

HELIOGRAPHY ON THOMAS COLE

In Vol. V, No. 2, Spring 1972, we proposed an exercise to find out once and for all whether Thomas Cole can be seen from Slide Mountain. The plan as proposed was to divide into two parties, one to give signals by mirror and light from Thomas Cole, the other to observe by means of a Wild T 1 theodolite on Slide.

The participants on Thomas Cole were Franklin Clark (#33) Leader, Wini Clark, Bill Lawson (#78), Anneliese Lawson (#89), Erika Lawson (#90), Bill Leavitt (#1), Elinore Leavitt (#2), David Clapper, and Ann Clapper (#13). The Slide team consisted of Ed West (#45) Leader, Professor Samuel Owen, College of Engineering, Rutgers University (aspirant), Richard King, class of '74, John Mayer, class of '75 (first Catskill peak for both), Wayne Hartman (aspirant), Rickey Brooks (#128), Tommy Brooks (#129) and Jim Brooks (aspirant).

We met early on the 16th of September at Maplecrest for last minute plans. Prearranged signals called for the Thomas Cole party to stop on the top of Black Dome for "dry runs" with the mirror at 2:00 and 2:30 p.m. Then they were to move quickly to Cole and to flash the signal every half hour from 3:00 to 4:30. Beginning at 7:30 and continuing until 9:00, the signals were to be given with a small searchlight borrowed from the Shandaken Fire Company, concluding with another "dry run" from Black Dome at 9:30 to check the method.

The mirror is an ingenious device for long-distance signaling. A small cross-shaped slit at the center enables the user to look at his target. The sunlight coming through the slit makes a bright cross on the clothing or face of the user, and a small mirror on the reverse side makes it possible, with a little practice, to tilt the mirror so that the reflection of the bright cross is superimposed on the slit. Since the angle of incidence equals the angle of reflection, the sun's rays are now directed toward the target.

In spite of considerable haze, the mirror signal from Black Dome came across the intervening 21 miles, and without a glass looked like a diamond in the sky. Through the T 1 theodolite it was dazzling. A group of 25 or 30 people witnessed the exhibition in amazement.

On Thomas Cole it was necessary to climb a thirty-foot fir tree, and #89, #1, and #33 took turns in climbing it and giving the signal, which was also received on Slide but not with the brightness as from Black Dome. This may have been because those giving the signal could not see Slide and therefore could not pin point the direction of the mirror beam. Also, it is possible that the beam may have been filtered somewhat by the tree tops on the shoulder of Hunter Mountain.

After the 4:30 signal we made camp and prepared supper. Operations were resumed at 7:30 with the searchlight, #1 doing all of the tree climbing after dark. The light also could be seen without the

THE CATSKILL CANISTER

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aid of the telescope, and on each of the half-hour signals was seen by one or two observers at a time. During the 8:30 period the signal came in exceptionally bright and was seen by eight observers at once. A spontaneous cheer went up from all.

The party on Cole, of course, could only climb the tree and make the effort of sending the signals without the pleasure and excitement of receiving them, and without knowing until the next day whether or not their efforts were successful. Nevertheless, the evening was so beautiful that they felt that regardless of the outcome of the experiment, it had been a pleasant day.

During the afternoon another interesting observation was made with the T 1. The dark shadow of a cloud was noticed creeping slowly up the side of Hunter Mountain. It crept on up and off the top of the mountain. But, what looked like a very thin edge at the top was not obscured by the shadow. This must have been the tree tops on Thomas Cole, but at that distance they blended with Hunter and would have gone unnoticed except for the shadow.

Having spent many nights on the top of Slide or other high peaks in the CATSKILLS, I suggested to the young fellows in our party that we get up the next morning before the sun and observe the strange effect of seeing it rise over the Berkshires and light up the tops of the mountains while it is still dark in the valleys. It was a beautiful sunrise and we were rewarded for the chill of crawling out of our sleeping bags.

--Edward G. West, Shandaken, N.Y.

EDITOR WANTED

We believe that a rotation of leadership is good for the publication, good for the persons involved, and good for the organization. When the current editor was appointed five years ago, the Club had 33 members. Now that we have 140 members, there should be three or four potential editors among the group. One of the concomitant pleasures of being editor is afforded by the opportunity to read the newsletters of the many hiking clubs of the region on an exchange basis. We hope you will help the Club by sending the name of a member you think would make a good editor to

