

## **SANDWICH DOME (SANDWICH MOUNTAIN)**

by Steve Smith

### **ELEVATIONS:**

**Sandwich Dome:** 3980 ft./1213 m

**Black Mountain:** 3500 ft./1067 m

**Jennings Peak:** 3460 ft./1055 m

**Noon Peak:** 2976 ft./907 m

**LOCATION:** W end of Sandwich Range, Towns of Sandwich and Waterville Valley

**USGS MAPS:** 7 ½ ' Mount Tripyramid, 7 ½' Waterville Valley

### **GEOGRAPHY**

The immense mountain mass known as Sandwich Dome is the highest White Mountain peak below 4000 ft., and in terms of trails, views and variety of terrain it surpasses many a 4000-footer. Its sprawling bulk anchors the SW end of the Sandwich Range and is a commanding presence around the towns of Waterville Valley and Sandwich. It is flanked by the Mad River and Waterville Valley on the NW, the irregular pass of Sandwich Notch on the SW, the two Flat Mountains to the NE and E, and a swampy, pond-rich lowland stretching across to Mt. Israel on the S.

The mountain has been accessible by trail since the 1850s and has long been a favored climb for those who frequent this region. There are good views from the summit and three subsidiary peaks, and scenic trail approaches can be made from several directions. The summit and most of the mountain's slopes are in the Sandwich Range Wilderness. This is a peak worthy of repeated visits.

The main summit of Sandwich Dome is heavily wooded and consists of two small rounded peaks of similar elevation; Waterville Valley historian Nathaniel Goodrich admired "the smooth beauty of the twin domes" as seen from that town. Only the slightly higher SW knob is accessible by trail. At its top is an uplifted ledge where the trees part for an excellent vista N to

the high peaks of the Whites.

From the summit, great ridges are splayed out in several directions. One ridge descends NNW to the sharp knob known as Jennings Peak (3460 ft.). This nubble is a prominent feature of the mountain when viewed from the N, W and S. On its S side Jennings drops off in bright granite cliffs above the upper valley of Smarts Brook; a spur trail leads to excellent views S and E at the top. Two major ridges extend down from Jennings. To the NE one curving crest descends gradually to Noon Peak (2976 ft.), which has a sheer E face overlooking the valley of Drakes Brook; there are two good outlooks facing E and N near its summit along the Sandwich Mountain Trail. From Noon Peak this ridge swings NW and descends rather steeply to the Mad River, with the S ridges of Mt. Tecumseh across the valley. Drakes Brook takes its rise high on the N slope of the main Sandwich summit and flows down through a deep ravine between the Jennings-Noon ridge and part of the northern Flat Mtn. The NW slopes of Noon are drained by Dry Brook, a short tributary of the Mad River.



*Sachem Peak and Jennings Peak*

From Jennings Peak another prominent crest known as Acteon Ridge runs to the W over several lower ledgy peaks. On its S side this trailless ridge encloses the broad, remote and beautiful valley of Smarts Brook. Sachem Peak (2860 ft.), which 19th century guidebook editor Moses Sweetser described as “Chocorua in miniature,” is just to the W of Jennings. It has a narrow, rocky crest and sheer granite cliffs on its S face. The ridge continues W over a 2489-ft. peak unofficially named “Middle Acteon,” and ends at Bald Knob (2300 ft.), which is spotted with numerous ledges and cliffs. Just across the Mad River valley to the NW from Bald Knob are the familiar ledgy peaks of Welch and Dickey Mtns. The N slopes of Acteon Ridge are drained into the Mad River by High Brook and a nameless brook. Looming on the S side of the Smarts Brook valley is the great SW ridge of

Sandwich Dome, traversed by the Algonquin Trail. This descends gradually from the main summit, then rises 150 ft. to bulky, flat-topped Black Mtn. (3500 ft.), the higher of two adjacent peaks that go by that name. Numerous rough ledges are bared on Black's steep S and W sides, likely the result of ancient forest fires. Thus the rugged trails that ascend this spur offer extensive views to the E, S and W. The dark metamorphic rock found here and at the main summit contrast with the light-colored granite of Jennings and Sachem Peaks. From the higher Black the ridge drops steeply to a 2580-ft. col, then rises over a conical 2732-ft. peak also known as Black Mtn., with ledges on its S face but no trail to the top. From here the SW ridge descends over a flat 2140-ft. knob to the NW end of Sandwich Notch, which separates the Sandwich massif from the much lower and trailless Campton Range to the SW; through this gap runs the narrow, rough Sandwich Notch Rd.

At the base of the SW ridge, not far from the road, is tiny, boggy Atwood Pond (1500 ft.). Just to the S, set at the base of the Campton Range, are the three attractive Hall Ponds – Upper, Middle and Lower. At the S base of the higher Black Mtn. is 6-acre Black Mountain Pond (2220 ft.), the prettiest of all the ponds in the Sandwich Dome/Sandwich Notch area. From this crystal-clear tarn Black Mtn. looms as a great wall speckled with ledge and scrub. Here the Beebe River takes its rise, flowing S down to a swampy plateau beneath several low, ill-defined spurs of Black Mtn.. In this region are Guinea Pond and Kiah Pond (SSE and SW of Black Mountain Pond, respectively) and numerous beaver ponds and meadows. Just S of Guinea Pond is 2630-ft. Mt. Israel.

Between Black Mtn. and the summit of Sandwich Dome on the S is a broad basin drained by the headwaters of the Cold River. This stream flows down into a large beaver pond/swamp just to the SE of Black Mountain Pond, guarded on the S by a pair of low knobs. It then descends to the S and eventually flows E to the Bearcamp River in Tamworth. The E side of the upper Cold River basin is enclosed by the massive, darkly wooded SE ridge of Sandwich Dome, a prominent feature of the mountain when seen from the E and S. This spur has a minor 3620-ft. peak. To the N of this is

another spur with a flat 3000-ft. shoulder that projects NE, then E from the Dome's lower summit knob. Between these spurs is a deep ravine drained by a tributary of Pond Brook. Another tributary emanates from a beaver pond tucked into a high basin between the Dome's NE spur and the SW knobs of the northern Flat Mtn. Pond Brook itself descends from the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile swath of Flat Mountain Pond (2320 ft.), plunging over Great Falls and other unnamed cascades. Flat Mountain Pond is a backcountry beauty nestled on a high, remote plateau NE of Sandwich Dome, bordered by the two trailless Flat Mountains. The Flat Mtn. on the SE is a rounded, birch-clad 2940-ft. dome. The one NW of the pond is a sprawling, humpy ridge with several summits; the highest (3331 ft.) is at the NE end. This Flat's ledgy SW peak is separated from the Dome by a 2780-ft. col, in which a small flume is reputedly hidden. Once devastated by logging and fire, the ridges on the S and E sides of Sandwich Dome and the pond country below them now comprise some of the wildest terrain in the Sandwich Range Wilderness.



*Sandwich Dome from Mount Israel*

## NOMENCLATURE

The original name for Sandwich Dome, used for many years by local residents, was Black Mountain. That changed when the geographer Arnold Guyot published his map of the White Mountains in 1860. Since there were

numerous Black Mountains in New Hampshire, he applied the name Sandwich Dome to the massive peak that straddles the towns of Sandwich and Waterville Valley. A decade and a half later the name was utilized by Charles H. Hitchcock's state geological survey, and Moses Sweetser "gratefully adopted" it for his 1876 guidebook., reasoning that the mountain is the most conspicuous peak in Sandwich and that from the lake country to the S it appears as a flattened dome. Charles E. Fay, the AMC's first president, disagreed with the nomenclature change and argued his case in *Appalachia*. Fay noted that Black was a traditional local name, that the only current path to the summit was from Waterville, and that the mountain does not look like a dome from that side. In 1910 the U.S. Board on Geographic Names made Sandwich Mountain the official name and bestowed Black Mountain on the SW shoulder. The current USGS maps show both the Sandwich Mountain and Sandwich Dome names around the summit, and places Black Mtn. on the lower 2732-ft. SW spur.

