

the catskill canister

Vol. XIX, No. 1

W I N T E R 1 9 8 6

AN ESCARPMENT EXPERIENCE

Hiking the Escarpment Trail over Windham to North Lake had long been a topic of conversation with my aspirant friend, Mike Zollo, of Saugerties and Cooperstown. We have been hiking together since 1965 and whatever we were waiting for all that time must have come together, so we set a firm date for July 1985. It would be my first backpacking trip; Mike is a veteran.

A little research convinced us that the trip should be done from north to south, with Blackhead being the only real climb, and North Lake offering a swim at the conclusion. The starting and finishing elevations are the same, c. 2100'. I felt it wise to attempt to clear Blackhead the first day, camp on its level southern shoulder, and have a rather easy trek into North Lake on the second day. Since we had both been on most parts of the Escarpment Trail, we decided to start near Maplecrest on Peck Road, a trailhead new to both of us. We left one car at North Lake. I felt the security of the campsite worth the \$7. (The car could have been left outside the entrance for no cost. The return then would have been over the yellow trail from below North Point.)

Mike's wife dropped us off at Peck Road trailhead at 10:00. It was exciting to realize we had actually begun! The trail starts on a gentle and pretty woods road. Mike was carrying about 23 pounds; my pack was 10 pounds heavier. The spring was flowing adequately from its pipe on the left shoulder of the road; it would be the only water available on our route (except for the spring in Dutcher Notch). I carried two canteens of Gater Aid plus two quarts of water. Mike carried two quarts of water. Even with careful rationing we used it all.

The junction with the Escarpment Trail was reached in a surprisingly short time and with little effort. The gentle climb up Windham put us at its summit at 12:00, when we met a lone hiker from Connecticut and three from the Bronx. Surprisingly, they had brought no water with them for an overnight trip, because an earlier hike in the CATSKILLS had had many watering places along the trail, and they had assumed that this would be the case wherever they hiked in the mountains.

The view of the Hudson Valley from Windham was quite good, since it was a relatively cool, clear day with low humidity. We dropped down from Windham, went over three gentle rises, all in deep woods. Burnt Knob had a very nice view down into Big Hollow. We stopped for lunch at a rock ledge just above the junction with the red trail, and were back on the trail at 2:30.

The 3.25 miles over Acra Point to the intersection of the yellow trail from the Bataviakill put us there at 4:10. It began to look as if clearing Blackhead before our agreed-upon 6:30 stopping time was a definite possibility. It was only a mile to the summit of Blackhead,

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but this would be the most strenuous climb of our route. We were tiring, and our ascent in this mile would be 1,050 feet. After a rest at Yellow Jacket Lookout, we clawed ourselves to the summit by 5:25. This was a homecoming of sorts for me, because in March, 1984, I had finished the required 3500 peaks here with ten friends and a wine toast.

We were feeling the effects of the ascent, but we were encouraged by achieving our goal with plenty of time to find a place to camp for the night before daylight would be gone. Our descent to the shoulder put us on the level and out of the woods at 6:00. Right there at the edge of the trees we came upon an old campsite with a stone fireplace and long, soft grass and plenty of room for two tents. When I took that pack off for the last time, it was almost like flying! We set up our gear, had a waterless supper, saw another view of the Hudson Valley at sunset from one of the many open areas, and turned in for the night by 9:00. The only sound was an all-night wind.

After two porcupines ambled out of the trashy fireplace, Mike and I had a quick, cold breakfast and were back on the trail at 7:00. The forecast was for a hot and humid day, and we wanted to make the most of the coolness of early morning. The warm, moist air we had seen creeping up the Hudson Valley the evening before now surrounded us, making even the summit of Blackhead invisible. We stopped to rest while Mike changed into hiking shorts at a lovely small rock shelf overlooking Colgate Lake and the valley between Blackhead and Stoppel Point. The blue trail then plunges into Dutcher Notch, where we arrived at 8:20.

There was an occupied tent in the notch and we tried to be quiet as we discussed our plans. We decided against the .35 mile descent to the spring on the yellow trail to the left. The heat was becoming oppressive. The blue trail leaves Dutcher Notch with a steep ascent, which soon had us dragging in the heat. We were traveling noticeably slower today. The trail, up to Stoppel Point, however, follows the typical Catskill pattern of alternating ascent and level stretches, and the going was not difficult, even with full packs. A large, open overlook toward the Hudson Valley was reached soon after we had taken a break in a constant up-draft of cool air blowing right up the trail. After our slow climbing, we passed the overturned wreckage of a Piper Cherokee just feet to the left of the trail. It always amazes me how quickly and thoroughly wrecked aircraft in the mountains are dismembered. It is apparent some souvenir hunters come prepared to strip and dissect. What do they do with these parts?

Just a five minute walk past the Cherokee put us at the summit of Stoppel Point at 10:10. Strangely, a dryer, cooler breeze blew here, so we took off the packs and rested for a full thirty minutes. Stoppel Point is the maximum elevation on the second day's route, so it was all down hill from here. Knowing that seemed to make the pack lighter.

As soon as we dropped off the summit we plunged back into the heat

and humidity. It was a very uncomfortable hike to North Point, reached just at 12 noon. We began to run into campers from North Lake, of all ages and sizes, with an array of hiking gear. We were passed in both directions by runners--an unbelievable sight, feeling the way we did. We had decided to return by the Escarpment Trail since it would put us directly at the lake and our car. That was a mistake. The Escarpment Trail is a wandering, plunging, rocky trail that became more and more aggravating under the heavy load and heat. If I were to do it again, I would return by the red trail. The many overlooks are dramatic, but Mike and I were not in a frame of mind to enjoy them, and, of course, the haze limited any views.

We heard the beach area of the lake long before we arrived, making us think we were nearly out. Finally, at 1:40 we appeared at the end of an open field across from the parking lot. We were out! The sense of accomplishment of this long-time ambition was not complete, however, until I had drunk freely of the campsite's water and felt the coolness of the lake. We had done it!

The Escarpment Trail provides a good experience for the novice backpacker. In the event of a need to abort the hike, there are three trails (Big Hollow, Bataviakill, and Dutcher Notch) which return to civilization with a short, downhill trek. The ascents are not too rigorous with a full pack, there are many places under 3500 feet to camp, and the views are plentiful.

--A. William Clock, #473 518-355-3445
1009 Angelina Rd., Schenectady, NY 12303

ERRATA

The Summer 1985 and the Autumn 1985 issues should be marked Vol. XVIII (vice XIII).

LETTERS

I propose that we add an additional mountain to those 3500-footers recognized by the Catskill 3500 Club: the southwest peak of Hunter, elevation 3740', order of height 15. It seems to meet all criteria with the col between it and it's neighbor (Hunter) dropping 180 feet to 3540 and a crow-fly distance between the two of about a mile and a quarter. The DEC in its new Catskill Park State Land Master Plan recognizes that there are 35 (p. 72), and thirty-five 3500-footers has a nice ring to it . . . If SW Hunter is added to the required list, it should be phased in over time. Thus, aspirants completing their requirements during 1986 should be allowed to consider the new peak optional.

--Hugh Neil Zimmerman, #306, 10 West 65 St., NYC 10023

. . . upon initially hiking Southwest Hunter Mountain (3740') and then subsequently reading the enclosed information (hi-lited*), I wondered why this mountain is not included among the 3500 Club's peaks.