THE CATSKILL CANISTER, Box 158, Athens, N.Y. 12015

1972 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

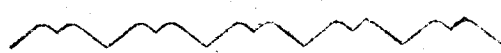
Will D. Merritt, Jr., President; Rev. Ray L. Donahue, Past President; Allan R. Wirth, 1st Vice President; Franklin B. Clark, 2nd Vice President & "Catskill Canister" editor; Kenneth A. Shuker, Secretary & Publicity; Ann L. Clapper, Treasurer; Elinore G. Leavitt, Membership; James E. Daley, Outings; Spiro Kavarnos, Legislation; Peter Fish, Trails; Marion Greig, Missy Cookingham, Vincent Griska, Canisters; Walter Gregory, Winter Weekend.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #136 Clark H. Galloway (10/28/72)
35 Sunset Drive, Delmar, N.Y. 12054 518-439-3476
- #137 James H. Ackerman (11/4/72)
79 Devon Road, Delmar, N.Y. 12054 518-439-5337
- #138 David Bier (11/18/72)
Mountainview Court, Rhinebeck, N.Y. 12572 914-876-3507
- #139 Brian Whitney (11/18/72)
3 Bard Avenue, Red Hook, N.Y. 12571 914-758-8058
- #140 Fred Schmelzer (11/12/72)
21 Yester Way, Hillsdale, N.J. 07642 201-664-5120



Hikers are encouraged to report on the condition of canisters to Vincent Griska, 45 S. Clinton St., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601



Sat., Apr. 14 - NY-NJ TRAIL CONFERENCE SPRING OUTING at Bear Mountain. A spring get-together for Conference-affiliated club members and their friends. Program will include, among other things, nature walks and hikes. Meet in the area west of Park Administration Building.

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our Denning cousin reports that #68's hardy hikers who braved the snowstorm had some difficulty crossing the Neversink. Two persons fell into the icy water, after driving 100 miles for the privilege. * * * * It has taken 15 months for the news to reach us from Michigan that #24 has a daughter Margaret. * * * * The scions of #12 and #54 have the names Brian and Kirsten. We are waiting to see papa on the trail with a leash in each hand.

- Feb. 3 SLIDE Steep trailless ascent of the slide. Come equipped with snowshoes, crampons & waterproof boots.
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2700' Elev.: 4180' Order: 1
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Bill Leavitt (#1), Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y., 518-828-6907
- Feb. 10 WINDHAM HIGH PEAK Some fine views highlight this trip over to Acra Point.
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2450' Elev.: 3524' Order: 32
Meeting Place: Cairo Diner, at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Ken Shuker (#56), 20 Cedar Lane, Cornwall, N.Y., 914-534-8758
- Feb. 24 SKI TOURING IN SHAWANGUNKS Existing roads will be explored. If you don't have skis, bring snowshoes.
Meeting Place: Jct. Rts. 44-55 & 209 in Kerhonkson, at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Pete Fish (#12), Box 249, Wawarsing, N.Y., 914-647-5781
- Mar. 3 BALSAM CAP & ROCKY A unique approach from the Gulf Road for this bushwhack. Joint hike with N.J. ADK.
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2400' Elev.: 3623', 3508' Order: 24, 34
Meeting Place: Jct. Rts. 28 & 28A, Boiceville, at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Roy Messaros (#97), 249 Mulberry Way, Franklin Lakes, N.J. 201-337-5004
- Mar. 17 PANTHER An opportunity for aspiring members to complete a required winter climb.
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1300' Elev.: 3720' Order: 17
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Werner Bachli (#65), 2 Plunkett St., Lenox, Mass. 413-637-1816
- Mar. 24 PEEKAMOORE & TABLE We combine this one with a Triple Cities Hiking Club outing.
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2800' Elev.: 3843', 3847' Order: 11, 10
Meeting Place: Jct. Rts. 28 & 28A, Boiceville, at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Jim Daley (#51), Hibernia Rd., Salt Point, N.Y. 914-266-3007
- Mar. 31 TREMPER Preface the Annual Dinner with this appetizer. (Rooms for changing at Governor Clinton Hotel)
Distance: 4.5 mi. Ascent: 1950'
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Vinnie Griska (#114), 45 S. Clinton St., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 914-452-0128
- Apr. 14 WITTENBERG & CORNELL This will be a traileed hike from Woodland Valley.
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2850' Elev.: 3780', 3865' Order: 14, 9
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Newell Mitchell (#94), 29F Heritage Vil., Southbury, Conn. 203-264-6349
- Apr. 21 BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE Let's welcome Spring back to our mountains.
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2000' Elev.: 3990', 3945' Order: 3, 4
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant, Tannersville, at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Allan Wirth (#55), Knickerbocker Ave., Hudson, 518-828-1907

ADVANCE CONTACT WITH THE LEADER IS DESIREABLE FOR WINTER CLIMBS

A YANKEE IN THE CATSKILLS

Before the innermost reaches of the CATSKILLS became the summer playground for the millions from the metropolitan area, in August of 1912 the writer with two friends took a walk through this charming land. Adventure followed adventure.

Our objective was to cross the CATSKILLS, using trails and old roads, with USGS maps as guide. Our idea was to go from landmark to landmark: Poughkeepsie, New Paltz, High Point tower, Red Hill, Beaver Kill, Dry Brook, home. We carried light packs, blankets, and shelter halves, and a few staples such as salt, pepper and sugar, two pots and a frypan. We had never heard of Mohonk and the "Swan guns" was just a hard name to spell or pronounce.

