

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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**The Catskill 3500 Club, founded in 1962, continues to uphold the following principles for its members:**

- Foster interest in hiking;
- Provide on-going education on outdoor skills; and
- Engage in public service, stewardship, and responsible conservation of our region's natural resources.

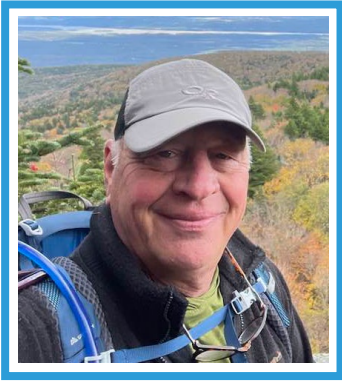
## **Value Statement**

**We value and celebrate those who have ascended, on foot, the 33 highest peaks on public lands in the Catskill Mountains, as well as those who have additionally hiked these mountains in winter.**

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Catskill 3500 Club™ | P.O. Box 294, West Hurley, NY 12491  
Catskill 3500 Club™ is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization in the state of New York.  
EIN: 52-1935612

# President's Message



As we reflect on 2025, I want to thank every member, volunteer, and supporter who helped make this another meaningful year for the Catskill 3500 Club. Our organization continues to grow and evolve thanks to the dedication of so many people who care deeply about the Catskills and the hiking community.

This Annual Report is a first for the Club and marks another step forward as we continue growing into our role as a nonprofit corporation. As a 100% volunteer organization, our primary goal remains serving our membership. Please continue to stay in touch with the Board and share your thoughts and ideas.

I especially want to thank Vice President Lori Herpen and Canister Editor Jack Walker for their work creating this document.

In 2025, our volunteers continued to support trail stewardship, organized outings, education, and hiker safety throughout the Catskills. A major highlight was the continued growth of our Trailhead Steward Program, which also received its first grant this year – an important milestone for the Club.

The strength of the Catskill 3500 Club comes not only from a shared love of the mountains, but from the willingness of our members to give back to the trails and community that mean so much to all of us.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Michael Bongar*

President, Catskill 3500 Club

## 2025 Officers & Board of Directors

### Officers

Michael Bongar ..... *President*  
Lori Herpen ..... *Vice President*  
Sherri Goffman ..... *Secretary*  
Chris Hummel ..... *Treasurer*

### Board of Directors

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Chris Adams        | Maria Orchard  |
| Maria Bedo-Calhoun | Lourdes Sonera |
| Jim Bouton         | Jack Walker    |
| Colleen Hardcastle | David White    |
| David Oliver       |                |



On the cover: Slide Mountain. Photo courtesy of Steve Aaron #3199

# OUTINGS PROGRAM

Our Outings Program continues to be the heart of the Club's hiking community. Throughout the year, volunteer hike leaders organize a full schedule of hikes across the Catskills, focusing on the high peaks above 3500 feet. These hikes range from beginner-friendly outings to challenging multi-peak adventures. The Club's group hikes are promote safe, responsible backcountry travel, foster mentorship and camaraderie, and help participants build the skills and confidence needed to pursue their hiking goals. Led entirely by dedicated volunteer hike leaders, the program strengthens our community while advancing the Club's mission of stewardship and responsible recreation.



