



the catskill canister

Vol. XXXII, No. 1

JANUARY - MARCH, 1999

A NEW CHALLENGE: SKIING THE PEAKS

"Rock band, what rock band, Allan? According to the map, there are no rock bands on this route" I said as Allan looked over the edge to the woods below. He reminded me that rock bands less than 100 feet might not show up within the 100-foot contour lines of our map. The previous summer, I'd bushwhacked this area, searching for a feasible ski route from the top of Balsam mountain, a peak I'd looked at for years from Route 28 below. Map studies indicated a 2000-foot vertical descent was waiting to be skied from the summit down toward Route 28.

As a 35er and a skier, I started to see the potential for such descents through hardwoods from the summits. But what about the skills needed to ski such routes with light (telemark) equipment? In recent years, telemark skiing has found its way into the Catskill commercial ski areas, and many telemark skiers have learned to ski the most difficult trails these areas have to offer. Along the way, they began leaving the designated trail edges and entering the woods, so it wasn't hard to imagine the next step.

To my knowledge, no one has ever skied off the top of all 35 peaks, and it may never be done as there are problems. One of the obstacles to progress was the ingrained idea that because hiking trails opened up on heavily wooded mountains, that was what people skied. No one ever thought of abandoning them to ski through the timber, so the crash and burn technique prevailed. About ten inches of snow are needed to cover forest floor litter. That is minimal cover and the vagaries of eastern winters result in no skiing some seasons. Hemlock groves generally have much less snow underneath. Also, heavy brush makes some peaks extremely difficult to penetrate and increases the danger of a half-inch thick piece of brush tossing you into an unyielding maple or birch. There is no relief from the precision skiing required for a descent. Pay attention and remember to zero your skis in on the space between the trees. Look at the trees and you will surely become acquainted with one. However, conditions permitting, and because of improved gear and skills, terrain that once would have been thought impossible to negotiate can now be skied.

The Catskills offer an introductory course to its back-country in the form of several closed and abandoned ski areas, such as Bearpen, with wide slopes, relatively free of hardwoods. Then, there are mountains such as Balsam Lake and Overlook with jeep roads to the summits. Or, practice at the ski areas and then apply those skills to the outback. If you can comfortably ski the most difficult trails at local ski areas with telemark equipment, the woods are yours. Of course, it is mandatory to have ski repair and first-aid kits and the knowledge to use this equipment, as well as navigational skills and winter camping skills. The woods in winter are a serious business, yet the rewards of looking back at your tracks down through the woods, off a head wall or through rock ledges brings a sense of achievement rarely experienced in this part of the ski world.

Allan and I split up looking for a way through the rock band. The weather forecast called for a low pressure system around sundown; wind-driven flurries now whirled around me, and we had just begun to descend. Suddenly, I heard Allan exclaiming excitedly that he had found a narrow slot in the

Cont'd on Page 3

THE CATSKILL CANISTER**President:**

Douglas H. Robins
33 Trailsend Drive
Canton, CT 06019

Editor:

Darielle Graham
60 Barker Street, #419
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

Assistant Editor:

Douglas H. Robins
33 Trailsend Drive
Canton, CT 06019

Associate Editor:

Michael E. Doehring
7 Cloverdale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10603

Subscriptions:

Cyrus B. Whitney
41 Morley Drive
Wyckoff, NJ 07481

Outings:

John B. Graham
60 Barker Street, #419
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

The Catskill Canister is published four times yearly by the Catskill 3500 Club, Inc., for \$5.00 a year.

Articles on hiking or travel experiences, essays or poetry, should be sent to Darielle Graham, 60 Barker St., #419, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Letter	3
Hike Schedule	4
Winter Weekend	7
Second Call for T-Shirts	7
Gifts Acknowledged	8
New Members	8
Poem	8

CONSERVATION UPDATE

Vly and Bearpen: New York State has entered into a purchase contract with the owner of Bearpen Mountain. When the transaction is complete, 1,100 acres of the Bearpen Mountain summit will be added to the Catskill Forest Preserve. Even though Bearpen is outside the Catskill Blue Line, we hope that it will be managed in accordance with other Catskill properties inside the Blue Line. Vly and Bearpen mountains are part of the New York State Open Space Plan and are targeted for purchase. We applaud the efforts of the NY-NJ Trail Conference and ADK in getting the DEC to move quickly on this property. We hope that Vly is not too far behind. With the DEC purchase of Bearpen, that leaves only three 3500' peaks in private ownership - Vly, Doubletop and Graham.

