

THE MOATS

by Steve Smith

ELEVATIONS

North Moat: 3196 ft./974 m

Red Ridge: 2785 ft./849 m

Middle Moat: 2805 ft./855 m

South Moat: 2770 ft./845 m

LOCATION: Moat Range, Towns of Bartlett and Albany

USGS MAP: 7 ½ North Conway West

GEOGRAPHY

The high, narrow crest of the Moat Range forms the western wall of the broad Saco valley at North Conway, and its sweeping ridgeline is the dominant landscape feature seen from that busy resort town, “noble and imposing in its colors and outlines” in the words of 19th century guidebook editor Moses Sweetser. The Moats were scorched by fire in 1854 and much of the range remains bare rock mixed with stunted and scrubby growth, allowing for superb ridge walking and spectacular views. The ridge runs from SSE to NNW for nearly 5 mi., passing over several distinct peaks. On the S the range rises over steep and ledgy terrain from the low valley of the Swift River to the sharp, bare cone of South Moat, a fine viewpoint. The broad, barren crest of Middle Moat is about 0.5 mi. farther N, beyond an intermediate hump. From here the ridge descends to a deep col (2470 ft.), then rises to a peak topped with humpy red-tinted ledges at the upper end of Red Ridge; this prominent ridge displays a long line of open granite ledges as it descends NE into the Saco valley. For many years the peak at the top of Red Ridge was referred to as Middle Moat. From here the main ridge dips to a minor col, then rises over two shoulders with steep drops at their S ends, and culminates in the small bare cone of North Moat, one of the finest vantage points in the White Mountains. From here the ridge descends steeply N, passing over one more shoulder, and drops into the

deep valley of Lucy Brook, which separates North Moat from Little Attitash Mtn. to the N. Along its lower reaches, in a flat area NE of North Moat, Lucy Brook flows through a series of ledgy cascades and potholes known as Diana's Baths. To the E of North Moat is the ravine of Moat Brook, enclosed by Red Ridge on the S. Extending E from the E base of North Moat and Red Ridge is a low broad valley, beyond which are the glacier-carved humps of White Horse Ledge and Cathedral Ledge, with sheer cliffs facing E into the Saco valley. (See separate chapter.) On the lower reaches of Moat Brook, S of White Horse Ledge, is a cascade known as Thompson Falls.

The ledges at the summit and on the N slope of North Moat are composed of the Moat Volcanics – one of a handful of locations in the White Mountains where volcanic rocks predominate.

Just to the W of North Moat, beyond a 2530-ft. col, is the wooded, humpy ridgecrest of Big Attitash Mtn. (2910 ft.), also known as West Moat. On the N side of the col between North Moat and Big Attitash are the headwaters of Lucy Brook; on the S side is the upper NE branch of Deer Brook. The several branches of Deer Brook drain a huge basin enclosed by North Moat on the NE, Big Attitash to the N and Table Mtn. to the W. Two spur ridges extend SW from North Moat into this basin, one descending directly from the summit, the other from the second southerly shoulder. This latter ridge rises to a wild, trailless 2507-ft. peak, sometime called SW Moat, with a steep craggy SE face overlooking the valley of Big Brook. Middle and South Moat rise on the E side of the Big Brook valley. From SW Moat the spur ridge dips and rises again to a 1950-ft. knob; from this, two small ridges project S, ending in the sheer cliffs overlooking the Swift River that are accessed by the Boulder Loop Trail (see separate chapter). Another ridge descends W from the 1950-ft. knob, bearing ledges known as the Outback Cliffs by rock climbers.

A major ledgy spur ridge descends SW from South Moat; at its lower end it splits into two branches. The SW branch ends at the cliffs of Woodchuck Ledge. The SE branch runs over a sharp craggy knob known as Haystack and terminates at the SE-facing cliff of Eagle Ledge. Between

Haystack and the S ridge of South Moat is the small, hidden valley of Dry Brook. Flowing along the E base of South Moat is Red Eagle Brook, which feeds into swampy Red Eagle Pond to the SE, along Passaconaway Rd. To the E of this stream is the Moat Mountain Smokey Quartz area, a mineral collecting site accessible by a .75 mi. long foot trail from the end of High St., a gravel road that leaves Passaconaway Rd. E of Red Eagle Pond.

NOMENCLATURE

The name “Moat Mountain” dates back as early as 1771, when it appeared as “Mote” on the charter map for the town of Albany. Jeremy Belknap’s 1791 map of New Hampshire showed it as “Moat Mountain.” The name was given by local residents due to the many beaver ponds, or “moats,” arrayed along the E base of the mountain. The name was again misspelled as “Mote” on George P. Bond’s 1853 map of the Whites and on Arnold Guyot’s 1860 map. Red Ridge was named for the distinct reddish tint of its bare granite ledges. The summit at the top of the ridge was originally called Middle Moat, but that name was later transferred to the next summit to the S. Once known as Cedar Brook, Lucy Brook was named for a prominent family in North Conway whose descendants still live in the area today and own a farm near Diana’s Baths; these have also been called Lucy’s Baths. The basin of Big Brook was known as Spoolmill Valley during the days of the Swift River logging RR in the early 1900s.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

1642: Darby Field passes through North Conway valley en route to his landmark climb of Mt. Washington. Area is then site of Abenaki settlement known as Pequawket.

