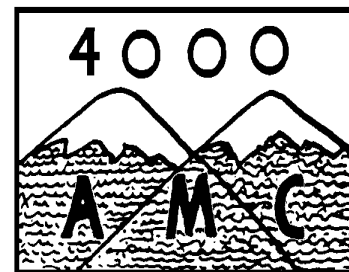


APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

FOUR THOUSAND FOOTER COMMITTEE



PO Box 444, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833-0444
savage@amc4000footer.org
www.amc4000footer.org



Eric L. Savage, *Chair & Corresponding Secretary*
Keith D. D'Alessandro, *Vice Chair*
Deane H. Morrison III, *Treasurer*
Steven D. Smith, *Recording Secretary*

June A. Rogier John J. Gutowski, Jr.
Gary R. Tompkins Summerset C. Banks
Jean-Sebastien Roux Gregory D. Ortiz

Dear Hiker,

We appreciate your interest in the AMC Four Thousand Footer Club, which was formed in 1957 to bring together hikers who had traveled to some of the less frequently visited sections of the White Mountains, and to encourage hikers who were addicted to the Presidentials and Franconias to strike out into less familiar areas. At that time, such peaks as Hancock, Owl's Head and West Bond were trailless and practically never climbed. Many other peaks on the list that had trails were seldom climbed, and overuse was almost unheard of except in the Presidentials and Franconias. Today the Four Thousand Footer Club is composed of active, enthusiastic hikers whose travels in the mountains have made us familiar with many different sections of the White Mountain backcountry, and with the problems which threaten to degrade the mountain experience that we have been privileged to enjoy. We hope that this broadened exposure to the varied beauty of our beloved peaks and forests will encourage our members to work for the preservation and wise use of our wild country so that it may be enjoyed and passed on to future generations undiminished.

Please note: Applicants should understand that the AMC Four Thousand Footer Club is strictly a volunteer organization, conducted as a friendly group of fellow hikers, with no paid staff. This permits us to operate very frugally, with low administrative expenses, and therefore we are able to donate a large percentage of the money we receive to trail maintenance and other projects — a matter explained at length later in this letter. However, this also means that application processing can go quite slowly, particularly in the late summer and fall when most of the year's applications are submitted (and when the fine weather often lures the Secretary away from his stack of paperwork and into the mountains). Please expect application processing to take at least a month, and perhaps longer from August to November. (Please note that, due to technical issues, we usually do not start processing applications that arrive after the annual meeting in April until at least mid-July — during this time, when few applications are submitted, we are usually trying to catch up with matters that have to be put aside during the busy period that starts in the late summer and often continues up to the annual meeting in April.) If you fail to include your application fee with your application, or submit an application that does not conform to the standard form (explained later), or submit materials with more than one applicant on a single application form, expect an additional delay, as such applications require extra attention and usually involve another round of communication with the applicant. The Secretary hopes applicants will realize that this is something he does in his spare time. (Yes, I love doing it, but please help keep unnecessary extra paperwork to a minimum by following the procedures described in this letter as closely as possible.)

Very few items sent to us have been lost in the mail (though the black holes that surround my cluttered desk can be voracious); in any case, if you wish an acknowledgement when I receive your application material, please include an email address, or enclose a stamped self-addressed postcard or envelope. Please write "Acknowledgement Requested" on the lower left corner of your **outer** envelope, as I may not notice the acknowledgement request/envelope until I begin to process the application, at which point it no longer serves the intended purpose.

AWARDS AND REQUIREMENTS: The AMC Four Thousand Footer Club recognizes three lists of peaks — the White Mountain Four Thousand Footers, the New England Four Thousand Footers, and the New England Hundred Highest Peaks — and we award scrolls and shoulder patches to those who have climbed each peak on the appropriate list. (You must be a member of the White Mountain Four Thousand Footer Club in order to be eligible for the New England Four Thousand Footer Club, and be a member of the New England Four Thousand Footer Club in order to be eligible for the New England Hundred Highest Club. However, if eligible, you may join two or more clubs at the same time.) In addition, Winter Awards are given to those who climb all peaks of a list during calendar winter (the climbs do not have to be all in the same winter). Note that for a peak to qualify as a winter ascent, the **entire trip** must begin after the hour and minute of the beginning of winter (winter solstice) and end before the hour and minute of the end of winter (vernal equinox), to satisfy the criteria established by Miriam Underhill, the inventor of the Winter Four-Thousand-Footer game. As of April 2014, these clubs had the following numbers of officially registered members: White Mountain Four Thousand Footers: 11,010 (winter: 642), New England Four Thousand Footers: 2,739 (winter: 160), New England Hundred Highest: 819 (winter: 99).

To qualify for membership in any of these clubs, a hiker must climb, **on foot, to and from** each summit on the list. Ascents may have been made at any time during a hiker's lifetime, and any combination of two or more peaks may be climbed in one continuous trip. No part of the ascent or descent can be done via ski lift, cog railway, snowmobile, car (on an auto road intended to ascend all or part of a mountain), or bike – generally meaning that one must be on foot from and back to a trailhead and/or publicly drivable road. Regarding fine points of peakbagging ethics, each hiker is left to the exactions of her or his conscience but please don't put us in a position to have to enforce these technicalities. [Three common mistakes are biking any part of the Lincoln Woods/Wilderness Trail, combining an unconnected ascent and decent (e.g. a hike up Cannon with gondola descent one day and returning later via the gondola to do a descent) and starting/finishing a 'winter' trip before/after the solstice/equinox.]

Once all the peaks have been climbed, the applicant must complete an application for membership. Applicants need not be AMC members, although the Committee strongly urges all hikers who make considerable use of the trails to contribute to their maintenance in some manner. (Membership in the AMC is one of the more effective means of assisting these efforts, as well as helping with the work of protecting the mountains through education, research, and conservation programs. Information about and applications for membership in the AMC are available on the AMC website, www.outdoors.org, or from the AMC office at 5 Joy St., Boston, MA 02108.) Dogs who are companions of human members are accepted as canine members of the White Mountain Four Thousand Footer Club (using the normal application process), but not for the two New England clubs, since they cannot legally climb the peaks in Baxter State Park, nor for any of the winter lists.

Applicants must have climbed all peaks on the current list for each club (which are based on current USGS maps). Hikers who registered for the New England Four Thousand Footer Club without having climbed Redington and/or Spaulding must have climbed these peaks in order to qualify for the New England Hundred Highest Club.