Canister Update: As most of you are aware, the DEC recommended that the canisters be removed from Friday, Balsam Cap, Lone and Rocky as part of the Draft Slide Mountain Unit Management Plan. The 3500 Club issued an action alert to our members last summer during the comment period recommending that they write to the DEC asking them to keep the canisters. The response was overwhelming! The DEC received 200 letters on the canister issue, only five of which supported the DEC's position.

Your letters did help! As a result of the strong 3500 Club support for the canisters, the Regional Director in DEC Region 3 asked Bill Rudge, author of the Draft Plan, to go before the Forest Preserve Advisory Committee (of which I am a member) to ask for their opinion on the canister issue. The DEC suggested four options: (1) remove the canisters as proposed; (2) replace the canisters with a cairn placed at the summit; (3) allow the canisters to remain, subject to their inclusion in the Catskill State Land Master Plan, with the state taking ownership and the 3500 Club maintaining them under the "adopt a natural resource" program; and (4) keep the canisters as they are now. After a discussion led by Neil Woodworth, the ADK representative, and me, the Forest Preserve Advisory Committee voted for option 3. We are hopeful that the DEC will accept that recommendation.

Mailing List Update We are currently updating our mailing list to include e-mail addresses. E-mail provides the fastest and most efficient means of sending action alerts. If you would like to be put on the action alert, conservation update list, please include your e-mail address when you receive your dues renewal form.

Howie Dash
Conservation Chair

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING SCHEDULED Saturday, March 20, 1999 at the Hillside Manor in Kingston, New York. Invitations will be mailed in February.

rock band. As I skied over to him, I had the feeling that Balsam Mountain would be ours that day and thought, "23 peaks to go."

Howard Adriance (#327)
75 Sharon Lane
Kingston, NY 12401

This trip occurred on posted property, and the author obtained permission of the landowner, as we all should do in similar circumstances. - Ed.

DON'T SELL THE CATSKILLS SHORT: Response to "Playing Second Fiddle"
By Neal S. Burdick (October - December 1998 Canister)

When I first began hiking, I too believed that the Adirondacks were superior, but it didn't take me long to realize that the difference in elevation between the ranges did not mean that the Catskill peaks are any easier to climb. One has only to discover that fact climbing from Palenville to High Peak, a 1,200 ft. ascent in the first mile of the trail, and 2,400 ft. between the trail head and the summit of High Peak at 3,655 ft. Of course, the Adirondack low peaks are often overlooked or snubbed by those who think that a mountain has to be tall to be worthy of a climb. The vistas from atop 2,500 ft. Pharaoh mountain in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness can easily compare with those from the high peaks. Seldom do you find a view truly as panoramic as can be experienced there.

Clearly, Neal's findings are astute. As he pointed out, the ranges are very different in character, proximity and geology. The big differences lie in the character of the rock; the sedimentary layers of the Catskills are far more slippery and likely to crumble than the granitic boulders of the Adirondacks. Those interested in the geology of the Catskills should read The Catkills, A Geological Guide, by Robert Titus, Purple Mountain Press Ltd., Fleischmanns, NY (1993). Titus' chronicle of Catskill geology is the best account I've read thus far. Don't let the field-guide-like title fool you, the book reads like a novel. Titus is clearly as skilled an author as he is a geologist.

As the wildlife that was indigenous to the Catskills returns, the differences in flora and fauna are almost insignificant. My hiking excursions last spring, summer and fall left me believing that the number of wildflower species in the Catskills exceeds that found in the Adirondacks. The bear, coyote, wolf, turkey and eagle populations are growing every year, and the past three years have produced reports of moose. A friend of mine from Conesville, NY has pictures of moose in the front yard taken in the summer of 1997, and I've spotted one "Moose Crossing" sign in the Catskills on Route 28 in Phoenicia.