1764: First settlers move into Conway area. By 1850 town has population of 1,765.

1854: September fire burns over Moat Range, exposing many acres of bare rock. John Worcester writes later in *Appalachia* (Vol. I, 1878), “Before the great fire in 1854, Moat was the greenest mountain visible from North Conway.” Driven by a NW wind, the blaze is “driven furiously the whole

length of the mountain, consuming the trees and the soil, and leaving only a whitened surface of calcined rock.” For years a half-mile wide “collar of fallen wood” laid low by the fire is a major obstacle for those aspiring to climb the Moats.

1876: Moses Sweetser’s guidebook describes several ascent routes for Moats. One trailless route leads up North Moat from Diana’s Baths. Another attacks North Moat from the plateau behind White Horse Ledge. He lists times and distances for traversing ridge over to South Moat and back. South Moat is also reached by a “good path” from the Swift River Rd. that is much used for blueberry picking. Guidebook also mention Thompson’s Falls, described as “graceful, rather than otherwise notable, and...surrounded by great masses of shattered rocks.” Detailed view descriptions are given for North Moat and South Moat.

1877: Dr. Wilbur B. Parker, William L. Worcester and Charles P. Worcester open new path from Diana’s Baths to summit of North Moat, cutting a “very pretty bit of path, carpeted with moss, [running] straight through the wearisome ‘jack-straws’.”

1879: The Worcesters and Rev. T.F. Wright open Ridge Path along crest of range, connecting North and South Moat. This trail is recut about 1903 after becoming overgrown.

1906-1916: Conway Lumber Company operates Swift River logging RR in valley to S of South and Middle Moat; heavy cutting along southern slopes and valleys.

1916: 2nd edition of *AMC Guide* describes the two trails cut by the Worcesters and friends, the old berry picker’s trail up South Moat, and a newer trail up Red Ridge that can be accessed via connecting paths from Diana’s Baths and Echo Lake.

1922: *AMC Guide* notes that Moat trails are maintained by Intervale Improvement Society.

1925: In his guidebook, *Trails & Summits of the White Mountains*, Water Collins O’Kane includes detailed description of loop hike over North Moat and Red Ridge.

Early 1930s: WMNF takes over management of Moat paths. New Lucy

Brook Trail is built, ascends from Swift River valley on S via valley of Deer Brook, passes through col between North Moat and Big Attitash (where new Stony Brook Trail leaves L for Big Attitash), and descends along Lucy Brook to meet trail up North Moat. New Big Brook Trail leads up that valley, across shoulder of SW Moat, and down to Lucy Brook Trail along Deer Brook. Big Brook Cut-Off leaves near this junction and ascends to main Moat ridge between North Moat and Red Ridge; this is later named Moat Mountain Cut-Off. Trail passing by Thompson Falls offers alternate route to lower section of Red Ridge Trail.

Late 1950s: Portion of Lucy Brook Trail up Deer Brook valley abandoned; portion in upper valley of Lucy Brook becomes part of Attitash Trail, which continues over parts of other trails to Big Attitash and Table Mtns. and down to Bear Notch Rd. Red Ridge Trail is temporarily abandoned.

1966: Red Ridge Trail reappears in *AMC Guide*.

1979: In *AMC Guide*, name of Middle Moat is moved from peak atop Red Ridge to next peak to S, where it now resides.

Ca. 2000: N trailhead of Moat Mountain Trail is relocated to N and new parking area is built.

2002: WMNF acquires privately-owned land along lower portions of Red Ridge and Moat Mountain (N end) Trails.

2004-05: S trailhead of Moat Mountain Trail is relocated to W onto WMNF land and new connecting trail segment is built.

2011: Thompson Falls Trail is granted official status by WMNF, and network of mountain bike paths at eastern base of mountain is officially sanctioned.

TRAIL APPROACHES

The entire Moat Range is traversed by the Moat Mountain Trail, which extends from Dugway Rd. on the S to West Side Rd. on the NE. This trail allows one to climb South Moat or South and Middle Moat as an out-and-back trip, North Moat as an out-and-back, or the whole range point-to-point with a car spot. Additional access is provided by the Red Ridge Trail, making a fine loop trip possible over North Moat. Along the open ridge the Moat Mountain Trail requires care to follow, as many of the

yellow blazes are faded; look carefully for blazes and cairns.

NORTHEAST APPROACHES from West Side Rd.

TRAILHEAD (550 ft.): Two approaches can be made to the N end of the range from a large parking area off West Side Rd.; the routes can be combined for a strenuous and spectacular loop over North Moat. The trailhead is on the W side of West Side Rd., 2.4 mi. from NH 16 by the Eastern Slope Inn in North Conway (via River Rd.; stay straight on West Side Rd. at the intersection in 1.0 mi.).

