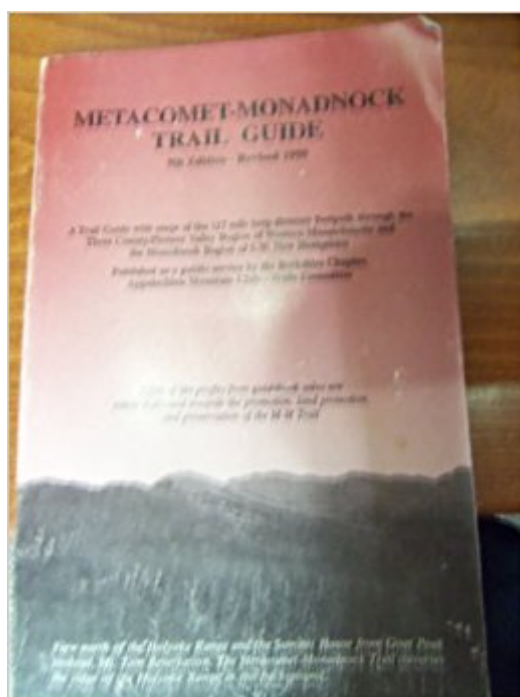


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Metacomet-Monadnock Trail Guide: A Trail Guide With Maps Of The 117 Mile Long Distance Foot Path Through The 3 County-Pioneer Valley Region Of Western ... & The Monadnock Region Of S. W. New Hampshire



Synopsis

A trail guide with maps of the 114 mile long-distance footpath through the three county/Pioneer Valley region of western Massachusetts and the Monadnock region of southwest New Hampshire

--This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Author Chris Ryan is an avid hiker and explorer who serves as a trail volunteer with the Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Chris has published numerous hiking trail maps and guidebooks under the imprint, New England Cartographics. Chris has hiked every mile of the M-M Trail and spends his free time volunteering to maintain this tremendous natural resource and is always working to keep the guidebook accurate and up to date. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Copies of this book sold at Mt. Monadnock have a neon green sticker on them that warns you that you cannot do a thru-hike of this trail. Four sections are closed because the owners of the land DO NOT WANT YOU on their property. I wish that I had known that (despite emails to the people who contributed to this book who encouraged me to make my hike) before I started a thru-hike of this trail. Would have saved me a confrontation with a landowner. Water is also very scarce at the beginning of this trail, make sure you carry enough even on day hikes. The authors put a lot of work into this book and into this trail but it's just not ready for thru-hikes yet.

A well written book with excellent maps and trail descriptions. I used it to hike Mt Holyoke, Mount

Tom and a few other peaks. The USGS maps were helpful in locating trails, viewpoints, etc. The book was shipped quickly by USPS First Class and arrived within 3 days. The author graciously signed and dated this excellent book.

The M & M trail has been going through some changes and any guidebook will be out of date in certain sections. Then again, most every trail guide is instantly outdated. Nowadays trail updates are readily available on the web (see below). When I first hiked a 3 day trip on the M&M Trail in the early 90s, I checked out a M&M trail guide book from the UMass library. (I was a poor skin-flint undergrad who couldn't afford to buy a new one!) After some major bushwacking (in the pouring rain with my girlfriend) I looked at the print date - it was printed about 30 years earlier! I had thought trails were static forever, but the M&M winds through private property and lots of logging land and routes do change. I've since finished running the entire trail in sections, and I always brought along a topo map (included in this guide) for when I got lost. One thing is for sure: it's the most beautiful secret we have in Western Mass! As for thru-hiking, camping is not allowed on many long sections of the trail, but it has been done before. The trail is hardly crowded - I saw maybe 15 other day hikers, a couple of overnight campers, two camper/bikers (miserably carrying their mtn. bikes up the Mt. Tom section heading north) in total over the 22 sections. I never ran into any disgruntled land owners, but that's not to say they're not out there. The M&M Trail seems to be combining with the new New England Trail (NET) and their web sites have changed recently. For updates go to amcberkshire.org/files/trails_committee/Trail_Updates_20121221.pdf One big change is that the trail is being re-routed through sections 10-14, which includes the beautiful Mt Lincoln, Buffum Falls, and Atkins Reservoir sections, which were some of the first sections I did from 2002-2005. My guess is Cowles Lumber is logging there, but I don't really know. A new route seems likely to open in the next few years. I'm sure they'll get a new guide book out soon once they figure out how to re-route through the Quabbin and some other areas to connect the NET. So my recommendation, if you want to hike along the M&M, is either this book or preferably the latest edition, then print the trail updates and topo maps and have fun. I found some of the coolest places and things while getting lost anyway. I nearly ran into a turkey vulture nest off-trail on Mt. Tom, and found a farm house abandoned in the late 1800s with newspapers still in the living room and a large rusty sickle in the tall grass, snakes, some frogs, the quietest ponds, the best views (Gap Mtn is one great one with its wild blueberries), Titan's Piazza, the Eyrie House, many deer, incredible graffiti under the Mass Pike, the Manhan Rail Trail, the Leverett Co-op, the rock climbers on Rattlesnake Mtn in Erving, the Erving Castle...By the way, I married the girl I took on that ill-fated rain-soaked trip! Took our kids

and their friends up Crag Mtn and then later Monadnock, too!

It now has been 8 years since the 10th edition of this Guide was written and because of the politics of the 'federalization' of the M&M Trail that is now designated as the New England National Scenic Trail, the central portion of the trail in the Pioneer Valley has been closed and/or is in the process of being re-routed. The guide was very accurate and concise about the trail a decade ago, but supplemental information is necessary to attempt a thru hike today - 2013. I used the book to my advantage when hiking it this summer, but used the internet to get current information.

The previous review is not correct. If you read the sticker it says that some portions are not blazed at the request of the property owner. You are still welcome to hike here. The maps and the description in the guide is accurate, it just makes it a little more interesting to hike. You can also get a PDF copy of changes to the 2005 guide at <http://amcberkshire.org/mm-trail/guide>. It is hoped by the first of the year a relocation will be completed for all sections.

Great reference to one of the most scenic trails in New England. Packed with useful information, descriptions of every inch of the trail, in a convenient, thin, lightweight book that slips into your pack, ready for any time you want to check it. Trail maps for the whole length are crisp and easy to follow. A reference you'll refer to until you have it memorized!

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