APPLICATIONS: To complete an official application, fill out the form and return it, **along with an account of the ascent of your final peak** (or another peak if you prefer). The primary purpose of this last requirement is to afford us the benefit of hearing some of your reactions to your Four Thousand Footer experience. Therefore, we will be even more pleased if you write on some aspect of this experience of your own choice that appeals to you more. The Committee does not require that you supply precise dates for each ascent, as we operate on the honor system, but we appreciate as complete an application as you can provide, and would prefer to have a precise date for your final peak (please indicate this peak on the form). Official application forms are preferred, and are provided on the website. We have official application spreadsheets (Excel) available upon emailed request. Your own version of the form will be acceptable if it follows the format of the official application form: **one** side of a **single** 8½" by 11" sheet (**'portrait'** orientation) with your **name and address at the bottom of the page**, from left to center (i.e. the same location as on the standard form). We have to maintain files of over 10,000 individuals, with over 600 new items each year, and it is impossible to flip through a stack of files quickly and easily unless the names and addresses are in the same location on all forms. A list of peaks that provides information such as location, elevation, and topographic maps is available, on this website, for the New England Four Thousand Footers and Hundred Highest. These lists are for your own use, and should not be sent back to us.

APPLICATION FEE: We charge a one-time fee of \$10 to cover the expense of the scroll, one shoulder patch, and postage, printing, etc. If you apply for more than one club, either for yourself or for members of your family at the same address, in one mailing, the fee for additional applications is \$5. Additional patches may be purchased at \$4 each. Your fee should be sent with your application; checks should be made out to the *AMC Four Thousand Footer Committee*. Please include a note with any additional requests; if you only use the memo section of your check to order patches, etc., I may not notice what is written there. Patches will be mailed to you after your application has been processed; the scroll will be mailed after the Annual Reunion in April if you do not appear in person. As noted below, any surplus we accumulate will be designated for work on trails or similar projects of service to the hiking public, and we gladly accept donations for such purposes. Due to the generosity of our members we have been able to donate over \$70,000 to AMC Trails and \$10,000 to the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund.

ANNUAL REUNION: The annual awards ceremony is typically held on a Saturday evening in April. Please visit amc4000footer.org for the date and event location. NOTE--Beginning in 2016 the event moved from the Middle School in Stratham, NH to the Exeter High School in Exeter, NH. The event is open to all who are interested in the AMC Four Thousand Footer Club, including family, friends, and anyone who is working on the lists. Typically, there is a social hour (no alcohol permitted on school grounds) followed by dinner. The awarding of scrolls will begin at around 6:30 p.m., and there will be a further opportunity to meet and talk with other hikers after the awards. All are welcome to the dinner and the meeting, or just for the award ceremony. Detailed information and directions will be sent to all new members with their acceptance letters; other interested persons can get the information from our website or can send a self-addressed stamped envelope for this material.

Please note that the deadline for summer applications is December 31. After that date, we have to focus on more recent finishers (usually of winter lists) and we may not be able to process delayed applications (e.g. from the summer) in time for the awards ceremony.

Correspondence concerning the Northeast 111 Club should be directed to Mike Dickerman, P.O. Box 385, Littleton, NH 03561 or dickerman2@myfairpoint.net.

Hikers requiring specific information about matters of club policy or similar questions, should visit our website or may write directly to the Committee. A pamphlet describing routes to the trailless peaks on the New England Hundred Highest list is available from the Committee for \$3. A set of black-and-white USGS maps covering these peaks (printed out from Maptech CDs) is available for an additional \$2, **or** we now have a set of **color maps** available for an additional \$9. With the exception of Mt. Redington, we do not provide information and maps for the peaks over 4000 feet, as these are adequately covered by existing guidebooks: the AMC guides to the White Mountains and to Maine, and the Long Trail Guide for Vermont.

We would like to mention in passing that the Editors of the White Mountain Guide are also members of the Committee. The Editors receive few comments about the book from its readers (we assume that some of those who spend their good money on it do read it), and have mixed feelings about this situation: they hope that it means that the book is without error, but fear that it merely means that many people do not think that their comments and criticisms will be used and useful – or even read. Since AMC Four Thousand Footer Club members have been using the trails frequently, they as a group should be more aware of the strong points and defects of the book in general and of many of its particular trail descriptions. We get many useful comments from new members (most of whom were probably unaware that the Editor might be reading them and so were perhaps more frank – and thus more helpful – than they would otherwise have permitted themselves to be), and we would like to hear whatever comments you have to make. (Flattery is always appreciated but – alas – not very useful.) And, after all, we are a captive audience – we have to read your application materials. Incidentally, the Editors only control the actual content of the book, not the format, so comments concerning the physical size of the book should be directed to AMC Books at Joy St. – we have very little say in that matter. Also, we should mention that (mostly for marketing reasons) it is not economically practical to publish the book in sections or in a loose-leaf format, as many hikers have suggested. Note that there is now an online version of the White Mountain Guide, from which individual maps and descriptions can be printed (by paying subscribers); details can be found at www.outdoors.org.

Sermon: Although use of the trails in our backcountry areas has greatly increased over the past three decades, funds available for their maintenance have declined. One year, the White Mountain National Forest's funding for trail maintenance was virtually eliminated, and the future of trail maintenance appropriations for the Forest Service seems to be continually in question. In fact, the parking permit system (which, PLEASE NOTE, was mandated by CONGRESS, not by the WMNF) was initiated in part to replace Federal funding for trail maintenance. Neither the WMNF nor the AMC has ever had the funds to adequately maintain the existing trail network with paid professional crews, and in future years – given the irresistible trend of budget-cutting for Federal agencies – there will probably be even less money available. There are three possible outcomes to this situation: (1) a substantial user fee will be imposed on hikers, along the lines of the new WMNF parking permit program and the \$7 daily parking fee that was collected for several years at the Wilderness Trail parking lot in winter, (2) many of those trails which are not used by crowds of people will be closed, and other trails will deteriorate, or (3) the hiking public will become active in the support of the trails. Since alternative #1 is obviously cumbersome and its effective enforcement could be repugnant (do we want a ranger stationed on the Franconia Ridge to check for permits?), #3 seems to be the best alternative, but at present #2 seems most likely. Many hikers do not seem to realize that there is no one out there whose duty it is to provide them with trails. The AMC and WMNF do the best they can, but their budgets are limited. The variety of trails we enjoy today is mainly the result of hard work by a relative handful of dedicated volunteers and professionals over more than a century, and much of it can be lost in the next decade if you and I procrastinate. Most hikers would be shocked to learn the number and variety of trails that the WMNF has proposed for abandonment — and then backed off when the proposals met with strenuous objections. Their budget problems may force them to become more insistent in such matters in the future. (In fact, there are a number of trails that are officially open but have had no significant maintenance for several years – presumably the WMNF plans to abandon them when they have become completely overgrown, as it has done with several such trails in the past.) On the other hand, there has been an encouraging increase in the amount of volunteer effort in trail maintenance – as people become aware of the situation, they have responded. This response has, among other things, required the expansion of Camp Dodge in Pinkham Notch, the AMC's support facility for volunteer trail workers, a project to which the AMC Four Thousand Footer Club has made several significant donations.