--Peter Heckler, #460, 160 Lozier Terrace, River Edge, NJ 07661

THE CATSKILL CANISTER, Vol. 1, No. 2, Spring 1968, The Peripatet-

* NYS Forest Preserve Centennial Fact Book, p. 12: "In the Catskills, this includes many of the 35 peaks of over 3500 feet in elevation..."

ic Porcupine: The Red Hook Mountaineers* are trying to move a mountain into the Catskill 3500 Club. "No Name" is what they call the shoulder of Hunter which ends at Diamond Notch. If they dig out the col a little and carry the rocks to the top of "No Name," they will be the first to construct an artificial 3500 ft. peak.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES 6/17/73 No-Name Committee - there is no agreement within the committee on adding names to the peak last as surveys find changes on the maps. 4/27/74 No-Name - It was determined that the Official List of Peaks should not be altered because of changes in the Geological Surveys. However, it was felt that a change was permissible if the Official List was incorrect. Franklin Clark was delegated to draft an amendment to the Constitution** for inclusion of the peak. 1/18/75 Proposed Amendment WHEREAS, the "Official List" of 34 mountains dated 3/14/66 includes all but one peak meeting the criteria . . . and WHEREAS, it appears that this nameless peak was inadvertently omitted because it was overlooked, be it RESOLVED, that so-called "Southwest Hunter" be added to the official list, effective April 1, 1976, and that the Executive Committee be directed to apply for a suitable name for the peak. A letter from Ray Donahue pertaining to SW Hunter was read in which he stated that he did not believe the peak met the qualifications in the constitution. Elinore Leavitt stated that the reason for the amendment was that some people wanted to have 35 peaks for the 3500 Club. Ann Clapper expressed fear that the peak would suffer wear and tear if included. The proposed amendment was tabled. 6/14/75 Southwest Hunter Walter Gregory moved that the Official List of peaks be left as is, and that no more peaks be added at any time to the known list for requirements for membership. The motion was carried.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION Ratified 3/20/80 4. (b) The Official List, dated March 24, 1966, is . . . To be considered a separate mountain peak the following criteria was (sic) used: (1) it must have at least a 250' drop between, or (2) it must be at least 1/2 mile away from other peaks on the list. . . 6. Amendments to this Certificate of Incorporation shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at a meeting . . .

To discuss the history of and the inconsistencies in the Official List of 1966 will require another article.

--F. B. C.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| 529 | William B. Martin | 10/27/85 | 201-875-7186 |
| | P. O. Box 535, Sussex, NJ 07461 | | |
| 530 | Jane O'Connell | 10/27/85 | 201-746-8026 |
| | 26 Walnut Pkwy., Montclair, NJ 07042 | | |

* A hiking club in the Red Hook High School, organized in 1966 by charter member John Fish, #27. Several of them were listed as new members in that issue, starting with #37.

** The Certificate of Incorporation superseded the old Constitution.

531	Mark M. Persinko 10/27/85 181 Riverview Blvd., Bridgewater, NJ 08807	201-524-5936
532	C. William Meyer, Jr. 12/17/85 16H Vassar Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603	914-462-0700
533	William P. Haynes 12/22/85 17 Vaughn Drive, Ramsey, NJ 07446	201-327-6684
534	Jan G. Oudemool 12/30/85 91 Cambridge Drive, Red Hook, NY 12571	914-758-8068
535	George H. Form, Jr. 12/21/85 44 Villa Court, Apt. D4, Hempstead, NY 11550	516-483-0119
536	David E. Turnbull 1/10/86 829 Sanders Ave., Scotia, NY 12302	518-377-5728
537	Stephen J. Draiss 1/9/86 363 Main St., Apt. 5, Oneonta, NY 13820	
538	David R. McCreary 1/14/86 250 Spakenkill Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603	914-462-6252
539	Robert B. Silver 1/19/86 120 West 74 St., Apt. 5F, New York, NY 10023	212-595-3119
540	Patrick Oreson 1/19/86 26 Miller Hill Drive, LaGrangeville, NY 12540	914-223-3061

WINTER MEMBERS

42 members have qualified for the winter patch since 1981:

114 Howard Adriance	128 Charles Witham, Jr.	142 Arlene Scholer
115 Erik Hrycun	129 Charles Witham, Sr.	143 Betty Lou Bailey
116 James Older	130 Kenneth Tomiak	144 James Tschinkel
117 Arthur Church	131 Lawrence Leslie, Jr.	145 June Slade
118 John Morgan, Jr.	132 David Lasky	146 Paul Leikin
119 John VanHook	133 R. Reeves-Ellington	147 Albert Mullen
120 Paul Hoyt	134 B. Reeves-Ellington	148 Edith Mullen
121 Angie Mahdavian	135 Joan Dean	149 V. Zbuzek
122 Philip Tates	136 John Gyula	150 V. K. Zbuzek
123 Robert Gowling	137 Howard Dash	151 John Graham
124 Jean Shuler	138 Eleanor Bramley	152 Harold Post
125 Howard Skarka	139 Helen Braun	153 Ted Asch
126 Robert Green	140 Richard Maltz	154 Paul Post
127 Stella Green	141 Katrina Barteld	155 Peter Heckler

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our Colorado cousin reports that Al Dieffenbach, #244, has added Grey's Peak, Torrey's Peak, Mt. Sherman, and Mt. Evans to his collection of 14,000 footers. He trained by hiking and biking 450 miles with a group of 12 ADK-ers in Greece. Mountain passes are at 7000', and Mt. Parnassos at 8000' was covered with snow. He especially liked the amazing Samarian Gorge on the island of Crete. * * * * Betty (Maury) and Phil Heald, #305, 359, were the first married couple to scale in winter all 111 New York-New England 4000' mountains. * * * * Friedel Schunk, #248, has added the ADK 100 highest to his previous Catskill and New England centuries. He trained for this by climbing the Alpspitze (Germany) solo via an exposed northface route. * * * * Norman Greist, #85, has been seen at various times on the entire Appalachian Trail. * * * * After three years in Guadalajara, Mexico, Russell Sawyer, #409, is a student at Albany Medical College. * * * * John Graham, #478, is ADK Forty-sixer #2027. * * * * Franklin and Winifred Clark, #33,

289, reversed the usual hiking procedure by walking down the Grand Canyon one day and up (4500') the next. * * * * The Founding Father and his gracious wife Kay, #3, 4, have travelled the trails together for fifty years. We congratulate the Spangenbergers on that achievement. Also, we hope they sense the gratitude of the rest of us for this club. Twenty-three years ago today there were five qualified members; their little club has grown more than 100 times.

NEW EDITION OF CATSKILL MAPS

The NY-NJ Trail Conference, in association with the AMC, has published a second edition of Catskill Trails. A new green tint feature has been added to show state-owned land at a glance, including almost 2000 acres added to the Forest Preserve since 1983. Every drivable road is shown with name and route number for access to remote areas; 21 parking places, 18 viewpoints, 7 springs, a lean-to, and 11 miles of marked and unmarked trails have been added. The five map set is available by sending a check or money order payable to "Trails" to: NY-NJ Trail Conference, 232 Madison Ave. #908, New York, NY 10016. \$8.95/set plus 90¢ postage. NYS residents add sales tax.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

March 1 SHERRILL A strenuous bushwhack.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1600' Elev.: 3540' Order: 30
Meeting Place: Jnct. of Rts. 28 & 42, Shandaken, at 8:00.
Leader: Roy Messaros (#97), 249 Mulberry Way, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417
201-337-5004

March 8 FIR & BIG INDIAN A strenuous bushwhack.

