

Henry Simonds Hubbell Jr. ME# 11034

Concord, NH

Outdoor Adventures: New trail network opens along popular Kanc

The meandering Kancamagus Highway is a wiggling slice of outdoor heaven with its myriad hiking trails, campgrounds, vistas and even a surprise like a high school ski jump.

But now there's a new network of multi-use trails on the east end of Route 112 built and maintained by mountain bikers, including a wondrous stretch along the rocky Swift River.

And, surprise, the trails are surrounded by the incredible White Mountain National Forest but technically aren't a part of its immense acreage.

Talk about location and the right neighborhood.

The estimated four miles of trails for mountain biking, trail running, hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are part of the 300-acre Albany Town Forest, which extends into Conway.

Under the umbrella of the Albany Conservation Commission, the White Mountains chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association was asked to map and maintain the trails.

"The trails are fun and great for families and kids," chapter president Rob Adair said. "There are no big elevation gains."

There's a trailhead with parking and a kiosk on the Kanc about seven-tenths of a mile west of the Route 16 traffic lights in Conway.

The trails showcase an assortment of beginner to intermediate terrain like sinuous single track, grassy paths and wide and buffed ways – Trestle Trail, Davis Farm Trail, Railroad Wye Trail, Crossover Trail and exhilarating Swift River Trail. Think of much of the blue-blazed network as being on the harder side of easy.

The network is behind the Kennett Middle School with its scenic mountain views and adjacent to **Hubbell Memorial Field** (there's a kiosk there too) – the club site for the Mount Washington Valley Radio Control Flying Club.

That's the beauty of bicycling. It takes you to familiar places seen anew. A sign at the field tells how on the site from 1945-1957, **Henry Simonds "Hank" Hubbell Jr** (ME# 11034), a former U.S. Navy aviator, operated a CAA (Civil Aeronautics Administration) approved flying school, training some 3,000 men and women to fly. The facility had the first radio control tower and the first scheduled airline service in the state. Prices were a tad lower for flying back in Hubbell's day. A roundtrip ticket to Boston was \$18.62

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MADISON - Henry Simonds "Hank" Hubbell Jr., of Madison, died March 2, 2001, after a brief illness.

He was born Feb. 16, 1924, in Dedham, Mass. After graduation from Milton Academy, Henry went to Culver Academy and later attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Having flown airplanes since the age of 14, he joined the U.S. Navy in 1941 and served until 1945 as a naval aviator during World War II. At the end of the war, he returned to Conway where his family had relocated.

Between 1945 and 1957, he was involved in several businesses, including operating the Conway Village Airport, before he began a 20-year career with the Federal Aviation Administration. He and his wife Ruthe built a retirement home on family land in Madison and returned to the Mount Washington Valley in 1977.

Henry then served as a Madison selectman for 15 years and was on the board of directors for the Fryeburg Airport. Throughout his life, Henry maintained a love of flying and will be remembered by many as their aviation instructor or charter pilot.

Henry and Ruthe are longtime members of Christ Episcopal Church, where he served as the senior warden.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Ruthe Lovering Hubbell, of Madison; two sons, Kent L. Hubbell and his wife Sue Eshelman, of Ithaca, N.Y., and Dr. Franklin R. Hubbell and his wife Lee Frizzell of Conway; a daughter, Jane Hubbell and her husband Alan Shelton of Harrisonburg, Va.; his muchloved grandchildren, Seth, Abby, Jonathan and Thor; a brother, Thomas W. Hubbell, of Raymond, Maine; a sister, Katherine M. Hubbell, of Conway; and several nieces and nephews.