In recent years, many New England trails, particularly in the White Mountains, have been hit with several devastating blows. Hurricane Irene, although reduced to a tropical storm by the time it reached us, ripped through the rivers and forests of New England like nothing since the Hurricane of 1938. Even those who have only driven through these areas can see the damage done to riverbanks, bridges and roads. The trails did not fare any better, and some will require massive efforts to repair and/or reroute large sections. Then came superstorm Sandy, and the unusually damaging winds of the Winter of 2012-13. It is sobering to recall that there are entire trail networks that were simply abandoned after 1938, never to be recovered, because there were not the resources and personnel to bring them back. Fortunately, we do not have a world war to distract from the recovery effort this time around, but the challenge is nearly as great.

What can we do? We need people to do all sorts of trail maintenance, from cutting brush and painting blazes to constructing rock steps. Many groups do this work, and can easily train you to do some useful service on the trails. Besides, we'll let you in on one of the best-kept secrets in the mountains: trail work is fun. And a trail that you have worked on belongs to you in a way that those who have only taken from the trails and have never given to them can never know. The AMC has an Adopt-a-Trail program, and most of its chapters have volunteer crews. You do not have to be a member to participate. Write or call the AMC at Joy Street or Pinkham Notch Camp concerning the AMC Trails program, or visit amc4000footer.org for a list of trail work organizations and opportunities around New Hampshire. Another group that should be mentioned as particularly skilled in introducing inexperienced people to trail work is Trailwrights, which can be contacted through Hal Graham at 1204 New Hampton Rd., Sanbornton, NH 03269 (603-286-3506; halpeg76@metrocast.net). At the very least, carry a small saw and remove small blowdowns from trails. In the long run, we will probably have precisely the quality and variety of trails that we deserve, so let's try to deserve the best. One possible role for the Four Thousand Footer Club is to work on a few trails where a one-day effort by a small but determined group could make a substantial impact. Write or email us for details, or watch for notices on the website and in the AMC online trip listings.

We understand that there are people who are very short on free time, but who can contribute money. Although we would rather have your work and your companionship than your money, the latter is also useful for purchasing tools and supplies, and for hiring people for the professional trail crew to do jobs that can be done most efficiently by people with more intensive training and experience. You can donate money directly to AMC Trails or through the AMC Four Thousand Footer Committee. Earlier in this letter we told you that we were trying to raise money in order to make a contribution to trail maintenance and mountain stewardship in the Northeast. We consider any sum in excess of the basic \$10 application fee and \$4 extra patch cost as such a contribution.

Some hikers have donated a fixed amount for each of the peaks on the list that they have climbed, which seems like an interesting and attractive concept for providing support to the trails that have given them so much enjoyment. When we began this fund-raising effort, we were hopeful that we would be able to make an annual donation of \$1000 toward some trail project, which seemed at the time to be an optimistic but attainable goal. The generosity of our members has far exceeded our expectations. We have been particularly pleased to be able to contribute a notable amount of money to help with recovery efforts in the wake of Irene, although so much more is still needed.

Each year, we consult with AMC Trails, and hear from other organizations, concerning projects for which the year's donation could be used. We typically designate much of our donation for specific trail projects related to Four Thousand Footer use patterns that are planned for the AMC trail crew's summer schedule, usually rock work and/or bog bridging, which must be constructed and maintained in order to keep hiker traffic (us) from trampling the numerous moist areas on trails into steadily widening gullies and mudholes. Our contribution will help keep these sections of trail narrow footways with limited impact on the soils and vegetation around them. When the opportunity arises, we may also make a significant contribution to the AMC Trails general fund for Volunteer Trail Programs. Many years ago we made our first donation of \$1,500 toward improvements that were made at Camp Dodge. One of the most surprising and satisfying trends of the past few years has been the virtual explosion of volunteer involvement in trail maintenance (of which our contribution fund is certainly one excellent example). Camp Dodge, built to provide support facilities including inexpensive and convenient lodging for volunteer trail workers, was bursting at the seams. To take advantage of the growth in numbers of volunteers available for trail work, the AMC needed to be able to expand these facilities so that people who are willing to donate their time and energy can have a convenient and comfortable place to stay without being forced into substantial out-of-pocket expenses for lodging. Each year there is a need for money to buy tools to be used by volunteer maintainers and to maintain and enhance the major work that was done in past years, so we also designate some of our donations for this work. We feel that our dollars will be multiplied several times over through the work that will be done by volunteers making use of these facilities.

Originally and for many years we were the adopters of the four-mile portion of the Davis Path between Mt. Davis and the Glen Boulder Trail under the AMC's extremely successful Adopt-a-Trail program. The Davis Path is one of the most historic trails in the Whites, having been built in the 1840s as the third bridle path to the summit of Mount Washington. It is a rough, wild path that traverses the northern part of the Montalban Ridge in the Presidential Range - Dry River Wilderness, giving access to several outstanding natural features, including the wild and scenic Giant Stairs, the remote and seldom-visited summit of Mt. Davis (considered by some to have one of the finest views in the Whites), and our old friend, Mt. Isolation, upon whose summit more people have completed their pursuit of the Four Thousand Footers than on any of the other 47 peaks (though in recent years, Mt. Carrigain has taken the top spot). Presently we are the adopters of the Passaconaway Cut-off. We are hopeful that the AMC Four Thousand Footer Club has enough energetic, ambitious members that we will always be able to keep our trail in top condition. The work itself, cleaning out waterbars, clearing small to medium blowdowns and clipping brush, is fairly easy. Write or call Steve Smith, Box 445, Lincoln, NH 03251 (email: info@mountainwanderer.com; phone: 800-745-2707) for details. Or drop in and visit Steve at his Mountain Wanderer bookstore on the main drag in Lincoln.

The committee extends its best wishes for your continued enjoyment of the mountains.