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 24, 18
Meeting Place: Call leader for details.
Leader: Tim Waters (#268) 212-876-5718

March 22 KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK A strenuous bushwhack from Palenville to whet our appetites for Catskill 3500 Club dinner.

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elev.: 3655' Order: 21
Meeting Place: Howard Johnson's at Saugerties at 8:30.
Leader: Larry Braun (#213). 79 Locust St., Floral Park, NY 11001
516-354-8507

March 22 ANNUAL DINNER MEETING - Meadowbrook Lodge, New Windsor, NY

April 12 TABLE & PEEKAMOOSSE A moderate-paced trail hike from Denning, joint with ADK.

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1600' Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11
Meeting Place: Denning dirt parking lot at trail head at 9:00.
Leader: Arlene Scholer (#441), 17 Willow Road, New Hyde Park, NY 11040
516-354-0231

(continued)

April 26 THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME, BLACK HEAD, & ACRA POINT A hike to which the leader invites all aspirants. The pace will be moderate.
 Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev.: 3940,3980,3940' Order: 4, 3, 5
 Meeting Place: In front of Sugar Maples in Maplecrest at 8:45.
 Leader: Paul Hoyt (#315), 9 Fairmount Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530
 516-775-2059

ASSUMED RISK

Hiking involves certain inherent hazards, and persons participating do so at their own risk.

DUES AND SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

Annual dues for members and subscription fees for aspirants are now payable for 1986. Please note that dues include a subscription to The Catskill Canister. Since delinquent payments make extra work for the volunteers who have to send out reminders, and also cost extra in postage, please send your money now. A space has been provided for those who wish to make a small contribution to the club treasury.

.....
 Annual dues for members - \$3.00. Make check payable to The Catskill 3500 Club, Inc. and mail to Elinore G. Leavitt, 246 Joslen Blvd., Hudson, NY 12534. Sign and retain the enclosed membership card.

Name _____ # _____

Address _____

Phone() _____ Please send roster supplement.

Social Security No. (optional*) _____ Contribution _____

.....
 Annual subscription fee for aspirants - \$3.00. Make check payable to The Catskill 3500 Club, Inc. and mail to Deborah P. Glynn, R.D. 1, Box 411A, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569.

Name _____

Address _____

.....
 * Members of the Club "involved with operation, maintenance and development of trails on New York State Parkland" are eligible to have the protection of Workmen's Compensation coverage in the event of injury incurred while working on any trail maintained by the Club. Your name and social security number must be on file with the State. If you wish to be eligible, include your social security number above.



the catskill canister

Vol. XIX, No. 2

S P R I N G 1 9 8 6

WINTER PEAKBAGGING

The love of winter hiking began in 1976, when I joined a North Jersey ADK group to climb Doubletop. The leader was extremely hesitant about allowing me to accompany the party. He felt I was inexperienced and might not have the stamina to keep up with the group of a dozen or so. How I chuckled as one after another of the guys repeatedly broke through the crust into two feet of soft snow. I was light enough not to have that happen to me, and I was hooked on winter climbing from that day on. The ensuing winters have found me out every weekend and during school holidays as long as a companion could be found.

When I finished the requirements for the Winter Catskill 3500 in March of 1979, I experienced a letdown. Though there were several of the Adirondack 4000-footers that would keep me busy until completed in May of 1980, I committed myself to enjoying the CATSKILLS over and over again. Winter trips to the Adirondacks and New England were not considered, other than an occasional outing with fellow hikers.

Winter 1979-80 found me involved with preparations for my son's wedding. A week before Christmas I had a call from a gentleman in Massachusetts whom I had met while hiking and camping with mutual friends in Maine's Baxter State Park the previous summer. He was to be in the New York/New Jersey area several days before going to the Adirondacks to climb in the Heart Lake region and invited me to guide him on a few hikes in the CATSKILLS during the holiday.

By the time winter ended, his requirements for the Winter Catskill 3500 had been met, and I had re-climbed almost every one. #359 then asked me to help meet his requirements for the ADK 46ers. I agreed on condition that equal time be spent in New England. He was already a member of the New England 100 Highest Club, and I felt that I should like to climb them, too.

Six years later, with more mountains climbed than I ever expected to accomplish, I am a member of the New England 100 Highest Club as well as the eighth person, second woman, and member of the first husband and wife team to have climbed all 4000-foot mountains in the winter in the northeast (113 required as of 1985). There were ten that required two attempts before the peaks were achieved. One was Hunter, because we had not brought our snowshoes; another was Giant, for the same reason. Three stand out in vexation in my memory: Esther, three attempts; Katahdin's Baxter Peak, three attempts; and the inimitable Couchaschraga, four attempts.

There is, of course, a fairy tale ending. #359 and #305 are now happily married and living in rural Massachusetts near the New Hampshire line, so the White Mountains are not far away. On this New Year's

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Day our "Golden Pond" and woods are covered with six inches of newly fallen snow, as we plan the details for the annual Presidential Range Hike that we shall lead for the fourth time next July.

--Betty Maury Heald, #305, 617-928-4788
P. O. Box 201J, Hubbardston, MA 01452

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- 541 Lee Fanger 1/19/86 201-376-3160
445 Morris Ave., #07, Springfield, NJ 07081
- 542 Edward T. McCullough 2/22/86 914-382-2053
20 Corwin Place, Lake Katrine, NY 12449
- 543 Patrick J. Collins 12/23/85 914-428-0383
10 Entrance Way, Valhalla, NY 10595
- 544 Carl H. Fredrickson 9/15/85 617-848-4054
52 Acorn Circle, Braintree, MA 02184
- 545 Victor Heitzmann 3/4/86 518-731-8598
Climax, NY 12042
- 546 Lewis Dalven 3/11/86 617-862-4506
38 Bow St., Lexington, MA 02173
- 547 John Bailey 3/20/86 914-331-3196
84 O'Neil St., Kingston, NY 12401
- 548 H. John Nicoll 3/16/86
3 Caesa Dr., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

WINTER MEMBERS

- | | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----|------------------|-----|----------------|
| 156 | Francesca Hüsselbeck | 160 | A. William Clock | 164 | John Giuffrida |
| 157 | Paul Scarpa | 161 | Fred Turnbull | 165 | Ernest Mahlke |
| 158 | Maria Luz Scarpa | 162 | Fred Gustavson | 166 | Kathleen Gill |
| 159 | Sue Eilers | 163 | Benedict Morelli | 167 | James Liptack |

MOUNTAINS OF THE CATSKILLS

The majesty and general interest to outdoor people of the "Kaaterskill" Mountains would be sufficient reason to compile this list of higher peaks. Actually, the stimulus came from the need of Fred Hough and the writer to know where to look for balsam fir. In the central CATSKILLS these trees are generally found above 3,500 feet, so this became the lower limit for the list. Our interest in this species is not primarily botanical but stems from the apparent correlation of the distribution of the Bicknell's thrush with the balsam. The proving or

or disproving of this relationship is one of the long range projects of the John Burroughs Natural History Society.

