

HIKE NO 3: CRYSTAL LAKE LOOP

Distance: 3.97 mi

Elevation Gain: 370 feet

Time Required: 2.5 - 3.5 hours

Difficulty: Fairly easy

SUMMARY

This is a popular hike not only because of its proximity to Ten Mile River’s largest summer camp at Camp Keowa but also because of its spectacular scenery. The hike is also easily accessible from year-round maintained camp roads, making it a viable winter hiking option. The hike begins on the northern side of Crystal Lake at the Keowa Log Cabin on the blue marked Crystal Lake Trail (CLT). The CLT follows the western shore of Crystal Lake before ending at a junction with the red marked TMR Trail at the lake’s outlet. After crossing the outlet, the hike continues on the TMR Trail paralleling Crystal Lake’s eastern shore before ending back at the Keowa Log Cabin.

TRAILHEAD DIRECTIONS AND PARKING

The trailhead is located at the intersection of Puckyhuddle Road and the Keowa Service Road, directly in front of the Keowa Log Cabin. From Headquarters, make a right hand turn onto Crystal Lake Road (CR-26). After 4.8 miles, make a left hand turn onto the Camp Keowa Service Road (this turn is easy to spot, given the large TMR camp sign located at this location). Drive a little less than a mile on the Keowa Service Road, passing both the Camp Keowa dining hall, trading post, and the large Camp Manhattan sign [Picture 1], all on your left, and in that exact order. The trailhead is located right along the Keowa Service Road with it’s intersection with Puckyhuddle Road, in proximity to the the Keowa Log Cabin [Picture 2]. You will see three blue TMR Trail markers attached to a tree on your left.

There is sufficient space for about 10 vehicles here. Be sure not to block access to any of the roads.



Picture 1



Picture 2

DESCRIPTION

FROM the trailhead and following the blue trail markers, pass the Catholic Chapel on your left before crossing the Mud Pond Bridge, heading about 243 degrees WSW. Standing in the center of the bridge, note the excellent view of Mud Pond on your right [Picture 3] and Crystal Lake on your left.



Picture 3

Shortly after crossing the bridge, follow the trail markers left into the woods, approximately 190 degrees SSW. Crystal Lake will be on your left and a set of seasonal staff cabins are on your right. At 0.25 mi., the staff cabins disappear behind you and the view opens to a magnificent view of Crystal Lake.

At 0.37 mi., the trail makes a series of short hard right and left turns to traverse a marshy area with heavy mountain laurel growth, crossed in spots on wooden planks. The mountain laurel growth begins to thin and crosses a small stream at 0.45 mi. A now unused lean to is located on the right side of the trail here. After passing the lean to, you are now entering the grounds of the historical “Camp Man,” the original Queens borough camp.

The Lakeside Lean to site is reached at 0.52 mi. [Picture 4]. Featuring six lean-to’s right on the lakeshore, it is a great spot for a fall or spring weekend camping trip. The Suanhacky Lodge House is also located here, which is available for rent year-round. Although there is no water at this location, the cabin and lean to site remain very popular due to its relative remoteness and excellent scenery.



Picture 4

At 0.60 mi., the trail passes the “Tower Of Friendship”. The tower was constructed in 1936 by Camp Man’s summer camp staff and members of Suanhacky Lodge. As you can see, the monument is significant. The tower itself is made of stones contributed by national and local leaders of the time, each state of the Union, several foreign countries, and from campers and staff members that attended Camp Man that year. In addition, there is a stone from Lord Baden Powell’s home as well as one from Hyde Park, the home of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Before he became President of the United States in 1933, Franklin Roosevelt was not only the Governor of New York State but also the President of the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York (the legal predecessor of today’s Greater New York Councils) and was the primary force behind the acquisition of Ten Mile River in 1927. He was inducted into the Order of Arrow near this location in 1933. A video of the speech FDR gave after his induction has recently been discovered and can be found at

<http://history.ou-bsa.org/node/3518>

The bust atop the tower is of the likeness of a Camp Man camper, Vincent Kohler. The original bust was sculpted by the famous illustrator Norman Rockwell. Unfortunately, the original was destroyed by vandals at some point in the 1980's, but the replacement that sits atop the tower today is an exact replica.