Moat Mountain Trail to North Moat, out-and-back

8.6 mi. round trip, 2650-ft. elevation gain

Traverse of North, Middle and South Moat with car spot at S trailhead

9.7 mi. traverse, 3350-ft. elevation gain

First half of this climb to North Moat is easy approach up valley of Lucy Brook; second half is stiff climb up N flank of mountain with views from several ledges along way. From trailhead, follow wide, graded gravel path, descending slightly and swinging to L. Trail meanders through tall pine, spruce and hemlock, horseshoes to L, crosses footbridge and meets old route of trail at 0.6 mi. by site of old water-powered gristmill on Lucy Brook. Turn R here on old road, soon passing side paths L to Diana's Baths, scenic cascades and potholes in area of tiered granite ledges. Beyond cascades, trail bears L with old road as unmarked trail diverges R. After short climb, walking is easy under big hemlocks and pines, with one section alongside brook. Cross side brook just before reaching jct. L with Red Ridge Trail at 1.2 mi./750 ft. Moat Mountain Trail continues ahead at easy grade through woods of smaller stature. At 1.4 mi. drop down steep bank to cross Lucy Brook – not much flow here in midsummer, but difficult at high water. Trail is away from brook for ca. 0.5 mi., then it reappears on R amidst fine red and white pine. Farther up pass ledgy pools and one twin cascade close by trail. At 2.4 mi./1080 ft. reach jct. with lightly-used Attitash Trail, which continues ahead up valley.

Turn L here with Moat Mountain Trail and immediately begin stiff climb through open hemlock forest. Steady grade continues up into spruces, and at 1500 ft. terrain becomes ledgy and forest gets scrubby and shrubby. First

limited view, looking back NNE to Doublehead and Eastman Mtns., is reached at ca. 2.9 mi./1600 ft. In next 0.2 mi. there is another glimpse at these peaks, and a view of Mt. Washington, Wildcat and Carter Dome. Climb continues up swaths of ledge with limited views; route requires some care to follow across the ledges and through scrubby areas. Grade eases at 2000 ft., then steady climbing resumes. Pass two glacial erratics on R of trail and at 3.6 mi./2300 ft. reach expanse of open ledge, at top of which there is good view NE, including Carter Dome, Black, Doublehead, Baldfaces, Eastman, Speckled, Kearsarge North and Black Cap. Continue steeply up ledges, through quick R and L turns, to another viewpoint at 2400 ft., with good vista of Kearsarge North, Green Hills and North Conway. Above here climb remains steep up wooded ledges with occasional slippery slabs, especially on descent. Trail eases at 3.9 mi./2720 ft., with partial view to L, and runs along L edge of ridge. After swinging R around slanting ledge, traverse nearly level shoulder through dense growth, with glimpse of cone ahead.

Final climb starts out moderate, then soon becomes quite steep up series of ledgy steps. Scrub growth dwindles in size and at 3100 ft. wide view opens out to N. Last stretch is in open over tiers of rough ledges, reaching bare summit of volcanic rock at 4.3 mi./3196 ft. Here there is USGS benchmark towards W side of summit, though high point is a few yds. SE. Panoramic views invite long summit stay.

For ridge traverse, continue S on Moat Mountain Trail, dropping over two steep-ended shoulders with ledgy down-scrambles. From spruce-wooded col, climb to summit of Red Ridge and junction L with Red Ridge Trail at 5.4 mi./2760 ft. Continue S on Moat Mountain Trail, dropping to deep wooded col (2470 ft.), then climb to open summit of Middle Moat at 6.4 mi./2800 ft. Meander along open ridge, then dip to col and climb again in open to summit of South Moat at 7.0 mi./2770 ft. From here descend steadily, steeply at times, for 2.3 mi. to S trailhead. For more detail, see trail descriptions below.

Moat Mountain Trail, Red Ridge Trail

Out-and-back to North Moat

11.8 mi. round trip, 3050-ft. elevation gain

Loop over North Moat with Moat Mountain Trail

10.2 mi. loop, 2900-ft. elevation gain

For out-and-back side trip to Middle and South Moat via Moat Mountain Trail, add 3.2 mi. and 900 ft. (2.0 mi. and 650 ft. for Middle Moat only)

The Red Ridge Trail provides a long, rugged and spectacular route to North Moat. After a long lowland traverse, this route climbs steeply to Red Ridge and traverses a long line of open ledges on its crest. There is some rugged scrambling along the main ridge on the S side of North Moat. The loop trip over North Moat is fine in either direction.