Neal's assessment that the Catskills are "packed to the gills every weekend" is the opposite of what I've found. There's liable to be a convention of hikers on any given day from May to September on any number of Adirondack high peaks. In the Catskills the same numbers might find their way to the top of Overlook mountain or the Slide, Wittenberg and Cornell range, but it's a rare weekend you'll see the throngs you'll undoubtedly run into in the Adirondacks, especially the high peaks area.

Each of the ranges in the Catskills and Adirondacks has its own attraction and is sure to please hikers of all ages, interests and ability levels.

John J. Bonhotal
H.C.R. 83, Box 187a
Harpersfield, NY 13786

Neal Burdick responds: *Mr. Bonhotal is correct that certain popular spots in the Adirondacks are jammed, especially on "big" weekends, and I did not mean to imply that they are immune from such problems. I do believe there's more opportunity in the Adirondacks, with their greater area and possibilities for other forms of recreation (long canoe routes, for example) to disperse the crowds. With education, that is starting to happen, but it's a battle - vast numbers of people still want their Adirondack experience to involve standing on a summit within ten miles of Lake Placid or Keene Valley.*

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: JANUARY - MARCH 1999**ASSUMED RISK**

December through April the wind chill on exposed ridges may reach 50 below zero. If you do not know what type of clothing will be adequate, telephone the hike leader in advance. If you cannot buy, rent, or borrow snowshoes, avoid the mountains in winter. Unless specified otherwise, full crampons should be carried. Properly dressed and equipped, and in proper physical condition, a hiker can enjoy the mountains in what many people consider the most beautiful season of the year.

Fri. Jan 1 **DOUBLETOP**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1850'
Elev.: 3860' Order: 8

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Dec. 28-31.

Leader: Henry Jenkins (#808), 914-883-7883 (6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Sat. Jan. 9 **FIR, BIG INDIAN (and possibly EAGLE)**Distance: 6-8 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3620', 3700' (3600')
Order: 25, 19 (27)

A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Jan. 4-7. (No calls after 7:00 P.M. Friday)

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692

Sun. Jan. 10 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3524' Order: 33

A moderate hike at a relaxed pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Trailhead on Route 23 (3 miles east of Windham)

Leaders: Dave and Naomi Sutter (#1,110 and #1,109), 973-778-0443; dsuttr@aol.com

Sat. Jan. 16 **TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev. 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Phoenicia/East Branch trailhead at end of Denning Road.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (before 9:00 P.M. on Jan. 15)

Sun. Jan. 17 **BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Jan. 11-15.

Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (by 9:00 P.M.).

Sat. Jan. 23 **FIR**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3620' Order: 25

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Jan. 19-21.

Leader: Jane Smalley (#1,068), 914-941-3918 (7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.)

Sat. Jan. 23 **SLIDE**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1

A moderate trail hike at a moderate pace to a required winter peak. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Slide Mountain parking lot at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Marty Cohen (#728), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Jan. 24 **PANTHER**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A moderate trail hike at a relaxed pace to a required winter peak. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Mountain Gate on McKenley Hollow Rd. in Olivera (3 mi. south of Big Indian on Cty. Rd. 47) FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Jane Smalley (#1,068), 914-941-3918 (7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.)

Sun. Jan. 24 **BALSAM**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600' Order: 28

An easy-paced trail hike to a required winter peak. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Mountain Gate on McKenley Hollow Rd. in Olivera (3 mi. south of Big Indian on Cty. Rd. 47) at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Doug Robins (#153), 860-693-0130 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Jan. 30 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

A moderate trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Trailhead at Platte Clove Road at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun. Jan. 31 **HALCOTT**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3520' Order: 34

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Jan. 28-29.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710 (7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Sat. Feb. 6 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Feb. 1-5.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun. Feb. 7 **INDIAN HEAD, TWIN and SUGARLOAF**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2900'
Elev.: 3573', 3640', 3800' Order: 30, 23, 13

A very strenuous trail hike at a steady pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Trailhead at Prediger Road at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 914-967-8540 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.); 914-278-2770 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