Charles E. Fay named the Acteon Ridge after the last chief, or sachem, of the Pemigewasset Indian tribe. He also called the highest summit on the ridge Sachem Peak. Jennings Peak was named for "Captivity" Jennings, a baby girl who born in Canada after her mother was kidnapped by Indians and taken there. Mother and daughter were later ransomed and returned home. It was also once known as Dennisons Peak, after an early hunter in the area. Noon Peak was named by early Waterville residents because at that time of day the sun rides high above this prominent spur. Drakes Brook was named after a family who settled in Waterville in the mid-1800s and operated a mill on the Mad River just N of their namesake brook. Smarts Brook was named after Frank Smart, a logging boss who oversaw lumbering operations and river drives in the Waterville Valley area in the 1920s.

## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

**1803:** First crude road is built through Sandwich Notch on SW side of mountain.

**1831:** Road is built connecting Campton and Waterville Valley, crossing



over lower W and NW slope of Bald Knob. Several early homesteads are cleared along this route, including those of Moses Foss and Samuel and Levi Dolloff. Cellar holes and a cemetery are still visible along the trail known as Old Waterville Road.

**1850s:** Under direction of Waterville Valley innkeeper Nathaniel Greeley, trail is built to Sandwich Dome up valley of Smarts Brook, though not exactly on route of today's Smarts Brook Trail. This is part of early network of trails built by Greeley around Waterville -- considered the first trail network in the U.S..

**1873:** Under direction of Dartmouth professor Elihu T. Quimby, U.S. Coast Survey erects signal station on summit of Sandwich Dome consisting of bolt in ledge and tripod built of poles. Bolt is still present in summit ledge.

**1876:** Moses Sweetser's guidebook devotes 5 pages to Sandwich Dome, adding another 1 ½ pages in later editions. Of this, 3 ½ pages are devoted to describing the view from the bald summit, "one of the grandest and most fascinating panoramas in New England." Book notes that an old bridle path from Sandwich side was once a favored route to summit, but is getting overgrown. Sweetser gives detailed description of Greeley's trail up via Smarts Brook, also somewhat neglected, ending with strenuous push through dense conifers to attain open summit, where there is beacon from U.S. Coast Survey. In preparing guidebook, Sweetser and Joshua H. Huntington, assistant state geologist, ascended trail up Smarts Brook and bushwhacked down to village of Sandwich.

**1876:** Charles E. Fay recounts two excursions up mountain in *Appalachia*. On first trip he ascends alone via bushwhack route from Sandwich village to NE summit and then across to main summit, and descends trail down via Smarts Brook. A Mr. Anthony accompanies him on second trip, ascending via the path, then battling their way down the SW ridge and over the two Black Mtns. "This method of descent offers nearly every variety of style and difficulty," including blowdown, tangled growth, and easy bare ledge sections.

**1877:** AMC members F.W. Clarke and Prof. C.R. Cross conduct barometric observations on Sandwich Dome, Jennings Peak, and the peaks of the

Acteon Ridge. They give elevations of 4071 ft. for Sandwich Dome, 3587 ft. for Jennings Peak, 3050 ft. and 2967 ft. for Sachem Peak, 2545 ft. for "Middle Acteon Peak," and 2391 ft. for Bald Knob.

**1879:** AMC members including Arthur L. Goodrich lay out new trail from Waterville to summit over Noon-Jennings Peak ridge. Describing new path in *Appalachia*, Webster Wells writes, "I think we may regard it as by far the most interesting excursion in the neighborhood of Waterville, and one of the most delightful in the whole mountain region."

**1890s:** International Paper Co. logs western slopes of Noon and Jennings Peaks, uses long log chute to move logs down to road.

**1891:** Charles E. Fay, J. Rayner Edmands and two others undertake three-day excursion from Whiteface Intervale over Mts. Whiteface and Tripyramid to Waterville, then up Sandwich via the AMC trail and bushwhacking down S slope of mountain "through the finest spruce growth that I know of in the whole Sandwich Range."

**1892:** AMC snowshoers Gordon Hooker Taylor and companion ascend over Noon Peak, taking long break there to enjoy view, then lose trail and end up bushwhacking to summit of Sandwich Dome, arriving near sunset. They build small shelter with fir boughs and spend night near summit, then descend Sandwich side of mountain the next morning. This may have been first winter ascent of mountain. Taylor publishes article about this climb in January 1893 issue of *Outing*.





*Michael Meguerdichian snowshoeing on the Sandwich Mountain Trail*

**1902:** Algonquin Trail is built up SW ridge, over the higher Black Mountain, by boys from Camp Algonquin.

**1911:** *Appalachia* reports that old trail from Joses Bridge on Bennett St. in Sandwich, once a bridle path, has been reopened as AMC trail by Lewis Elliott. Path was originally cut, and log camp built, decades before by Alonzo McCrillis and Alvah Webster.

**1916:** 2nd edition of *AMC Guide* describes Low Trail, built by Woods Low; it ascends from Bennett St., passes by Great Fall on Pond Brook, and joins AMC trail below summit. Lower part of Algonquin Trail has been “cut to pieces by lumbering.” AMC trail from Waterville is said to be “covered with some of the beautiful mosses in the White Mountains” beyond Noon Peak. Guide also mentions bushwhack route via Acteon Ridge, which “affords

many outlooks and much variety of going.” Hale Path, opened by boys from Camp Hale, leads up Pond Brook to Flat Mountain Pond.

**1917:** Construction is begun on Beebe River logging railroad, extending 21 mi. from Pemigewasset River in Campton up Beebe River, along S side of Sandwich Dome and on to Flat Mountain Pond. Heavy logging ensues on S and E slopes of Dome.

**1921:** New trail opened to Noon-Jennings ridge up Drakes Brook valley by A. McC. Mathewson and others, originally called Drake Valley Trail, then Drakes Brook Trail. Algonquin Trail re-cleared and lower end partly relocated; upper part traverses “treeless Bald Ridge.”

**1923:** Fire in wake of logging scorches 3500 acres in Flat Mountain Pond area; one firefighter dies. Later, extensive birch forest grows in this area.

**1925:** *AMC Guide* reports that upper part of Low Trail has been obliterated by logging.

**1920s:** International Paper Co. builds dam on lower part of Drakes Brook, used as part of system of dams to control log drives on Mad River. Drakes Brook Trail is heavily impacted by logging and is closed.

**Late 1920s:** Parker-Young Co. logs in Smarts Brook valley, setting up two logging camps.

**1930:** USFS re-opens Drakes Brook Trail. Upper section is relocated to attain ridge near Jennings Peak; original route ascended to point near summit of Sandwich Dome.

**Mid-1930s:** Lower two miles of Drakes Brook Trail is also known as Drakes Brook Ski Trail. A 1939 ski guide also notes that “the open slopes in the logging areas on Sandwich Dome provide fine late season skiing.”

**1937:** Squam Lakes Association reopens neglected Algonquin Trail. A.A. Gleason of AMC reopens old trail from Joses Bridge. AMC adopts this as Gleason Trail, but 1938 hurricane obliterates it. About this time Forest Service reopens original trail up mountain via Smarts Brook as Smarts Brook Trail, though not exactly on former route.