From trailhead on West Side Rd., follow Moat Mountain Trail for 1.2 mi. to jct. L with Red Ridge Trail, as described above. Turn L here on Red Ridge Trail and immediately cross Lucy Brook – difficult at high water as the step stones are not large. Red Ridge Trail climbs gradually through mixed woods, then hemlocks. At 2.0 mi./950 ft. Red Ridge Link diverges L for White Horse Ledge. Red Ridge Trail now descends gently, with one slight ascent, passing through selectively logged area where occasional old skid roads cross trail. It enters uncut woods of hardwoods and hemlocks and runs at easy grade with good footing to cross gravel logging road at 2.7 mi./880 ft. Just beyond, turn sharp R and climb at easy grade through open hemlock forest, soon coming near Moat Brook on your L. At 3.2 mi./1150 ft. swing L, up over bank, and cross brook. On far side ascend steeply through spruce and red pine forest with loose footing, topping out on ledge at 1300 ft. atop steep bank; use caution as there is dropoff on R. Here is first of many views on this trail, looking NE to Kearsarge North, Eastman, South Baldface and Carter Dome. Trail now swings L past jutting ledge, where North Moat looms above, and up edge of steep gravelly area where footing is poor; use care, especially on descent.

Trail now ascends steep sloping ledges through woods, then is more moderate to scramble up ledgy chimney – one of more difficult spots on trail. Continue up through several turns to outlook ledge on L at 1700 ft.,

with view across Saco valley; Mt. Washington can be seen on far L. Trail ascends steadily through ledgy terrain with partial vistas, then winds across 1900-ft. plateau carpeted with scrubby red pines, passing outlook on R at 3.9 mi. up to North Moat and upper ledges of Red Ridge. Beyond, swing R, pass vista up to South and Middle Moat, descend slightly, then resume mostly moderate ascent through semi-open ledgy areas with occasional views N and E. At 4.2 mi./2125 ft., after steeper pitch, trail swings L up two ledge steps and emerges on bottom of long stretch of open granite ledges leading up ridge. Climb is steady up tier after tier of ledge on this airy open stretch, with expanding views back to N and E. Follow cairns and blazes carefully as footway winds about. Many flat ledge perches offer inviting rest spots. Widest view at top of open ledges is reached at 4.6 mi./2650 ft. Here panorama includes North Moat looming close by to NW, plus Mts. Monroe, Washington, Adams and Madison, Wildcats, Carter Dome, Goose Eye and Old Speck in distant Mahoosucs, Baldfaces, Doublehead, Speckled, Kearsarge North, Green Hills, Pleasant Mtn. in western Maine, and around to Middle and South Moat nearby to S.

Trail now enters woods and climbs moderately to peak at top of Red Ridge, and jct. with Moat Mountain Trail, at 4.8 mi./2760 ft. (Here there are hummocky reddish ledges accessed by short side path on L; easy scramble to top opens 180-degree view to E, from Mt. Washington on L around to nearby Middle Moat on R.) At jct., turn R (N) on Moat Mountain Trail and descend moderately through beautiful, deep spruce woods to 2670-ft. col. Climb steeply, soon angling L up through rough, ledgy terrain. Scramble up steep sloping slab and after easier stretch hop up to open ledgy area on 2907-ft. knob at 5.3 mi. Here a side path, easily missed, leads L up over ledge and out to spacious, spectacular outlook to W, with unique angles on Middle Moat and SW Moat, and excellent vista of Swift River valley, Sandwich Range, Carrigain and many other peaks. Close by to N rises steep S shoulder of North Moat – yes, the trail goes up there!

Beyond outlook, trail drops over ledges into minor col, climbs moderately, then begins series of scrambles up ledge steps. After passing view to SW, you clamber up very steep broken ledge, ascend alongside rock wall on R,

and negotiate two more steep slabs. At top of this challenging section is view SW down Deer Brook valley to Sandwich Range. Grade is now much easier along wild spruce-wooded shoulder, passing over 3110-ft. bump with view to W. On next small knob there is glimpse of summit cone ahead, then easy going leads to short steep climb up tiers of volcanic ledge to bare summit at 5.9 mi./3196 ft.

SOUTH APPROACH from Passaconaway (Dugway) Rd.

Moat Mountain Trail

South Moat only

5.4 mi. round trip, 2300 ft. elevation gain

South and Middle Moat

6.6 mi. round trip, 2550-ft. elevation gain

South, Middle and North Moat, out-and-back

10.8 mi. round trip, 3950-ft. elevation gain

South, Middle and North Moat, traverse with car spot at N trailhead

9.7 mi. traverse, 3250-ft. elevation gain

TRAILHEAD (650 ft.): The S trailhead for Moat Mountain Trail is on Passaconaway Rd. (also known as Dugway Rd.). From stoplight in Conway at jct. of NH 16 with NH 153, drive N on Washington St. and soon go L at fork, which becomes West Side Rd. At 0.9 mi. from stoplight turn L on Passaconaway Rd. and follow it 3.2 mi. to new trailhead parking area on R. To access trail from Kancamagus Highway (NH 112), turn onto Passaconaway Rd. across from Blackberry Crossing Campground, follow it through covered bridge and bear R. Continue on road to trailhead on L, 3.4 mi. from Kancamagus Highway.