It was surprising to find that there are more than 30 mountains in the Catskill area reaching above this elevation. The basis and part of the inspiration for the list was found in H. A. Haring's "Our Catskill Mountains" (copyright 1931), pages 256 and 257. This had been compiled from the then available United States Geodetic Survey Maps, mostly of the 1904 edition.

When these were compared with the elevations given in "Catskill Trails" of the New York State Conservation Department and the latest available United States Geological Survey Maps, various discrepancies appeared in both names and figures. Letters addressed to half a dozen agencies, organizations and individuals produced some helpful information, but no complete up-to-date list was located. There was interest expressed in having such a list.

Thus the following list was compiled by reference to the latest United States Geological Survey topographic sheets made by photogrammetric methods during the 1940's. Sheets from Ulster, Greene and part of Delaware counties were examined carefully. It was found that only a few of the peaks had elevations printed. These are presumably the only ones reached by ground surveys. Elevations for the others were determined by interpolation and are in parenthesis in the tabulation.

Because of the problem of multiple summits, some definition of a separate mountain has to be determined. Borrowing the principles established in "The Adirondack Forty-Sixers," but reducing figures proportionately, the following rule was established: In a range in order to be considered a separate summit--(a) there must be at least 250-foot drop between peaks or (b) a peak must be at least $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away from others.

--Daniel Smiley, Mohonk Mountain House

The above article first appeared in THE N. Y. STATE CONSERVATION-IST, August 1961, a full year before the conversation between Whiting and Spangenberg that led to the formation of the Catskill 3500 Club. There followed a list of 33 "High Peaks of the Catskills," compiled in 1959 as a "Scientific Supplement" to Vol. VI, No. 7, of THE CHIRP, publication of the John Burroughs Natural History Society. The list gave the elevation, county, and town of each mountain, and needed only the addition of Sherrill four years later to become the official list of the newly organized Catskill 3500 Club.

The naming of mountains still goes on, for no one has yet discovered an old name for that peak southwest of Hunter towards Diamond Notch which some persons consider to be a separate mountain. A committee has been appointed to restudy the criteria for the official list, as well as to ponder the merits of stability versus flexibility. Time will tell whether there will ever be 35 3500-foot peaks.

The paragraphs above were published in THE CATSKILL CANISTER, Vol. VI, No. 4, Autumn 1973, at which time there were 162 members. Mr. Smiley was a member of the committee that organized the Club, and it was he who drew up the list of peaks.

A CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF THE CRITERIA USED FOR THE PEAKS OF THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

The criteria for the official list are: (1) each peak must be 3500 feet in altitude and, (2) there must be at least a 250-foot drop between peaks or a peak must be at least one-half (½) mile away from other peaks on the list.

For some time I have had the feeling that these criteria did not adequately explain the make-up of the official list. A careful examination of the USGS maps revealed that there was indeed a foundation in fact for this feeling. Eleven peaks, not on the official list, appear to qualify when the present criteria are rigorously applied to the map data.

TABLE I - Peaks to be added to the official list if the current criteria are used.

NEW 3500 FT PEAKS			COL ELV	ADJOINING 3500 FT PEAKS			USGS MAPS
Location	Elev	Descent to Col		Descent to Col	Elev	Name	
NW Bearpen	3520	40	3480	120	3600	Bearpen	Prattsville
N Slide	3640	80	3560	620	4180	Slide	Phoenicia Peekamoose
W Tom Cole	3540	80	3460	480	3940	Tom Cole	Hensonville
SW Hunter	3740	200	3540	500	4040	Hunter	Hunter
NW Hunter	3760	20	3740	300	4040	Hunter	Hunter
E Rusk	3640	140	3500	180	3680	Rusk	Lexington
SE Twin	3580	120	3460	180	3640	Twin	Bearsville Hunter
S Westkill	3520	20	3500	380	3880	Westkill	Lexington
E Westkill	3620	20	3600	280	3880	Westkill	Lexington
NW Plateau	3780	20	3760	80	3840	Plateau	Hunter
N Plateau	3700	20	3680	100	3780	NW Plateau	Hunter

Since the peaks on Table I meet the ½ mile distance requirement of the criteria, the only other reason for their exclusion from the official list must be the lack of the 250 foot drop. Interestingly, however, there are five peaks on the official list without the drop of 250 feet.

TABLE II - Official peaks with less than the 250-foot drop.

PEAKS			COL ELV	ADJOINING 3500 FT PEAKS			USGS MAPS
Name	Elev	Descent to Col		Descent to Col	Elev	Name	
Thomas Cole	3940	220	3720	260	3980	Black Dome	Hensonville Freehold
Wittenberg	3780	220	3560	300	3860	Cornell	Phoenicia
Friday	3694	214	3480	380	3860	Cornell	West Shokan Phoenicia
Rocky	3508	228	3280	441	3721	Lone	West Shokan Peekamoose
Peekamoose	3843	203	3640	207	3847	Table	Peekamoose

In comparing the two tables, it becomes apparent that the Table I peaks were excluded from the official list because the drop is 200 feet or less, while the Table II peaks were placed on the official list because the drop is greater than 200 feet. Furthermore, it would seem that the criteria requiring that peaks be separated by either a 250' drop or a distance of 1/2 mile were not determining factors in the compilation of the official list.

Since the current criteria are not precise in the definition of what constitutes a peak, they should be altered to read: (1) each peak must be 3500 feet in altitude and, (2) each peak must rise more than 200 feet above the low point of its connecting ridge with a 3500 foot neighbor. (The words "more than 200 feet" are necessary to exclude the Table I peaks.)

c.1/1/73

--(President) Ray Donahue, #23 607-363-2565
St. Mary's Church, Downsville, NY 13755

MEMORANDUM dated February 6, 1973, to #23, from #33:

"If your proposed criteria at the bottom of page 2 were changed to read: ' . . . (2) Each peak must rise at least 200 feet. . . ,' SW Hunter would be included in the official list.

"The line has to be drawn somewhere, but it seems to me that it is difficult to justify drawing it between 200 and 203 feet, especially in view of the imprecision of some measurements. On the other hand, it seems entirely reasonable to draw the line between 140 and 200 feet. That is a greater difference than is to be found above 200 or below 140."

NO ACTION was ever taken on either of the above proposals. The stumbling block was those two words more than or at least (200 feet). President Ray asked me to write to Dan Smiley to inquire why SW Hunter was not included in the official list. He replied that "... as far as I can remember my derived formula was applied rigorously in determining the Catskill peaks to be included." Since then I have discussed this with Mr. Smiley, and it is my impression that because it had no name, it never occurred to anyone to check it out. During two years of discussion at Executive Committee meetings, the matter was never brought to the attention of the rest of the Club. Why? My guess is that no one wished to propose an amendment to the Constitution which would not be supported by the entire Executive Committee, all of whom were good friends.