A shower delayed us that first afternoon, but about 5:30 we topped the ridge and came around the bend in the road under Skytop Tower. The setting sun was breaking through the storm clouds. The hotel and lake were silhouetted against a background of fantastic sunset sky and we halted, spellbound, till the colors faded and the lights flashed on in the hotel to be reflected in the water. It was an unforgettable sunset and a most auspicious beginning for our trip.

We snapped out of our spell and began looking for a place to camp. "No Camping" signs everywhere rather dimmed our prospects till we met up with an employee of the hotel, a man from near my home town in Maine. He said, "Follow me!" We did--right into the kitchen of his cottage. What a meal that stranger set before us! Afterward we spread our blankets behind his house in a 20-acre hayfield under a full moon with open views to the northwest. Our first adventure happened that night. About two o'clock one of my city friends, who was sleeping out for the first time, woke me up and whispered in my ear that wild animals were nearby. Sure enough, two skunks were prancing about in the moonlight near our feet.

We broke camp at sunrise as we did not wish to impose on our Maine friend for breakfast. This meal we ate on the bank of the Rondout at Alligerville. According to the map there were many farm houses along our route, represented by small black dots.

Vernooy Falls, south of Balsam swamp, loomed large on the map so we set our course that way. At Leibhardt we found an inhabited farm house. All they had to sell us was some thick, juicy lamb chops, milk, honey and home-made bread. Total cost 55¢. We went through Sampsonville without being aware of it, took the wrong fork and followed a narrow dirt road along the ridge north of the falls.

The road went through a virgin stand of maple and beech, trees of such size as none of us had ever seen. We wandered through this twilight zone all the afternoon and just at dusk under a cold threatening sky came off the ridge at a farm house. Next door was a sign "Sundown

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Post Office."

We stopped at the farm house to ask permission to camp in the back field. A nice old lady greeted us, looked us over and then invited us in. We told her our business and she said, "You boys came just in time. You can do me a favor. My folks are away to the fair and I just got word they won't be home till late. I have a hot supper all ready for them. They won't be here so you boys will have to eat it or else the pigs will get it." Thus urged we did the pigs out of a meal.

After supper I soon suggested that we had better get our tents up as it might rain. That motherly old lady looked us over again and said, "Before you go I want to show you something." She lit a lamp and we followed her up a flight of narrow stairs into a large chamber with two beds. She led me to one and bade me just feel of it. My arm sank to the elbow in a feather bed. "Now", she said, "there is no need for you boys to sleep on the ground tonight. No one is going to use these beds tonight so you might as well. To make a long story short, we used those beds, enjoyed a breakfast of specially fried eggs and a big platter of buckwheat cakes and maple syrup and in payment all that lady would take was 25¢ from each of us. "Just to make you boys feel better," she said.

From Sundown our route was west and north on an old wood road with the Red Hill fire tower as a landmark. Early in the afternoon we came down into the valley of the East Branch of the Neversink at Ladletown and Claryville, an old tannery center. Houses were all empty, doors hanging, windows broken, a picture of desolation. At the one occupied dwelling we got lunch and extra food for supper. This cost us another 25¢. Below Claryville we crossed the river and took the road up the West Branch beyond the Round Pond road where our map showed an old trail heading north to the Beaver Kill.

We found a trail, and headed into the unknown. By mid-afternoon we came to a stout fence and soon entered a clearing, located a good spring and made camp in the corner of a cellar hole. We had filled our buckets and were getting supper when trouble arrived in the form of a black bull. He pranced around while we hastily erected a barricade and collected a pile of stones for ammunition. The bull kept his distance; we tried to be nonchalant; but in truth we were scared. Here we were besieged, with food for only half a meal. During the night the bull got curious, edged up close and his red eyes gleamed at us in the firelight. Twice we had to turn out to repel boarders.

Next morning a miracle happened. We were getting breakfast with the last of our supplies and with the bull a close observer when a horse came up on the gallop, looked us over, then whirled and let fly with his hind legs. The bull dodged, the horse pranced and kicked, we helped out with a few well-thrown stones and the bull finally ran away

The horse, evidently a pet, then came right into our camp, nuzzled us, sampled our food, cleaned up our dirty dishes, got into our salt and chewed up a sweater. We packed hastily and got out of there. In a few minutes we were on the safe side of a fence and felt better. Not long after that we hit the swamp at the head of the Beaver Kill and started down the fisherman's trail on the north side.

The path was lined with big ripe blackberries. Those little black dots where we expected to buy food were nothing but cellar holes. We found out later that we had been crossing the Gould property where all the houses had been burned. We came to our first house about three in the afternoon, half starved. A man answered our knock and reckoned he could rustle us some grub though all the women folks were away. What grub! Half a cheese, a gallon of cold milk, a bowl of soft maple sugar, two loaves of home-made bread and a pan of doughnuts! He watched with mounting interest and admiration at the way we put away the food while we told of our experience with the bull. Then came the reckoning. What do we owe? After the usual argument, he drawled, "Well, if it suits you better, a quarter."