From the S, the Moat Mountain Trail makes a steady climb to South Moat, with good views in the upper section, then meanders along a largely open ridge to Middle Moat before descending to the deepest col on the ridge and continuing on to Red Ridge and North Moat. The hike up to South Moat alone is an excellent and popular half-day trek.

From parking area, follow detour L into woods around new logging road for 0.1 mi., then turn R onto wide, well-constructed trail section (built in

2004-05) that climbs steadily through hardwoods over low ridge. Trail swings L for short descent, crosses small brook at 0.3 mi., and angles up to NE across slope. It then bears L (NW) and leads along side of hemlock-clad slope high above Dry Brook. At 1.0 mi. trail dips to cross Dry Brook on footbridge, then ascends briefly, descends again, and leads east at easy grades to meet old route of trail at 1.3 mi./1100 ft. Here it turns sharp L and ascends steadily, at first in hemlocks, then soon through red pines and oaks in ledgy terrain. At ca. 1450 ft. trail levels and skirts to L of steep, rough shoulder, then swings R and climbs steadily. Climb becomes steep, rocky and eroded with ledgy brookbed to L. Weave up through outcrops, then ascend moderately through red pines, pass outlook 25 yd. Left at 1.9 mi./1800 ft., and reach large open ledge area at 2.0 mi./1980 ft. Here there is fine view S to Ossipee Range, SE to Green Mtn., and SW to Mt. Chocorua.

Yellow-blazed trail continues steady climb through ledgy terrain forested with red pines and scrubby hardwoods, with several twists and turns – follow markings carefully. Higher up more views open up back to S. At 2590 ft. trail briefly levels on high shoulder, then makes stiff climb up bare cone with expanding views. Nearing top, grade eases through patches of low scrub. Summit, with ledgy knobs to L and R, is reached at 2.6 mi./2770 ft. Views are outstanding! (Note that green lichens coating ledges on either side are very slippery when wet.)

From summit, Moat Mountain Trail descends to N in open, passes through shallow col, and climbs over intermediate hump over ledges and through low scrub. Drifting to W side of ridge, it soon drops through dense spruce woods and bends R to E side of main col (2690 ft.) between South and Middle Moat. It then climbs steeply to emerge in open again and ambles along broad open ridge with more views. High point of Middle Moat is protruding ledge outcrop off to L of trail at 3.2 mi./2800 ft., easily reached across open ledges. Views are good from broad Middle Moat summit area, with different perspective than from South Moat. Trail continues nearly level across open ledges, then descends steeply, angling down to L over ledges and through scrub. Trail makes turns to R and L (obscure) and continues

down through woods to broad saddle (2470 ft.). Enjoy easy, needle-cushioned walking through dense spruce grove for nearly 0.2 mi. across saddle. On far side ascend easily, then more steeply (crossing one ledge with view back to S) to summit of Red Ridge at 4.1 mi./2760 ft. Here short side path leads R between knobby, red-tinted ledges, atop which good views are found. Here also Red Ridge Trail comes in from R. For North Moat, continue ahead on Moat Mountain Trail as described under Red Ridge Trail route.

WINTER: Given good snow and weather conditions, South and Middle Moat are fine snowshoe objectives via the S end of Moat Mountain Trail. There may be bare spots due to the trail's southern exposure, but cover holds up surprisingly well. A couple of the steeper pitches can be challenging on snowshoes. Bring crampons or Stabilicers in case there is crust or ice on the bare upper ridge, and be prepared for cold and windy conditions. North Moat is a tougher but exhilarating climb in winter. Challenges include a potentially difficult brook crossing and some steep ledgy stretches where ice-up may be a problem. It is moderate up to the first good view ledges, then quite steep in places. The last open stretch up the ledges on the cone may require crampons. The Red Ridge Trail's rugged terrain would make for a difficult snowshoe trek in all but the deepest snow conditions. All of the Moat trails require care to follow in winter along the ledgy sections.

VIEW GUIDE

North Moat: This bare rocky cone is one of the finest vantage points in all of the Whites, with steep drops on three sides and no higher peaks for miles around. Especially striking is the jumble of mountains seen to the W and NW, wave upon wave out to Moosilauke and Lafayette on the horizon. The summits of 34 New Hampshire 4000-footers can be spotted. There is a panorama for North Moat in *Scudder's White Mountain Viewing Guide*.