**1950:** Mrs. George Mead donates 2443-acre tract to White Mountain National Forest, including area around Black Mountain Pond.

**1952:** *The Waterville Valley*, a history of the resort area by longtime

Watervillean and trailmaster Nathaniel Goodrich, is published by North Country Press. Book includes nice description and brief trail history for Sandwich Mountain. Of Sandwich Mountain Trail, Goodrich writes, "Beyond Noon Peak it passes through an area of curious elfin beauty. Gray ledge and grayer reindeer lichen, green moss and low green spruces, long vistas into mystery, utter quiet, a feeling of remoteness, of simplicity, pervade this spot. Go slowly here."

**1954:** Gleason Trail reopened under direction of Edwin Vose. Ridge section of Algonquin Trail badly damaged by hurricane. Guinea Pond Trail has been opened along bed of Beebe River logging RR. Mead Trail (later named Black Mountain Pond Trail) has been built from RR bed up to Black Mountain Pond and thence up steep slope of Black Mtn. to Algonquin Trail. Shelter has been built near E shore of pond.

**1960s:** Black Mountain Pond Trail relocated along W shore of pond and new shelter built.

**1980s:** Network of X-C ski trails is developed by WMNF around lower section of Smarts Brook Trail, which has new trailhead parking area; these soon become popular for hiking.

**1984:** Most of Sandwich Dome is included in new Sandwich Range Wilderness.

**1996:** Shelter removed from Black Mountain Pond.

**2006:** Sandwich Range Wilderness is expanded to include areas S and SE of Black Mountain Pond and N and NW of Noon and Jennings Peaks.

**2011:** Upper 1.7 mi. of Gleason Trail has been decommissioned by WMNF due to severe wetness and erosion.

## TRAIL APPROACHES

The trails leading up to Sandwich Dome are varied and scenic. The Sandwich Mountain Trail provides several good vistas and a beautiful ridge walk, with a loop option through an attractive valley via Drakes Brook Trail. The Smarts Brook Trail offers a long walk up a remote valley. Ledge scrambling and abundant views are found on the Algonquin Trail. The

Bennett Street Trail offers an opportunity for a remote, lightly-traveled hike with miles of wild high elevation forest.

#### NORTHWEST APPROACHES from NH 49

TRAILHEAD (1400 FT.): From this trailhead near the village of Waterville Valley, one may climb Sandwich Dome via the Sandwich Mountain Trail only, via the Drakes Brook Trail and upper Sandwich Mountain Trail, or with a loop combining both. Mileages for all options include 0.4 mi./100 ft. for side trip to Jennings Peak. Parking area for both trails is on E side of NH 49, 10.2 mi. N of Exit 28 off I-93 and 0.4 mi. S of jct. with Tripoli Rd. (access road to Mt. Tecumseh Ski Area). Drive up past side road to power station on R into paved parking area at base of grassy slope.

#### **Sandwich Mountain Trail**

*Noon Peak, Jennings Peak and Sandwich Dome*

8.2 mi. round trip, 2950-ft. elevation gain

*Noon Peak and Jennings Peak*

6.0 mi. round trip, 2250-ft. elevation gain

*Noon Peak only*

3.4 mi. round trip, 1600-ft. elevation gain

This attractive trail features several good viewpoints, nice woods and fine ridge walking. It begins with a stiff climb, then meanders up the ridge with several views en route to Jennings Peak. From parking area, follow footway along edge of field, skirt to L of fenced power station, and drop steeply L down bank to cross Drakes Brook (can be difficult at high water; this can be avoided by walking S on NH 49 across bridge over brook, then bushwhacking 0.1 mi. back to trail along herd path on far side.) Once across brook, trail climbs through turns to L and R and then undertakes long steady ascent, with occasional levelings, up slope through fine mixed woods of hardwood, spruce and hemlock, entering Sandwich Range Wilderness at 0.6 mi./1900 ft. Spruces take over at 2350 ft. and at 2500 ft. trail levels in beautiful ledgy, mossy area, passing by large boulder on L. Climb soon resumes, and first of two very steep pitches is encountered at

2650 ft. At top of a third, shorter steep pitch (2800 ft.), trail swings L and levels briefly, then makes moderate winding climb and at 1.6 mi./2950 ft. crest of ridge is attained. Here there is fine outlook ledge on L, marked with small potholes, with dramatic dropoff into Drakes Brook valley and good view N to Osceolas, Mad River Notch, Mt. Kancamagus, Hancocks, Mt. Carrigain, Presidentials, and Tripyramids. Village of Waterville Valley is seen down to L. This outlook makes good objective for solid half-day hike.

Beyond outlook, trail runs over knob, dips, and passes over second, higher knob with one ledge scramble. Just after passing over 2976-ft. high point of Noon Peak, another outlook opens on L, with dramatic view down into



*Tripyramid and the Sleepers from Noon Peak*

Drakes Brook valley. Summit of Sandwich Dome looms up to R, with the southern Flat Mtn. poking up through col to L. From here trail descends gradually, through very dense growth at times, then meanders upward, shoots up one steep pitch, and curves through semi-open ledgy spot, and soon reaches more expansive ledgy area at 2.4 mi./3070 ft. View is limited from trail, but wider view can be obtained by dropping 50 yd. down sloping ledges to L: down into Drakes Brook valley with the northern Flat Mtn. beyond, plus Tripyramids on L and Whiteface, Sandwich Dome summit and nearby Jennings Peak to R. Trail keeps to R edge of ledges, drops off them, and runs through level section. After passing unreliable spring it climbs moderately, then runs level to jct. L with Drakes Brook Trail at 2.7 mi./3240 ft. Continue up to jct. R with Jennings Peak spur at 2.8 mi./3350 ft. Here Sandwich Mountain Trail turns L. Jennings Peak spur diverges sharp R and climbs easily, then steeply for last 100 yds. with one ledge scramble. Near top of peak three excellent NE outlooks are passed, a few yds. down on L: the last and highest is the best spot. Then path pushes 25 yd. through scrubby trees and out to open ledges atop S-facing cliffs, 0.2 mi. from Sandwich Mountain Trail; here there is wide distant view and impressive nearer views of Black Mtn., Acteon Ridge and Smarts Brook valley.

From jct., main trail runs for 0.5 mi. at nearly level grade along broad ridge with good footing, leading through beautiful, open high elevation forest of fir, ferns, wood sorrel and birch. After slight descent reach jct. R with Smarts Brook Trail at 3.3 mi./3420 ft. Continue straight on Sandwich Mountain Trail for moderate climb, with occasional easier stretches, through nice fir woods. At 3.85 mi., just beyond scrubby fir wave area, Algonquin Trail comes in on R, and at 3.9 mi. Bennett Street Trail enters from R. Continue ahead another 20 yds. to partly open summit where ledge provides good standing view N to high peaks of Whites. Limited view E is found from fir wave reached by herd path leading 25 yd. beyond summit.

