

PANTHERTOWN WEST NINE TRAILS, MTN VISTAS, ROCKERIES, BOLD STREAMS, and TWO WATERFALLS



DESCRIPTION: Panthertown, “the Yosemite of the East” deserves that appellation for its multiple, fast rising gneiss mountains, rock walls and stream filled valleys... home for some 20 named waterfalls. Linking this treasure is a spider’s web of dozens of interlaced trails...now better marked...but still deserving of extra caution at junctions with map in hand. A long time favorite route is the 7 to 8 mile loop starting from the Saltrock Trailhead on the west side of the 10,000 acre tract. It includes the Blackrock, Overlook, Carlton’s, North Rd, Wardens, Devil’s Elbow, Little Green, Schoolhouse and Panthertown Valley trails. Elevation gain is about 1000ft, beginning with a moderate, 500ft, one mile climb to the 4500ft summit of Black Rock Mtn and its splendid vistas. We then descend almost 1000ft over the next 1.6 miles...steep at first assisted by

switchbacks... to the valley floor below. From there the going is mostly flat and easy, except for the optional quarter mile spur and scramble down to Warden Falls. From there it’s on to the picturesque, nefarious, Schoolhouse Falls...named thus by school kids who played hooky there. It’s a beautiful spot for lunch and a possible, slippery/risky venture under the falls. Return via Panther Valley Trail regains about 400ft over the final mile, with grand vistas back to Black Rock and several other mountains along the way. From the Salt Rock overlook, it’s a short climb back to the Salt Rock Access.

DIRECTIONS (GPS: 35.165286, -83.049344)

Gather and pool separately from either KKEPA or Walhalla. Both groups depart at 830AM. Reassemble at Sloan Bridge Picnic Area (on SC107 just north of its Wigington Rd intersect) for a 915A restart from there. We continue 9 mi north on 107, go right (E) onto US64 for 2 mi, then left (NW) another 2 mi on Cedar Creek Rd (SR1120), then right (NE) onto Breedlove Rd. Continue about 3.5mi... including a final quarter mile on a gravel road... to the Salt Rock Trailhead, No fees or potties after Sloan. Expect to return about 3P.

UPDATED May 2017