--F. B. C., #33

THE PERAPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our Arizona cousin reports that Gary Klee, Jr., #160, is hiking among the scorpions and tarantulas. He plans to return to Potsdam next fall to seek a MBA at Clarkson. * * * * Another mountain has made it into the New Hampshire 4000'-er Club: Bondcliff, 4265', #48, 4/1/85, and another member, Friedel Schunk, #248, has finished the winter ascents of all Northeastern 4000' peaks. Meanwhile, John Kennedy, #247, has completed the ADK-46 in winter. * * * * Norman Greist, #85, who used to come all the way from North Haven CT to lead some of our hikes sends greetings to his friends and announces reluctantly that he is no longer climbing. * * * * The Wagmans, #163-167, who have had a family membership since they all finished on the same day in 1973, now have separate memberships. Tara Wagman Holly lives in Ulster Park, Marcy in Fishkill, and Gregg in Washington DC. * * * * Arthur Schneier, #388, has concluded his twenty-year quest of the Appalachian Trail.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

May 3 PLATEAU & SUGARLOAF A moderate-paced trail hike.

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1400' Elev.: 3840', 3800' Order: 12, 13
Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery, Phoenicia, 8:00 a.m. for breakfast.
Leader: Tim Watters (#268), 119 E. 96 St., Apt. 24, New York, NY 10128
212-876-5718

May 10 WESTKILL A moderate-paced trail hike.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev.: 3880' Order: 6
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rt. 42 & Spruceton Rd. at Westkill, 8:30.
Leader: Wilson Hoyt (#309), 9 Fairmount Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530
516-775-2059

May 11 SOUTHWEST HUNTER A moderate bushwhack from Devil's Acre
(Sun.) leanto.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 3740'
Meeting Place: Devil's Tombstone parking lot, 9:00.
Leader: Howard Dash (#458), 63 Montague St., Brooklyn, NY 11201
212-875-1513

May 17 BLACKHEAD Moderate hike from Jones Farm (Cairo) on an old unmarked trail, with time for nature study. Joint hike with ADK.
 Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elev.: 3940' Order: 5
 Meeting Place: Winter Clove House at 9:00. Allow 1/2 hr. from Thruway Exit #21 (Catskill). At Cairo take County Rt. 24 through Purling; left on 39 to Round Top; then follow "Winter Clove" signs.
 Leader: Franklin Clark (#33), 10 So. Washington St., Athens, NY 12015 518-945-1413 before May 9.

May 24 TWIN & INDIAN HEAD Moderate trail hike.
 Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2300' Elev.: 3640', 3573' Order: 22, 29
 Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 8:30
 Leader: William Lawson (#78), 395 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY 12203 518-436-1781

June 14 TABLE & PEEKAMOOSE Trail clearing hike for those who feel guilt.
 Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2800' Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 11, 10
 Leader: Tim Watters (#268), 119 E. 96 St., Apt. 24, New York, NY 10128 212-876-5718

June 13, 14, 15 ST. ANTHONY'S WILDERNESS in PA. Strenuous Appalachian Trail hike with plenty of rock jumping.
 Distance: 15 mi.
 Leader: "Uncle Ben" Morelli (#466), 117 Makatom Dr., Crawford, NJ 07016 201-276-2200 between 6-9 p.m.

June 21 KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK Mostly on trail, some bushwhacking, some scrambling, marvelous views, a wrecked airplane, a waterfall, a swim in a secluded pond, dinner together for those who wish.
 Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3655' Order: 21
 Meeting Place: Howard Johnson's at Saugerties exit of Thruway, 10:00
 Leader: Richard Wolff (#321), 648 Market St., Newark, NJ 07105
 Days: 201-344-1214 Eves.: 201-746-7415

ASSUMED RISK

Hiking involves certain inherent hazards, and persons participating do so at their own risk.



the catskill canister

Vol. XIX, No. 3

S U M M E R 1 9 8 6

A LESSON IN ORIENTEERING

When a friend and I decided to bushwhack North Dome and Sherrill, I was still fairly new at orienteering. Each trip into untrailed woods had taught me a little bit more about how to start at two thousand feet below a mountain top and to find a canister hidden somewhere among a grove of balsam. We approached North Dome from Camp Timberlake at 9:00. The trail looked as though it had been blazed by escapees from the graffiti team of the New York City subway system, with its reds, whites, yellows, and bright oranges, as well as designs that included dots, dashes, swizzles, circles, zigs and zags, but it followed the same ridge that I had planned to use. Since this trail is so well marked, I thought to myself, we should have no difficulty in spotting it on the way back. My plan was to circle North Dome on the return trip to avoid reclimbing it, thereby saving both time and energy.

* At about 3300' the trail veered to the right (I guess to a look-out), so I struck a magnetic north course. Up until now the forest had been deciduous, the primary tree being beech. We saw our first black cherry, and soon after entered a cloud layer. It was overcast when we started. Now with the high humidity the air was saturated, and you could actually see water droplets. At about 3400' we were on a flat meadow. We then walked into a large stand of thirty-foot balsam. Just as we entered this section we both caught a glimpse of a snowshoe rabbit, white with still a little brown left from its summer coat.

The water droplets were a little larger now, but I hesitate to call it rain, rather a very heavy mist. Nearing the top always has a special feeling. Things look and feel different. There is a quietness and peacefulness about you, as well as the change in vegetation. When our 360° course started going down hill, we simply relied on the landscape and continually headed for the highest mound of land. Ten minutes later my companion, Vic, spotted the canister. After signing in and reading some humorous entries, we started out.

It began to rain now and visibility was very low. I took a direction of 288° and started walking off the north side instead of the west. (First lesson in orienteering: a quick look at the map would have shown me a gentle exit off to the west, rather than the abrupt drop we experienced.) In order to keep my 288° reading, we were circling to the left at about the 3400' level to reach the col, while our senses told us to go down. I checked the map and at this point still did not know what had gone wrong, but I did know that I did not want to go north. I began to doubt my reading. I was in a quandry: I did not want to panic Vic, but I did not want to go back the way we had come. Even if we decided to skip Sherrill and return to the car, it would still be easier to skirt around like this and get back to the southeast side of the mountain, so I insisted on pressing on.

* Yes, and the view is well worth the slight detour. --Ed.

THE CATSKILL CANISTER Published by The Catskill 3500 Club, Inc.

Cyrus B. Whitney, President, 41 Morley Dr., Wyckoff, New Jersey 07481
Franklin B. Clark, Editor, 10 South Washington St., Athens, NY 12015
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By the time we continued around with some descents to avoid boulders and hobblebush, we were at about 2800'. Now out of the clouds and visibility regained, I realized what the situation was. We had come off the mountain to the north and then headed west. We had missed the col and were now just below it. We could see Sherrill ahead. By now we were both wet and a little cold. Vic had lost all faith in my outdoor skills and had wanted to turn back for the last half hour, but once I saw Sherrill, we were going for it. A short, rather than long lunch break was in order at this point, keeping hypothermia in mind. (Do not stop for too long, but get some nourishment.) Once we started to ascent we again followed the landscape, and at 1:10 spotted the box.

After signing in we headed out without dallying. This time I read the land first and then set my compass at 110°. After dropping off a little, we could see that we were indeed heading for the col. We were there by 2:00.

