

(7A) Gore Mt. (Schaefer Trail)

Maps: Page 48 and B6 (partial)

The rerouted Schaefer Trail (2010) starts up Gore Mt. at the North Creek Ski Bowl area. Much of the trail ascends steeply up or along the R bank of Roaring Brook, with views of waterfalls, and later, the High Peaks.

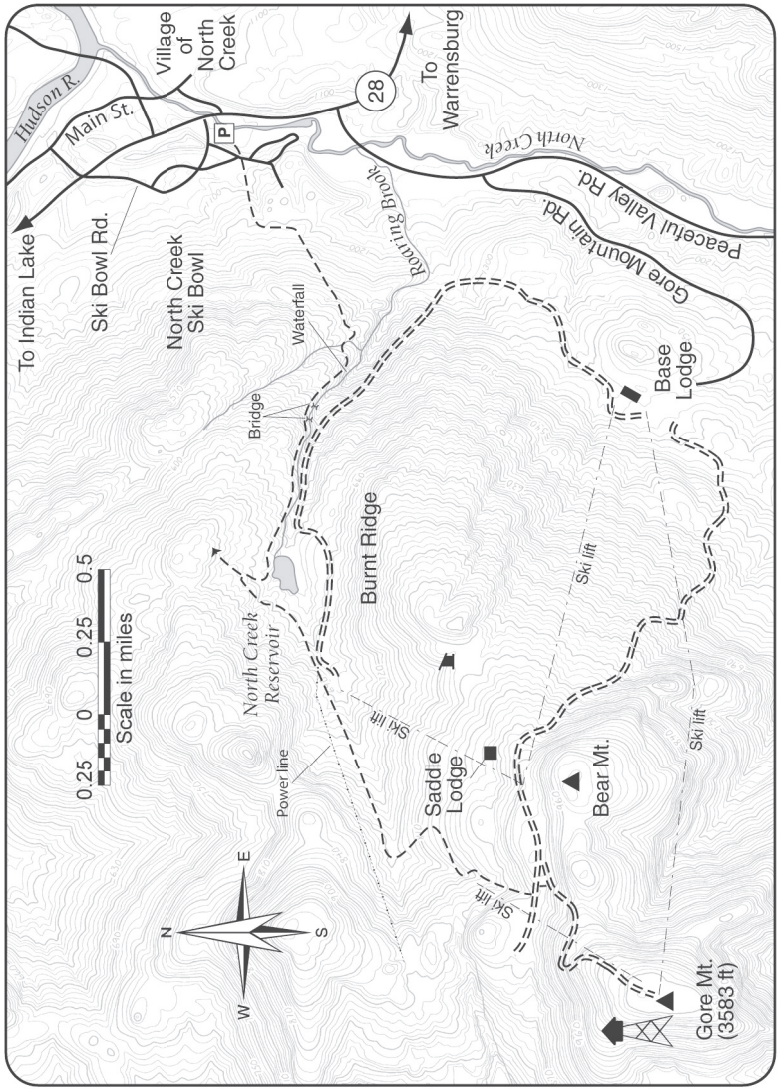
This trail, which leads to the summit of Gore, is named in honor of the Schaefer brothers, Carl, Paul, and Vincent. Paul was a renowned conservationist and writer; Carl and Vincent were major figures in developing skiing on the mountain before the present state-run downhill facility was constructed. The brainchild of Paul's son-in-law Don Greene, the original trail was designed, cut, and marked by Greene and other volunteers. DEC Forest Ranger Steve Ovitt is responsible for the subsequent rerouting of the trail.

▶ **Trailhead:** The trailhead is located at the North Creek Ski Bowl. It is reached by driving north along NY 28 from Warrensburg. Cross NY 8 at a four-way stoplight at Wevertown. Proceed 4.8 mi farther on NY 28, passing a Stewarts Shop, and the road L to the Gore Mountain downhill ski area. Turn L on the gravel Ski Bowl Rd., then in a short distance, turn L again at a sign to "Grunblatt Memorial Beach" and "trailhead." Park on the L in the beach parking lot, and begin hiking at the Schaefer Trail sign. ◀

FROM THE DEC SIGN, the trail slants diagonally L across the hillside on an obvious footpath, following blue DEC "Hiking Trail" markers. Cross the gravel road to the Town dump and proceed through an open gate to resume the footpath. A short distance from the gate, in an open clearing, is the trail register.