### **Drakes Brook Trail, Sandwich Mountain Trail**

*Jennings Peak and Sandwich Dome*

9.2 mi. round trip, 2750-ft. elevation gain



*Jennings Peak only*

7.0 mi. round trip, 2050-ft. elevation gain

*Loop option with ascent via Sandwich Mountain Trail, descent via Drakes Brook Trail*

*Jennings Peak and Sandwich Dome*

8.7 mi. loop, 2850-ft. elevation gain

*Jennings Peak only*

6.5 mi. loop, 2150-ft. elevation gain

Drakes Brook Trail provides a longer, more moderate ascent to the ridge just below Jennings Peak, leading up through an attractive brook valley. From entrance to parking area, follow logging road (ski trail in winter) past gate at easy grade, quickly passing Jennings Peak ski trail on L. At 0.3 mi. pass attractive ledgy area in Drakes Brook down to R. At 0.4 mi. bear R off road/ski trail (which swings uphill to L) and hop across Drakes Brook – this wide crossing may be difficult at high water. On far side trail enters Sandwich Range Wilderness and climbs at easy to moderate grades with good footing up old logging roads parallel to brook, coming close to it occasionally but mostly above and away from it, and gradually curving to R (S). Forest is open hardwoods with many yellow birches; at one point trail passes through logging camp site from early 1900s. Farther up woods become thicker with young conifers lining trail in places. Steadier climb ensues high above brook. On fairly steep, rough pitch at 2.0 mi., pass interesting boulder cascade down to L. At ca. 2.2 mi./2400 ft., grade eases as route swings to SW in broad, gentle upper part of valley. Use caution at bypass of washed-out bank at 2.3 mi., where footing is on loose rocks. Trail then resumes climb, following close beside the small, attractive mossy brook, lined with slender yellow birches. At 2.6 mi., where there is lovely, mossy open glen along brook on L (timbers and spikes from early 1900s logging bridge can be seen in stream), it swings R off logging road, away from brook, climbs short, steep, rocky pitch, then turns R and ascends slope steadily by switchbacks through fir-birch forest, then open firs. After long steady pitch, reach Sandwich Mountain Trail near crest of ridge at 3.2 mi./3240 ft. Turn L to reach Jennings Peak spur in 0.1 mi. and Sandwich



Dome summit 1.1 mi. beyond, as described above.



*Sandwich Dome from Jennings Peak*

SOUTHWEST APPROACH from NH 49

**Smarts Brook Trail, Sandwich Mountain Trail**

*Sandwich Dome*

11.4 mi. round trip, 3100-ft. elevation gain

*Jennings Peak*

11.6 mi. round trip, 2800-ft. elevation gain

*Sandwich Dome and Jennings Peak*

12.8 mi. round trip, 3400-ft. elevation gain

TRAILHEAD(900 ft.): Smarts Brook Trail starts at parking area on E side of

NH 49, 1 mi. N of I-93 at Exit 28.

This trail provides a long (5.7 mi. one way), mostly easy-graded and quiet approach to Sandwich Dome. The upper half of this trail is a beautiful walk up through a remote wilderness valley. From parking area, trail runs S parallel to road, crossing Smarts Brook on the highway bridge, then quickly turns L into woods and climbs to old logging road, where it bears L again. At 0.2 mi. it turns R as alternate X-C route continues ahead. Main trail soon turns L onto improved logging road; at this point Tri-Town X-C Ski Trail continues ahead, providing pleasant alternate route with a bit more climbing. (Descending, turn R off improved logging road.) Trail now follows grass-grown road under tall canopy at easy grade, soon passing alternate route rejoining from L, and swings around to R (SE). At 1.2 mi. look L for beautiful ledgy cascade and pool on Smarts Brook, a popular destination for a short, easy hike. Tri-Town X-C Ski Trail enters on R at 1.3 mi., and Yellow Jacket X-C Ski Trail soon diverges L across bridge (leading 1.2 mi. to Pine Flats X-C Ski Trail, which can then be followed L another 0.7 mi. back to parking area, passing scenic gorge on Smarts Brook). Smarts Brook Trail soon crosses tributary brook on bridge and passes by open beaver pond & meadow on R at 1.6 mi., a good birding spot in early summer. This is also location of old logging camp site.





*Cascade on Smarts Brook*

Smarts Brook Trail then crosses R side of open brushy former logging yard, re-entering woods on far side. Beyond here trail narrows and continues through mixed woods, passing several regenerated logging cuts with some muddy footing. Trail bends to R, passes through birches, and comes back near Smarts Brook.

Enter Sandwich Range Wilderness at 2.5 mi./1650 ft. and cross tributary 0.1 mi. beyond. Trail now climbs along S side of main brook through mixed woods. Farther on you climb more steeply, higher above brook, with good view L through break in trees up to cliffs of Sachem Peak across valley at 3.3 mi. Grade eases before crossing of another tributary at 2050 ft.; use caution as bank on downhill side of crossing has washed out. Trail steepens to climb between the two brooks, then grade lessens again

amidst mossy conifer forest in broad upper valley. Trail now meanders along brook in broad upper part of valley, in wild, remote setting. You pass by some large boulders and cross Smarts Brook at 3.8 mi., at base of cascade.

After weaving through some even bigger boulders, and running through fine open conifers, trail briefly comes beside brook (now on R) one last time, then swings L and climbs steadily. It soon bears L on long, easy-graded switchback following traces of old tote roads. Swing R at 2950 ft. and climb across to S, then L again for easy stretch before steady, winding climb of 0.3 mi. leads to jct. with Sandwich Mountain Trail at 5.1 mi./ 3380 ft. Turn R to reach Sandwich Dome in 0.6 mi., or L to access Jennings Peak spur trail in 0.5 mi.

**SOUTHWEST APPROACHES from Sandwich Notch Rd.**

**Algonquin Trail, Sandwich Mountain Trail**

*Black Mtn. and Sandwich Dome*

9.0 mi. round trip, 2900-ft. elevation gain

*Black Mtn. only*

6.6 mi. round trip, 2100-ft. elevation gain

TRAILHEAD (1420 ft.): The Algonquin Trail leaves the narrow and rough Sandwich Notch Road, 3.5 mi. S of NH 49 and 1.5 mi. N of the trailhead for Guinea Pond Trail. Sandwich Notch Rd. leaves NH 49 4.1 mi. N of I-93. A high clearance vehicle is recommended. The road is at times passable for regular cars, but slow, careful driving is required, and be prepared to pull to the side to allow vehicles to pass in the other direction. There is room for 2 or 3 cars at the trailhead, and additional parking at small pulloffs along the road in either direction.

The Algonquin Trail is the most rugged and scenic of all approaches to Sandwich Dome, crossing numerous open ledges on Black Mtn. There are several ledge scrambles; some of these, but not the hardest one, can be avoided via bypasses. Care is required to follow the trail in the ledgy, scrubby areas; look for cairns and occasional old blazes. From trailhead, trail quickly enters Sandwich Range Wilderness and follows old logging

road at nearly level grade through deep mixed forest, crossing Algonquin Brook at 0.4 mi. and passing beaver meadow on R at 0.8 mi. At 0.9 mi./1540 ft., in small clearing by site of old logging camp, yellow-blazed trail bears L off road and soon begins stiff climb through hardwood forest. Grade eases as trail enters spruce forest at ca. 2200 ft. and meanders across ledgy plateau, with glimpses of lower and upper Black Mtns. After crossing small stream, tackle steep rocky pitch leading up to col between the two Black Mtns. at 2.1 mi./2580 ft. Here trail turns L and runs across col.

