Trip Leaders

1. Minh Ton
2. Kyle Bacon

Trip Goers

1. Akshay Patil (Driver)
2. Ryan Haley (Driver)
3. Trung Ngu
4. Jami Kinnaman
5. Judy Crandall
6. Josh Polson
7. Hannah Hanson
8. Onya Olson
9. Nicholas Fluke
10. Molly Gilgunn

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I chose to go for Long Pine Run again because it makes for a great winter getaway to start off the semester. Kyle had actually planned a pole steeple hike the same day, but he instead wanted to bring another group down via Rocky Knob. Due to a lack of drivers, we ended up consolidating our hike.

One person called in sick, and two people bailed because their friend didn't get selected the morning of. We had 7 in my car and 5 in Ryan's car, and we were on the way by 9:20am. Both cars arrived and we started our hike at 11:20 along Wigwam hill.

Instead of going down Wigwam hill via the powerline cut, we instead took the Wigwam trail to Birch Run road which was pretty easy. Taking the Beaver view trail, we first arrived at the lake at the porch. Since the lake wasn't completely full, we could actually walk along the lakebed from here. Although it was pretty warm, there were still some large ice sheets around the lake that were melting.

At 12:30 we reached the main beach and boat launch. I let everyone take a good 20 minute break to enjoy the calm waters and beautiful view of Rocky Knob. While people were eating, I quickly checked the spillway and found that the water was just low enough to pass.

To get around the spillway, we had to sort of hug the rocks without falling in. It ended up being pretty easy. If the water was any higher, we would've had to go around the spillway, which would add another mile and 500 feet of elevation gain.

For the rest of the hike, we found ourselves switching between the trail behind the trees and the lake bed depending on how steep the banks were. We frequently stopped to skip stones and take photos.

Around 1:30, we reached Birch Run. Unfortunately it was just too high to cross, so we crossed via the bridge and kept hiking. The north side of the lake had steeper banks which had us using the trail more often.

By 2:15, we reached Long Pine Run (the creek) and crossed via the bridge. We were now on our return leg of the trip. Instead of taking the Wigwam Trail up Wigwam hill, I instead planned on taking the un-named trail under the powerline cut.

The whole lake walk was so flat and relaxing that everyone forgot that I had planned for 800 feet of elevation gain. What comes down must come back up… As painful as ascending the powerline cut is, it goes by fast.

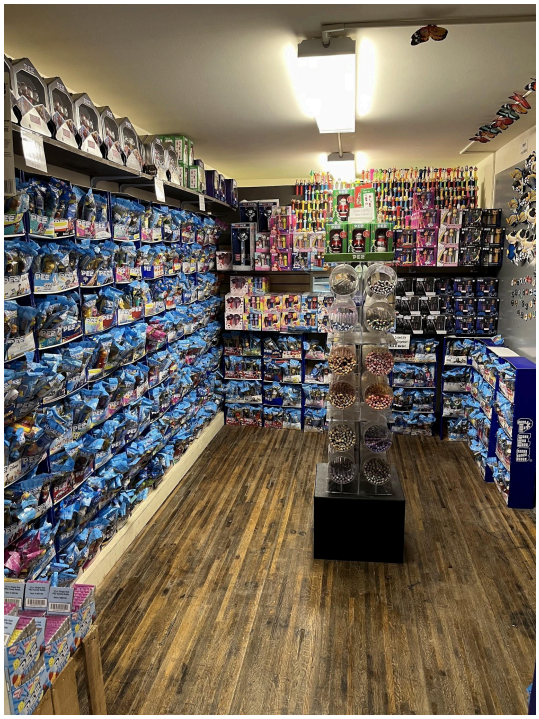
My group started the ascent of Wigwam hill about 2:30. Although it only took maybe 5 minutes to get up, it really took the breath out of some. It’s a very steep climb, which alltrails says reaches 49% incline. At the top of Wigwam Hill, the powerline cut offered an expansive

overlook of the reservoir. I gave everyone a good 10 minutes here to let them take photos and catch their breath for the next climb.

After Wigwam Hill, we still had one more small climb to Methodist Hill. This one wasn't quite as steep, and it felt like it only took a minute to get over. One of the hikers started feeling nausea, so I had everyone slow down and rest for a bit.

Before we knew it, we were back at the start around 3:10. Just for fun, I talked to Ryan and we decided to make a quick stop at Caledonia Falls. My group was really interested in Mister Ed's, so we decided to stop there too.

Caledonia falls is neat, it makes for a pretty 5-minute stop.

I have frequently driven past Mister Ed's for years, but I never actually stopped there before. Before we went inside, we walked around the gardens for a few minutes. As everyone walked into the house one-by-one, I saw each person's face light up in shock. Inside was a chaotic experience of elephants, nuts, and candy… This was easily the highlight of the day! I regret not stopping here on my first trip to this place.

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