

Balsam Mtn.

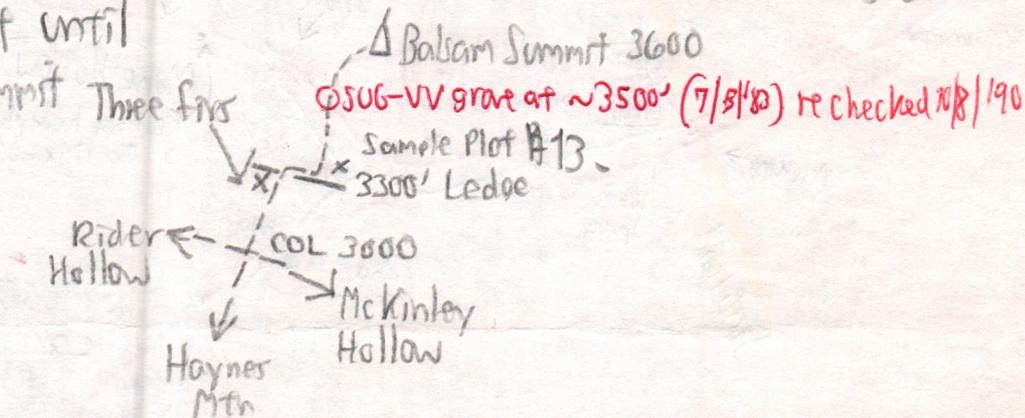
12/23/72

210-2

With Ed West, Bill Lawson, Ricky & Tommy Brooks.

Leave last house, Rider Hollow:	9:50 AM	> via col to Haynes
Arr. Balsam Summit	12:35 PM	
Lv. " "	1:00 PM	> via col to Belle Ayre
Arr. Rider Hollow	3:45 PM	

First Three firs on W side of trail just below steep ledge where trail jogs E. Hardwoods only above that until continuous fir near summit. Three firs begin.



Above about 3200 or 3300 feet, all branches were covered with melting ice rime (temperature 31° near ground level). A gentle bump of a trunk would send down a shower of ice cylinders. Below 3000 ft, ice rime was nearly absent.

Snow pack only about 6" to 8" on summit, 2" to 3" at base. Snowshoes unnecessary & an encumbrance if worn on ledges.

Descent: several small sugar maples above & well away from the crest of Annocinum Ledge (which ^{alt} harbors the lowest balsam on a north ascent. The sugars are more slow to climb the north slope as the ledge presents an obstacle; besides, the south slope is gentler, deeper-soiled & warmer

12/23/72

12/25/72