Now, with regained confidence, I decided to go ahead with my next adventure. Looking at the map, it seemed possible to go up to about the 3300' level and to stay at that elevation all the way around to the southeast side, back to the trail. At 3200' we should be high enough to avoid those two ravines and the ridge between them. After one and a half hours of contour hiking the general direction of southeast, Vic was getting nervous again. I turned and said, "Look, it took us two hours to go from peak to peak, so let's give this a little longer." Just then he looked over my shoulder to see the trail. Hallelujah! By 3:50 we were back to the car, very wet, very tired, but very happy to have learned some valuable orienteering skills.

--Kathleen Delphin-Balthazar, #520
Catskill, NY 12414 518-943-6757

ANALYSIS (by telephone)

FBC: There are two common reasons for hikers to get off course. One is subtracting instead of adding 13° for declination, giving an error of 26°. Does your compass have a built-in adjustment for declination?

KDB: No, I have to make the allowance.

FBC: I have checked your bearings with the map, and they were correct then for your compass. The other reason is that the compass bearer did not look at the compass often enough.

KDB: That is the lesson we learned. We just started walking off North Dome and did not look at the compass until later.

FBC: It has happened before. Four of the best hikers in the Club going fast from Wittenberg to Peekamoose found the Friday canister twice, because they had made a U-turn on the ridge. One of them told me, "Someone set a fine compass course and then put the compass in his pocket."

ORIENTEERING IN COMFORT

Trying to read a map when the wind is blowing, or it is raining or snowing, or you have the wrong glasses, can be an exercise in frustration. Adding or subtracting degrees, with allowance for declination, when several people are giving you gratuitous advice, can be unnerving. There is an easier way. The evening before, in the comfort of your home, spread the map on a table. For each bearing you will need, lay a ruler, yardstick, or triangle on the map so as to connect the two points, place a Silva (or other liquid-filled compass with an oblong frame) against the straight edge, and slide it along until there is a printed verticle line underneath. Rotate the dial of the compass until the lines in the dial are parallel to the printed line, being careful to have the arrow pointing to the top half of the map. Ignore the needle. Write the elevation and the bearing indicated by your compass on the first line of a 3 x 5 card. Continue with successive bearings.

To return the same route, simply work up the chart using the south end of the needle as your guide. The last bearing is the least important going up a mountain, but it is the most important coming down.

If you have no altimeter, you must record distances rather than elevations. Estimate your distance while walking, from the time interval and your past experience of rate in that kind of terrain. An altimeter is a convenience when bushwhacking under conditions of poor visibility; it is not necessary. A good compass is a necessity, and a built-in adjustment for declination is a great convenience.

Bill Leavitt, #1, taught me. He had it from Rudy Strobel, #14, who learned it in the army, presumably during WW II, when he was, I believe, a Lt. Col. Oh yes! Be sure to take the map with you.

--F.B.C.

1986 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

President, Cyrus Whitney; Past President, John Kennedy; First Vice President, James Stone; Second Vice President, Paul Hoyt; Secretary, Roman Hrycun; Treasurer, David Clapper; Annual Meeting, Roy Messaros; Canisters, Katrina Barteld; Conservation, Ray Donahue; Membership, Elinore Leavitt; Outings, Paul Hoyt; Search & Rescue, Jonathan Clement; Subscriptions, Deborah Glynn; "The Catskill Canister," Franklin Clark; Trails, Timothy Watters; Winter Weekend, Walter Gregory.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

549 Dan A. Nielsen 4/20/86
240 First Ave., #MG, New York, NY 10009

212-533-0637

RESOLUTION REGARDING SW HUNTER

At the annual meeting March 22, 1986, the following resolution was introduced by William Riemvis:

WHEREAS, The peak generally known as Southwest Hunter is over 3740' in elevation; and

WHEREAS, The drop between it and Hunter Mountain is at least 200 feet and the distance between the two is over 1.5 miles;

RESOLVED, That the Catskill 3500 Club add this summit to the list of peaks required for membership; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of the Club be directed to devise a plan for the orderly implementation of the above.

Nothing in the above resolution is to be construed to indicate that members completing their requirement before a date to be set by the Executive Committee shall be required to climb Southwest Hunter.

With the unanimous consent of those present (there being no objection raised), the president, in effect, laid the resolution on the table until the 1987 annual meeting, in order that the members might have time to think about and to discuss this orogenic issue.

NEW MAILING SERVICE

The excellent mailing service for the last three issues has been provided at cost by Richard Wolff, #321, who operates the Shipman Mailing Service when he is not ski touring. The Subscription Department of THE CATSKILL CANISTER is most grateful.

THE PARIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our Adirondack cousin reports that the Forest Burglar who was the subject of an article in Vol. XVIII, No. 2, has been caught by the police, and that an incredible amount of technical climbing gear and hiking equipment were recovered, including Friedel Schunk's pack. Clothing and down items (easily disposable) were not. * * * * Ralph Ferrusi, #122, is now a 114-er. * * * * Ken Kleinberg, #184, is working with Sperry Computers and ski-touring for a year in Switzerland.

LETTERS

My friends Friedel Schunk and Norm Smith prevailed on me to do some hiking in the CATSKILLS. Having hiked in the Adirondacks, Whites, and out west, I was afraid that these mountains would disappoint me and that I would run into throngs of people. What a pleasant surprise! Not as wild as the Adirondacks, but very pretty woods, streams, and summits. I saw some turkeys coming off Giant Ledge, and many deer. The people could not have been nicer. I plan to return to fish and to wander across some of the lesser peaks.

--John Nicoll, #548

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

- Sept. 27 SLIDE ON FRIDAY MOUNTAIN A strenuous bushwhack for experienced hikers.
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2400' Elev.: 3694' Order: 18
Meeting Place: Call leader for details.
Leader: Jonathan Clement (#68), R.D. 1, Box 223, East Greenbush, NY 12061
518-477-6602
- Oct. 4 WINDHAM HIGH PEAK An easy trail hike. Leader encourages parents to bring their hiking children.
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 3524' Order: 32
Meeting Place: Trailhead on Rt. 23, 3 mi. west of East Windham, 9:30.
Leader: Jim Stone (#299), R.D. 1, Box 99A-1, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
914-876-7676
- Oct. 11 LONE, ROCKY, BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY A strenuous bushwhack for experienced hikers.
Distance: 13-15 mi. Ascent: 2300' Elev.: 3721', 3508', 3623', 3694
Order: 15, 34, 23, 19
Meeting Place: Call leader for details.
Leader: Larry Leslie (#208), 914-431-5855 Days 7-3:40 p.m.
- Oct. 19 SLIDE A beautiful hike via the Curtis & Ormsbee Trail. All hikers, especially aspirants, are invited.
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1480' Elev.: 4180' Order: 1
Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery, Phoenicia, 8:00 for breakfast.
Leader: Paul Hoyt (#315), 9 Fairmount Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530
516-775-2059
- Oct. 25 SOUTHWEST HUNTER A moderate bushwhack from Devil's Acre leanto.
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 3740'
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken, 9:00.
Leader: Howard Dash (#458), 63 Montague St., Brooklyn, NY 11201
212-875-1513
- Nov. 1 DOUBLETOP Via Pigeon and Bisquit Brooks. A strenuous bushwhack.
Meeting Place: Call leader for details.
Leader: Roman Hrycun (#324), 914-876-2451
- Nov. 8 SAMUEL'S POINT & MT. PLEASANT A circular, strenuous bushwhack over two smaller peaks from Traver Hollow.
Distance: 7-8 mi. Ascent: 2900' Elev.: 2885', 2800'
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville at 8:30.
Leader: Roy Messaros (#97), 249 Mulberry Way, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417
201-337-5004

ASSUMED RISK

Hiking involves certain inherent hazards, and persons participating do so at their own risk.



the catskill canister

Vol. XIX, No. 4

A U T U M N 1 9 8 6

A CIVILIZED WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

There are two schools of thought about peak-bagging: those who enjoy the practice, and those who deplore it for ecological or other reasons. Then there are the rest of us: we agree with the articles about saving the wild places, but we have followed enough hike leaders through the years that we have been to the tops of most of the mountains where anyone regularly hikes. People frequently state that they think the untrailed peaks should be left alone, "but I just happen to have climbed all but seven of the 3500's in the CATSKILLS (or the New England 4000 footers) and I couldn't just ignore the rest when I was that close. Finishing them gave me a great goal for this year."