After slight dip, begin steep climb up W slope of the higher Black Mtn. Trail soon skirts base of cliff, then swings L for trickiest ledge scramble of day, with dropoff on L -- use caution, especially on descent. At top of this pitch is first outlook (2700 ft.), up on R, looking W. The lower Black Mtn. looms close by to W, ledgy Welch and Dickey are to NW, and distant views include Kearsarge, Cardigan and Moosilauke. A short distance farther up trail is another ledge up on R that expands view S to Lake Winnepesaukee and Belknap Range. Continue climbing up through conifers and across more ledges; steep pitch leads up to next outlook, again on R, at 2850 ft. with views sweeping from SW around to Mad River Notch on the N. After short dip, negotiate fairly difficult ledge scramble (bypass path is available on R), clamber up more ledges, then swing L up a small rock face where a longer bypass continues ahead – a confusing spot. Atop this scramble (3000 ft.) on L is ledge with wide view W, including excellent perspective on long Smarts Brook valley and Acteon Ridge beyond. Continue up through scrub and over ledges, passing another outlook L with good view of Sachem and Jennings Peaks, dip into woods, then continue up ridge through scrubby conifers and across steep, rough ledges with partial views. Last part of steep, rugged climb is largely in open, with extensive views including summit of Sandwich Dome ahead. At 2.8 mi./3300 ft. reach jct. R with Black Mountain Pond Trail. In another 0.1 mi., after crossing scrubby ledge, trail scrambles up to spectacular ledge perch looking straight down at Black Mountain Pond and offering wide views to E, S and W (see view description below). This is one of best viewing and lunch spots on



Sandwich Dome.



*Black Mountain Pond and Mount Israel from Algonquin Trail*

From here Algonquin Trail continues climbing easily up ridge over more ledges and through scrub. At 3.1 mi./3425 ft. pass large granite erratic on L, clearly different from metamorphic bedrock on ledges. Just beyond, expansive open ledges on L provide wide views W and N. Continue up at easy grade, cross flat, scrubby top of Black Mtn. at 3.3 mi./3500 ft., then descend steeply down ledges, with partial view ahead to Sandwich Dome summit. Distant peaks (including Mt. Washington) and nearby Jennings Peak are to L. Trail bottoms out in flat, ferny col at 3.5 mi./3380 ft., then meanders easily upward along narrow, thickly wooded ridge, with several short descents and a peek or two at views to W over scrub. Parts of this

meandering, inviting path offer excellent footing. At ca. 3500 ft. grade increases to moderate. At 4.3 mi./3840 ft. rocky opening on trail provides restricted view looking back (S) to Lakes Region and nearby bulk of Black Mtn. Continue steady climb to Sandwich Mountain Trail at 4.5 mi./3950 ft.; turn R here and continue another 100 yd. up to summit of Sandwich Dome.

### **Guinea Pond Trail, Black Mountain Pond Trail, Algonquin Trail, Sandwich Mountain Trail**

*Black Mtn. and Sandwich Dome, out-and-back*

13.6 mi. round trip, 3000-ft. elevation gain

*Black Mtn. only, out-and-back*

11.2 mi. round trip, 2200-ft. elevation gain

*Loop with descent via Algonquin Trail and return walk along Sandwich Notch Rd.:*

*Black Mtn. and Sandwich Dome.*

12.7 mi. loop, 3050-ft. elevation gain

*Black Mtn. only*

10.3 mi. loop, 2250-ft. elevation gain

TRAILHEAD (1320 ft.): The Guinea Pond Trail starts from the Sandwich Notch Rd., 4.9 mi. S of NH 49 and just S of a crossroads and powerline. The trailhead is 5.8 mi. N of NH 113 in Center Sandwich. Allow plenty of time for the slow drive on the narrow, rough road. Designated parking is 100 yds. up Beebe River Rd. (the road that goes W from the crossroads) on its N side. To reach the trail, walk back to the crossroads, turn R on Sandwich Notch Rd., cross the bridge over the Beebe River and look for trail sign on L.

This is a long and attractive approach to Black Mtn. and Sandwich Dome, passing by many interesting wetlands and picturesque Black Mountain Pond. From trailhead, follow old road up past gate and through powerline clearing. Here trail picks up old grade of Beebe River logging RR and runs at easy grades through hardwoods, then enters extensive area of swamps and meadows, with some wet footing and occasional vistas of Sandwich Dome from open areas. Pass second gate at 1.2 mi. and 0.1 mi. beyond



follow bypass R through woods to avoid flooded area. Return to RR grade at 1.6 mi. and in another 40 yd. reach jct. R with Mead Trail for Mt. Israel. Continue another 10 yd. on Guinea Pond Trail, then turn L on Black Mountain Pond Trail.

This yellow-blazed path quickly crosses Beebe River – here a mountain brook – on large step stones, then meanders upward at easy grade. It angles L to ascend alongside the stream past small cascades, and turns R to recross where it issues from large scenic beaver meadow on L. Continue up through open woods of birch, hardwood and spruce past finger of beaver meadow and rejoin brook, passing attractive cascades and pools. At 2.4 mi. trail crosses old grown-up logging road, with nice spot on brook to L. After passing another beaver meadow down slope to L, climb moderately, then cross shelf with mucky footing. Trail then climbs by switchbacks through drier spruce woods, passing side trail that leads 0.1 mi. L to Mary Cary Falls at 3.5 mi./2050 ft.; waterfall often has low flow, but is nevertheless scenic as it spills over tall steep ledges. After crossing another muddy flat, angle up to L and cross brook once more. Short climb over knoll leads to spruce grove (heavily impacted by camping) above shore of Black Mountain Pond at 4.0 mi./2220 ft. Side path (sign for Tent Pads and Pond Access) leads R a short distance to two dirt tent pads. Path continues to L of tent pads and descends about 70 yds. to ledgy fringe at water's edge with impressive views across pond to steep, rocky face of Black Mtn.; please keep off signed revegetation areas. Here main trail turns L and runs across knoll through area with many beaten paths (follow blazes carefully), then swings R and drops sharply to site of former shelter, where path leads R down to shore, with view across to SE ridge of Sandwich Dome. Trail now meanders up and down in dense conifers behind SW shore of pond, then swings R to bypass beaver pond on L. Trail emerges at corner of beaver pond and soon begins steep ascent of Black Mtn.

Climb is moderate at first, then quickly becomes steep, rough and rocky, with tricky scramble up chimney at ca. 2550 ft. Trail turns L at top, briefly eases, then ascends steeply with several twists and turns – follow markings carefully. Views to S begin to appear as you work around to SW side of

mountain. First view back down to Black Mountain Pond is on L after very steep pitch amidst huge ledges. Higher up is spacious ledge with expansive 180-degree view to S and W. Climbing continues very rugged amidst ledges and boulder caves. Some scrambles are fairly challenging, especially on descent. Trail pops out onto more ledges with first views of Welch and Dickey and Moosilauke, then climbs moderately to meet Algonquin Trail at 5.1 mi./3300 ft. Turn R here to reach ledge looking down at Black Mountain Pond in 0.1 mi., Black Mtn. summit in 0.5 mi., and Sandwich Dome summit in 1.7 mi., as described under Algonquin Trail route.

SOUTHEAST APPROACH from Bennett St.

**Flat Mountain Pond Trail, Bennett Street Trail**

9.0 mi. round trip, 2900-ft. elevation gain

TRAILHEAD (1060 ft.): From this trailhead on a back road in Sandwich, one can ascend to Sandwich Dome via a quiet, little-used route. To reach the trailhead, turn off NH 113A, 2.9 mi. N of its jct. with NH 113 in North Sandwich, onto Whiteface Intervale Rd. In 0.1 mi. turn L onto Bennett St. Keep straight at a fork at 1.7 mi. and continue up narrow dirt road to parking area on L at 2.2 mi. from NH 113A.

