

M. R. Hyker's Latest Adventure



07/03/09 -Strickler Knob-Duncan Knob I was joined on this relatively cool, pleasant summer day by the Mad hatter, the Traveling Knob, Shele, Terri, Sixteen Penny, Clark Kent, Indiana Moser and Cognac Jack. The plan was to assault Strickler Knob first. The latter used to be a bushwhack. Now it's a blazed bushwhack. I've always wanted to do it so after I had heard several positive things about it I added it to the schedule. It really wasn't too bad, only a few places where you had to leap or use hand over hand technique to negotiate some short climbs. Although a bit hazy the views did not disappoint. You could see the Shenandoah Valley, river and National park to the east, Massanutten South ... to the south and the ridges of Waterfall Mt, Kearns Mountain and even further away, the Great North Mt to the west. We returned to the Massanutten Trail and proceeded to descend through the damage caused by the Cardinal Forest Fire in May, 2006. Nearly 2000 acres of forest were destroyed. The ascent back up to the Peach Orchard was steep. We gained 1000 feet in about 0.76 miles. Still we all made it up without issue. By this time the haze had blown out and left wonderful views in almost every direction at the top of Duncan Knob. The climb up and down looks scarier than it really is and is well worth the extra effort. From there it was a simple matter of following the Scothorn Gap Trail for 3 miles back to the cars. It was a great way to spend a day off.