- Sat. Feb. 13 **SOUTH WEST HUNTER (and possibly HUNTER)** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3740' (4040') Order: 15 (2)
A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Feb. 8-12.
Leader: Sandy Aldrich (#914), 914-963-9802 (before 9:30 P.M.)
- Sat. Feb. 20 **BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3720', 3868' Order: 17, 7
A moderately-paced trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Bridge over Dry Brook in Arkville at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: George Sheedy (#806), 914-986-6807 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)
- Sat. Feb. 27 **DOUBLETOP and GRAHAM** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev.: 3860', 3868' Order: 8, 7
A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Feb. 22-26.
Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (by 9:00 P.M.)
- Sun. Feb. 28 **WITTENBERG and CORNELL** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3120'
Elev.: 3780', 3860' Order: 14, 9
A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required - **no exceptions**. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Anthony Amaral, Jr. (#612), 212-603-2217 (weekdays 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.) or for general information, call after 5:00 A.M. on morning of hike at 212-874-9242; if no answer, hike is on as scheduled.
- Sat. Mar. 6 **VLY and BEARPEN** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32
A moderately-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Mar. 1-5.
Leader: Howard Dash (#458), 914-255-3409 (before 9:00 P.M.)
- Sun. Mar. 7 **SUGARLOAF, PLATEAU and HUNTER** Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 4000'
Elev.: 3800', 3840', 4040' Order: 13, 12, 2
A strenuous trail hike at a fast pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Trailhead at Becker Hollow on Rte. 214 at 8:00 A.M.
Leader: Stephen Fishman (#618), 914-331-1206 (Mon.-Thurs. before 9:00 P.M.)
- Sat. Mar. 13 **LONE and ROCKY** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 35
A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Mar. 8-12.
Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun. Mar. 14 **RUSK**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

A trail hike and bushwhack at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Mar. 8-12.

Leader: Jim Chambers (#1,097), 315-589-8500 (6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Mar. 20 **Tremper**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800'

A moderate trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750 (by 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Mar. 21 **THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME**
and BLACKHEAD

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600'

Elev.: 3940', 3980', 3940' Order: 4, 3, 5

A strenuous trail hike at a steady pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Maplecrest Post Office at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: John Nye (#1132), 914-967-8540 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.); 914-278-2770 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND - JANUARY 22 - 24, 1999

LOCATION: Mountain Gate Lodge, 10 McKenley Hollow Road, Oliverea, New York (3 mi. south of Big Indian on County Road 47); telephone 914-254-6000 or 800-733-0344.

Members and aspirants are invited to the Winter Weekend. Hikes have been scheduled for aspirants who might need any of the required winter peaks (see pages 4-5 of the Hiking Schedule). You don't have to hike or stay at the lodge, but if you're in the area, stop by for the Happy Hour and dinner.

RATES: \$132.57 per person for two nights, single or double occupancy, including two breakfasts and one dinner. For a group of at least 20 persons, Mountain Gate is offering a special discount rate of \$93.29 per person, including two breakfasts and one dinner and based on single or double occupancy. For those wanting one night only with breakfast and dinner, the cost is \$84.69, double occupancy. Dinner only is \$18.41 For those taking the meal package, refunds are not given for meals not taken. In addition to Mountain Gate's regular menu of Indian specialities, an American menu will be available during the Winter Weekend. The Happy Hour includes a selection of hors d'oeuvres, wine or beer, for \$9.82 per person. Dinner and Happy Hour only is \$28.23 **All prices include gratuity and tax.**

RESERVATIONS: It is advisable to reserve as soon as possible, since the discounted rate is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. A \$50.00 deposit, by check or credit card, is required at the time of reservation. If reserving by check, please make it payable to Mountain Gate and send it directly to Mountain Gate Lodge, attention: Sid Khan.

CANCELLATION POLICY: 48 hours advance notice is required for a full refund.

SECOND CALL FOR CATSKILL 3500 T-SHIRTS

For those who missed the last T-shirt offer, the Catskill 3500 Club has secured a limited number of additional T-shirts that are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Dave Sutter at DSUTTR@aol.com or by telephone at 973-778-0992 between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. only.