The bluestone steps leading down to Crystal Lake provide one of the best views at Ten Mile River. Looking back over your shoulder from the bottom of the steps, the Tower of Friendship looks quite imposing - particularly at sunset - as the young Vincent Kohler keeps his permanent vigil over the lake [Picture 5]. A key as to the location of the significant stones of the Tower of Friendship can be found attached to the back of this trail guide.



Picture 5

After leaving the Tower, a picnic area is reached at 0.62 mi. There is a set of old docks, a BBQ grill, and some picnic tables. This is a great place to stop for a break [Picture 6].

Continuing on the trail, the Lakeside Tent Site is reached at 0.73 mi. Much like the aforementioned Lakeside Lean to site, it is a popular destination for weekend trips in the fall and spring [Picture 7].



Picture 6



Picture 7

The trail now enters the grounds of the now closed Camp Kernochan. The camp is named for the Manhattan socialite and magistrate Frederick Kernochan. Mr. Kernochan, like FDR, was a vital part of the effort to acquire Ten Mile River in 1927. A memorial to his honor is located in front of the Camp Kernochan Dining Hall.

At 0.95 mi., the CLT reaches the former Camp Kernochan waterfront featuring another marvelous view of Crystal Lake [Picture 8]. Note that the old lifeguard tower is closed. Do not attempt to enter or



Picture 8

climb the tower as it is in disrepair and is not safe.

At 1.05 mi. an enormous white pine tree is passed, directly to the left of the trail. It is about 150 feet tall and is estimated to be about 150 - 175 years old.

After passing the tree, Crystal Lake begins to narrow as both the lake and Camp Kernochan fade behind you. The walking is easy here and is full of wildlife. If you keep a close eye on the lake to your left, you are almost guaranteed to see a beaver. Note the obvious activity on both sides of the trail.

At 1.46 mi., the Millennium Natural Gas Pipeline swath is crossed [Picture 9]. The pipeline carries natural gas from southwestern New York State all the way to the town of Ramapo in Rockland County, a distance of about 300 miles. The 10" wide pipeline was installed in 1955 and was recently replaced with 30" wide pipe in 2007.



Picture 9

At 1.52 mi., you reach the end of the blue marked CLT at the Crystal Lake Dam and at a junction with the red marked main TMR Trail. Turning right onto the TMR Trail and away from the dam will bring you first to Trout Pond (0.62 mi.) and further to Camp Aquehonga (3.29 mi.).

Our hike continues to the left, in which we must cross the Crystal Lake Dam. As of this guide's writing in the winter of 2017, there were two separate dam crossings - one north of the other. In times of high water - right after a significant storm or during the spring snowmelt - the lower dam crossing must be used. The lower dam is located about 50 yards south of the upper dam. In either case, our hike and the TMR Trail continue around the opposite side of Crystal Lake, towards Camp Keowa. Note that a footbridge is in place over both dam spillways [Picture 10]. There is a large amount of mountain laurel overgrowth here, so be sure to keep an eye on the trail markers. After crossing the dam, turn left, and the lake will remain on your left side, approximately 10 degrees NNE.



Picture 10

Continuing our hike on the red marked TMR Trail, the pipeline swath is once again crossed at 1.76 mi., right before passing a now non-functioning piped artesian well at 1.83 mi. [Picture 11] only before



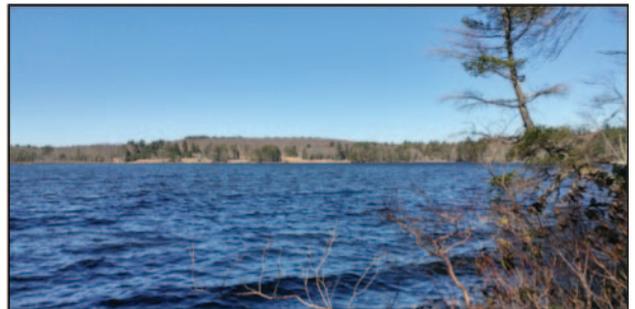
Picture 11

passing a piped still functioning artesian well at 2.06 mi. [Picture 12]. In between the two wells there are some great tent camping spots, although any water obtained from the functioning well **must be boiled**.