Looking close by to the SSE, the lower peaks of the Moats are seen beyond a nearby shoulder of North Moat. South Moat's pointed, bare peak

rises over Middle Moat, with low hills in the distance. Green Mtn. in Effingham is behind to the R, and farther R Ossipee Lake is seen beyond Silver Lake, with the Moose Mtns. (L) and Copple Crown Mtn. (R) on the horizon. Part of Whitton Pond is visible in front of Silver Lake on the R. Farther R the low, darkly wooded mound of White Ledge is seen behind and L of the wild nearby hump of SW Moat. The Nickerson Mtns. are behind and L of White Ledge, and part of Chocorua Lake appears over its R slope. Over SW Moat Mt. Shaw, highest of the Ossipee Range, rises above Mt. Whittier and Bald Mtn. From here the Ossipees spread to the R over Faraway Mtn. to Black Snout, seen over the S ridge of Mt. Chocorua. Rounded Belknap Mtn. peers over the broad saddle to the R of Shaw. To the SW, just 7 mi. away, is the rocky horn of Mt. Chocorua, with the Three Sisters in front. Distant Bean Hill is seen between Black Snout and Chocorua. To the R of Chocorua is the lumpy Mt. Paugus, and through the gap between them are Red Hill (its top peering over a spur ridge of Chocorua), Hersey Mtn. and distant Mt. Kearsarge. Part of Ragged Mtn. is seen to the R of Kearsarge, and in the distance between these two peaks is part of the Sunapee-Lovewell Mtn. ridge. To the R of Paugus are the lower spurs of Mt. Passaconaway, including flat-topped Wonalancet Hedgehog and Nanamocomuck above the cliff face of Square Ledge. Down in the valley part of the Swift River and Kancamagus Highway can be seen in this direction. Mt. Passaconaway looms next to the R, with Mt. Whiteface poking up behind to its L. The rounded Sleepers are R of Passaconaway, with Hedgehog Mtn. below, and farther R are the Tripyramids, with Mt. Potash below the Middle Peak. Farther R and closer is the large mass of Bear Mtn., with Tripyramid's Scaur Peak, Mt. Tecumseh and West Tecumseh seen over its L end. Table Mtn., displaying ledges and light green growth on its fire scar, is below the L end of Bear, in line with Tecumseh. Over the R side of Bear are Mt. Kancamagus and the Osceolas. The double summit of East Scar Ridge is on the R of the Osceolas and lower. Next to the R are the granite faces of Green's Cliff seen under the main mass of Scar Ridge, with Mt. Moosilauke stretched across the horizon. Continuing to the R, looking W, Owl Cliff is seen under

Mt. Huntington and Bartlett Haystack is below Mt. Tremont. The several summits of the Hancocks rise over the bumpy ridge of Tremont, to the R of its summit. Next to the R is imposing Mt. Carrigain. Close at hand in the direction of Tremont, Hancock and Carrigain are the wild, darkly-wooded ridges of Big Attitash (West Moat). To the R of Carrigain is Mt. Lafayette's sloping crest, seen above Vose Spur. Just to the R is Bondcliff's bare top over Mt. Lowell and Mt. Bond over Mt. Anderson, with West Bond sticking out to the L of Bond. Farther R are the rounded domes of Mt. Guyot, with Hart Ledge low down in front. Continuing to the R, South Twin is behind and R of Mt. Nancy and North Twin is over Mt. Bemis. The summit of Zealand Mtn. is seen between Nancy and Bemis. Next is the S peak of Mt. Hale over Ethan Ridge, with Mt. Hope down low and closer, then Mt. Hale, the W peak of Mt. Field, and the twin cones of Mts. Willey and Mt. Field, with Mt. Tom just visible over the R slope of Field and the sharp knob of Mt. Avalon farther down to the R.

The rock knob of Mt. Crawford is centered on Crawford Notch, with rounded Mt. Willard behind on its R. Mt. Webster is seen over the ledgy Crawford Dome, and flat-topped Mt. Resolution is under the sharp cone of Mt. Jackson, with Mt. Parker under its L end and Giant Stairs peeking over its R end. Mt. Pierce's broad dome is above the "Back Stair," with the roof of Mizpah Spring Hut visible; Mt. Langdon, with a large sheet of granite on its side, is down low in this direction, with the ledgy Crippies to its R. Next to the R are Mts. Eisenhower and Franklin over the long ridge of Mt. Davis. Next to the R is Mt. Monroe; Mt. Isolation can be picked out under the ridge between Franklin and Monroe. Underneath these peaks is a good look into the Rocky Branch valley. Just to the R Mt. Washington soars to the skyline above the nearby ledgy crest of Little Attitash Mtn., which rises from the deep valley of Lucy Brook. Boott Spur is foreshortened in front of Washington, with Rocky Branch Ridge meandering down in front. To the R of Washington are Ball Crag, Nelson Crag and Mts. Adams and Madison, with the ledgy face of Iron Mtn. below. The low peaks of Mts. Pickering and Stanton are seen under Iron, peering over the R end of Little Attitash.

