

Pig Rock (10,360) (2)

Difficulty: Class 3

Distance: 4 miles

Elevation Gain: 750 ft.

Time: 50 RP

Introduction:

Pig Rock is small ridge point which when viewed from Raspberry resembles a Pig, hence the name. This hike is infamous for the amount of staff who get lost on it. The convoluted terrain surrounding the point and the fact that the point is not at the highpoint on the ridge makes it easier to get lost.

Description:

Hike past staffville on the road, through a meadow, and into the trees again. Look for the Ring the Peak trail sign about 100 yards into the trees. Turn right onto the Ring the Peak trail. Hike up a small ridge which is the same ridge as Aspen Ridge. Descend into a small valley. If you look closely down towards the creek you will be able to see an old still. Hike up the trail as it climbs out of the drainage. Look for the place where there are three Ring the Peak trail signs. This is you turn off point. There will be some old logs blocking an old trail heading north. Follow this trail as it meanders through a shallow valley. The trail is not well defined in spots, as the trail gets higher it becomes more well defined. Near the end of the valley the trail gets steeper as it climbs to a ridge. After cresting the ridge the trail descends about 100 feet into another valley. There is a fallen tree across the trail right before it makes a sharp horseshoe turn back north. This spot can be difficult to follow. Turn north and head down the now single track trail. Look closely for a cairn to the right of the trail. If you end up at a very steep loose section of trail going down you've gone too far. Hike up the steep trail heading North Northeast, it is short and steep. Once on top of the ridge head north, there is no trail here, but a few cairns will guide you. Remember where you crested on the ridge so you can make the return trip. The summit block of Pig Rock is now in view, all you have to do is climb it. Walk across a narrow ledge with good footing to a 20 foot crack (class 3) which is the main weakness in the summit ramparts. Scramble up the crumbling rock to a plateau. This is where most people stop. To make it to the top of the Pig's head find some stair step looking rocks which lead to the top (class 3).

Extra Credits: Little Pig (10,260) class 3, 0.2-0.4 miles, 10-20 RP, 100-180 ft.

If climbing Pig Rock was not enough for you, you can climb Little Pig, the prominent rock formation north of Pig Rock, from many camp hike locations this point is misidentified as Pig Rock. Descend to the summit ridge of Pig Rock, from there look for a steep scree slope heading to the northwest. Descend this scree and loose pine needles to the saddle. From here the summit of Little Pig looks impossible to climb without ropes. Descend along the summit block to a tree, this is the weakness, scramble up to a large boulder, walk up to the ridge crest. From here it is a class 2 walk up until the final class 3 move. To return back to camp there are two options, one which I recommend is to return by your ascent route back to Pig Rock. The other is to descend from the saddle down into the valley meeting up with the single track and heading up the single track.

Extra Credit: Lard Point (10,940) class 2, 1.5 miles, 30 RP, 740 ft.

From the highpoint of the trail before it descends into the valley head up the ridge. It is a mellow bushwhack to a 10,540 ridge point. Descend 40 ft to the east cross an old trail and head up the final 400 ft ascent. The vegetation becomes more dense and the terrain more rocky. The difficulty never exceeds class 2. Reach the summit ridge at 10,860 feet. If you follow the ridge proper the terrain is class 4. Instead follow just below the ridge on the west side. Stay as close to the ridge as possible because the deadfall is intense below on the west slopes of Lard Point. Near the east end of the ridge climb up to the summit on solid rock (class 2). Lard point is named after a failed attempt at Pig Rock. Another interesting note is that Lard Point is one of four ranked summits in the immediate camp area.