Picture 12

Yet another great viewpoint of Crystal Lake is located at 2.26 mi. [Picture 13]. After this viewpoint, the trail remains close to the lake, maneuvering through mountain laurel, before making an abrupt right turn at a seasonal stream crossing at 2.44 mi.



Picture 13

Over the next $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile or so, the trail makes several - sometimes very abrupt - changes in direction. There are many more fantastic viewpoints of Crystal Lake in this short section to numerous to include here, be sure to take the time to check them out.

At 2.80 mi. the TMR Trail makes a hard right turn, heading uphill, next to a large deposit of glacial rocks [Picture 14]. We are now ascending what was formerly known as “Rattlesnake Ledge”, which presumably by its name, was once home to a large population of timber rattlesnakes. Today, the ledge is known as Eagle Rock, the top of which is reached at 3.06 mi. [Picture 15]. If you sit here for a half hour or so, and if you remain fairly quiet, you have a very good chance of seeing a bald eagle.



Picture 14



Picture 15

The area in and around Ten Mile River is known to have one of the highest concentrations of both bald eagles and timber rattlesnakes in the United States. Curiously, the world’s expert on the timber rattler lives in nearby Narrowsburg. With that being said, I can say that I have hiked the trails at TMR for over twenty-five years, and I have only seen one time down by the Delaware River. The snakes are known for their reclusive nature and are only active from early May until late October. Consider yourself lucky if you see one.

Leaving Eagle Rock, the TMR Trail makes a right turn right before entering the outskirts of Camp Keowa. At 3.10 mi., make a left turn onto a camp service road. Tent frames, shower houses, and lean-to's abound in this area, becoming more and more frequent. Continuing to follow the road, the Camp Keowa Staff Site is reached at 3.32 mi. and is passed on your right hand side [Picture 16].

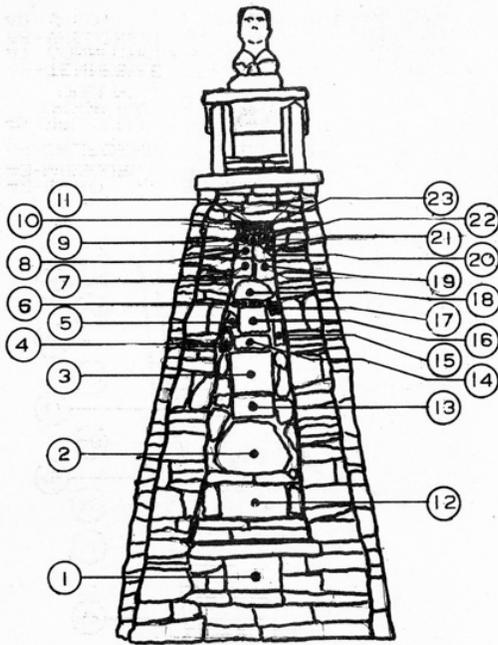


Picture 16

At 3.62 mi. the Camp Keowa dining hall [Picture 17]. is passed on your left, and the Keowa office is passed on your right before reaching an intersection with the Camp Keowa Service Road, where you will turn left, continuing to follow the TMR Trail. This area should be familiar, as you drove past all of this on your drive to the CLT trailhead. You will arrive back to this hike's beginning point, after passing both the Keowa Trading Post (left) and the Camp Manhattan sign (also on your left) at the Keowa Log Cabin at 3.97 mi.