Photo by: Steve Tsang

## 2025 Year End Hike Statistics

**27** Active Hike Leaders

**223** Hikes Planned

**49** Hikes cancelled due to weather, injuries or cancellations

**1,162** Total hikers

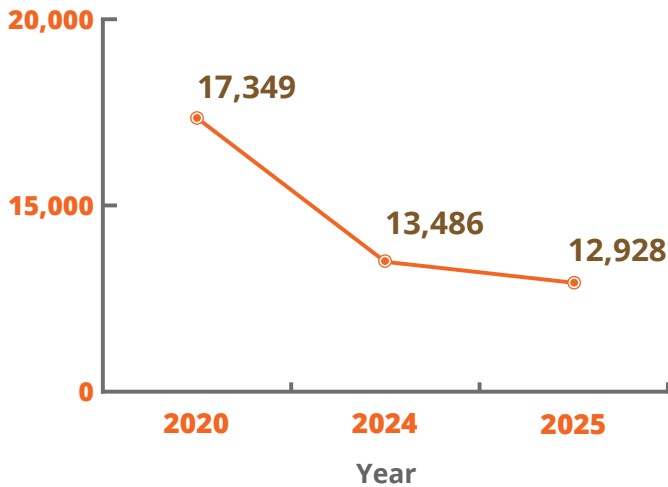


Photo by: Moe Lemire

# CANISTER MAINTENANCE

Since receiving formal approval from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in 1965, the Catskill 3500 Club has maintained summit register canisters on the Catskills' trailless peaks. For more than six decades, dedicated Club volunteers have stewarded these canisters, collected and compiled hiker sign-in data, and shared that information with the DEC under a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement. This longstanding partnership reflects the Club's deep commitment to conservation, responsible recreation, and informed management of the Forest Preserve.

## Canister Sign-ins



The total canister sign-ins for **2025** was **12,928**.

This was a drop of about **4.5%** from **13,486** in **2024** and about **26%** lower than the all time high of **17,349** in **2020**.

# 288.25

## Total Volunteer Hours

This includes travel time, hiking time, and the hours spent maintaining the canisters—painting, refurbishing, and replacing summit register notebooks.



Mike Siudy and Jim Bouton of our Canister Maintenance Committee. In 2025, Mike stepped into the role of Committee Chair, succeeding Jim after his many years of dedicated service leading the program and helping preserve one of the Catskill 3500 Club's most unique traditions.

# TRAIL STEWARDSHIP

The Trailhead Steward Program proudly kicked off its fifth season with a media day celebration that brought together representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Executive Director of Parks & Trails New York, Catskill 3500 Club leadership, and several dedicated volunteer stewards. This milestone event highlighted the program's continued growth, including the Club's receipt of a grant from Parks & Trails New York to support and expand stewardship efforts.

The Trailhead Steward program has become a cornerstone of the Club's work—engaging hikers at trailheads, sharing Leave No Trace principles, and helping protect sensitive mountain environments. Through the commitment of our volunteers and the strength of our partnerships, the program continues to foster a culture of education, conservation, and community, ensuring that the Catskills remain a welcoming and sustainable destination for all.



## 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

**3,144**  
VISITORS

**1,260**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS

**47**  
SITE-SPECIFIC VOLUNTEERS

**41**

SLIDE MOUNTAIN

**48**

WOODLAND VALLEY

**18** SUPPORTING SPECIAL EVENTS



# TRAIL MAINTENANCE & ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

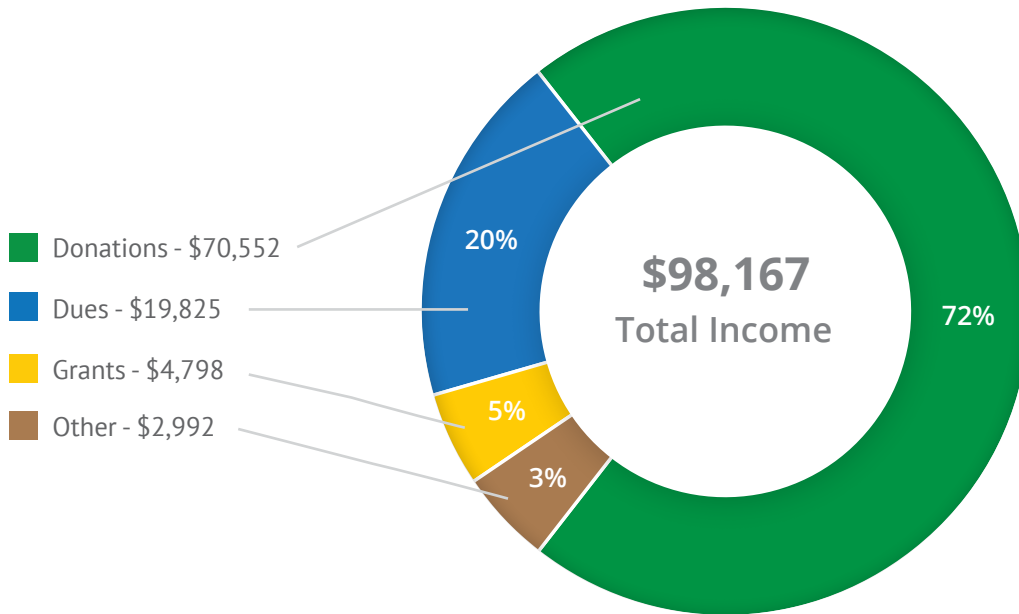
The Catskill 3500 Club continues its longstanding commitment to stewardship through regular maintenance of the Table-Peekamoose Trail, with volunteer crews working in both spring and fall to remove blowdown and debris, improve drainage, and repair trail structures such as waterbars. These efforts help protect the trail from erosion while ensuring a safer and more sustainable hiking experience.



