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Good Morning!

Tuesday
February 21, 2012

**UPDATED CROSS
COUNTRY SKI
TRAIL MAPS**

**XC SKI TRAIL
DISTANCE
MILEAGES**

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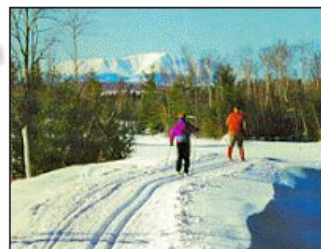
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CROSS COUNTRY SKIING IN THE KATAHDIN REGION



KATAHDIN REGION TRAILS:



Volunteers, often associated with local snowmobile clubs, maintain the trails. Trails near Millinocket and East Millinocket are located on private timberlands owned and managed by Katahdin Forest Management and on a town lot in East Millinocket. These trails ([overview map](#)) occur in a working forest setting where multiple uses are welcome! Timber harvests periodically take place in the vicinity of these trails.

At the southern end of Baxter State Park, day use skiers make use of several hiking trails suitable for skiing originating out of the Abol Area. These trails are not groomed and offer a more backcountry type of experience.



The Northern Timber Cruisers Snowmobile and Cross Country Ski Club grooms and maintains about 20 miles of wilderness cross country ski trails. It is one of the few areas that provides track set trails and scenic views based on a no use fee. Some trails are wooded and protected on windy days while others are open and scenic. There are groomed tracks for traditional style skiing to back country trails where you may be the first to make tracks through fresh snow. Skiers can choose from several prime cross

country skiing locations, with each location featuring solitude and unparalleled scenery.

MILLINOCKET AREA TRAILS:

The most actively maintained trails are near Millinocket. Volunteers with the Northern Timber Cruisers Snowmobile and Cross Country Ski Club groom and maintain roughly 20 miles of cross-country ski trails. Trails are normally groomed after each major storm (6" + of new snow). **Dogs are not permitted on the trails at either the Bait Hole or Clubhouse.** Dogs are welcome at the Jerry Pond recreation area.



These track-set trails are available for your use without a fee. Donations to assist with maintenance costs are welcome and may be sent to the Northern Timber Cruisers, P.O. Box 269, Millinocket, Maine 04462-0269 with the notation, "Ski Trails".

For more information on these wonderful trails, along with daily reports on skiing conditions, contact Don Nodine at 207-723-4329 ... and make sure to thank him, he's one of the trail systems' originators, architects, groomers and a die-hard X-C skier!

BAIT HOLE TRAILS:



Located on Route 11, just 3 miles southwest of town, the Bait Hole ([BH map](#)) offers double-tracked and single-tracked ski trails with room off to the side for snowshoeing for roughly 3 miles of the trail. Impressive views of Mt. Katahdin may be seen from the shores of Elbow Lake. This trail system is very popular because it can be skied with minimum snow cover and the trails are wide, well-

groomed and mostly flat with a couple of gentle hills making them suitable for skiers of all abilities. At the trail head are maps showing the easiest loops. The Bait Hole Loop is roughly 3 miles long and skiers can take short cuts or add side loops to reduce or increase the distance from 1 to 8 miles.

The Bait Hole gets its name from a small pond that baitfish were kept in, isolated from the larger nearby lake by a causeway built associated with the North Twin Dam. Large drifts can form near these causeways due to the strong winds coming across Elbow Lake. "No Wind Way" is a good option to avoid these drifts, and with the right conditions, the views are great from the causeways.

TRAIL DETAILS:

Parking for the Bait Hole Trail is roughly 3 miles south of Millinocket on the north side of Route 11. (From I-95, Exit 244, take Route 11 South through Millinocket.)

Starting at the parking lot there are free maps and a color coded map showing the groomed trail.

North Twin Dam Loop - West or left to North Twin Dam and loop back -- 1.6 miles. There is one steep hill by the dam.

Bait Hole Loop – West or left, then loops right (clockwise) continue on across causeways, north or right along Elbow Lake and then through the woods to Three Corners, then via Four Corners and return toward parking area, about a 3 mile loop.

No Wind Way / Causeway Bypass - Avoids wind, drifts and possibly low snow cover near the causeways.

Center Trail – This begins at the railroad tracks and can form a short 1 mile loop with No Wind Way. It is also a good choice for spring skiing, even into early April, to access the rest of the Bait Hole during low snow.

Four Corners – This is the starting point for several loop trails. Beaver Pond Inlet Trail leads to the Old Boston Trail and to Super Loop. Both trails either loop back or continue to the Golden Road.

CLUBHOUSE TRAILS:

Another popular set of trails ([NTC map](#)) starts at the Northern Timber Cruisers Clubhouse which is 1.6 miles northwest of Penobscot Avenue in Millinocket on the Baxter State Park Road. These trails are completely separate from the snowmobile trails that tie into the Clubhouse and are also groomed with set tracks for traditional skiing. Light lunches are served from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on weekends at the NTC clubhouse.

There are three parallel trails going north from the clubhouse: A West, A East and K Trails. The A trail splits into A West and A East a short distance north of the clubhouse. Each route has occasional views of Mt. Katahdin and are generally well sheltered in the woods. Skiers may take 3 to 5 mile loops through the woods or may extend their trip up to as much as 9 miles round trip across Little Smith Pond and a wetland area which provide magnificent views of Mount Katahdin, to a warming hut on the far or northern side of the wetland or fen.

TRAIL DETAILS:

Parking is available at the Northern Timber Cruisers Clubhouse.

A East – This trail comes out onto the K Trail. There are a number of moderate uphill as you head north.

A West – Goes northwest to B West, Little Smith Brook Pond and then to the C Trail to form loops. This trail has fewer hills.

B West Loop - Goes northeast to Little Smith Brook Pond then crosses the pond to A West and returns to the clubhouse to make a loop roughly 3 miles long.

C Trail - Connects A West and K Trail making a 5.5 mile loop. Travel counter clockwise (A-East or K, then C, then A-West) to minimize steep downhill.

K Trail – This trail goes north from the Clubhouse, parallel and east of the A trail. There is a steep hill with a curve 300 yards north of the Clubhouse. A quarter mile from the Clubhouse, the K Trail becomes an unplowed truck road. This wide opening in the forest is a windy and very **COLD** when there is a north wind. 1.1 miles north of the Clubhouse the K Trail goes to the right and runs parallel and east of the truck road. (Big Rock), a large erratic, is on the right. The K Trail extends 1.7 miles as a separate trail parallel the truck road. The truck road leaves the K Trail (goes northeast). The K Trail connects with the C Trail (which goes west to the A West Trail). The K Trail continues north, crosses a bridge then continues 1.7 miles to the warming hut. The Warming Hut is a 6'X8' A-frame equipped with a woodstove. Visitors are welcome to stop and warm up! K Trail hills are steepest when going south.

OTHER CROSS COUNTRY SKIING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE KATAHDIN REGION

For more information on other cross country skiing opportunities in the Katahdin Region visit the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce's web site at WWW.KATAHDINMAINE.COM

CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAIL MAPS



Below are updated trail maps for the bait hole and Northern Timber Cruiser clubhouse cross country ski trails. These may be viewed online or saved (PDF) to your computer by clicking on the underlined links below.



[OVERVIEW MAP](#)

[BAIT HOLE TRAIL MAP](#)

[NORTHERN TIMBER CRUISERS CLUBHOUSE TRAIL MAP](#)

[SNOW SHOE TRAIL MAP](#)

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