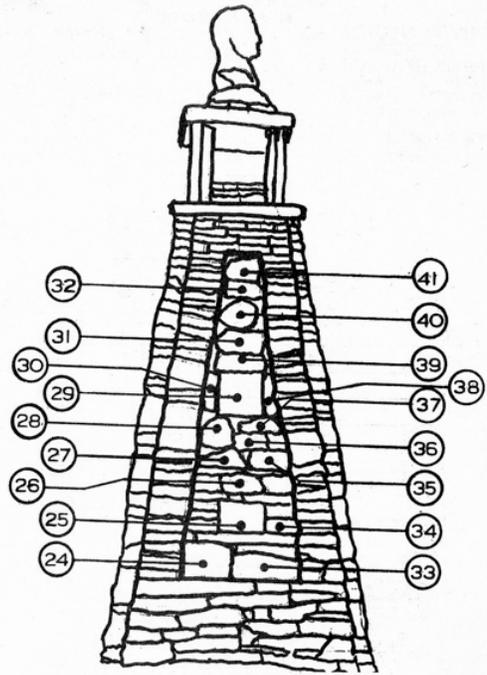


Picture 17



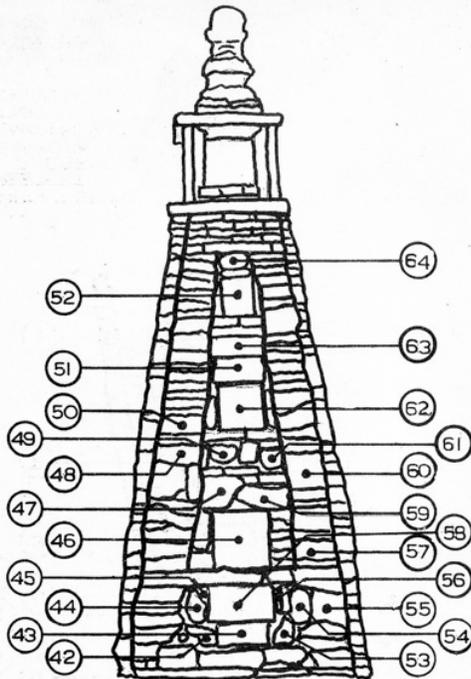
EAST SIDE

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1-CORNER STONE | 10-SOUTH POLE | 17-LAVA-POMPEII |
| 2-PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT | 11-SOUTH DAKOTA | 18-ARKANSAS |
| 3-NEW YORK | 12-TITLE STONE | 19-ILLINOIS |
| 4-ROMAN FORUM | 13-GOVERNOR LEHMAN | 20-MONTANA |
| 5-POMPEII | 14-JAMES E.WEST | 21-NORTH CAROLINA |
| 6-ROMAN MOSAIC | 15-ROMAN FORUM | 22-NORTH DAKOTA |
| 7-CHILIE | 16-SIR BADEN POWELL | 23-OREGON |
| 8-WASHINGTON,DC | | |
| 9-WYOMING | | |



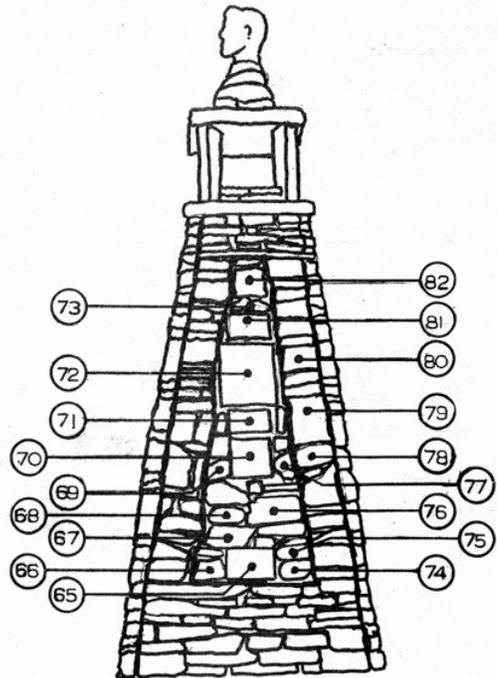
SOUTH SIDE

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 24-WASHINGTON | 30-NEW MEXICO | 35-NEBRASKA |
| 25-ORDER OF THE ARROW | 31-CAMP PERSHING | 36-COLORADO |
| 26-FLORIDA | 32-OKLAHOMA | 37-NEVADA |
| 27-HAWAII | 33-NEW HAMPSHIRE | 38-MAINE |
| 28-LOUISIANA | 34-CANADA | 39-KENTUCKY |
| 29-INDIANA | | 40-MICHIGAN |
| | | 41-PHILADELPHIA |