We continued down the Beaver Kill to Hardenberg. At Turnwood we headed north and soon came to a farm house where we got permission to camp in the hayfield. As we were about to start cooking a rather meager supper, we noticed a lady and a small boy, heavily laden, coming our way. They had a pail of hot ox-tail soup for us, more milk and honey and a pan of hot corn bread. She would not take a quarter, or even a penny! Said she came up to swap food for news as she had not seen a newspaper in a month. We had a pleasant evening around the campfire, and the small boy camped out with us.

The old dirt road from Turnwood to the Millbrook road is one of beauty. Turning east on this latter road we descended via the Catladder to Dry Brook valley. We turned off at the White Church and near Hanley Corner stopped at a farm to buy some food and had another chance to do a good turn and do the pigs out of a meal. There had been a family party. The guests had departed. "The table is loaded with food," said the lady of the house. "Go right in and help yourself." "And if you are looking for a good place to sleep", she added, "half-way up the hill is Ralph Jones' farm. He hates women and likes company." He did, we discovered.

The next stopping place was well up on Belleayre Mountain, at a nice little home, with views for miles in all directions. While we ate, the owner, one of the editors of the old Brooklyn Eagle, listened to our adventure tale.

We came down off the mountain into the abode of summer people, at Highmount. An auto truck gave us a lift to the Ashokan Reservoir Dam. The engineer in charge of the pumping station showed us around, took us swimming and supplied food and a good place to camp. Next day we took the road to High Falls, climbed to Mohonk again, and at the Coach House got a lift to Highland. We arrived home late that night, and since that time, CATSKILL hospitality, CATSKILL people, CATSKILL food, and everything CATSKILL, has had a deep meaning for me.

LETTERS

On August 26th we three plus six dogs and all the essentials for living 40 miles from the nearest village landed by float plane on Lake 704 (no name yet). We built a 12'x16' cabin in one month with the help of my brother Warren. Then he left and we haven't seen anyone but a pilot who has brought us mail three times. We are on recently opened Federal land and by living here 7 months and trapping we can submit proof to BLM; then hopefully the land is ours (5 acres). Land is scarce and one still can't make a living out here. We rented our home at 2 Mile Goldstream, Fairbanks, and will return there around April 1.

We have a cozy peeled spruce log cabin with moss chinking, sod roof, 3-layer plastic window, and 4-foot high door. All the furniture is pegged, no nails, but we do have a plywood floor, for Tonya is crawling all over. We are eating sourdough bread (baked in wood stove oven), brown rice, dehydrated vegetables, dried eggs, white fish from lake, lynx meat from trapping, bean soup, and milk. Bob checks traps with the dogs while I wash diapers, haul water (chop a hole in 4 feet of ice and carry uphill), fill kerosene lamp and coleman cook stove, knit and mend, and keep Tonya out of mischief. We usually go for a walk, temperature permitting.

Our wonderful year here can't last forever; money is the reason. Now we'll use cabin for vacations. We are enjoying our experience.
-50 F. today.

Carol Schlentner, #19

New Year's Eve found us standing in the rain looking at the flooding stream at the start of the Slide trail---that's as far as we got.

Donald Sweet, #107

Wish I could make those CATSKILL hikes! There is nothing doing around here. The Green Mountain Club climbed Camel's Hump one cold day (along with dozens of other people). It was beautiful, but the wind was so strong that it was impossible to stand on top for a long time and admire the view. Other than that the GMC concentrates on cross-country skiing and the activity offered is not worth the 30-mile drive to Montpelier.

I was given a subscription to the new CATSKILL'S magazine; the pictures are beautiful, the material interesting, and the writing deplorable.

Robin Rothman, #71

Perhaps you heard that I walked in Switzerland with Franklin Clark and Janice Whipple. Last month I joined a group of Australians and walked 45 miles through the National Forest of Tasmania. In August I walked 2 weeks in the High Tatras of Czechoslovakia.

F. I. Smith, #58

I proudly wore my 3500 patch up to the 11,000 foot level on the North Wall of the Eiger above Grindelwald, Switzerland, this past June; it was quite an adventure.

Ralph Ferrusi, #122

I'm still hiking. I have about half of the Long Trail done. Hope to finish it this year and start on the New Hampshire 46.

Ralph Gibbs, #98, Burlington, Vt.