Well, here we are, 47 strong, enjoying a wonderful wilderness experience at a civilized lodge in the CATSKILLS. Two or three in a room sleeping on real beds, instead of being stacked like flapjacks in a dorm. No snores of dormmates from every corner; no agony bumps and grinds of those who just cannot get comfortable on the bunks or cots; no thuds of unfortunates falling out of upper bunks at 3 a.m.; no pitter-patter of size 13's sneaking off to the bathroom at 4 a.m.; no creaking and rustling and crackling of people organizing their gear into plastic bags at 5 a.m. Hot running water for a shower after a hot running hike, not the cold stream dip. Instead of a few hardy souls enduring the rigors of the wilderness, 47 motley humanoids cheerfully queue up for breakfast--real food, not freeze-dried chicken chips.

Well, civilization has its price. Pondering the thought of four dozen pairs of Vibram soles trudging up a hitherto untrailed mountain top brings a shudder to my frame. Surely the once untrammelled shoulders of my final Catskill peak would be ruined forever by such a multitude. It is with relief, then, that I hear the trip leader announce several alternative hikes on this day, leaving us with only about two dozen soles to brave the unknown. Having done some bushwhacking in Harriman Park, they feel a spirit of adventure and glee at the opportunity to celebrate a friend's achievement.

Our leader is a veteran of many trips, a member of the Catskill 3500 Club, has led and followed on many untrailed peaks, and has had some experience with map and compass. Not for me the leadership position on a bushwhack in the CATSKILLS. Let others work their way through the spider webs, force their way through the car-wash-brush barriers of evergreen trees, slog up cliffs to find impasses and then slog down to try another route. I know: you say there should be two kinds of peak-bagging memberships, one for leaders and one for followers. I do not gainsay your opinion; I just tell the story.

It is a hot, sunny day. Very hot, very sunny. We drive to the beginning of the hike and start up a logging road. Then we plunge into the woods, following a line on the compass set by our leader. After half an hour two of our people turn back. "Too hot," they say. Fear-

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Deborah Glynn, Subscriptions, RR 1, Box 411A, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

lessly we sweat up the steep angle. Logging has taken the shade trees, and the sun beats fiercely on us. Unsightly bulldozer scars erase my guilty feelings about having induced all those Vibrams up the hill. The paths they made were not even going our way. The ultimate insult!

Up we crawl--scramble--curse. One of our number becomes ill. A quick conference: she will be accompanied back to the cars by two people who have previously climbed this mountain. She argues that she could just wait for us to come back--but who knows where we'll come down? The heat persists. We persist. Up a rock slide with a teasing trickle of water underneath. Agonizing question: "Is the water potable?" Even on a trailless peak the question calls for some discussion among the experienced hikers.

The famous and infamous cliffs of the typical Catskill mountain emerge, the false summit, the evergreens that block your way and threaten your eyes. "Just keep telling yourself: I'm having a good time." Well, yes. The cry of "Rock" and a thud where the article in question, the size of a Frisbee, falls ten feet below and lands at the foot of an astonished hiker, fortunately with no contact. The leader goes one way, some followers go their own way. Frequent stops for census assure us that nobody has become lost. One young man behind me urges me to follow the leader so he will not have to make any decisions. Nobody wants to start a search party. Up and up! It seems as if we have been hiking for weeks. My feet are grumbling, threatening to leave me for another woman. Ah, the summit, or is it another shoulder?

It seems that we must be at the top, for we see sky all around us. And yet, no canister. The leader plunges into the underbrush. "Egad! I don't want to go in there. Where's he going?" A shout. The canister! We plunge in to meet the leader. We sign in. Hugs and kisses all around; congratulations to all; the champagne flows; we eat lunch: four excellent answers to the question, "Why do we climb these mountains?" We take pictures to commemorate the occasion. We contribute a few drops of champagne to placate the wilderness gods who are unhappy with the revelry.

After resting a few minutes we descend. Just as surely present on the descents as on the ascents is the danger that someone will relax his or her vigil and stray from the flock. Care is taken to avoid twisting an ankle or a knee when we fall through the mossy covering of the rocks and logs. Oops! There goes someone into a hole! Pull her out before we lose her! We trip over unseen obstacles. We slither over the slithy rocks. Downhill is a different ball of wax, but it's as much work in this heat as uphill. We drink at the bubbling brook. We continue down. The chattering that accompanied our entry into the woods has faded into a concentration on placing our feet steadily as we move down. One contingent mutinies at the end and insists on going its own route out to the road. Our leader escorts us out of the woods, exactly at the cars. That's class!

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOND ACT

The DEC is soliciting various organizations for assistance in identifying and evaluating key land parcels within the Adirondack and Catskill State Parks for acquisition with Bond Funds (if the voters approve the issue in November). Such parcels should be suitable for addition to the Forest Preserve. President Cy Whitney is a member of the NY/NJ Trail Conference's Catskill Policy Committee, Past President John Kennedy is cooperating with the Catskill Center, and Editor Franklin Clark is assisting the ADK Land Acquisition Subcommittee. Since these three will be working closely together, you may convey your thoughts to any one of them. It will be more helpful, however, if you put your suggestion in writing, indicate special features of the parcel (such as "Provides access to _____"), and mail it to the editor. Please indicate whether you are willing to help with such necessary leg work as identifying the property owner.

SKI REPORT

Goal: to ascend Giant Ledges on snowshoes, descend to col between Giant Ledges and Panther Mt., and then ski descend from that point to start.

Use Y trail starting from the hairpin turn on Slide Mt. Rd. N of Wini-sook Lake and follow trail to B trail intersection and Giant Ledges. Continue on B toward Panther Mt. and descend to col at 3000'. From col descend SE to 2900' and tableland at base of Giant Ledges. Stay S on tableland (follow contour) around ledges, gradually turning W to again intersect B trail. Ski B trail S to 2800'. Snow conditions allowed our party to leave trail at this point and ski W through woods to trip beginning.

Skill level required: intermediate. Descent time: 1½ hours. Snow conditions: icy and windblown. Equipment used: snowshoes and steel-edged skis. References: USGS 1960 Shandaken Quadrangle and NY/NJ Trail Conference/AMC Trail Map No. 42.