WEST SIDE

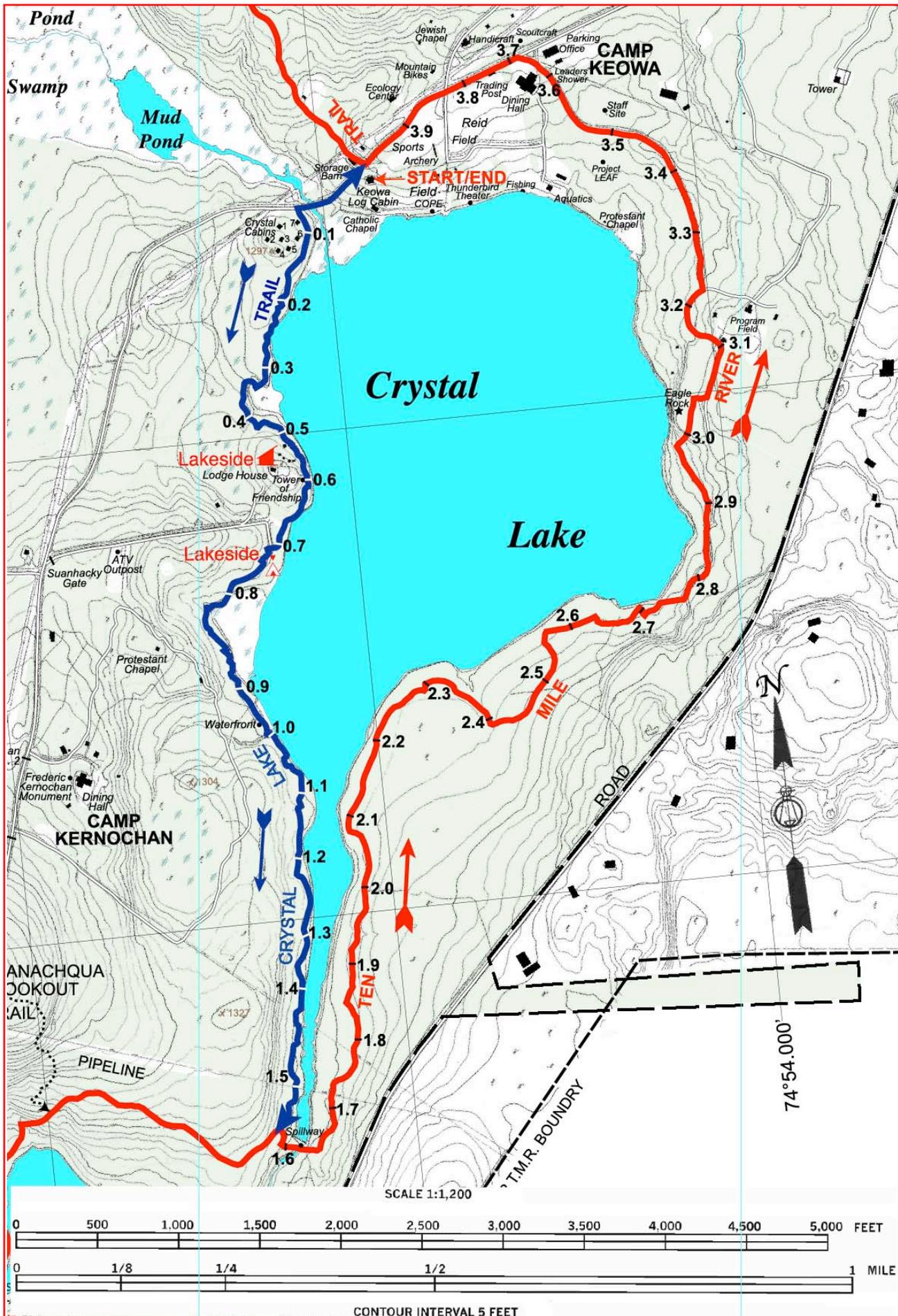
- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 42-IDAHO | 50-RHODE ISLAND | 58-CHARLES W. FROESSEL |
| 43-MISSOURI | 51-MISSISSIPPI | PRESIDENT-QUEENS |
| 44-CALIFORNIA | 52-PENNSYLVANIA | COUNCIL NEW JERSEY |
| 45-GIRL SCOUT TROOP 168 QUEENS | 53-KANSAS | 60-ARIZONA |
| 46-TENNESSEE | 54-SOUTH CAROLINA | 61-VIRGINIA |
| 47-CONNECTICUT | 55-ALABAMA | 62-UTAH |
| 48-WISCONSIN | 56-BELGIUM | 63-VERMONT |
| 49-OHIO | 57-CAMP HORSESHOE | 64-IOWA |