In addition, the Club remains dedicated to its community responsibilities by maintaining its section of the Adopt-A-Highway program, with volunteers collecting roadside litter twice a year to help keep the scenic highway clean.

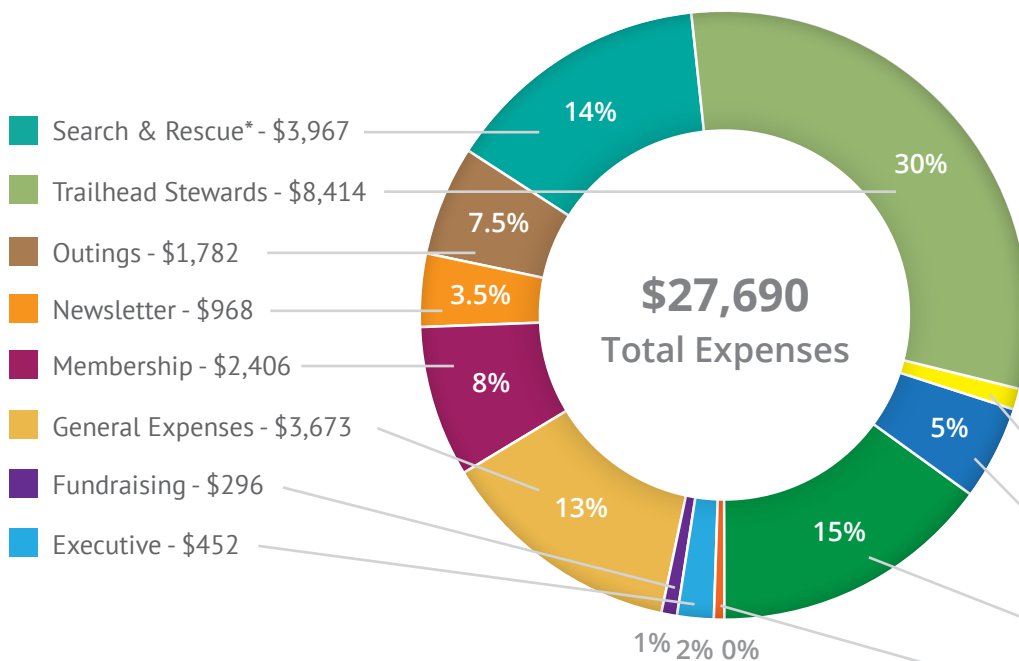


# CATSKILL 3500 CLUB FINANCIALS - 2025



## Revenue

In 2025, the Catskill 3500 Club experienced a strong year of revenue, driven largely by exceptional donor support. This combination of strong donor generosity and consistent member support positions the Club well to continue advancing its mission and stewardship efforts in the Catskills.



## Expenses

In 2025, the Catskill 3500 Club allocated resources across a variety of programs and operational needs to support our members and further our mission. Overall, these expenses reflect the Club's careful stewardship of resources and our continued focus on programs and initiatives that directly support members, enhance safety, and preserve the Catskill hiking experience.

\*The Search & Rescue Committee was reorganized as the Preventative Search & Rescue (PSAR) Committee in the fall of the reporting fiscal year. Expenses shown here reflect activities under the committee's former structure and name.