APPLICATION FOR THE FOUR THOUSAND FOOTER CLUB OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

MOUNTAIN	ELEVATION	DATE	COMPANIONS, COMMENTS
ADAMS	5774	_____	_____
BOND	4698	_____	_____
BONDCLIFF	4265	_____	_____
BOND, WEST PEAK	4540*	_____	_____
CABOT	4170*	_____	_____
CANNON [PROFILE]	4100*	_____	_____
CARRIGAIN	4700*	_____	_____
CARTER DOME	4832	_____	_____
CARTER, MIDDLE	4610*	_____	_____
CARTER, SOUTH	4430*	_____	_____
EISENHOWER [PLEASANT]	4780*	_____	_____
FIELD	4340*	_____	_____
FLUME	4328	_____	_____
GALEHEAD	4024	_____	_____
GARFIELD	4500*	_____	_____
HALE	4054	_____	_____
HANCOCK	4420*	_____	_____
HANCOCK, SOUTH PEAK	4319	_____	_____
ISOLATION	4004	_____	_____
JACKSON	4052	_____	_____
JEFFERSON	5712	_____	_____
KINSMAN, NORTH PEAK	4293	_____	_____
KINSMAN, SOUTH PEAK	4358	_____	_____
LAFAYETTE	5260*	_____	_____
LIBERTY	4459	_____	_____
LINCOLN	5089	_____	_____
MADISON	5367	_____	_____
MONROE	5384*	_____	_____
MOOSILAUKE	4802	_____	_____
MORIAH	4049	_____	_____
OSCEOLA	4340*	_____	_____
OSCEOLA, EAST PEAK	4156	_____	_____
OWLS HEAD	4025	_____	_____
PASSACONAWAY	4043	_____	_____
PIERCE [CLINTON]	4310	_____	_____
TECUMSEH	4003	_____	_____
TOM	4051	_____	_____
TRIPYRAMID, MIDDLE PEAK	4140*	_____	_____
TRIPYRAMID, NORTH PEAK	4180*	_____	_____
TWIN, NORTH	4761	_____	_____
TWIN, SOUTH	4902	_____	_____
WASHINGTON	6288	_____	_____
WAUMBEC	4006	_____	_____
WHITEFACE	4020*	_____	_____
WILDCAT	4422	_____	_____
WILDCAT, "D" PEAK	4070*	_____	_____
WILLEY	4285	_____	_____
ZEALAND	4260*	_____	_____

* Elevation obtained by interpolation

NAME _____

AGE: _____

ADDRESS _____

AMC MEMBER? YES []
 NO []

E-mail: _____

Please return this form when complete with current application fee (see current info letter) to AMC Four Thousand Footer Committee, P.O. Box 444, Exeter, NH 03833-0444. The Four Thousand Footer Club is open to all hikers who have ascended and descended on foot the summits of all the peaks on this official list. Good luck and good hiking!

APPLICATION FOR THE FOUR THOUSAND FOOTER CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND

MOUNTAIN ELEVATION DATE COMPANIONS, COMMENTS

***** MOUNTAINS IN MAINE *****

MT ABRAHAM	4050*		
BIGELOW MTN, AVERY PEAK	4090*		
BIGELOW MTN, WEST PEAK	4145		
CROCKER MTN	4228		
CROCKER MTN (S PK)	4050*		
KATAHDIN, BAXTER PEAK	5268		
KATAHDIN, HAMLIN PEAK	4756		
NORTH BROTHER	4151		
OLD SPECK MTN	4170*		
REDINGTON	4010*		
SADDLEBACK MTN	4120		
SADDLEBACK MTN, THE HORN	4041		
SPAULDING	4010*		
SUGARLOAF MTN	4250*		

***** MOUNTAINS IN VERMONT *****

MT ABRAHAM	4006		
CAMELS HUMP	4083		
MT ELLEN	4083		
KILLINGTON PEAK	4235		
MT MANSFIELD, THE CHIN	4393		

***** FOUR THOUSAND FOOTERS OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS *****

ADAMS	5774	HANCOCK	4420*	OWLS HEAD	4025
BOND	4698	HANCOCK, SOUTH PEAK	4319	PASSACONAWAY	4043
BONDCLIFF	4265	ISOLATION	4004	PIERCE [CLINTON]	4310
BOND, WEST PEAK	4540*	JACKSON	4052	TECUMSEH	4003
CABOT	4170*	JEFFERSON	5712	TOM	4051
CANNON [PROFILE]	4100*	KINSMAN, NORTH PEAK	4293	TRIPYRAMID, MIDDLE PEAK	4140*
CARRIGAIN	4700*	KINSMAN, SOUTH PEAK	4358	TRIPYRAMID, NORTH PEAK	4180*
CARTER DOME	4832	LAFAYETTE	5260*	TWIN, NORTH	4761
CARTER, MIDDLE	4610*	LIBERTY	4459	TWIN, SOUTH	4902
CARTER, SOUTH	4430*	LINCOLN	5089	WASHINGTON	6288
EISENHOWER [PLEASANT]	4780*	MADISON	5367	WAUMBEC	4006
FIELD	4340*	MONROE	5384*	WHITEFACE	4020*
FLUME	4328	MOOSILAUKE	4802	WILDCAT	4422
GALEHEAD	4024	MORIAH	4049	WILDCAT, "D" PEAK	4070*
GARFIELD	4500*	OSCEOLA	4340*	WILLEY	4285
HALE	4054	OSCEOLA, EAST PEAK	4156	ZEALAND	4260*

* Elevation obtained by interpolation

NAME _____

AGE: _____

ADDRESS _____

AMC MEMBER? YES []
NO []

E-mail: _____

Please return this form when complete with current application fee (see current info letter) to AMC Four Thousand Footer Committee, P.O. Box 444, Exeter, NH 03833-0444. The Four Thousand Footer Club is open to all hikers who have ascended and descended on foot the summits of all the peaks on this official list, plus the forty-eight peaks of the White Mountain Four Thousand Footer list. Good luck and good hiking!

APPLICATION FOR THE NEW ENGLAND HUNDRED HIGHEST CLUB

MOUNTAIN	ELEVATION	DATE	COMPANIONS, COMMENTS
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***** MOUNTAINS IN MAINE *****

BALDPATE	3790*	_____	_____
BIGELOW, SOUTH HORN	3805	_____	_____
COE	3795	_____	_____
EAST KENNEBAGO	3791	_____	_____
ELEPHANT	3774	_____	_____
FORT	3867	_____	_____
GOOSE EYE	3870*	_____	_____
KENNEBAGO DIVIDE, NORTH PK	3775	_____	_____
REDINGTON*	4010*	_____	_____
SNOW (Chain of Ponds quad)	3960	_____	_____
SNOW (Little Kennebago Lake quad)	3784	_____	_____
SOUTH BROTHER	3970	_____	_____
WHITE CAP	3856	_____	_____
SPAULDING*	4010*	_____	_____
UNNAMED PEAK ¹	3855	_____	_____

***** MOUNTAINS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE *****

THE BULGE	3950*	_____	_____
CANNON BALLS, NE PK	3769	_____	_____
THE HORN	3905	_____	_____
NANCY	3926	_____	_____
SANDWICH	3980*	_____	_____
SCAR RIDGE, WEST PEAK	3774	_____	_____
THE SLEEPERS, EAST PEAK	3860*	_____	_____
VOSE SPUR	3862	_____	_____
WEEKS, NORTH PEAK	3901	_____	_____
WEEKS, SOUTH PEAK	3885	_____	_____
UNNAMED PEAK ²	3813	_____	_____

***** MOUNTAINS IN VERMONT *****

BIG JAY	3786	_____	_____
BREAD LOAF	3835	_____	_____
DORSET PEAK	3770*	_____	_____
EQUINOX	3850*	_____	_____
JAY PEAK	3858	_____	_____
MENDON PEAK	3840	_____	_____
PICO PEAK	3957	_____	_____
STRATTON MTN	3940	_____	_____
MT WILSON	3790*	_____	_____

* Elevation obtained by interpolation

NAME _____

AGE: _____

ADDRESS _____

AMC MEMBER? YES []
NO []

E-mail: _____

Please return this form when complete with current application fee (see current info letter) to AMC Four Thousand Footer Committee, P.O. Box 444, Exeter, NH 03833-0444. The New England Hundred Highest Club is open to all hikers who have ascended and descended on foot the summits of all the peaks on this official list, plus the sixty-seven peaks of the New England Four Thousand Footer list. Good hiking!