--Howard Adriance, #327, 914-338-4603
75 Sharon Lane, Kingston, NY 12401

IN MEMORIAM

John Nicoll, #548, ADK-46er #1506, died May 26, 1986, after a short bout with cancer. Friedel writes that John was the most gentle man with whom he has shared a hiking trail. He was always at peace with himself, with nature, and with his companions. Getting to the trailhead after five hours of rain on a miserable trail, one would feel judging by John's comments that one had just concluded the most beautiful hike in the most splendid weather.

ANNUAL DINNER DATE

Save the date of Saturday, March 28, 1987, for the annual meeting of the Catskill 3500 Club. The dinner will be at Meadowbrook Lodge, New Windsor, NY, near Newburgh.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------------|
| 550 | Bruce Stenmark 6/15/86
Gladstone Hollow Rd., Andes, NY 13731 | 914-676-3662 |
| 551 | Dennis Newcomer 7/4/86
81 VanDale Rd., Woodstock, NY 12498 | 914-679-6186 |
| 552 | Ray Reardon 7/10/86
2073 Briggs St., Bellmore, NY 11710 | 516-781-8110 |
| 553 | Morton Fleshler 7/11/86
8051 Little Neck Pkwy., Floral Park, NY 11004 | 718-343-1729 |
| 554 | Henry N. Germond 8/9/86
P. O. Box 11-600, Loudonville, NY 12211 | 518-458-1082 |
| 555 | Richard Dabal 7/5/86
152 N. Union St., Lambertville, NJ 08530 | 609-397-0707 |
| 556 | Daniel D. Chazin 9/28/86
863 Red Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666 | 201-836-7019 |
| 557 | Margaret A. Donnelly 10/4/86
4 Circle Dr., Voorheesville, NY 12186 | 518-765-4961 |
| 558 | Barry W. Neely 10/4/86
17 Panessa Dr., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 | 914-462-4826 |
| 559 | Donald L. Johnson 10/5/86
4 Haines Ct., Staatsburg, NY 12580 | 914-229-9153 |
| 560 | Thomas F. Kendall, Sr. 10/5/86
Prospect St., Staatsburg, NY 12580 | 914-889-4624 |
| 561 | Michael R. Malone 10/12/86
81 Buena Vista Dr., Ringwood, NJ 07456 | 201-835-4143 |
| 562 | Marion Chalat 10/11/86
215 W. 91 St., Apt. #127, New York, NY 10024 | 212-362-4946 |
| 563 | Jane A. Levenson 10/21/86
120 E. 90 St., New York, NY 10128 | 212-534-7806 |

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Kenneth Kleinberg, #184, former president of the SUNYA Outing Club, has scaled the 14,700' Matterhorn in Switzerland. They encountered snow on the descent and were a little worried, completely exhausted, and tremendously exhilarated. * * * The ADK 1987 Appointment Calendar includes two beautiful pictures of the CATSKILLS: Kaaterskill Falls in early winter, by Vincent DeFelice, and Kaaterskill High Peak from Escarpment Trail in autumn, by Winifred Clark, #289. * * * * Henry Germond, #554, 111-er, past president Adirondack Forty-Sixers, past president Adirondack Mountain Club, was escorted up his final peak, Rocky, by past presidents Franklin Clark, #33, and Jonathan Clement, #68.

WINTER HIKING IN THE CATSKILLS

December through April, the windchill on exposed ridges may reach 50 below zero. If you do not know whether your boots, socks, pants, sweaters, jacket, mittens, and hat will be adequate, telephone the hike leader for advice. If you cannot buy, rent, or borrow snowshoes, avoid the mountains in winter. Either full or instep crampons should be carried. Properly dressed, properly equipped, and in proper physical condition, a hiker can enjoy the CATSKILLS in what many people consider the most beautiful season of the year. --F.B.C.

WINTER PEAKS

Anyone who needs one or two winter peaks may notify Walter Gregory, who will try to arrange for a leader during the Winter Weekend, January 24-25. Saturday dinner at Alpine Inn is available by reservation only. See "Catskill Winter Weekend."

CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND

January 23, 24, 25, 1987 - The Alpine Inn, Oliverea, NY 12462, 4 miles on County Rt. 47, south of Rt. 28 at Big Indian, NY. Tel. 914-254-5026

Reservations: \$25 per person must arrive by January 3. Make check payable to Walter L. Gregory, registrar, and mail to Walter Gregory, 8 Wall Ave., Valhalla, NY 10595. Telephone: 914-949-7567

All rooms have twin beds. All rooms have private baths. Rates are based on double occupancy. Please specify preference of roommate, if any. Room assignments will be in the order of receipt of reservations. Saturday night only accomodations can be arranged if available. Extra dinner Friday night and Sunday afternoon- \$13.50 plus tax & gratuity. Extra dinner Saturday night- \$14.50 plus tax & gratuity. \$3.00 will be added for Sat. p.m. "Happy Hour." Trail lunch- \$6.70.

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2 nights = 2 lodgings, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner (tax & gratuity included)

Deluxe accomodations have 2 double beds, standard have 2 twin beds.

Deluxe.....des Alps _____ \$96.50 Edelweiss _____ \$96.50

Standard....Ski Hut _____ \$83.50 Edelweiss _____ \$83.50

\$ _____ deposit enclosed for _____ persons. Roommate _____

_____ Friday evening dinner. _____ Sunday afternoon dinner.

Please notify registrar if you plan Saturday dinner only,

Signed _____ Address _____

Phone () _____

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Nov. 17 - Dec. 9 HUNTING SEASON (firearms) No scheduled hikes.

Jan. 11 SLIDE A required winter peak; ideal for beginning snow-shoers; easy grades; superb scenery.
(Sun.)
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1650' Elev.: 4180' Order: 1
Meeting Place: Ramada Inn, Kingston at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: John Kennedy (#247), P. O. Box 71, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
914-876-2055

Jan. 17 SHERRILL A moderate bushwhack.

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2200' Elev.: 3540' Order: 30
Meeting Place: Call leader for details.
Leader: Roman Hrycun (#324), 914-876-2451

Jan. 23-25 CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND at Alpine Inn.

Jan. 24 PANTHER A required winter peak. Moderate trail hike via Giant Ledges.
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3720' Order: 5
Meeting Place: Location of the Winter Weekend at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Paul Hoyt (#315), 9 Fairmount Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530
516-775-2059

Feb. 21 BALSAM A required winter peak. Moderate trail hike.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2600' Elev.: 3600' Order: 27
Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery, Phoenicia at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Cy Whitney (#266), Morley Drive, Wyckoff, NJ 07431
201-447-2653

Feb. 28 SOUTHWEST HUNTER A moderate bushwhack from Spruceton.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 3740'
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Howard Dash (#458), 63 Montague St., Brooklyn, NY 11201
212-875-1513

Mar. 7 MT. TREMPER Moderate trail hike on Long Path from Phoenicia to Willow.

Distance: 7-8 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev.: 2740'
Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery, Phoenicia at 8:00 for breakfast.
Leader: Ralph Johns (#172), 293 Branch Brook Dr., Bellevue, NJ 07109
Home - 201-751-3580 Work - 201-284-2524

ASSUMED RISK

Hiking involves certain inherent hazards, and persons participating do so at their own risk.