CLUB ACKNOWLEDGES GIFTS

The club would once again like to thank all of those members and subscribers who sent in gifts with their dues and subscription renewals for 1998. This extra income not only makes us feel more comfortable with maintaining the low dues and fee structure, but puts us in the position of being able to help organizations that are working for the benefit of the hiking community in the Catskills. In addition to continuing to support the NY-NJ Trail Conference, the club helps to maintain an environmental lobbyist in Albany who has been extremely effective. We have recently made gifts to several search and rescue squads that have proven to be of invaluable help in emergency situations in the mountains, and to the fund for Firetower Restoration. The gifts also defray expenses for "action alert" mailings.

NEW MEMBERS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,149	Sean McLean	3/14/98
1,150	Robert W. Messerschmidt	9/15/98
1,151	Deborah Hallenbeck	9/20/98
1,152	Richard D. Lynch	9/20/98
1,153	Thomas M. Ermer	5/16/98
1,154	Edward Modica	8/16/98
1,155	George Sloan	9/26/98
1,156	Suzanne E. Lance	9/20/98
1,157	Douglas Muller	10/3/98
1,158	Gary St. Onge	10/16/98
1,159	John J. Conlon	10/25/98
1,160	Michelle Lane	10/31/98
1,161	Scott Lane	10/31/98

CORRECTION

Apologies to Ed Homenick, member #1,139, whose name was misspelled as Homerick in the last issue of the *Canister*.

Desert Places

Snow falling and night falling fast oh fast
 In a field I looked into going past,
 And the ground almost covered smooth in snow,
 But a few weeds and stubble showing last.

The woods around it have it--it is theirs.
 All animals are smothered in their lairs.
 I am too absent-spirited to count;
 The loneliness includes me unawares.

And lonely as it is that loneliness
 Will be more lonely ere it will be less--
 A blanker whiteness of benighted snow
 With no expression, nothing to express.

They cannot scare me with their empty spaces
 Between stars--on stars where no human race is.
 I have it in me so much nearer home
 To scare myself with my own desert places.

Robert Frost



the catskill canister

Vol. XXXII, No. 2

APRIL - JUNE, 1999

APPALACHIAN SPRING: THE SMOKIES AND E.T.

Because of the centrality of Knoxville to the entire southern Appalachian area, hiking the Smokies and the environs of East Tennessee (they call it ET) provides an opportunity to walk in North Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia and South Carolina, in addition to Tennessee. Prior to leaving for Knoxville, I obtained the phone number of the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club (423-558-3341) to arrange hikes in advance, as well as doing those developed through friends and acquaintances. References to specific hikes are warranted.

Approximately fifteen miles north of Knoxville is House Mountain which has about ten miles of trails and involves moderate climbing to some excellent views of both the Smokies (east) and the Cumberland Plateau (west). When I was there, it also featured a young and pregnant-looking, rambunctious hedgehog which would not leave the trail until almost attacked by my friend's more than eager hunting dog.

In Cumberland Gap National Park, I climbed up to White Rocks, a series of overlooks that served as a landmark for settlers making their way through the wilderness road on their way to Kentucky. The highlight of that hike was the Sand Cave, an immense cavern deep in a wooded gorge with primitive-looking dancing figures on the ceiling and filled with as much sand as any beach. I would be remiss if I failed to mention the rhododendron and flame azalea which abound in late spring. And, speaking of plant life, I should warn the reader that poison ivy, like the black flies in Maine, is both rampant and pernicious. In fact, the locals thoroughly scrub down with extra-strength dishwashing liquid after every hike.

Big South Fork National Park, on the Cumberland Plateau northwest of Knoxville, features a six-mile hike called Honey Creek Loop which, described as difficult in ordinary circumstances, turned into an excruciating, but exhilarating challenge because of all the blowdown from a late winter tornado. Most of the trail winds its way through dense brush, treacherous boulders and slippery stream beds. Rumor has it that wild boar (non-native Russian imports) inhabit these woods, and we did notice a remnant of dead skunk adjacent to a rather large and deeply cloven hoof print. Within ten miles of the trailhead, Rugby, Tennessee, is a restored town which was settled in 1880 by second sons of English gentry who, because of primogeniture, had been denied any patrimonial property. Establishing the town of Rugby represented an attempt to initiate their own landed aristocracy in the United States. In fewer than fifteen years, their experiment had failed, allegedly due to their inability to undertake any of the hard labor which living in that area required.