Beyond the register, enter hemlock woods and continue uphill following blue DEC markers. A small creek is on the R. Do not cross the creek, but look for a blue marker, which signals a hard L turn. At 0.3 mi, the trail crosses an old woods road with a view L into a clearing. Continue straight on the mostly level terrain of a Town trail now marked with blue DEC signs, which then begins to climb again. The trail passes moss-covered erratic boulders on the L.

At 0.4 mi, the trail reaches an intersection where the Town trail branches L and the Schaefer Trail veers R. At 0.9 mi, the trail takes a hard R and follows the old North Creek Reservoir Trail. At 1.0 mi, it crosses a tributary to Roaring Brook, then passes a picturesque spring



Gore Mt. Trail (Trail 7A)

on the R, and just beyond, a little cave. The trail then reaches the base of a series of waterfalls on Roaring Brook at 1.1 mi. Leaving the first waterfall, the trail climbs steeply up the hillside and follows along Roaring Brook in sight of many other waterfalls. At times the trail approaches the stream close enough for hikers to rest on the bedrock of the stream bed.

At 1.3 mi. the Schaefer Trail approaches the bridge for the new connector ski trail between the North Creek Ski Bowl and Gore Mountain Ski Area. There is a high boulder wall on your R just before the bridge. Ignore the blue trail marker near the bridge and look for the switch-back that leads up and around the right end of the wall. The trail follows along the top of the wall and crosses the ski trail (but not the bridge), before continuing, still on the R bank of Roaring Brook.

In the next 0.1 mi, there is a very nice place to get out on the bedrock of the brook. Shortly after, the trail intersects a maintenance road on a second bridge (again, do not cross on the bridge) which carries the water supply from the Hudson River across Roaring Brook to Gore Mountain's snowmaking system. After its intersection with the road, the trail continues on the same side of Roaring Brook and becomes much gentler because it now follows the reconstituted Nordic ski trail of many years ago.

At 1.6 mi. the route finally leaves the streamside and continues to climb up to the edge of the North Creek Reservoir at 1.8 mi. Here you will find a comfortable rock bench on which to rest and enjoy the beauty of the reservoir and the surrounding hills. Beyond this point, the trail turns N, away from the reservoir, and then circles farther W.

At 2.0 mi, there is a junction with the red-marked Rabbit Pond trail on the right. At 2.5 mi, the trail crosses a power line as it continues a gentle ascent to the W. At 3.2 mi, the trail enters a large clearing known as Ives Dam, where it turns sharply to the L, crosses Roaring Brook, now a very small stream, and enters the woods again heading almost SE.

At this point the trail stops being part of the old Nordic ski trail and resumes being a footpath that climbs quickly up to the Woodout ski trail at Gore. At 3.4 mi, the hiking trail crosses the Woodout ski trail and proceeds up through the forest between ski trails to cross the Lower Woodin ski trail. From here the trail continues to ascend until it exits the woods by converging with the summit maintenance road/ski trail called Lower Cloud at 3.8 mi. Follow the ski trail and the blue markers down a small dip and then up a steep section to an open area

with good views to the NE at 4.1 mi.

Beyond this point the trail continues on a road under the High Peaks Chair all the way to the summit. At 4.5 mi the trail passes the top of the High Peaks chairlift on the L and reaches the summit at 4.7 mi. The opening leading to the closed tower is just beyond. The open portion of the summit is to the L (E) with good views N to the High Peaks and E toward the mountains around Lake George.

* Trail in winter: During downhill ski season, the trail is likely to be open for snowshoeing only to the first bridge, which serves the connector ski trail between the North Creek Ski Bowl and Gore Mountain Ski Area. Gore Mountain Ski Area does not allow snowshoeing on their downhill ski trails during ski season.

⌘ Distances: To Roaring Brook, 1.1 mi; to North Creek Reservoir, 1.9 mi; to power line, 2.5 mi; to convergence with Woodout Ski Trail, 3.4 mi; to summit and fire tower, 4.7 mi (7.5 km). Ascent, 2560 ft (781 m). Elevation, 3583 ft (1092 m). ♦