To the R of the Presidentials, looking N, are the Wildcats, Carter Notch,

Carter Dome and Mt. Hight. Mt. Moriah peeps over the lower end of the long ridge descending R from Hight. Black Mtn. is just to the R, with ski trails on its front end and the town of Jackson down in the valley to the L. Shelburne Moriah is to the R of Black, with Mt. Success seen over its lower E ridge. Farther R and more distant are Mt. Carlo, Goose Eye, and Old Speck, with Baldpate Mtn. off to the R. Next to the R and closer is North Baldface, then Sable Mtn. over the Doubleheads with Thorn Mtn. below, and South Baldface jutting out to the R of Sable. East Royce's rounded hulk is seen over Baldface Knob, with double-peaked Eastman Mtn. to the R and distant Puzzle Mtn. through the gap between them. Square-topped Caribou Mtn. and broad-spreading Speckled Mtn. are to the R of Eastman. On clear days, distant Mt. Abraham in the Rangeley Lakes region is visible over Caribou. Close in and low down in the direction of Speckled is the cliff of Humphreys Ledge, at the end of a long, low ridge. The broad valley of the Saco's East Branch opens out towards Speckled in the mid-distance. From Speckled a ridge extends R over part of Butters Mtn. and across Red Rock Mtn., with its bright cliff face, and Miles Knob. On the horizon to the R of Redrock is the pyramid of Mt. Blue near Weld, ME. Closer in under Redrock is a long ridge extending R to Walter Mtn., with Albany Mtn. behind and R. The prominent duo of Bald and Saddleback Wind Mtns. are on the horizon over Albany. Next to the R is Mt. Shaw in Chatham and one of the Gemini, followed by the great cone of Kearsarge North seen across the broad Saco valley, with ledgy Mt. Bartlett, its lower neighbor, in front on the L. From the E edge of the summit you can look down and see the wooded backsides of Cathedral and White Horse Ledges in this direction. To the R of Kearsarge you look across a broad area of western Maine, with Mt. Tom near West Paris, ME the first prominent peak to the R. Farther R, to the ENE, Streaked Mtn. stands out on the horizon. Next to the R and just across the valley are the Green Hills: Hurricane on the L, then Black Cap, its top speckled with ledges, with ski-trailed Cranmore below on its L, above North Conway village. Peaked Mtn. blends in under the R shoulder of Black Cap, with Middle Mtn.'s peak standing out to the R, then Rattlesnake and Redstone Ledge. Pleasant Mtn. spreads out behind

Peaked and Middle. Lovewell Pond is in front of Pleasant on the R. Significantly farther to the R, looking SE, are the Saddleback Hills, with Sebago Lake behind them on the L. Next to the R and closer the Burnt Meadow Mtns. are seen beyond Conway Lake. In the foreground below Conway Lake is the bare crest of Red Ridge, descending to the L. Then the view swings back around to Middle and South Moat.

South Moat: The sharp, bare peak of South Moat, with uplifted ledges on its E and W sides is almost as good a viewpoint as the higher North Moat. Looking NNW up the Moat Range, the broad, bare crest of Middle Moat is seen close at hand, with the small bare peak of North Moat rising beyond, buttressed by darkly wooded shoulders. The tip of Mt. Webster is just visible over the L end of Middle Moat. The Presidentials spread to the R behind North Moat, including Mts. Eisenhower, Franklin, Monroe and Washington. Mt. Davis is seen under Franklin and Mt. Isolation is under the ridge between Franklin and Monroe. Huntington Ravine is seen on the R side of Washington, and closer in this direction is cliff-faced Iron Mtn., with sloping, ledgy Red Ridge below. Mts. Adams and Madison are to the R of Huntington Ravine, and farther R, across Pinkham Notch, are the Wildcats, Carter Notch, Carter Dome and Mt. Hight. To the R of Hight are Black Mtn., with ski trails on its nearer end, and the more distant Mt. Moriah. To the R of Moriah is the broad lump of Shelburne Moriah, with Mt. Success farther back on the R. In the foreground under the Wildcats, Carter Dome and Moriahs is the long, low ridge leading down to Humphreys Ledge. Thorn Mtn. rises behind Humphreys Ledge, with the Doubleheads (North on the L, South on the R) behind it on the R. Off the L slope of North Doublehead is a SW spur of North Baldface, with Goose Eye Mtn. in the distance. To the R of the Doubleheads are the top of North Baldface above Chandler Mtn., flat-topped Sable Mtn., and ledgy South Baldface. Next to the R are West and East Royce, seen through the broad saddle between Baldface Knob and Eastman Mtn. Looking towards Eastman you see a side profile of White Horse Ledge down below in the Saco valley, with Echo Lake at its base on the R. In the distance to the R of Eastman are Barker Mtn. with Saddleback Mtn. near Rangeley Lake far beyond, and Puzzle Mtn. over the

Spruce Hill in Evans Notch. Caribou Mtn. peers over next on the R, then comes the broad, dark mass of Speckled Mtn. The W ridge of Walter Mtn. is under Speckled.