NORTH SIDE

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 65-TEXAS | 70-CAMP MANHATTAN | 76-CAMP POMPERAUG |
| 66-NATURAL BRIDGE, VA. | 71-MINNESOTA | 77-IRELAND |
| 67-SCHIFF FOUNDATION | 72-GEORGIA | 78-MARYLAND |
| 68-CAMP NEWCOMBE | 73-MASSACHUSETTS | 79-WEST VIRGINIA |
| 69-DELAWARE | 74-CAMP MATTINECOCK LAKE, VA | 80-CAMP SIWANOY |
| | | 81-MEXICO |
| | | 82-DAN BEARD |

TOWER OF FRIENDSHIP GUIDE

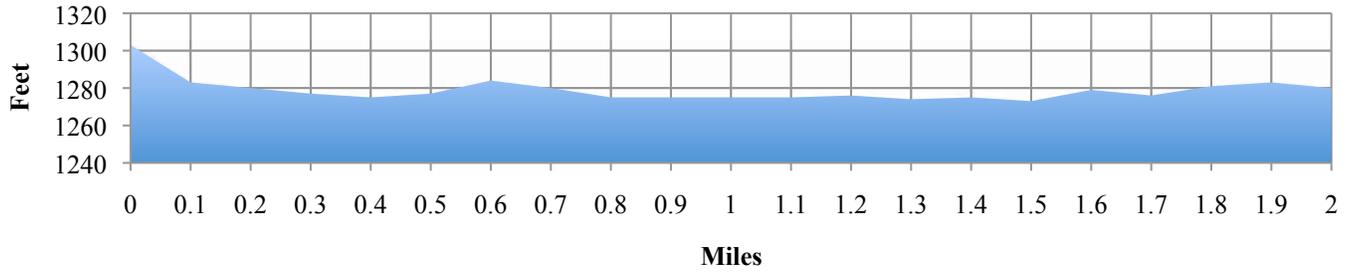


Hike Summary

- 0.0 mi. Keowa Log Cabin. Trailhead of Crystal Lake Trail (intersection of Puckyhuddle Rd. and Keowa Service Rd.)
- 0.25 mi. Magnificent view of Crystal Lake.
- 0.37 mi. Series of short hard right and left turns to traverse a marshy area with heavy mountain laurel growth, crossed in spots on wooden planks.
- 0.45 mi. Small stream.
- 0.52 mi. Lakeside Lean-to site/Suanhacky Lodge House.
- 0.60 mi. Tower of Friendship.
- 0.62 mi. Picnic area.
- 0.73 mi. Lakeside Tent Site.
- 0.95 mi. Former Camp Kernochan waterfront.
- 1.05 mi. Enormous white pine tree.
- 1.46 mi. Millennium Natural Gas Pipeline swath.
- 1.52 mi. End of Crystal Lake Trail. Left onto T.M.R. Trail.
- 1.76 mi. Millennium Natural Gas Pipeline swath.
- 1.83 mi. Non-functioning piped artesian well.
- 2.06 mi. Still-functioning piped artesian well. (*Must be boiled.*)
- 2.26 mi. Great viewpoint of Crystal Lake.
- 2.44 mi. Abrupt right turn at a seasonal stream crossing.
- 2.80 mi. Hard right turn, heading uphill, next to a large deposit of glacial rocks.
- 3.06 mi. Top of Eagle Rock.
- 3.10 mi. Left turn onto a camp service road.
- 3.32 mi. Camp Keowa Staff Site.
- 3.62 mi. Camp Keowa dining hall.
- 3.97 mi. Keowa Log Cabin.

Trail Elevations

0.0 mi. - 2.0 mi.



2.0 mi. - 3.97 mi.

