continues at a fairly constant elevation to the Piper-Belknap col where it meets the Old Piper Trail 2.3 mi. (3.7 km), -400 ft., 1 hr. 20 min. Moderate.

Vista Trail (blazed yellow). Provides access to open ledges on the southeast ridge of Piper Mtn. Marked by a sign, “S. PIPER, SWETT,” it diverges to the east from the Piper-Whiteface Link near the south end of the Piper Mtn. summit ridge and continues east to the summit of Swett. 1.3 mi. (2.1 km), variable elevation gain. 1 hr. 10 min. Easy except for a steep rocky descent at the base of the ledge area.

Piper-Whiteface Link (blazed green). Connects the Whiteface Mountain Trail with Piper Mt. From Whiteface Mountain Trail junction to Vista Trail junction: 0.6 mi. (1 km.), 500 ft., 35 min; to north summit of Piper Mt. 0.8 mi., 500 ft., 40 min. Easy.

WHITEFACE MOUNTAIN

Whiteface Mountain Trail (blazed blue) leads from the end of paved portion of Belknap Mountain Rd. to the open summit of Whiteface Mt. (1,670 ft.) and provides access to Piper Mt. via the Whiteface-Piper Link. from end of Belknap Mountain Rd. to Whiteface-Piper Link 0.7 mi., 450 ft., 35 min; to Whiteface Mt. summit: 1.6 mi. (2.6 km), 700 ft., 1 hr. 10 min. Moderate.

GRISWOLD SCOUT RESERVATION

During the “off-season”, September through May, no permission is necessary to park at either Camp Bell or Hidden Valley. “Permission” is required during their summer resident camp season. During the months of June, July, and August visitors are asked to check in at the Administration building at each camp. **The roads and trails in Griswold Scout Reservation are closed to ATV’s and motorized dirt bikes.**

Map

The trails at the Reservation were color-coded. The Red trail was the perimeter trail that went completely around the Reservation. The other "solid" color trails go to the various mountains or notable features-Yellow to Shannon, Blue to Anna; and Orange to Mack Ridge/Round Pond and were known as "major feature" trails. The two-color trails were the official "connector" trails that connect the "major feature" trails.

Map

(Thanks to Ron Klemarczyk for these trail descriptions).

North of Old Stage Road

Red Trail to Round Pond (blazed red) provides a scenic route from Griswold Scout Reservation’s Camp Bell to Round Pond using part of the Old Stage Rd and the Scout’s vehicle access road to its Round Pond remote camping site. From the parking area you can reach the Red Trail trailhead approximately 1.1 mile from the Camp Bell parking lot by following the Old Stage Rd. north and east approximately 0.6 mi. to the intersection of the Boy Scout’s vehicle access road to Round Pond where you take a left (north) and travel another 0.5 mi. to the trailhead. The Red Trail trailhead is marked by a sign on the left-hand side of the access road indicating it is the scenic route along the Sun-cook Brook gorge to Round Pond where it joins the Round Pond – Mt. Mack Trail. From Camp Bell Parking Lot to junction with Red Trail trailhead 1.1 mi. (1.8 km), 300 ft.,35 min; to junction Round Pond-Mt. Mack Trail 2.3 mi. (3.7 km), 800 ft., 1 hr. 15 min. Moderate.

Red Trail (Klem-Mack Loop) (blazed red). This loop trail, part of which is a segment of the Belknap Range Trail, runs from the shore of Round Pond to a point just east of the summit of Mt. Mack (missing the wooded, viewless summit of Mt. Klem by about 100 yd. and 50 ft. of elevation), then descends back to the shore of Round Pond. It is blazed in red (with one section blazed in red and orange) and is easy to follow, although some care is needed, particularly in the open areas. The trailhead is on the eastern shore of Round Pond on the Round Pond end of the Round Pond-Piper Link (blazed green). From Round Pond trailhead clockwise to Mt. Klem: 0.75 mi. (1.2 km), 350 ft., 45 min.to Mt. Mack summit: 1.6 mi. (2.6 km), 550 ft., 1 hr. 5 min.; to Round Pond (southeast end of loop): 2 mi. (3.2 km), 2 hrs. Moderate.