LOST---An aspirant lost a 35 mm. camera on the Peekamoose trail March 24. Anyone finding it is requested to notify the editor.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #141 Brother Donald Moose, C.S.C. (1/7/73)
Holy Cross High School, 26-20 Francis Lewis Blvd., Flushing, N.Y.
212-461-1900 11358
- #142 Bruce L. Wilder (2/19/73)
14 Pleasant Ridge Dr., West Hurley, N.Y. 12481 914-679-8832
- #143 Scott L. Wilder (2/19/73)
(same)
- #144 Michael Doehring (3/3/73)
69 Grant Ave., White Plains, N.Y. 10603 914-761-7225
- #145 Malvin Billsback (3/3/73)
20 Park Dr., Woodstock, N.Y. 12498 914-679-8311
- #146 Richard Billsback (3/10/73)
(same)
- #147 Michael Kudish (3/12/73)
Box 52, Paul Smith Col., Paul Smith, N.Y. 12970 518-891-2894
- #148 Leon W. Bills (3/18/73)
214 Harwood Ave., N. Tarrytown, N.Y. 10591 914-631-1728
- #149 Warren Bloomfield (3/19/73)
Box 67, Red Hook, N.Y. 12571 914-758-0921
- #150 Chris Clement (3/25/73)
727 Madison Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12208 518-463-8135
- #151 Donald Trow (3/25/73)
39 Moore Ave., Binghamton, N.Y. 13903 607-724-3461
- #152 Lee Trow (3/25/73)
(same)
- #153 Douglas H. Robins (3/25/73)
29 Willys St., Apt. A-3, E. Hartford, Conn. 06118 203-568-5781

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

- Apr. 28 BEAR MT. TO SUFFERN, N.Y. 24½ miles----Hike the entire length of the S-BM trail in Palisades Interstate Park, starting at the Bear Mt. Inn and following the yellow marked trail to Suffern. This all day marathon requires 9 to 10 hours of walking time. Leader will provide transportation for drivers from Suffern back to the Inn. Stragglers will be on their own to double back and return to cars.
 Meeting Place: Bear Mt. Inn parking lot (off Rt. 9W south of Bear Mt. Bridge) at 7:00 a.m.
 Leader: Roy Messaros (#97), 249 Mulberry Way, Franklin Lakes, N.J. 201-337-5004 07417
- May 5-6 WINDHAM HIGH PEAK TO KAATERSKILL FALLS A 24 mile back-packing trip including Blackhead and lesser peaks. Joint trip with Westchester Trails Assn. Must contact leader for details.
 Leader: Barney Kinahan (#111), 61 Saratoga Ave., Yonkers, N.Y. 914-965-9745 10705
- May 19 ASHOKAN HIGH POINT & MOMBACCUS High Point, with fine views, dominates the skyline of the reservoir. Mombaccus is trailless.
 Distance: 9 miles Ascent: 3160' Elev.: 3080', 3015'
 Meeting Place: Jct. Rts. 28 & 28A, at Boiceville, at 9:00 a.m.
 Leader: Pete Fish (#12), Box 249, Wawarsing, N.Y. 12489, 914-647-578
- June 2 WESTKILL This is one of the qualifying bushwhacks.
 Distance: 4 miles Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 3880' Order: 6
 Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 9:00 a.m.
 Leader: Carl Zwingli (#118), 100 College Rd., Midland Park, N.J. 201-444-3309 07432
- June 9 WITTENBERG SUMMIT CLEAN-UP Tentatively scheduled for the site of two of our previous clean-ups by agreement with ECD. May be last minute substitution if conditions elsewhere warrant our attention.
 Distance: 7 miles Ascent: 2600' Elev.: 3780' Order: 14
 Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 9:00 a.m.
 Leader: Jim Daley (#51), Hibernia Rd., Salt Point, N.Y. 12578 914-266-3007

PERMISSION AT MOONHAW

Members and aspirants are welcome to hike Balsam Cap, Friday, ar Hanover from Moonhaw Road over the property of the Wittenberg Lumbe Company. Mr. Nelson Shultis requests that cars be marked "CATSKII 3500 CLUB", especially during the hunting and fishing seasons.

THE CATSKILLS' STEEPEST SLOPES

As most 35'ers have suspected, the steepest slope on a CATSKILL peak is frequently the northeast. Also, many 35'ers have suspected that the peaks in the eastern CATSKILLS are, on the average, steeper than those in the western portion of the Region. These suspicions need no longer be held, as they are now demonstrable facts.

A series of measurements were made on the $7\frac{1}{2}$ minute United States Geological Survey quadrangles of some 85 peaks, including all those over 3500 feet and 51 additional hilltops over 3000 feet. From each of the 85 peaks, the number of 20-foot contours were tallied within one-half mile of the summit (horizontal distance on the map) in eight directions: north, northeast, east, southeast, south, southwest, west, and northwest. A conversion table was used to change the number of contours in a half-mile to steepness in degrees. For example, 132 contours mean a change of elevation of 2640 feet in the half-mile (also 2640 feet), or an average slope of 45° over that half-mile; 64 contours mean a drop of 1320 feet in the half-mile and an average slope of $22\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$; 32 contours mean 660 feet or 11.25° , and so on. A half-mile was chosen as the best distance over which to measure elevation change; a shorter distance would be too largely affected by local variations in slope such as ledges and terraces, and a full mile might bring the measurer back up onto the next summit.

For the CATSKILLS as a whole, the northeast slopes average 15° over the 85 peaks. Next steepest are the east slopes and north slopes at $13\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$. Southeast slopes are close behind with 13.4° . Then come south (12.4°), west (12.3°), and southwest (12.2°). Least steep are the northwest slopes with only 10.9° . It must be remembered that these are averages and that any individual peak may deviate from this pattern.