From trailhead, walk W beyond gate on Flat Mountain Pond Trail, here a gravel road, passing former trailhead known as Jose's Bridge at 0.2 mi. At 0.5 mi., in small clearing, turn R on Bennett Street Trail and ascend easily through hemlocks along Pond Brook, crossing several small tributaries. Gleason Trail diverges L at 1.1 mi./1400 ft., leading 0.5 mi. to Flat Mountain Pond Trail. (Upper 1.7 mi. of this trail has been closed by the WMNF.) Continue straight on rougher footway along brook bank, passing unnamed cascade, and then Great Falls, attractive cascade and pool in small gorge, at 1.6 mi. Beyond, cross tributary and turn L, climbing up side valley at steeper grade. Recross tributary and make stiff climb to jct. with Flat Mountain Pond Trail, which here follows bed of old Beebe River logging RR, at 2.1 mi./1850 ft.

After crossing railroad grade, enter Sandwich Range Wilderness and

continue steady climbing on Bennett Street Trail through ice-damaged hardwoods. Grade remains fairly stiff as trail angles to R and conifers mix into forest. At 2.8 mi. bear R onto old logging road for long, pleasant stretch at easy grade, with glimpses out towards Mt. Whiteface, Sleepers, Chocorua and the southern Flat Mtn. Cross two tiny streams and just beyond, at 3.4 mi./3250 ft., trail steers L to resume steadier climb. Grade eases again, and after R and L turns reach former jct. with closed upper section of Gleason Trail at 4.0 mi./3650 ft. From here, Bennett Street Trail climbs moderately, then veers L to contour across high wooded slope, becoming rough and narrow. After easy traverse at 3800 ft., climb fairly steeply to meet Sandwich Mountain Trail at 4.5 mi./3980 ft.; summit of Sandwich Dome is a few yds. to R.

## WINTER

Drakes Brook Trail and the upper Sandwich Mountain Trail make an excellent snowshoe trip with mostly easy to moderate grades. Snow-covered softwoods form scenic corridors along the valley section of Drakes Brook Trail. The parking area is partly plowed but space may be limited; be sure not to block access to the power substation. Deep snowpack improves views atop the Dome, especially to the S. Jennings Peak is also a very rewarding destination, by itself or in combination with the Dome, with one short potentially challenging scramble near the top. The Sandwich Mountain Trail below Noon Peak is a steeper and more difficult snowshoe route; one short section rivals the notorious climb to East Osceola for steepness. The outlook on Noon Peak is a good objective for a fairly challenging half-day snowshoe climb. The crossings of Drakes Brook on Drakes Brook and Sandwich Mountain Trails can be difficult if not well-frozen. The upper Smarts Brook Trail is seldom used in winter, thus extensive trail breaking should be expected. The Algonquin Trail trailhead is not car-accessible in winter, and in any case the scrambles on the side of Black Mtn. could be difficult and even dangerous in winter. The approach from Bennett Street is mostly moderate but not often used in winter; the

road is plowed only as far as the fork 0.5 mi. E of the summer parking area.



*Drakes Brook Trail is an excellent snowshoeing route.*

## VIEW GUIDE

**Sandwich Dome Summit:** A small open area at the summit with an uplifted ledge provides a grand view N over the Waterville Valley region and beyond to the high peaks of the Whites. Due to continued tree growth, it is necessary to stand to see the full view; only a small portion can be seen while seated on the ledge. In the 19th century the summit was more open, with views all around, prompting Moses Sweetser to call this “one of the grandest and most fascinating panoramas in New England.” From here, the

summits of 35 White Mountain 4000-footers can be seen.

On the far L, looking WNW, through gaps in the trees, Mt. Kineo is seen with Vermont's Breadloaf Mtn. range on the horizon. Farther R Welch & Dickey Mtns. can be glimpsed nearby, with Mts. Abraham and Ellen on the horizon and Mt. Cushman to the R. Farther R, the open view begins with the broad, spreading mass of Mt. Moosilauke. Mt. Mansfield and the Sterling Range (with the sharp peak of Mt. Whiteface on its R end) are in the distance to the R of Moosilauke. Next to the R is the nearby, ledgy Jennings Peak, seen below Green Mtn., the S spur of Mt. Tecumseh, with Mt. Wolf in the distance. To the R of Wolf are South and North Kinsman; the Cold Hollow Mtns. in northern Vermont are seen over the col between Wolf and South Kinsman. Just to the R and closer is the peak of Tecumseh with the Waterville Valley ski trails beneath. Off the R slope of Tecumseh are the Northeast Cannon Ball and Cannon Mtn., with Scar Ridge farther R and closer. To the R of Scar is the Franconia Range; L to R are Liberty's sharp peak above Whaleback Mtn. and Middle Scar Ridge, Little Haystack above Flume, and Lincoln and Lafayette above the east peak of Scar Ridge. Next to the R, seen across the Waterville Valley, is rugged Mt. Osceola, with the sharp West and Middle Peaks to the L of the main summit. The V-shaped Southwest Slide is prominent in the ravine between the middle and main summits, and there is a good look into the ravine of Osceola Brook between the main summit and East Peak. The tip of Galehead Mtn. peers over the Osceola-East Peak col. To the R of East Peak is Mad River Notch; through this gap are seen (L to R) South Twin with West Bond and Bondcliff beneath, Bond's double summit, Zealand Mtn. over the cliff-faced W spur of Mt. Huntington, and Mt. Hancock's sharp NW peak. Close by and below in this direction is the dark crest of Noon Peak with part of Waterville Valley village behind it.





*North view from summit of Sandwich Dome*

On the R side of Mad River Notch, North Hancock (slide-marked, with Mt. Huntington beneath), South Hancock, and that mountain's long E ridge are seen over the rolling crest of Mt. Kancamagus; the K1 and K2 Cliffs scar the R wall of the notch. Mt. Tom peers over the R end of Hancock's E ridge, with the summit of Kancamagus below. Next to the R are Mt. Field and the imposing mass of Mt. Carrigain, seen over the E end of Kancamagus. To the R of Carrigain, through the broad Livermore Pass, the peaks of the Nancy Range are seen under the Southern Presidentials; L to R are Webster, Jackson, Anderson, Lowell, Pierce, Nancy, Eisenhower, Bemis and Franklin. Mt. Jefferson rises up in the back to the R of Eisenhower, and farther R Mt. Clay is seen above Mt. Monroe. The top of Mt. Adams peers over the col to the R of Clay, above Monroe. Next to the R is the majestic

cone of Washington rising above Oakes Gulf, with Boott Spur to the R above the nearer Scaur Peak. The upper Montalban Ridge, including Mt. Isolation, is in line with Boott Spur, and to the R is the Rocky Branch Ridge. Nearby and low down in this direction is the long, gentle ridge of Snows Mtn.

Next to the R, looking NNE just 5 mi. away, are the three peaks of the Tripyramids, with the South Slides well-displayed below South Peak. The top of Carter Dome is seen between North and Middle Tripyramid. The two rounded domes of The Sleepers extend R from Tripyramid, with Black Mtn. in Jackson seen through the col between South Tripyramid and West Sleeper. South Baldface, Sable and Doublehead Mtns. are seen over the col between The Sleepers, with Eastman and Speckled Mtns. piled up beyond the Doubleheads. In the foreground the long, low crest of the northern Flat Mtn. is seen below the Tripyramids and Sleepers. To the R of East Sleeper, Mts. Passaconaway (L) and Whiteface (R) rise above the nearby secondary summit of Sandwich Dome. Off the L slope of Passaconaway is the abrupt cone of Kearsarge North, with its northern spurs seen to its L over Big Attitash Mtn. To the R of Whiteface, glimpsed through the trees, are Mt. Paugus (L, with Streaked and Singepole Mtns. in Maine on the horizon) and the rocky Three Sisters and Mt. Chocorua (R).