Orange Trail (Mack Ridge Trail) (blazed orange). This trail departs north from the Old Stage Rd. and soon ascends a scree slope (**use care when wet or snow covered**). When the trail reaches the top of the ridge there is a fine open vista with excellent views to the west. At approximately 1.5 mi. the trail intersects the red/orange trail. After crossing the red/orange trail, the orange trail gradually descends until it emerges at the Griswold Scout Reservation outpost site on the shore of Round Pond where it ends at the red trail intersection (another 0.25 mi.). Distance from Old Stage Rd. to the red/orange trail, 1.5 mi. (2.4 km), 800 ft., 1 hr.30 min. Difficult in spots.

Mt. Anna Blue Trail (blazed blue) departs north from the Old Stage Rd. just east of West Brook. The trail is a gentle climb that parallels West Brook and continues to the summit of Mt. Anna where it meets the Belknap Range Trail. 1 mi. (1.6 km), 690 ft. 1 hr. Moderate.

Red Trail to Mt Anna and Mt. Mack summit and Round Pond (blazed red) departs north from the Old Stage Rd alongside a small creek. Here is also a spur trail that leads to the Precipice Path). The red trail ascends, at times steep and rocky, to the summit of Mt. Anna: 1 mi. (1.6 km), 770 ft., 1hr 5 min. The red trail continues west to the summit of Mt. Mack and then descends to the eastern shore of Round Pond where it continues as the Klem-Mack Loop. From Mt. Anna to Mt. Mack, 1.2 mi. (1.9 km) to Round Pond, another 0.4 mi. (0.6 km). Moderate.

Map

South of Old Stage Road

Red Trail to Goat Pasture Hill (blazed red) heads south from the Old Stage Rd. near a small creek and south of Old Stage Rd. from where the red trail heads north to Mt. Anna. This red-blazed trail continues to the summit of Goat Pasture Hill: 0.6 mi. (1 km), 250 ft., 30 min. From there it continues south, passing the junction of the Blue Trail near West Brook and continuing south past the junction of the Yellow Trail and then to the waterfront of Sunset Lake. Moderate.

Blue Trail (blazed blue) by following the Red Trail south from the summit of Goat Pasture Hill you will encounter the Blue Trail junction along West Brook which can be followed northwesterly along the brook and past a scenic vista overlooking a large beaver swamp to return to the Old Stage Road. Traveling northwest on this trail from the Red Trail junction, you will pass the Blue/Yellow trail junction at approximately 0.25 mi. (0.4 km) and reach the Old Stage Rd. at approximately 1.1 mi. (1.8 km). Moderate.

Blue/Yellow Trail (blazed blue and yellow) ascends the east slope of Mt. Shannon. From where the blue/yellow trail departs from the Blue Trail to the summit of Mt. Shannon, 0.4 mi. (0.6 km), 300 ft., 20 min. Mildly difficult.

Yellow Trail (Mt. Shannon Loop) (blazed yellow) departs from the Hidden Valley Camp main lodge heading west on the gravel road along the shore of Lake Eileen. After passing the chapel turn north on the orange trail (blazed orange and yellow) and a little more than 0.1 mi (0.2 km) from when you enter the woods bear right (north) on the yellow trail and continue to the summit of Mt. Shannon (another 0.4 mi.; 0.6 km)). Another 0.6 mi. (1.0 km) brings you to the shore of Sunset Lake. Total loop from/to the Hidden Valley Camp main lodge approximately 1.5 mi. (2.4 km), 1 hr. 10 min. Moderate.

Orange Trail (blazed orange) leaves the Hidden Valley Camp and follows the gravel road northwest for about 0.25 mi. Shortly after passing the chapel the trail leaves the road and enters the woods on the right. In about another 0.1 mi. the yellow trail diverges to the right (east). The Orange Trail continues approximately 0.7 mi. (1.1 km) further, at some points moderately steep, to the Old Stage Road. On the northern side of the Old Stage Road, the orange Trail continues as the Mack Ridge Trail. Total to Old Stage Road 0.7 mi. (1.1 km) , 300 ft. 40 min.