

Sat-Sun, Oct 15-16, Southern Catskills backpack, 3C/D21

This is a strenuous backpack: the distance is long and the climb is tough. The total mileage is about 20-21 miles, and the net elevation gain and loss is about 12,500 feet. All the hard work will reward us four 3500-foot peaks: Panther, Slide, Cornell, and Wittenberg. Along the way, we will enjoy great vistas, breathe in fresh autumn air, and bathe in the atmosphere of partnership.

Meeting time & Place:

Time: 7:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct 15th.

Place:

The trailhead of Phoenicia-East Branch Trail at Woodland Valley State Campground. (A parking area near end of Woodland Valley Road, at the entrance to Woodland Valley State Campground.)

Friday night lodging:

Since we will have an early start on Saturday, I recommend people drive up to the Catskills and stay at local motels/inns at Friday night. There are some motels in Phoenicia; for example, Cobble Stone Motel is one option (<http://www.cobblestonemotel.com/>).

Routes:

1. Saturday, Fox Hollow Road to Burroughs Plague

From the trailhead of the Giant Ledge-Panther-Fox Hollow Trail (**GP**, blue-blazed) at Fox Hollow Road, we first travel northwest; after we pass a lean-to at 0.4, we turn and hike southwest for another 0.6 miles, and then proceed towards south to Panther Mountain. Before the real peak, there are two false summits; the real summit is at 4.9. There are another 2.6 miles to the trail junction on the Phoenicia-East Branch Trail (**PE**, also known as Denning-Woodland Valley Trail, yellow-blazed), providing excellent views to Wittenberg, Cornell, Slide mountains, and Woodland Valley.

Turn right at the junction of GP and PE, hike 0.65 miles and hit Rt. 47. After 2 miles of road walking, we enter the woods again. After another 0.75 miles, there comes the junction of the PE and the Wittenberg-Cornell-Slide Trail (**WS**, red-blazed). We will turn left onto WS, and reach Slide Mountain after 2.1

miles of climbing. After about 0.8 miles of steep decent, the terrain will level out and we can start to look for camping (water is available).

Summary:

Start—End: Fox Hollow Road – Burroughs Plaque

Trails Traveled: Giant Ledge-Panther-Fox Hollow (7.5 miles), Phoenicia-East Branch (3.4 miles), Wittenberg-Cornell-Slide (~ 3 miles).

