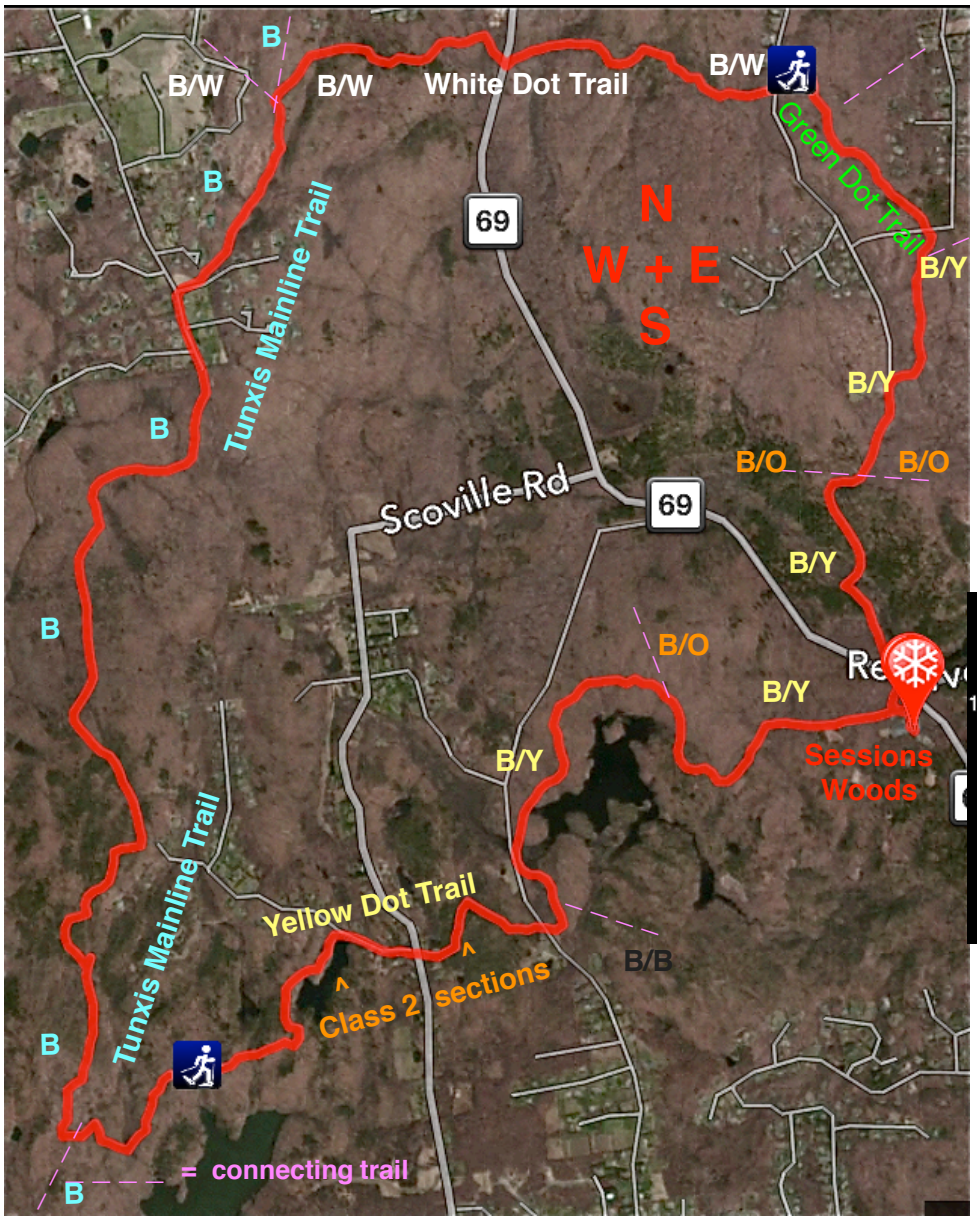
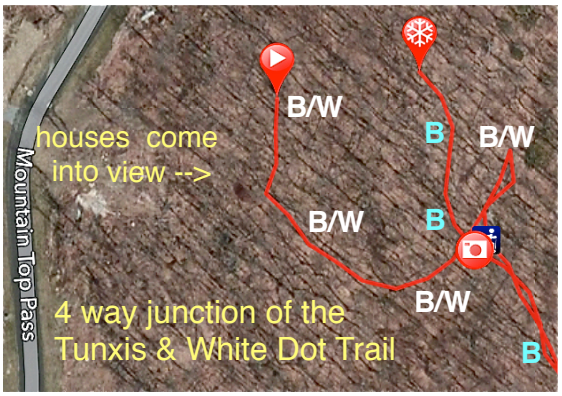
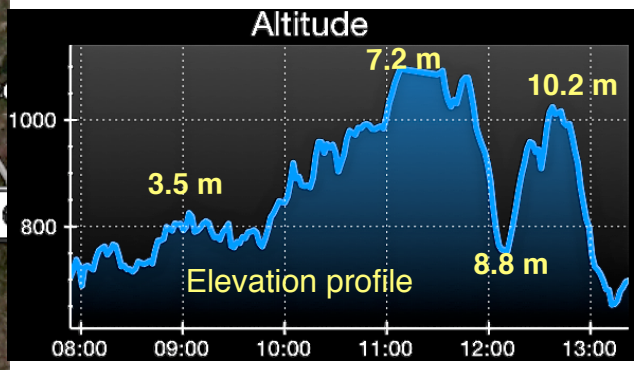