{*} REDINGTON and SPAULDING must be climbed if they were not climbed with your New England Four Thousand Footers.

{1} Located between US-CANADA boundary monuments 445 & 446 (USGS Northwest Pond Quad)

{2} Located N of North Twin, SE of Haystack Mtn. (USGS South Twin Mtn. Quad).

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE NEW ENGLAND HUNDRED HIGHEST

The primary purpose of the New England Hundred Highest Club is to promote the development of wilderness navigation skills by experienced hikers **so please do not mark routes to the trailless peaks in any manner as doing so destroys the sense of wildness and diminishes the achievement of subsequent parties and may even cause needless confusion.** The one possible exception to this rule involves the marking (with cairns where possible) of critical logging road intersections.

Please do not use the illegally constructed herd path that ascends Peak above the Nubble from the Haystack Road. It is very poorly located and will become severely eroded if it receives any substantial amount of use, causing great damage to the natural qualities of this peak. Hikers who feel compelled to use this route are requested to refrain from applying for official membership in the New England Hundred Highest Club.

Sermon: Some years ago, when plastic surveyor's tape became readily available to the public, there was a tremendous increase in the reprehensible practice of marking one's route to trailless summits with such tape. The result, since some of these tapes fall almost immediately and others last for years, was the proliferation of odds and ends of unsightly tape of various garish colors, confusing the inexperienced and infuriating the experienced with the implied insult from those who thought we couldn't find our way without their help, and drawing curses from everyone who had hoped to find a mountain relatively free of signs of human presence. It must be admitted that surveyor's tape is one of the ugliest and most intrusive signs of human presence and we are hopeful that this practice will not make a comeback.

The modern scourge, which has taken the place of this now mostly historical problem, is the sharing of GPS tracks, especially via internet websites, bulletin boards, chatrooms, etc. While not as obviously ugly on the ground as surveyor's tape, this practice is potentially even more damaging to the wilderness experience that many who pursue these peaks are hoping to find. Even with the descriptions given here, there is much variation in the actual experience of each hiker. Until now, for the most part, herd paths have developed only near the very top of each peak as the divergent paths are funneled together. When several groups follow a common GPS track, however, they are stomping out a herd path from the minute they leave their vehicles. In too many cases, this will inevitably damage the environment by creating erosion problems wherever the path runs along sensitive terrain. In addition, easy access to what may look like trail maps to the less experienced hiker, may artificially increase traffic to these areas, which will only accelerate the damage.

Some of those who disrespect the mountains in this manner may be laboring under the delusion that they are performing a service to other hikers, so let us make a few points in order to dispel this notion. The New England Hundred Highest Club was founded for reasons that include the promotion of map-and-compass route-finding skills. Those who mark routes or share GPS routes are depriving other hikers of the opportunity to acquire and practice these skills in a natural environment. The Four Thousand Footer Committee emphatically opposes any action that would encourage the development of unofficial marked trails or other herd paths on those peaks that are presently trailless. We regard trailless peaks as a resource, not as an obstacle to the easy completion of a list by those who are unwilling to acquire the needed skills for trailless travel. We do not want these peaks to have trails merely to make the New England Hundred Highest easier for the less ambitious, although we will not automatically oppose well-considered and properly developed new official trails. So please do not mark your route in any manner, particularly not with surveyor's tape, and resist the impulse to share your GPS tracks with hundreds of your closest internet friends and website visitors. (In the case of peaks that have traditionally had unofficial paths, such as Big Jay and Nancy, please leave it to local hikers or to the Four Thousand Footer Committee to decide if and how they should be marked.) If you do not have sufficient navigational skills to climb the trailless peaks with confidence, then please learn the skills,

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE NEW ENGLAND HUNDRED HIGHEST

follow skilled leaders, or seriously reconsider the goal of climbing the New England Hundred Highest.

People who rely on GPS for off-trail navigation often forget that a map and compass do not require batteries to be fully operational, and they are indifferent to the vagaries of satellite reception. People who insist on following tape-lines, assuming that the person who put them up must have been headed toward the same goal – and, moreover, must have known a good way to get there – will sooner or later find themselves in the uncomfortable position of reaching the end of the tape-line without knowing exactly where they are, except that they are clearly not where they had hoped to be. GPS units will be varying degrees of useless, if batteries and satellites do not cooperate. Tape-lines and GPS tracks, like logging roads, offer the opportunity to make fairly rapid progress with the brain disengaged and the body running on auto-pilot, but if they are not going in the correct direction, or the batteries die, or satellite signals are lost, then one is only following the easy path to locational bewilderment. Progress in the wrong direction is not true progress, and the most congenial route is often, sadly, not the proper one. Rely on your map and compass, keep track of where you are at all times (and even more so when you are following some sort of "ready-made" route), develop your own route-finding skills, and regard all ready-made routes with healthy skepticism.

Some timid bushwhackers may have adopted what one successful Hundred Highest climber aptly called the Hansel-and-Gretel method: marking one's ascent route to be sure of getting back out safely. It should hardly need to be pointed out how foolish it is to venture off the trails with so little confidence in one's navigational skills.

We feel very strongly about this matter and do not want the AMC Four Thousand Footer Club to bear indirect responsibility for such damage to the natural qualities of the trailless mountains. We are prepared to recommend that the Committee take the unprecedented step of denying membership to persons known to have been habitual offenders against the principles here described. It has even been suggested that the Committee cease to recognize the Hundred Highest, or declare a moratorium of several years on credit for certain damaged peaks if that is what seems required to stop this nonsense. Please climb the mountains and enjoy them but leave them unmarked by signs of your presence so that others may enjoy them in the same or better condition than that in which you found them.

INFORMATION SHEET: Largely thanks to the efforts of Gene Daniell and Keith D'Alessandro, we have put together an 18-page information sheet on routes to the New England Hundred Highest; many users have sent in corrections and additions, so that this sheet is to some extent a regularly updated guide to the peaks. The information is not always as up-to-date as one might wish, however – conditions often change quickly in these regions, many of which receive little use by hikers – but it should still be useful to most people interested in climbing these peaks.

A set of USGS topo maps covering these peaks is also available [printed out from Maptech CDs].