Next, the 85 peaks were placed into six zones, each zone five miles wide, arranged approximately from east to west. The base line connecting the summits of Slide, Hunter, and Thomas Cole runs not exactly north-south, but rather rotated some 32° to the northeast and southwest with respect to true north. Those peaks more than five miles east of this base line (Overlook, Plattkill, Indian Head, Twin, Kaaterskill High Peak, Shokan High Point, North, and Round Top) averaged 15.1° over all their slopes---the steepest average of all six zones. Next came the peaks within five miles east of the base line (including Slide, Hunter, Thomas Cole, Cornell, Wittenberg, Friday, Balsam Cap, Rocky, Lone, Table, Peekamoose, Black Dome, Black Head, Plateau, Sugarloaf, and seven others between 3000 and 3500 feet) which averaged 14.7° . Moving further west, those peaks within five miles west of the base line (including Rusk, West Kill, Panther, North Dome, Windham High Peak

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and 10 others) averaged 12.5°. The 5 to 10 miles west band (Double-top, Eagle, Halcott, Graham, Big Indian, Balsam, Sherrill, and 10 others) averaged 11.9°. The least steep peaks were those from 10 to 15 miles west of the base line (including Balsam Lake, Bearpen, Vly, and seven others) with a gentle 11.0°. Continuing further west, those peaks exceeding 15 miles from the base line (the under 3500 foot hilltops in Delaware County such as Plattkill, and Ut-sayantha surprisingly became a little steeper again: up to 12°.

The steepest individual slopes on peaks were 30° (average over the half-mile from the summit) on the northeast side of Slide (the old landslide side) and on the east slope of Black Head. 29° took care of Cornell's east slope, Wittenberg's southeast, and Balsam Cap's northeast. 28° described Indian Head's northeast and Cornell's southeast. The northeast slope of High Point and the south of Wittenberg averaged 27°. 26° was reserved for North Twin's southwest flank, Cornell's south, and Sugarloaf's south. 25° was recorded for the north shoulder of North Mountain, the northeast shoulder of Arizona, and the northwest shoulder of Cornell. On these steep slopes, angles may approach or exceed 45° for short distances; such exceedingly steep slopes are not continuous over distances of a half-mile, except in the middle or lower slopes, in cloves and notches too far from the summits to be measured in this study.

For the all-around steepest peak, Cornell takes first place with 20°; this may at first seem an underestimate, as we are all familiar with the much steeper slopes, but the gentle slopes leading toward the Wittenberg and Friday cols are included in the average of the eight directions. Wittenberg and Twin come in second with 19°. The two Heads (Black and Indian) are 18°, while Sugarloaf is 17°. High Point is 16½°, while Thomas Cole, Balsam Cap, and Panther are 16°. West Kill and Overlook average 15½°, while Slide, Burnt Knob, Friday, Rusk, Windham High Peak, and Kaaterskill High Peak are 15° each. Remember that Slide's gentle 9° west slope compensates for the 30° on the northeast. The bulk of the peaks range from 11 to 14°, while the least steep are Halcott, Spruce, Denman, Wildcat, and the two Brook Ridges (Dry and Mill) at 10°.

The geological reasons for the northeast slopes being steepest, are the combined effects of the slight southwest dip of the bedrock strata and the greater degree of glacial scour and lesser depth of glacial deposits on the northeast slopes. Two possible reasons for the eastern peaks being steeper than the western are the greater resistance to weathering of the eastern conglomerate beds, and the fact that the strata level out westward.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #154 George M. Barthel (4/21/73)
17 Pleasant Ridge Drive, West Hurley, N.Y. 12491 914-679-6224
- #155 Steven Barthel (4/21/73)
17 Pleasant Ridge Drive, West Hurley, N.Y. 12491 914-679-6224
- #156 Anthony J. Esser (6/3/73)
16½ Prospect St., New Brunswick, N.J. 08903 201-846-1910
- #157 Michael Begley (6/9/73)
15 Hillside Ave., Hurley, N.Y. 12443 914-331-5969

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

#147, who made the assistant editor dizzy typing all those easts and wests, put the measurements, contours, and counts into a dissertation entitled Vegetational History of the Catskill High Peaks, thus completing his Ph.D at the Syracuse State Forestry College. We have seen him recording trees and scooping soil samples this summer, and we hear that he is an advisor on forests to the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development. Our north country cousin reports that he teaches dendrology to forestry students at Paul Smith's College where he is an assistant professor. * * * * The executive committee hiked up to Nelson Shultis's camp on Hanover Mountain, but it looked like the profile of #2 in the jeep which passed them on the way. * * * * A deer jumped in front of #23's car, causing the hood to fly up. Even his accidents surpass those of ordinary hikers. * * * * #39 is attending the University of Washington. * * * * #99 is appealing for volunteers to help with fire protection, litter control, and the prevention of vandalism at Minnewaska State Park. * * * * We have chastened another dog. 34 quills in the snout of aspirant Donna de la Sierra Brooks! #78 was prepared with pliers and #129 sat on Donna during the operation.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Sept. 15 INDIAN HEAD A simple loop that might include a side trip to Twin.
 Distance: 5.5 mi. Ascent: 1573' Elev.: 3573' Order: 29
 Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant, Tannersville at 9:00 a.m.
 Leader: Spiro Kavarnos (#60), 43 S. Highland Ave., Ossining, N.Y.
 914-762-0559 10562