A restricted standup vista to the S is found from a ledgy spot at ca. 3840 ft., 0.2 mi. down the Algonquin Trail. Here the view starts on the L with the R part of Lake Winnepesaukee, with the Belknaps beyond and Red Hill and Mt. Israel in front. Next to the R is the Squam Range with Squam Lake sprawling beyond. Kiah Pond can be seen in front of and under the Squam Range. Mt. Kearsarge is on the horizon over the Squam Range's Mt. Morgan, with Ragged Mtn. to its R. On very clear days Crotched Mtn. and Mt. Monadnock can be spotted to the L of Kearsarge. Lovewell Mtn. is seen over the R side of Ragged, and farther R is Sunapee Mtn. over the nearer, flat-topped Mt. Prospect. Close at hand to the SW is the broad, darkly-wooded dome of the upper Black Mtn., with Plymouth Mtn. beyond. Just to the R is the Campton Range, with the top of the lower Black Mtn. beneath and Mt. Cardigan on the horizon. To the R of Cardigan are the



more distant Croydon Peak and Grantham Mtn., while closer in is Tenney Mtn. and its ski trails. On clear days various Vermont peaks can be seen to the R of Croydon, including Stratton, Ascutney, Okemo and Dorset. On the far R is Stinson Mtn., with Moose Mtn. in Hanover beyond on its L.

**Black Mountain:** Of the numerous open ledges on Black Mtn., the best perch is an uplifted ledge along the Algonquin Trail 0.1 mi. N of the jct. with Black Mountain Pond Trail; elevation here is ca. 3350 ft. The view sweeps from the E around through the S to the WNW. Especially fine are the views down to Black Mountain Pond and out to other ponds in the Sandwich Notch area, with the Lakes Region beyond.

On the far L is the nearby top of the upper Black Mtn. Extending out to the R behind Black is the great SE ridge of Sandwich Dome. The distant view starts off this sloping ridge with the Burnt Meadow Mtns. and other low peaks near the Maine/New Hampshire border. Nearby and down low to the ESE is Young Mtn., a perfect little wooded cone. To the R of Young in the distance is the N end of the Ossipee Range, with Ossipee Lake and Green Mtn. in Effingham beyond on the L. The Ossipee Range extends to the R over Black Snout and several other peaks to its highest point, Mt. Shaw. Looking towards Mt. Shaw, you see Black Mountain Pond sparkling on a plateau 1000 ft. below you, with a nameless double-humped knob and a large beaver swamp behind it. Farther back to the R is Mt. Israel, with a powerline strip along its base. The Moose Mtns. and Copple Crown Mtn. are in the distance to the L of Israel. A ridge runs R from Israel across to Dinsmore Mtn., with Red Hill, Lake Winnepesaukee and the Belknap Range beyond. Belknap Mtn., Gunstock Mtn. and Piper Mtn. (L to R) are the trio of peaks on the R end of the Belknaps. On the horizon to the L of the Belknap Range and Red Hill are Blue Job Mtn. and other mountains in the Blue Hills range near Rochester. To the R of Dinsmore is the Squam Range, with a bit of Squam Lake seen through the S end of Sandwich Notch. In line with the first peak (unnamed) of the Squam Range is the squared-off sheet of Kiah Pond. The Squam Range continues across to the R over the twin summits of Double head, with the twin Uncanoonucs in the distance, to the long ridge of Squam Mtn., with the wavy ridge of Hersey Mtn. on the horizon; the

Lyndeboro Mtns. and Crotched Mtn. appear to the L of Hersey. Next to the R are Mts. Percival and Morgan, with Mt. Webster peering out behind.



*Western view from Black Mountain ledges*

Farther R is Mt. Kearsarge on the horizon, with far-off Mt. Monadnock to its L and Ragged Mtn. to its R and closer, seen over the Bridgewater Mtns. Lovewell Mtn. peers over a col on the R half of Ragged. Lower Hall Pond glimmers in the Sandwich Notch lowlands, in line with Ragged. A bit farther R, over the lower L end of the Campton Range, is flat-topped Mt. Prospect, with Sunapee Mtn. sprawling on the horizon. Plymouth Mtn. is behind and R of Prospect. Farther R, looking SW, are Mt. Weetamoo and Campton Mtn. in the nearby Campton Range, with Mt. Cardigan and its wide-spreading spurs on the horizon. Upper Hall Pond is visible at the base

of a spur ridge of the Campton Range. Tenney Mtn. is in front of and R of Cardigan, with Mt. Crosby behind it on the R. Farther R Vermont's Mt. Ascutney is on the horizon, and farther R in the distance are Ludlow (Okemo) and South Mtns., with Dorset Peak behind on its R (visible only on the clearest of days) and Salt Ash Mtn.. Continuing to the R, the prominent spread of Stinson Mtn. is seen, with the South (L) and North (R) peaks of Hanover's Moose Mtn. in the distance on its L. On clear days the sharp peaks of the Killington Range are visible on the horizon over Stinson. To the R of Stinson is the great sprawling mass of Carr Mtn., with the broad, distant dome of Smarts Mtn. between them. A single peak in Vermont's Mt. Carmel range is seen over the low point between Smarts and Carr. Close by and below in line with Smarts is the ledge-dotted peak of the lower Black Mtn. Standing, you can extend the view farther R to take in Carr's northern neighbors, Mt. Kineo and Cushman, and part of Mt. Moosilauke.

Excellent views to the NW and N can be found from ledges along the Algonquin Trail a short distance below the jct. with Black Mountain Pond Trail, where there is an especially fine look at the cliffs of Sachem Peak and Jennings Peak, and from more ledges to the L of the trail about 0.1 mi. above (N of) the Black Mountain Pond view ledge, just beyond a large granite erratic. The upper viewpoint is higher (3450 ft.) and takes in more peaks to the N, especially when standing. The view starts on the L (SSW) with Hersey Mtn. and sweeps around to Carr Mtn., as described above. To the R of Carr, Mt. Kineo and Mt. Cushman are seen beyond nearby Cone Mtn. Breadloaf Mtn. and its Green Mountain neighbors are strung along the horizon between Carr and Kineo, and Mts. Abraham and Ellen are on a long ridge between Kineo and Cushman. Farther R Mt. Moosilauke sprawls beyond the bright ledges of Welch and Dickey Mtns., with Bald Knob and its nameless neighboring peak on Acteon Ridge in the foreground. The top of Fisher Mtn. peeks over just to the R of and behind Dickey's N ledges. On the horizon a long ridge runs across to the R of Moosilauke to the notched peak of Mt. Wolf. Underneath Wolf, Hogback Mtn. peers over a ridge extending from Dickey to Green Mtn. Farther R South and North Kinsman are seen over Green Mtn. From Green a ridge extends R to Mt. Tecumseh,

with Tecumseh's West Peak poking above a low point. Under Tecumseh are the granite cliffs of Sachem Peak. Mts. Lincoln and Lafayette are seen off the R side of Tecumseh. Next to the R Owl's Head Mtn. (L) and Mt. Garfield (R) appear to the R of Scar Ridge's E peak. Farther R is Mt. Osceola and its East Peak. To the R of East Peak, several mountains are seen through Mad River Notch: Zealand Ridge, NW Hancock above the cliffy West Peak of Mt. Huntington, and slide-scarred North Hancock over Mt. Huntington. The sharp knob of Jennings Peak is just R of the notch, with the W knob of Mt. Kancamagus and South Hancock off its L slope. To the R of Jennings the E ridge of Hancock and the huge bulk of Mt. Carrigain rise beyond the undulating crest of Mt. Kancamagus, with Mt. Field seen just L of Kancamagus' summit.