The information sheets are available for the following, two-part price:

- (1) \$3 to cover copying and mailing costs
(plus an additional \$2 if you want a set of black-and-white maps
OR an additional \$9 if you want a set of color maps)
- (2) your trip reports to help improve the sheet.

NEW ENGLAND HUNDRED HIGHEST PEAKS INFORMATION SHEET ||| PAGE 1

#	ELEVATION		DATE CLIMBED	MOUNTAIN NAME	TOWNSHIP	COUNTY	USGS MAP
	FT	M					
1	6288	1917	___ ___ ___	MT WASHINGTON	SARGENTS PURCHASE	COOS	NH MT WASHINGTON*
2	5774	1760	___ ___ ___	MT ADAMS	THOMPSON&MESERVES PUR	COOS	NH MT WASHINGTON*
3	5712	1741	___ ___ ___	MT JEFFERSON	THOMPSON&MESERVES PUR	COOS	NH MT WASHINGTON*
4	5384*	1641*	___ ___ ___	MT MONROE	SARGENTS PURCHASE	COOS	NH MT WASHINGTON*
5	5367	1636	___ ___ ___	MT MADISON	LOW & BURBANKS GRANT	COOS	NH MT WASHINGTON*
6	5268	1606	___ ___ ___	MT KATAHDIN, BAXTER PEAK	MOUNT KATAHDIN	PISCATAQUIS	ME MT KATAHDIN
7	5260*	1603*	___ ___ ___	MT LAFAYETTE	FRANCONIA	GRAFTON	NH FRANCONIA
8	5089	1551	___ ___ ___	MT LINCOLN	FRANCONIA	GRAFTON	NH FRANCONIA
9	4902	1494	___ ___ ___	SOUTH TWIN MTN	FRANCONIA	GRAFTON	NH SOUTH TWIN MTN
10	4832	1473	___ ___ ___	CARTER DOME	BEANS PURCHASE	COOS	NH CARTER DOME
11	4802	1464	___ ___ ___	MT MOOSILAUKE	BENTON	GRAFTON	NH MT MOOSILAUKE
12	4780*	1457*	___ ___ ___	MT EISENHOWER [MT PLEASANT]	CHANDLERS PURCHASE	COOS	NH STAIRS MTN
13	4761	1451	___ ___ ___	NORTH TWIN MTN	BETHLEHEM/ FRANCONIA	GRAFTON	NH SOUTH TWIN MTN
14	4756	1450	___ ___ ___	MT KATAHDIN, HAMLIN PEAK	MOUNT KATAHDIN	PISCATAQUIS	ME MT KATAHDIN
15	4700*	1433*	___ ___ ___	MT CARRIGAIN	LINCOLN/ LIVERMORE	GRAFTON	NH MT CARRIGAIN
16	4698	1432	___ ___ ___	MT BOND	LINCOLN	GRAFTON	NH SOUTH TWIN MTN
17	4610*	1405*	___ ___ ___	MIDDLE CARTER MTN	BEANS PURCHASE	COOS	NH CARTER DOME
18	4540*	1384*	___ ___ ___	MT BOND (W PK)	LINCOLN	GRAFTON	NH SOUTH TWIN MTN
19	4500*	1372*	___ ___ ___	MT GARFIELD	FRANCONIA	GRAFTON	NH SOUTH TWIN MTN
20	4459	1359	___ ___ ___	MT LIBERTY	LINCOLN	GRAFTON	NH LINCOLN[NH]
21	4430*	1350*	___ ___ ___	SOUTH CARTER MTN	BEANS PURCHASE	COOS	NH CARTER DOME
22	4422	1348	___ ___ ___	MT WILDCAT	BEANS PURCHASE	COOS	NH CARTER DOME
23	4420*	1347*	___ ___ ___	MT HANCOCK	LINCOLN	GRAFTON	NH MT CARRIGAIN
24	4393	1339	___ ___ ___	MT MANSFIELD, THE CHIN	UNDERHILL	CHITTENDEN	VT MT MANSFIELD
25	4358	1328	___ ___ ___	KINSMAN MTN, S PK	LINCOLN	GRAFTON	NH LINCOLN[NH]
26	4340*	1323*	___ ___ ___	MT FIELD	BETHLEHEM	GRAFTON	NH CRAWFORD NOTCH
27	4340*	1323*	___ ___ ___	MT OSCEOLA	LINCOLN/ LIVERMORE	GRAFTON	NH MT OSCEOLA
28	4328	1319	___ ___ ___	MT FLUME	LINCOLN	GRAFTON	NH LINCOLN[NH]
29	4319	1316	___ ___ ___	MT HANCOCK (S PK)	LINCOLN/ LIVERMORE	GRAFTON	NH MT CARRIGAIN
30	4310	1314	___ ___ ___	MT PIERCE [MT CLINTON]	BEANS GRANT	COOS	NH STAIRS MTN
31	4293	1309	___ ___ ___	KINSMAN MTN, N PK	LINCOLN	GRAFTON	NH FRANCONIA
32	4285	1306	___ ___ ___	MT WILLEY	BETHLEHEM	GRAFTON	NH CRAWFORD NOTCH
33	4265	1300	___ ___ ___	MT BOND, THE CLIFFS	LINCOLN	GRAFTON	NH SOUTH TWIN MTN
34	4260*	1298*	___ ___ ___	ZEALAND RIDGE	LINCOLN/ LIVERMORE	GRAFTON	NH SOUTH TWIN MTN
35	4250*	1295*	___ ___ ___	SUGARLOAF MTN	CARRABASSETT VALLEY	FRANKLIN	ME SUGARLOAF MTN
36	4235	1291	___ ___ ___	KILLINGTON PEAK	SHERBURNE	RUTLAND	VT KILLINGTON PEAK
37	4228	1289	___ ___ ___	CROCKER MTN	CARRABASSETT VALLEY	FRANKLIN	ME BLACK NUBBLE
38	4180*	1274	___ ___ ___	MT TRIPYRAMID, N PK	WATERVILLE VALLEY	GRAFTON	NH MT TRIPYRAMID
39	4170*	1271*	___ ___ ___	MT CABOT	KILKENNY	COOS	NH STARK
40	4170*	1271*	___ ___ ___	OLD SPECK MTN	GRAFTON	OXFORD	ME OLD SPECK MTN
41	4156	1267	___ ___ ___	MT OSCEOLA, E PK	LINCOLN/ LIVERMORE	GRAFTON	NH MT OSCEOLA
42	4151	1265	___ ___ ___	NORTH BROTHER	T4 R10	PISCATAQUIS	ME MT KATAHDIN
43	4145	1263	___ ___ ___	BIGELOW MTN, WEST PEAK	DEAD RIVER	SOMERSET	ME THE HORNS
44	4140*	1262	___ ___ ___	MT TRIPYRAMID, M PK	WATERVILLE VALLEY	GRAFTON	NH MT TRIPYRAMID
45	4120	1256	___ ___ ___	SADDLEBACK MTN	SANDY RIVER	FRANKLIN	ME SADDLEBACK MTN
46	4100*	1250*	___ ___ ___	CANNON MTN [PROFILE MTN]	FRANCONIA	GRAFTON	NH FRANCONIA
47	4090*	1247*	___ ___ ___	BIGELOW MTN, AVERY PEAK	DEAD RIVER	SOMERSET	ME THE HORNS
48	4083	1244	___ ___ ___	CAMELS HUMP	HUNTINGTON	CHITTENDEN	VT HUNTINGTON
49	4083	1244	___ ___ ___	MT ELLEN	WARREN	WASHINGTON	VT MT ELLEN
50	4070*	1241*	___ ___ ___	WILDCAT RIDGE ('D' PK)	BEANS PURCHASE	COOS	NH JACKSON