Sept. 29 HUNTER A bushwhack which will include SW Hunter.
 Joint hike with AMC.
 Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2200' Elev.: 4040' Order: 2
 Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 9:00 a.m.
 Leader: Ray Donahue (#23), St. Mary's Church, Downsville, N.Y.
 607-363-2565 13755

Oct. 13 BEARPEN & VLY Joint hike with Mid-Hudson Chapter of Sierra Club. A good opportunity to pick up two outlying peaks.
 Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1530' Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 28, 31
 Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 8:00 a.m.
 Leader: Fred Lowy (#99), R. D. 2, Box 77, Rhinebeck, N.Y.
 914-876-6968 12572

Oct. 27 FRIDAY & CORNELL Mostly trailless; possibly up the slide.
 Distance: 5.5 mi. Ascent: 2800' Elev.: 3694', 3865' Order: 18, 9
 Meeting Place: Junction Rts. 28 & 28A, at Boiceville, at 8:30 a.m.
 Leader: Jim Daly (#51), Upton Lake Rd., Clinton Corners, N.Y.
 914-266-3007 12514

THE N. Y. STATE CONSERVATIONIST, August-September 1961, carried the following article a full year before the conversation between Whiting and Spangenberg* which led to the formation of the Catskill 3500 Club.

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 disproving of this relationship is one of the long range projects of the Records Committee 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

* see The Catskill Canister, Vol. I, No. 2

THE CATSKILL CANISTER

Published by the Catskill 3500 Club

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There followed a list of 33 "High Peaks of the Catskills," compiled in 1959 as a "Scientific Supplement" to Volume 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 Sherill four years later to become the official list of the newly organized Catskill 3500 Club.

A footnote states: "Bluebell was listed by Haring, 3565 feet. I have been unable to locate it, or associate it with any change of name." Father Donahue is of the opinion that Bluebell is another name for North Dome, used by residents of the Spruceton Valley, for a mountain to the south was hardly the north dome for them.

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.

LETTERS

The John Burroughs Natural History Society has a bulletin called "The Thrushes: Their Occurrence in Ulster County, N.Y." by Fred N. Hough. He and I have records of the Bicknell's thrush during the nesting season from the following peaks: Slide, Cornell, Wittenburg, Friday, Balsma Cap, Peckamoose, and Balsam Lake. Our efforts at finding nests have been very poor. We believe that the Bicknells probably nest also on Rocky, Table, Double Top, Fir, Balsam, Big Indian, and Panther, based on the presence of balsam habitat which this thrush seems to prefer. We would be interested in records from qualified observers of the presence of this bird on any of the mountains on which we have not seen it.

--Daniel Smiley, Mohank Mountain House

As of June 1, 1973 I have been Chairman of the Department of Library Science here at the University of Southern Mississippi, with responsibility for administering and developing programs in this field on the main campus here in Hattiesburg and at the Extension Centers at Gulf Park on the coast and at Natchez.

We're enjoying our new home and are impressed with this area. There is a tremendous amount of forest land still left in Mississippi, and the bird population is fantastic. Tell all of our friends in the CATSKILLS to drop by should they be travelling in this region, and we'll be glad to show them the country.

--George Whitbeck, Hattiesburg, MS.

I read the Summer 1973 issue of the Canister with considerable interest. On some of the hikes I have felt that the slopes were much steeper than the study reported.

I would like to suggest an article on those trails that would be wide enough for cross-country skiing. I have climbed Slide, Bellcayre and Bearpen on skis. Just a few weeks ago I climbed Balsam Lake Mountain from Mill Brook Road. The trail has been widened for Jeeps and it appears to be a trail that would be satisfactory for skiing. The trail from Plattkill Clove to Echo Lake is a wide trail with gentle grades also. I have not climbed Hunter Mountain from Spruceton in the winter but it might make a satisfactory run, although a portion of it is fairly steep. The bridle trail from North Lake to Palenville might be interesting.

--Samuel Owen, Metuchen, N.J.

Having read your "Catskill Views" reply to Trudy Healy, I take pen in hand to suggest several more worthwhile CATSKILL views enjoyed in my last two years of "struggle" to become #85: (1) The NE corner of Table Mountain's top looking NE generally; (2) $\frac{1}{2}$ mile NW of Fir, a lovely rocky ledge with views north; (3) Just N of canister on Vly looking NE; (4) West side of Bear Pen; (5) The spectacular rocky outcrop on Graham about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile SE from the summit. We came upon this after a bushwhack ascent from the direction of Double Top.

Although I have climbed all 46 of Trudy's Adirondacks, I thoroughly enjoyed the 38 climbs in the CATSKILLS. Some were wooded, yes, but the bushwhacking--or fern whacking was fun and the views rewarding.