The Grand Loop:
Class 2, 12.2 miles
2,650 ' vertical, 6.2 hours





Mileage summary
hike B/Y west over 6 Class 2 pitches >
turn right onto B at 4.4 >
turn right onto B/W at 8.0 >
turn right onto Green dot trail at 9.8 >
turn right onto B/Y at 10.4 >
return to your car at 12.2

The hike begins at the SW corner of Sessions Wood's parking lot (41°43'57.8"N 72°57'19.4"W). Hike NW past their gate to find the Yellow Dot Trail, marked by a Blue blaze with a Yellow dot (B/Y). Continue on this trail to 0.6 miles, where you turn right to stay on the B/Y Trail. At 1.0 miles go straight past the Orange Dot Trail junction (B/O) and at 2.0 continue past the Black Dot Trail junction and then cross East Chippens Hill Road. At 2.5 there is a hairpin turn, followed by the most challenging Class 2 ascent in Burlington. The key is finding the great hand hold ledge just above your head (note photo & review the text in the Long Loop). At 2.7 miles you reach West Chippens Hill Rd (Please respect the property owner by staying along the edge of his lawn & center of his driveway). At 2.9 the B/Y Trail turns left off of Greer Rd. At 3.5 you reach the second ledge and another Class 2 pitch. This is the Mile of Ledges section which contains 3 additional Class 2 ascents. (It would be good to review the Mile of Ledges link) At 4.4 turn right at the junction with Mainline Tunxis Trail, marked with a Blue blaze (B). Pass Tory's Den at 4.5 miles. Continue north on B passing the Connector to Greer Road at 5.5 miles and merging onto Johnnycake Mountain Road at 7.2. At 7.4 turn right onto Old Field Rd & look for the left turn into the woods before the first driveway. At 8.0 be very alert for the junction with the White Dot Trail, marked by a Blue blaze with a White dot (B/W), where you turn right (note mini map above). Approaching this right turn, you will see houses on your left, after your ascent levels off for the second time. The B/W trail is almost level for 50 feet, then starts a major descent. At 8.8 miles you cross route 69, turning right to stay on B/W trail. Continue uphill, crossing Cornwall Rd at 9.7. The right turn onto the Green Dot Trail comes up quick at 9.8. Ascend your last big hill, before the right turn onto the B/Y trail at 10.4, which will take you back to your car at 12.2. (Reading the last paragraph in the Figure 8 Loop provides good detail of the last 1.8 miles on the Yellow Dot Trail).

Alan M. Perrie 6- 12 -16