Elevations marked by "" are estimated by adding half the contour interval to the highest contour
Topographic Quadrangle Designations: none, 7.5 minute; "**", 15 x 7.5 minute [metric]; "**", 7.5 minute [metric]*

#	ELEVATION		DATE CLIMBED	MOUNTAIN NAME	TOWNSHIP	COUNTY	USGS MAP
	FT	M					
51	4054	1236	___ ___ ___	MT HALE	BETHLEHEM	GRAFTON	NH SOUTH TWIN MTN
52	4052	1235	___ ___ ___	MT JACKSON	BEANS GRANT	COOS	NH CRAWFORD NOTCH
53	4051	1235	___ ___ ___	MT TOM	BETHLEHEM	GRAFTON	NH CRAWFORD NOTCH
54	4050*	1234*	___ ___ ___	MT ABRAHAM	MT ABRAM	FRANKLIN	ME MT ABRAHAM
55	4050*	1234*	___ ___ ___	CROCKER MTN (S PK)	CARRABASSETT VALLEY	FRANKLIN	ME BLACK NUBBLE
56	4049	1234	___ ___ ___	MT MORIAH	BEANS PURCHASE	COOS	NH CARTER DOME
57	4043	1232	___ ___ ___	MT PASSACONAWAY	WATERVILLE VALLEY	GRAFTON	NH MT TRIPYRAMID
58	4041	1232	___ ___ ___	SADDLEBACK MTN, THE HORN	MADRID	FRANKLIN	ME REDINGTON
59	4025	1227	___ ___ ___	[OWLS HEAD MTN]	FRANCONIA	GRAFTON	NH SOUTH TWIN MTN
60	4024	1227	___ ___ ___	[GALEHEAD MTN]	FRANCONIA	GRAFTON	NH SOUTH TWIN MTN
61	4020*	1225*	___ ___ ___	MT WHITEFACE	WATERVILLE VALLEY	GRAFTON	NH MT TRIPYRAMID
62	4010*	1222	___ ___ ___	MT REDINGTON	REDINGTON	FRANKLIN	ME BLACK NUBBLE
63	4010*	1222*	___ ___ ___	SPAULDING MTN	MT ABRAM	FRANKLIN	ME SUGARLOAF MTN
64	4006	1221	___ ___ ___	MT ABRAHAM	LINCOLN	ADDISON	VT LINCOLN[VT]
65	4006	1221	___ ___ ___	MT WAUMBOK	KILKENNY	COOS	NH PLINY RANGE*
66	4004	1221	___ ___ ___	MT ISOLATION	SARGENTS PURCHASE	COOS	NH STAIRS MTN
67	4003	1220	___ ___ ___	MT TECUMSEH	WATERVILLE VALLEY	GRAFTON	NH WATERVILLE VALLEY
68	3980*	1213*	___ ___ ___	SANDWICH MTN	WATERVILLE VALLEY	GRAFTON	NH MT TRIPYRAMID
69	3970	1210	___ ___ ___	SOUTH BROTHER	T3 R10	PISCATAQUIS	ME DOUBLETOP MTN
70	3960	1207	___ ___ ___	SNOW MTN	ALDER STREAM	FRANKLIN	ME CHAIN OF PONDS
71	3957	1206	___ ___ ___	PICO PEAK	SHERBURNE	RUTLAND	VT PICO PEAK
72	3950*	1204*	___ ___ ___	MT CABOT, THE BULGE	KILKENNY	COOS	NH STARK
73	3940	1201	___ ___ ___	STRATTON MTN	STRATTON	WINDHAM	VT STRATTON MTN**
74	3926	1197	___ ___ ___	MT NANCY	LINCOLN/ LIVERMORE	GRAFTON	NH MT CARRIGAIN
75	3905	1190	___ ___ ___	MT CABOT, THE HORN	KILKENNY	COOS	NH STARK
76	3901	1189	___ ___ ___	MT WEEKS (N PK)	BERLIN	COOS	NH PLINY RANGE*
77	3885	1184	___ ___ ___	MT WEEKS (S PK)	RANDOLPH	COOS	NH PLINY RANGE*
78	3870*	1180*	___ ___ ___	GOOSE EYE MTN	RILEY	OXFORD	ME OLD SPECK MTN
79	3867	1179	___ ___ ___	FORT MTN	T4 R10	PISCATAQUIS	ME MT KATAHDIN
80	3862	1177	___ ___ ___	VOSE SPUR	LINCOLN/ LIVERMORE	GRAFTON	NH MT CARRIGAIN
81	3860*	1177*	___ ___ ___	THE SLEEPERS (E PK)	WATERVILLE VALLEY	GRAFTON	NH MT TRIPYRAMID
82	3858	1176	___ ___ ___	JAY PEAK	WESTFIELD	ORLEANS	VT JAY PEAK**
83	3856	1175	___ ___ ___	WHITE CAP MTN	SEVEN PONDS	FRANKLIN	ME LITTLE KENNEBAGO LAKE
84	3855	1175	___ ___ ___	[BOUNDARY PEAK]	OXBOW	OXFORD	ME NORTHWEST POND
85	3850*	1173*	___ ___ ___	EQUINOX MTN	MANCHESTER	BENNINGTON	VT MANCHESTER
86	3840	1170	___ ___ ___	MENDON PEAK	MENDON	RUTLAND	VT KILLINGTON PEAK
87	3835	1169	___ ___ ___	BREAD LOAF MTN	RIPTON	ADDISON	VT LINCOLN[VT]
88	3813	1162	___ ___ ___	[NUBBLE PEAK]	BETHLEHEM	GRAFTON	NH SOUTH TWIN MTN
89	3805	1160	___ ___ ___	BIGELOW MTN, THE HORNS (S PK)	WYMAN	FRANKLIN	ME THE HORNS
90	3795	1157	___ ___ ___	MT COE	T3 R10	PISCATAQUIS	ME DOUBLETOP MTN
91	3791	1155	___ ___ ___	EAST KENNEBAGO MTN	TIM POND	FRANKLIN	ME QUILL HILL
92	3790*	1155	___ ___ ___	BALDPATE MTN, E PK	GRAFTON	OXFORD	ME OLD SPECK MTN
93	3790*	1155*	___ ___ ___	MT WILSON	RIPTON	ADDISON	VT LINCOLN[VT]
94	3786	1154	___ ___ ___	BIG JAY	MONTGOMERY	FRANKLIN	VT JAY PEAK**
95	3784	1153	___ ___ ___	SNOWMTN	UPPER CUPSUPTIC	OXFORD	ME LITTLE KENNEBAGO LAKE
96	3775	1151	___ ___ ___	KENNEBAGO DIVIDE (N PK)	SEVEN PONDS	FRANKLIN	ME LITTLE KENNEBAGO LAKE
97	3774	1150	___ ___ ___	SCAR RIDGE (W PK)	LINCOLN/ LIVERMORE	GRAFTON	NH MT OSCEOLA
98	3772	1150	___ ___ ___	ELEPHANT MTN	TC	OXFORD	ME METALLAK MTN
99	3770*	1149*	___ ___ ___	DORSET PEAK	DANBY	RUTLAND	VT DORSET
100	3769	1149	___ ___ ___	CANNON BALLS (NE PK)	LINCOLN	GRAFTON	NH FRANCONIA
FORMERLY LISTED PEAKS:							
4030*	1228*	___ ___ ___	WILDCAT RIDGE ('E' PK)	BEANS PURCHASE	COOS	NH JACKSON	
4020*	1225*	___ ___ ___	MT HANCOCK (NW PK)	LINCOLN	GRAFTON	NH MT OSCEOLA	
3792	1156	___ ___ ___	BIGELOW MTN, THE HORNS (N PK)	WYMAN	FRANKLIN	ME THE HORNS	
3766	1148	___ ___ ___	MT TECUMSEH (W PK)	WATERVILLE VALLEY	GRAFTON	NH WATERVILLE VALLEY	
3765	1148	___ ___ ___	MAHOOSUC ARM	GRAFTON	OXFORD	ME OLD SPECK MTN	
3750*	1143	___ ___ ___	MT ABRAHAM (M PK)	MT ABRAM	FRANKLIN	ME MT ABRAHAM	