--Norman Greist, North Haven, Conn.

On September 1, 1973, at 10:15 a.m. I climbed my last mountain, Fir, with my father and the Reverend Ray Donahue.

I first started climbing the CATSKILLS on September 1, 1967, my sixth birthday. I finished exactly six years later on my twelfth birthday and did all the mountains with my father.

I learned about survey maps and compasses. I saw many wonderful sights - porcupine, scenery, frogs, deer, salamanders.

--Gary Klee, Jr., Glens Falls, N.Y.



Be prepared for all winter trips with warm clothing and boots. When in doubt always bring snowshoes and/or crampons. Allow extra traveling time when road conditions require it as leaders cannot delay starting hikes when daylight hours are shortened. New Hikers are urged to contact leaders in advance for winter climbs.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #158 Douglas Bower (7/14/73)
17 Jordan Ave., Liberty, N.Y. 12754 914-292-4937
- #159 Deborah P. French (7/28/73)
Box 182, Esopus, N.Y. 12429 914-384-6649
- #160 Gary E. Klee, Jr. (9/1/73)
12 Centennial Dr., Glens Falls, N.Y. 12801 518-792-3824
- #161 Craig Mitchell (9/5/73)
41-75 Little Neck Pkwy., Little Neck, N.Y. 11363 212-225-7311
- #162 William D. Jones (9/22/73)
377 Chesterfield St., Ridgewood, N.J. 07450 201-445-8754

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Nov. 11 WESTKILL Joint hike with New York A.M.C.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 3880' Order: 6
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Bob Fox (#100), RR, Box 181, Twin Lakes Rd., S. Salem, N.Y.
914-763-5678 10590

Nov. 19 - Dec. 4 Deer hunting season - no scheduled hikes.

Dec. 15 HUNTERSFIELD Did not quite make it to 3500' but still
a nice climb, partly through open fields and
some bushwhacking. May include Ashland Pinnacle.
Distance: 4-7 mi. Ascent: 1400' Elev.: 3423'
Meeting Place: Cairo Diner, Cairo, N.Y., at 9:15 a.m.
Leader: Jim Ackerman (#137), 79 Devon Rd., Delmar, N.Y. 12054
518-439-5337

Dec. 31-Jan. 1 SLIDE DESCENT A New Year's Eve party at the
top of the CATSKILLS. Bring your own party
hats and refreshments.
Distance: 3 mi. Descent: 2700' Elev.: 4180' Order: 1
Meeting Place: Summit of Slide Mountain before midnight, Dec. 31
Leader: Elinore Leavitt (#2), Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y. 12534
518-828-6907

Jan. 12 KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK A long bushwhack from Palen-
ville.
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elev.: 3655' Order: 21
Meeting Place: Jct. Rts. 23A & 32A in Palenville, at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Ray Donahue (#23), St. Mary's Church, Downsville, N.Y.
607-363-2565 13755

Jan. 26, 27 WEEKEND AT MOUNTAIN GATE INN See information page
and mail your reservation early - by Jan. 4.

Feb. 22-24 WEEKEND AT ADIRONDACK LOJ See information page
and mail your reservation early - by Dec. 31.

CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND

WHEN: January 26, 27, 1974

WHERE: Mountain Gate Inn, Oliverea, N.Y. 12362 - 914-254-9876

WHO: CATSKILL 3500 CLUB, aspirants, & Westchester Trails Assoc.

RATES: Per person plus gratuity, based on double occupancy.
 Saturday supper plus overnight & breakfast.....\$14.00
 Saturday breakfast only..... 1.50
 Friday night overnight lodging..... 7.00
 Box lunch can be ordered..... 1.75

RESERVATIONS: By Jan. 4, directly with Mountain Gate Inn, with \$5.00 deposit per person. (All rooms have private bath)

.....cut here and mail.....

Please reserve the following for CATSKILL 3500 CLUB weekend, Jan. 26.

Friday Supper _____ Lodging _____
 Saturday Breakfast _____ Supper _____ Lodging _____
 Sunday Breakfast _____

For _____ persons, Deposit enclosed \$ _____, Arrival time _____

Signed _____ Address _____

ADIRONDACK LOJ WEEKEND - LAKE PLACID, N.Y.

February 22-24, 1974--Bunkroom space is reserved for 10 men and 10 women, plus 2 private rooms. Reservations must be in by Dec. 31, 1973

	<u>ADK Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
Bunk with three meals	13.50	15.00
Bunk with breakfast & dinner	12.00	13.25
Double room - 3 meals per day	16.50 each	18.00 each

.....cut here and mail to.....
 Mrs. W. H. Leavitt, Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y. 12534 with \$5.00 each

Please reserve the following for ADK Loj, February 22-24, 1974

	Lodging (men/women)	BKFST	LUNCH	DINNER
FRIDAY, 22nd				
SATURDAY, 23rd				
SUNDAY, 24th				
MONDAY, 25th				

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____