**Jennings Peak:** This sharp knob offers excellent views S over the Smarts Brook valley from level clifftop ledges at the spur trail's end, and NE from two outlook ledges located a few yards E off the spur trail a short distance before its end. The clifftop ledges drop off sharply in front, so keep back from the edge, especially if wet.

The S view starts on the L with the huge wooded, double-domed mass of Sandwich Dome rising just a mile away to the SE. Extending to the R of the Dome is the bulky ridge of the upper Black Mtn., looking over the broad and remote upper valley of Smarts Brook.





*Smarts Brook valley from Jennings Peak*

The distant view begins beyond the ridge that slopes down to the R from Black. On the L is Hersey Mtn., with (L to R) the Lyndeboro Mtns., Pack Monadnocks and Crotched Mtn. in the distance to its L. To the R and closer is Mt. Morgan in the Squam Range. Next to the R is Mt. Kearsarge on the horizon, with Mt. Monadnock visible to its L on clear days. Farther R the lower Black Mtn. is seen under a spur of the Campton Range with flat-topped Mt. Prospect beyond. Ragged Mtn.(with Lovewell Mtn. over its R side) is seen over the Bridgewater Mtns. behind and L of Prospect. Sunapee Mtn.'s long distant ridge is to Prospect's R. Next to the R are Mt. Weetamoo and Campton Mtn. with Plymouth Mtn. beyond. Farther to the R is Mt. Cardigan, with Croydon Peak and Grantham Mtn. just to its R. If you move to the L side of the clifftop ledges, you can extend the view farther to

the R and look down on the wild knobs of Sachem Peak, with Vermont's Mt. Ascutney on the skyline beyond. South and Ludlow (Okemo) Mountains in Vermont are to the R of Ascutney. On clear days Dorset Peak, with a flat-topped spur on its R, is seen to the R of Ludlow. Farther R is wide-spreading Stinson Mtn., with Hanover's South Moose on its L and North Moose on its R. Salt Ash Mtn. in Vermont can be seen in the distance to the L of South Moose. Farther R Winslow Ledge is seen on the R of Stinson's N peak, with the long, sharp-peaked Killington Range on the horizon (L to R, Shrewsbury, Killington and Pico Peaks). Next to the R Smarts Mtn. rises above the long S ridge of Carr Mtn., with Carr itself seen through the trees on the far R.

The SE-facing ledge has an excellent view of the nearby Sandwich Range and more distant high peaks to the N. It starts on the R with the upper Black Mtn., with Sandwich Dome looming close by to its L. To the L of the Dome there's a dramatic look down into the upper valley of Drakes Brook, across which lies the low, sprawling northern Flat Mtn., with Mt. Whiteface (R) and Mt. Passaconaway (L) rising impressively beyond. The deep col of Drakes Pass separates Flat and Sandwich. Mt. Wonalancet's rounded form is seen to the R of and behind the lower S ridges of Whiteface; farther back and to the R is part of the long SE ridge of Mt. Chocorua leading down to Bald Mtn. Through the gap between Whiteface and the L slope of Sandwich are the Burnt Meadow Mtns. and other low distant hills near the Maine/New Hampshire border. To the L of Passaconaway the two rounded Sleepers extend L to three-peaked Mt. Tripyramid, with its South Slide in full view. The summit of Snows Mtn. is seen below the slide, with a long, gentle ridge running to the L. Jutting to the L of Tripyramid is Scaur Peak, with Noon Peak seen close in and below. Over the flat ridge between Tripyramid and Scaur Peak are (R to L) Rainbow Ridge, Carter Dome, Wildcat A, South Carter, Middle Carter and Wildcats D and E. Mt. Washington rises majestically to the L of Scaur Peak, through the broad gap of Livermore Pass. On the R side of Washington are Boott Spur and the upper Montalban (including Mts. Davis and Isolation) and Rocky Branch Ridges. On its L are Mts. Clay and Jefferson with Monroe, Franklin and

Eisenhower beneath. Mt. Adams just peeks over to the R of Clay. Seen under the Presidentials are flat Duck Pond Mtn. on the R and the four peaks of the Nancy Range on the L (R to L, Mts. Bemis, Nancy, Anderson and Lowell). Mts. Pierce and Jackson are seen over Lowell and Anderson. To the L of the Presys, Mt. Carrigain towers over the E half of Mt. Kancamagus. Mt. Field is seen to the L of Kancamagus' summit, then the E ridge of Mt. Hancock extends L to the sharp peak of South Hancock. From the bottom of the lower NE outlook the view can be extended farther to the L: broad, rounded North Hancock rising above the western end of Mt. Kancamagus, with its K1 and K2 Cliffs; Northwest Hancock rising behind the cliff-faced western spur of Mt. Huntington, seen through Mad River Notch; Zealand Mtn. behind and L of Northwest Hancock, above the Painted Cliff of East Osceola; and then the summits of East Osceola and Mt. Osceola, with the Osceola Brook ravine between them. The village of Waterville Valley is seen down in the lowlands, in line with Mad River Notch.

**Noon Peak:** The open, pothole-dotted ledge along the ridgecrest N of Noon Peak's summit has excellent views N and E and is a fine objective for a fairly steep half-day hike. There is a dramatic dropoff into the Drakes Brook valley in front, and the distant views extend as far as Mt.

Washington. On the far L there are glimpses of Mt. Tecumseh and Scar Ridge through the trees. Farther R, partly screened by trees, Mt. Liberty can be spotted rising over Mt. Osceola's Breadtray Ridge, with East Scar Ridge, Little Haystack Mtn. and Mt. Lincoln farther to the R. Next to the R, looming NNW across the Waterville Valley, is the imposing Mt. Osceola, with its sharp West Peak and top of its Middle Peak on the L, then the main summit and the symmetrical East Peak. Slides are prominent in the southern ravines under the main summit, and the Painted Cliff can be spotted on a lower spur of East Peak on the R. The fields and residential areas of Waterville Valley are down in the broad basin in front of East Peak. To the R of the Osceolas is beautiful Mad River Notch. Seen in the distance through this gap are (L to R) Mt. Bond, Zealand Mtn., the cliff-faced West Peak of Mt. Huntington, and the sharp peak of NW



Hancock. Farther R, the North, South and Middle Peaks of Mt. Hancock peer over the flat W knob of Mt. Kancamagus. The low, ledgy knob of The Scaur is visible well below the cliffs on a southern spur of Mt.

Kancamagus's W knob. The other summits of Mt. Kancamagus sprawl to the R, with Mt. Carrigain poking up to the R of the main summit. To the R of Mt. Kancamagus is the high gap of Livermore Pass; through this are seen (L to R) the tip of Mt. Lowell, Mts. Jefferson and Eisenhower above Mt. Nancy, Mt. Franklin, Mt. Monroe over Mt. Bemis, Mt. Washington above Oakes Gulf, and Boott Spur. Next to the R, to the NE across the valley, are the three Tripyramids, with the long ridge of Snows Mtn. below. The broad, rounded Sleepers are to the R of the Tripyramids, and farther R, looking ENE, the long crest of Mt. Whiteface peeks over the nearby lumpy mass of the northern Flat Mtn. On the far R, looming to the SSE above the upper Drakes Brook valley, is the massive double summit of Sandwich Dome. Through the col between Flat and Sandwich are Mt. Whittier (R) and part of the Nickerson Mtns. (L) in the distant Ossipee Range.