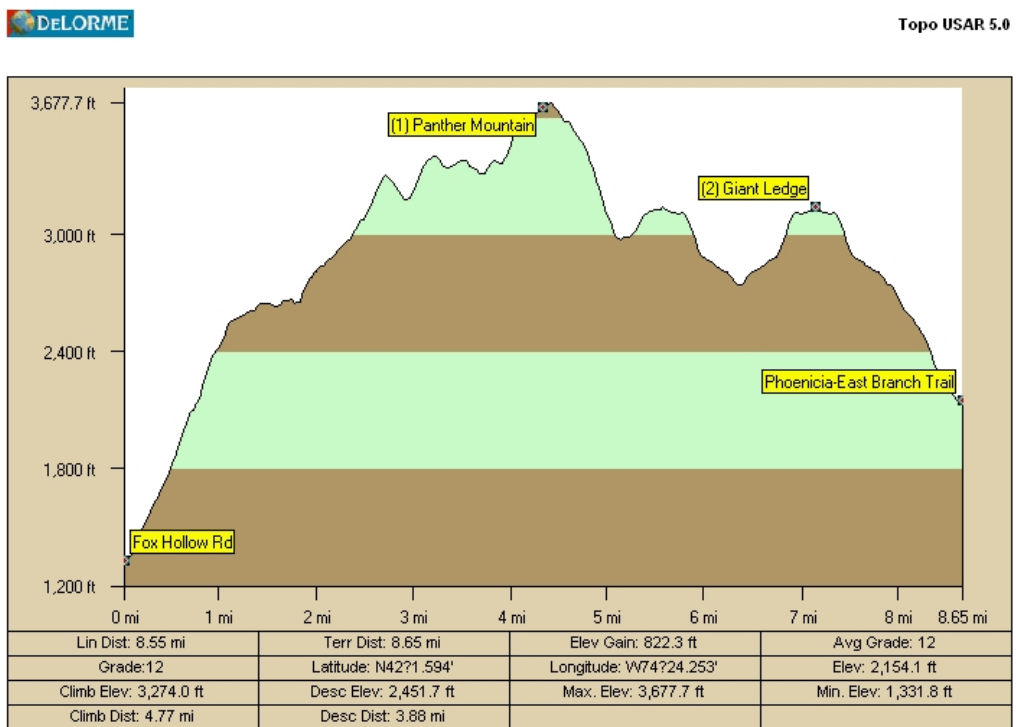
Mileage: 13.9 miles

Net Elevation Change (approximation): 5000+/3500-

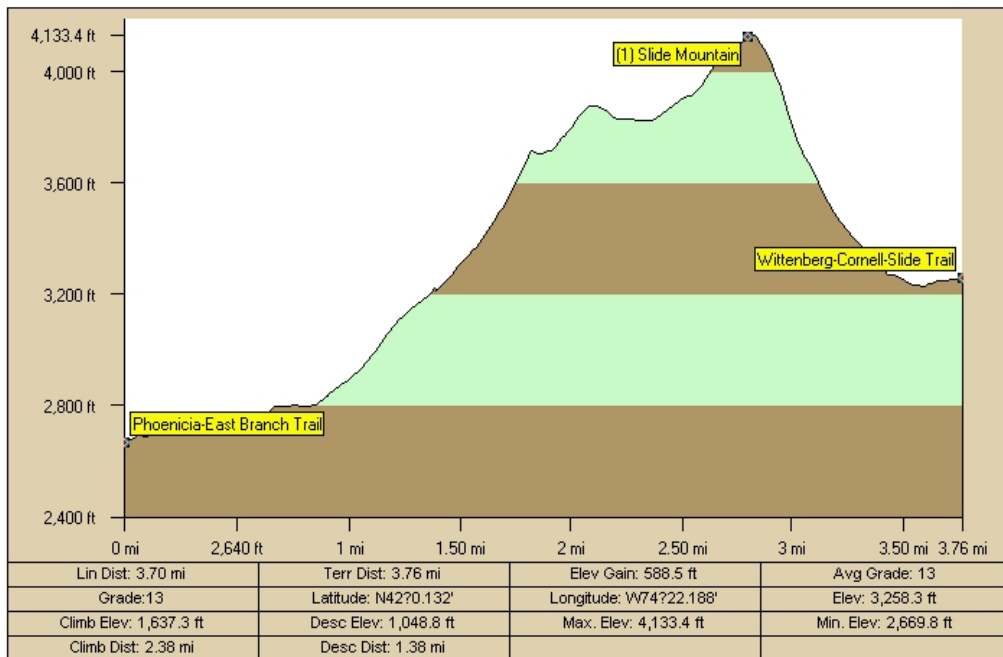
Water: There is a spring at 6.9 on GP; plenty of water sources on PE; water available at the campsite.

Elevation Profiles: (Pictures)

- (1) from Fox Hollow to PE & Rt 47
- (2) from Slide Mtn Parking Area to the camp site



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2. Sunday, Burroughs Plaque to Woodland Valley State Campground

Continue to hike east on Wittenberg-Cornell-Slide Trail (WS, red-blazed); after 1.4 miles of hiking, we will summit Cornell Mountain. We then descend for 0.5 miles and reach the col between Cornell and Wittenberg. Climbing another 0.35 miles will lead us to the summit of Wittenberg Mountain. After another 1.3 miles, we hit the junction of the WS and the Terrace Mountain Trail (TE, yellow-blazed); here we can decide whether to have a side trip to visit the Terrace Lean-to (1.8 miles round trip). From the junction, we hike for 2.6 miles to leave the WS and arrive at our destination, Woodland Valley State Campground.

Summary:

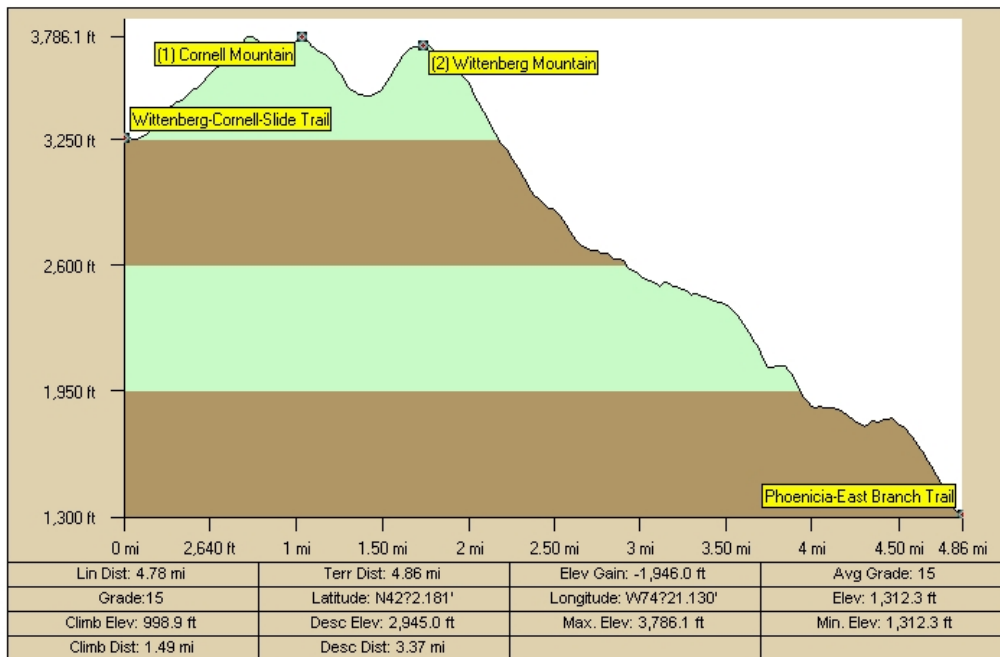
Start – End: Burroughs Plaque – Woodland Valley State Campground

Trails Traveled: Wittenberg-Cornell-Slide (6.2 miles)

Mileage: 6.2 miles (8 miles if we take the side trip)

Net Elevation Change (approximation): 1000+/3000-

Water: water at the camp site. Another unreliable spring is about 1 mile after passing the junction of WS and TE.



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Driving Directions:

The address of Woodland Valley State Campground:

1319 Woodland Valley Road,
 Phoenicia, NY 12464.

People who need door-to-door directions, please visit <http://maps.google.com> or <http://mapquest.com>

Maps and Guidebooks:

Map 42 & 43 of the 5-map set of Catskills Trails published by NY-NJ Trail Conference.

Guide to: Catskill Trails. (2nd edition)

Responsibilities:

- Individuals are responsible to be dressed properly and to have all the gear on the required gear/food list.
- You are also responsible for staying with the group. The group will keep

together within sight distance which is the safest way for a group to travel.

- Each participant is responsible to let the leader know ASAP if any problems arise on the trip (ie blisters forming, medical complications).
- Safety is ALWAYS priority on this trip. Reaching our destination is secondary. Participants should remain flexible and willing to make changes if necessary that would aid in group safety.
- If you have obligations on for late Sunday afternoon, please do not come on the trip because there is absolutely no guarantee of what time we will get back to the trailhead.
- As an AMC group, you are expected to adhere to the laws of the area/region as well as standard practices of Leave No Trace. Participants should pack everything out that they bring into the wilderness and not assume they can burn anything. Should have any questions about Leave No Trace practices please go to: <http://www.lnt.org>
- You should also realize that you are a participant in a group and that your involvement in the group dynamic is important. You should be willing to assist in any group emergencies or rescues that are within your capabilities. Also, if there are group tasks that need to be undertaken, each member of the group should be expected to “pull their weight” with bear bag rope hanging, filtering water, etc. As such, you should pack your backpack to about 85% of the weight that you are comfortable carrying. Should it become necessary, the leader might request of you to take some additional weight from another member’s pack.

Participant Approval:

Your initial inquiry for this trip is not considered an acceptance of participation on the trip roster. After the leader has communicated with you regarding your previous experience and has reviewed the screening information, she will contact you regarding any further communication needed and inform you of your placement on the trip roster.

Medical Issues:

Trip participants are expected to fill out the confidential screening questionnaire and disclose any medical concerns such as allergies, medical conditions, medications (prescribed or over the counter) or recent pain or symptoms. If your condition has changed since the time you filled out the original screening questionnaire, please notify the leader on the trail or at the trailhead of these changes.

Carpooling:

The leader will make every effort to connect individuals who live in geographic proximity of one another and based on the vehicle capacity. It is the participant's responsibility to make the connection with that individual. Each participant should notify the leader how they intend to get to the meeting location, approximately what time and if they are carpooling and with whom.

Liability Release & Assumption of Risk:

Each trip participant will be required to review and sign the liability release and assumption of risk document. Participants who are not familiar with this document can review its detail by going to this

url: <http://www.amcdv.org/leadership/AMC-ReleasePg1.pdf>

Included with the signature is an emergency contact phone number that should be a number for a close friend or relative whom we contact in an emergency.