REDINGTON*: (USGS Black Nubble & Sugarloaf Mtn. quads). Commonly done from the summit of South Crocker. Reports indicate that a herd path has developed from South Crocker to the summit of Redington. As with any herd path, however, one can lose it somewhere and end up bushwhacking at least until stumbling upon it again. There are two places in particular to be careful of. The first is where the herd path meets the AT boundary cut, 1000 feet from the summit of South Crocker. The boundary cut is said to be obvious, so much so that hikers have followed it by mistake and had to backtrack or bushwhack to get back on the herd path. Reports vary as to whether the herd path goes straight across the cut, or requires a short jog to the right along the cut. The second is where the path meets a jeep road near the col, after skirting a clear-cut (which may or may not be 'clear' to the summit-minded hiker). The advice is to follow this road to the left (uphill) a short distance to the actual col, where the herd path goes right. The turn at the col may or may not be flagged, depending on how one's luck is running.

Before the development of the herd path described above, logging on the eastern slopes of Redington enticed people to avoid the bushwhack by taking advantage of a road that leaves the Caribou Valley Road near Caribou Pond, a considerable distance beyond the AT crossing, and climbs to about 3250' on the ridge leading to the saddle between Redington and South Crocker, after which fairly clear skidder roads lead from the formerly drivable road to the saddle. Over a decade ago, a work road was constructed roughly along the upper part of this route to service an experimental wind-gauge tower, and hikers were surprised and disgusted to find there were now lounge chairs (and lots of trash) on the summit (now removed – the chairs and tower, not the summit, that is). The Caribou Valley Road is open to a point about 4 mi. from ME 27 and half a mile before the AT crossing; at this point, there is a barricade preventing further vehicular travel, which is fine since no one in their right mind would want to take a vehicle past this point anyway. Currently, ordinary cars can probably make it to this point, but this road is not consistently maintained, and from time to time, travel even to this point has required four-wheel drive, high clearance and a complete disregard for the aesthetic condition of one's vehicle. From the barricade, continue on foot past a bridge at about 5.5 mi. from ME 27 and 1.1 mi. beyond the AT crossing. Do NOT follow the side road that forks right near here and runs up a side valley; stay on the main road along the Caribou Valley stream. The road continues another 1.4 mi. to Caribou Pond; take the road to the right at the fork near the pond, climbing up a small rise and into the large cut-over bowl at the foot of Redington, and continue to a point about 7.7 mi. from ME 27 where a badly washed road climbs up to the right. Follow the washed road up toward the ridgecrest, but just below the ridgecrest turn left onto a rough but obvious road that runs mostly on contour or slightly downhill. Eventually it crosses a small brook with a rocky, mossy bed and makes a right-angle turn to the left. At a fork about 100 yards past this stream, the route continues straight on a road with a small, easily-missed cairn, still on contour at this point, as a bulldozed road turns right uphill heading for the Redington–South Crocker col. After climbing through a clear-cut area, the route turns sharp right off this road (the turn may be well-marked with flagging and a cairn) and becomes a well-cleared trail all the way to the summit. It is also possible, of course, to continue on the bulldozed road to the col and look for the herd path discussed above, but it may be a thick bushwhack if you don't find it.

Since the maps now show Redington as a 4000-Footer, hikers will probably attempt to keep this route open and marked. What was once one of the three or four most difficult of the Hundred Highest has become almost trivial and will likely never reclaim the daunting reputation it once had. However, the status of the Caribou Valley Road will always be a major variable in the degree of difficulty. In the times between major logging operations, it can deteriorate quite badly, and was once notorious for its infernally automobilicidal washouts. Decisions about maintenance rest with S. D. Warren or Scott Paper or SAPPI or whoever owns the land this week, and will likely be based on business considerations, without any regard for hiking visitors. Although modern communication (e.g. internet bulletin boards) may prevent nasty surprises upon arrival, future conditions may again require long road walks along the Caribou Valley Road, even for those with four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Some folks conceived the idea of trying to bushwhack back from Redington to the Caribou Valley Road near the AT crossing (rather than using the roads to circle around to the south, which is longer). To do this, one must cross the ridge leading to the saddle between Redington and South Crocker, which the road climbs, and apparently descends for some distance on the other side. The best plan would probably be to follow the paths back to the ridgecrest area and down the other side as far as possible, then bushwhack from there. In olden days, hikers frequently resisted the effort of crossing the ridge and eventually found themselves in the vicinity of Caribou Pond.