After the northwest, this region gets more precipitation than any in the lower forty-eight, yet I was startled to see a hiker carrying an umbrella. My two Smoky Mountain hikes presented few views and seemingly endless, almost rock-free trails shrouded by verdant canopies. On one hike, two bold deer compensated for the lack of views, as they slowly and casually ate their way up the trail above Laurel Falls no more than fifteen feet in front of me and several other hikers. Views are likely to

Cont'd on Page 3

THE CATSKILL CANISTER**President**

Douglas H. Robins
33 Trailsend Drive
Canton, CT 06019

Editor

Darielle Graham
60 Barker Street, #419
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

Assistant Editor

Douglas H. Robins
33 Trailsend Drive
Canton, CT 06019

Associate Editor

Michael E. Doehring
7 Cloverdale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10603

Subscriptions

Cyrus B. Whitney
41 Morley Drive
Wyckoff, NJ 07481

Outings

John B. Graham
60 Barker Street, #419
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

Peripatetic Porcupine

Ralph Ferrusi
34 Kim Lane
Stormville, NY 12582

The Catskill Canister is published four times yearly by the Catskill 3500 Club, Inc., for \$5.00 a year.

Articles on hiking or travel experiences, essays or poetry, should be sent to Darielle Graham, 60 Barker St., #419, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.

IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>Letter</i>	3
<i>Hike Schedule</i>	4
<i>Peripatetic Porcupine</i>	7
<i>Poem</i>	7
<i>Sweatshirts For Sale</i>	7
<i>New Members</i>	8

PROPOSAL TO AMEND BYLAWS

At the annual meeting, the executive committee will propose amending the club bylaws as follows: (1) to make the latest version of United States Geological Survey maps the sole source of elevation data for the peaks; (2) to provide for the conversion of meters to feet if, as anticipated, the next version of the USGS maps is metric; and (3) to provide automatic updating of the by-laws with new USGS elevations without the vote of the membership. The third provision will still require a membership vote to add or delete mountains from our list of required peaks.

These bylaw changes will automatically rescind the amendment made several years ago regarding the elevations of Halcott and Balsam Lake. Research by Ray Donahue and Craig Mitchell discovered that the changes based on Department of Transportation maps were from older and, by inference, less accurate versions of the USGS maps.

The exact wording of the proposed bylaw change and supporting documentation will be available before the meeting. If you wish to see a copy before March 20th, please contact the President, Doug Robins, 860-693-0130.

GROUP PLANS RESCUE BID FOR LODGE

Plans for the demolition of Coykendall Lodge, the former summer home of railroad and canal baron Samuel Coykendall located at Alder Lake in the Upper Beaverkill Valley, are being fought by the Alder Lake Restoration Society. The lodge, one of the last remaining "Great Camps" to be built at the end of the century, is now owned by the State of New York and lies within part of the Catskill Forest Preserve. A petition has been circulated to Governor George Pataki and John P. Cahill, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, demanding a stay of demolition and protection of the building from further deterioration. Anyone interested in joining the Alder Lake Restoration Society's attempt to preserve the lodge should contact Gale Steves or Philip Perrone at 212-799-8942 (weekdays), 914-439-4341 (weekends); E-mail: Philipine@AOL.com.

WANTED: STORIES ABOUT CATSKILL PEAKS

Ralph Ferrusi (#122) is compiling a book on the Catkills, with a chapter devoted to each peak, and is seeking contributions from hikers wishing to share their climbing experience, adventure or misadventure relating to a particular peak. Anyone interested in submitting a story should forward it to Ralph at 34 Kim Lane, Stormville, NY 12582-5305.

WANTED: SLOW CLIMBER

Cy Whitney (#266) knows an older aspirant who is seeking a companion to climb the 3500 peaks at a slow pace. Let Cy know if you are interested.

summits of mountains with "bald" or "dome" in their names, such as Andrew's Bald, Gregory's Bald and Clingman's Dome which, at 6,643 feet, is the highest mountain in Tennessee and the second highest east of the Mississippi. Another day, after hiking more than five miles south from Brown's Gap on the Appalachian Trail, we reached the west peak of Snowbird Mountain. A large group of us ate lunch lazing against the side of a small federal building which housed a guide beam for the Knoxville Airport. It was one of those anomalies that too often remind us that we're not as deep into the wilderness as we think we would like to be.