To the R of Speckled, looking NE across the Saco valley, is the dominant cone of Kearsarge North, with the lower Bartlett Mtn. in front to the L. From Kearsarge North a broad gap extends across to Hurricane Mtn. in the Green Hills; in the distance are Spruce Mtn. and other ridges S of Rumford, ME. Farther R is Mt. Tom near West Paris, ME. Mt. Cranmore's ski trails are to the R of and below Hurricane, with North Conway village below. Black Cap Mtn. is next to the R, with Streaked Mtn. above it on the horizon. Farther R Peaked and Middle Mtns. are under the ridge extending R from Black Cap, with the lower Rattlesnake Mtn. and Redstone Ledge on the R end of the ridge. Down in the broad Saco valley is the Nth Conway "strip" along Rt. 16. The great spread of Pleasant Mtn. is next to the R and more distant, with Lovewell Pond in front of its R end. Farther R are vast horizons in western Maine, with low ridges and few notable peaks. To the SE is Conway Lake, with Douglas Mtn. and the Saddleback Hills in the distance behind its L end. Part of Sebago Lake and lowly Peaked Mtn. are seen to the L of Douglas. The nearer Burnt Meadow Mtns. stretch across behind the rest of Conway Lake, with Conway village in the foreground.

Prominent to the SSE is Green Mtn. in Effingham. Farther R, just E of S, is broad Ossipee Lake, with Silver Lake closer and to its R. On the horizon beyond Ossipee Lake are the Moose Mtns. (L) and Copple Crown Mtn. (R). Next to the R, just W of S, is the Ossipee Range, with the Nickerson Mtns. on the L, Mt. Shaw in the center beyond Bald and Whittier, broad Faraway Mtn. to Shaw's R, and sharp-peaked Black Snout on the far R. Chocorua Lake is seen under the middle of the Ossipee Range. The darkly wooded backside of White Ledge is under Black Snout; lower and close by is the ledgy ridge of Haystack, a spur of South Moat. On clear days Crotched Mtn. is seen over the R slope of Black Snout. To the R of Black Snout and White Ledge is the long S ridge of Mt. Chocorua leading down to Bald Mtn.; on clear days Mt. Monadnock can be seen in the distance to the R of Bald Mtn. To the SW just 6 mi. away is the rock horn of Mt. Chocorua,

rising above its northern spurs. Carter Ledge is seen under a hump to the L of Chocorua, and the Three Sisters ridge is just R of the summit. Down below and close at hand is the N end of the Haystack ridge. To the R of Chocorua, over one of its spur ridges, is Mt. Paugus, then the Sandwich Range continues R over Mt. Whiteface, Mt. Passaconaway, the rounded Sleepers and Tripyramid. Nanamocomuck and Square Ledge (spurs of Passaconaway) are under the S summit of Whiteface, two-tiered Hedgehog Mtn. is under East Sleeper, and Potash Mtn. is below North Tripyramid. Mt. Tecumseh peeks over the ridge extending R from North Tripyramid to Scaur Peak. The Tripyramids are viewed beyond the broad valley of Albany Intervale. Also visible, in line with the Sleepers and just behind the nearby Haystack ridgecrest, are the Boulder Loop Trail cliffs.

To the R of Scaur Peak and more distant are the Osceolas, seen over Mt. Kancamagus. Farther R Mt. Moosilauke's broad dome is centered between the E peak of Scar Ridge on the L and the main summit of Scar Ridge on the R. Next to the R and much closer is Bear Mtn., its wavy crest seen broadside. The Rainbow Slabs (L) and Painted Walls (R) can be seen below on a nearer ridge. To the R of Bear the several summits of Mt. Hancock rise in the back. Owl's Cliff is under the bold S spur of Hancock, with lumpy Mt. Tremont and Table Mtn., closer and ledgy, below North Hancock. Closer still, under Table, is the dark crest of SW Moat. The sharp peak of Bartlett Haystack is just R of and below a secondary summit of Tremont. To the R of Hancock is Mt. Carrigain, with Vose Spur lower and to the R. Mt. Lowell is to the R of Vose, with West Bond above, and part of Bondcliff's bare ridge is seen between Vose and Lowell. Mt. Bond is prominent through the deep gap between Lowell and Anderson, its neighbor to the R. Mt. Guyot and South Twin are to the R of Anderson, then Mts. Nancy and Bemis are seen on either side of the darkly wooded W peak of Big Attitash Mtn.; part of North Twin is seen between Nancy and Bemis. These peaks, from Carrigain across to Bemis, are seen over a nearby ledgy hump between South and Middle Moat. Farther R, Mt. Hale is seen just L of the middle hump of Big Attitash, and the W peak of Mt. Field is just to the R. Just to the R Mt. Willey and the tip of Mt. Field poke above

the L side of the true summit of Big Attitash, then the view comes back to Middle and North Moat.

Middle Moat: The view from this broad, open summit is mainly similar to that from nearby South Moat. Unique aspects of the view here include a more intimate view across to North Moat and its buttressing ridges; a view back at the sharp rocky cone of South Moat, and a wild vista over the SW ridge of North Moat to Big Attitash, Table and Bear Mtns., with Hancock, Carrigain and the peaks of the Twin and Nancy Ranges beyond. Peaks visible from Middle Moat, but not South Moat include Mts. Huntington and Hitchcock between Bear and Hancock; part of Mt. Lafayette to the L of Vose Spur; the summit of North Twin between Nancy and Bemis; Mt. Crawford's rock nubble between Big Attitash and North Moat; and Old Speck Mtn. to the L of North Doublehead.