For the hiker who desires a day off to enjoy local custom and heritage, the Museum of Appalachia in Norris, about twenty miles north of Knoxville, affords a stunning introduction to a seemingly bygone way of life. The museum features homemade musical instruments, tools and farming implements, authentic examples of log cabin housing, and a vivid array of photographs that weave together these and other strands of Appalachian history. One morning, in Knoxville's "Old City," a locomotive pulling one-hundred cars (I counted 'em) rolled through town and instantly absorbed me into an era that, on second thought, may not be entirely bygone.

Hikers interested in history will find an impressive overview of the state at Knoxville's East Tennessee Historical Society. Various, East Tennessee has been a gateway to the American West, a state deeply divided by the Civil War (though West Virginia was able to secede from Virginia, East Tennessee unsuccessfully pursued secession from the rest of Tennessee), and a key player in the development of both hydroelectric power (Tennessee Valley Authority) and nuclear weaponry (Oak Ridge was etched out of the hills west of Knoxville).

To expand and enhance my experience, I left Tennessee with a biography of Daniel Boone, a book about the isolated mountain community of Cades Cove, Tennessee (forcibly assimilated, via eminent domain, into Great Smoky National Park in the 1930s and lost forever after more than 120 years of existence), and a third book focusing on the Cherokee Removal from North Carolina during the first half of the 19th century. I was also introduced to the East Tennessee novels of Cormac McCarthy, particularly *The Orchard Keeper* and *Suttree*.

Arnie Gittell (#962)
#2A, 2-12 Seaman Avenue
New York, NY 10034

UTAH BECKONS 3500 CLUB HIKER

When Dave Pehlke, with whom I had done many of the Catskill peaks, moved to Utah, I was inspired to visit and hike with him again. His article ("Utah Beckons, Catskills Not Forgotten," *Catskill Canister*, Oct.-Dec. 1998) proved the compelling factor, so last November a friend and I flew to Saint George to a warm welcome. Dave and his wife, Karen, devoted a whole week to guiding us through the magnificent trails of Zion and Bryce National Parks. The scenery is awesome, and the snow magnified its beauty. Hiking at 7,000 feet for the first time, especially on precipitous trails, was a rewarding physical challenge.

I am grateful for having met Dave through the 3500 Club, culminating in some of the greatest hiking adventures available.

Art Zimmerman (#866)
766 Neptune Boulevard
Long Beach, NY 11561

Dave welcomes anyone considering or planning a visit to southern Utah to contact him at 1610 West 100 North, #43, St. George, UT 84770; tel: (435) 688-2889.-Ed.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: APRIL - JUNE 1999**ASSUMED RISK**

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

- Sat. April 3 **BLACK DOME and THOMAS COLE** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3980', 3940' Order: 4, 3
A moderate trail hike at a relaxed place. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Maplecrest Post Office at 9:00 A.M.
Leader: Jane Smalley (#1,068), 914-941-3918 (before 9:00 P.M.)
- Sat. April 10 **Evergreen and RUSK** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21
A moderately-paced bushwhack. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between April 5-9.
Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)
- Sun. April 11 **SUGARLOAF** Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3800' Order: 13
Join us for the first, somewhat strenuous "kid-friendly, peak-bagging trip". Plan on hiking all day at the stop and sprint pace of children aged 8 to 60. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Caller leader to register.
Leader: Tim Watters (#268), 201-818-0156
- Sat. April 17 **TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3190'
Trail-Clearing Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11
A rewarding hike which will allow you to give something back to the mountains. Come ready to work and bring hand tools if you have them. If not, the club will provide them. All who want to get to the top of both peaks will get there.
Meeting Place: Trailhead at Denning at 9:30 A.M.
Leader: Jerry Gervais (#687), 914-341-5515 (messages); 914-795-2116 (evgs. before 10:00 P.M.)
- Sun. April 18 **BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3720', 3868' Order: 17, 7
A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Call leader for details.
Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-697-7752 (before 9:00 P.M.)
- Sat. April 24 **Huckleberry Ridge/** Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Dry Brook Ridge Elev.: 3460' - Dry Brook Ridge
A moderate trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Second parking area on Huckleberry Brook Road at 9:00 A.M.
Leader: Alvin De Maria (#655), 914-255-1704
- Sun. April 25 **EAGLE and BIG INDIAN** Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3600', 3700' Order: 27, 19
A moderately-paced trail hike and short bushwhack. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Seager trailhead at end of Dry Brook Road at 9:00 A.M.
Leader: Stephen Schifani (#910), 914-883-7933 (Fri. or Sat. 7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)
- Sat. May 1 **SLIDE, CORNELL, WITTENBERG,** Distance: 16 mi. Ascent: 5000'
FRIDAY, BALSAM CAP, ROCKY, Elev.: 4180', 3860', 3780', 3694',
LONE, PEEKAMOOSE and TABLE 3623', 3508', 3721', 3843', 3847'
Order: 1, 9, 14, 20, 24, 35, 16, 11, 10
An extremely strenuous bushwhack and trail hike, 14+ hrs. Rain cancels. Rain date Sun. May 2.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between April 26-30. No calls after Friday noon.
Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692.

Sat. May 1 **DOUBLETOP and GRAHAM**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev.: 3860', 3868' Order: 8, 7

A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between April 26-30.

Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 914-967-8540 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.); 914-278-2770 (7:00-9:00 P.M.)

Sun. May 2 **Finger Lakes Trail**

Distance: 19 miles.

A moderately-paced trail hike from Alder Lake to Willomac Road. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register.

Leader: Jim Chambers (#1,097), 315-589-8500 (6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. May 8 **HALCOTT**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3520' Order: 34

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 3-7.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun. May 9 **INDIAN HEAD Circular**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3573' Order: 30

A moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy/steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Trailhead at Prediger Road at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710 (7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. only)

Sat. May 15 **BIG INDIAN and FIR**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3700', 3620' Order: 19, 25

A moderately-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 10-14.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. May 16 **CORNELL and WITTENBERG**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3860', 3780' Order: 9, 14

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a steady pace from Moonhaw Rd. to Woodland Valley. Some challenging terrain approaching Cornell from Moonhaw. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 10-13.

Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411 (H); 201-524-4669 (W);
mike_selender@mindspring.comSat. May 22 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A strenuous, moderately-paced, all-weather bushwhack.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 17-20.

Leader: Anthony Amaral, Jr. (#612), 212-603-2217 (9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.)

Sun. May 23 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

A moderate trail hike at a comfortable pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader for details between May 17-21.

Leader: Doug Robins (#153), 860-693-0130 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. May 30 **BALSAM LAKE**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 17

A moderate trail hike from Alder Lake via new Millbrook Ridge Trail, Balsam Lake Mountain, Dry Brook Ridge and Neversink-Hardenburgh Trails. Optional drop-out at 8 mi. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader for details no later than May 27.

Leader: Richard Barr (#604), 212-877-2694

Sat. June 5 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3524' Order: 33

A moderate trail hike at a comfortable pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Call leader for details between May 31-June 4.
Leader: Doug Robins (#153), 860-693-0130 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. June 6 **LONE, TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE** Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3721', 3847', 3843'
Order: 16, 10, 11

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike in a remote area of the Catskills. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 31-June 3.
Leader: Stephen Fishman (#618), 914-331-1206 (before 10:00 P.M.)

Sat. June 12 **HUNTER and SOUTHWEST HUNTER** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 4040', 3740' Order: 2, 15

A moderately-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between June 7-11.
Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. June 13 **FRIDAY and BALSAM CAP** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3694', 3623' Order: 20, 24

A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Probable combination of slide and ledge climbing for Friday.
Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between June 7-10.
Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411 (H); 201-524-4669 (W);
mike_selender@mindspring.com

Sat. June 19 **Ashokan High Point** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3080'

A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Junction of Routes 28 and 28A in Boiceville at 10:00 A.M.
Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. June 20 **INDIAN HEAD and TWIN** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3753', 3640' Order: 30, 23

A moderately-paced trail hike up the back of Indian Head and over Twin. Shuttle required. Steady rain cancels.
Meeting Place: New parking lot off Elka Park/Dale Rd. just west of jct. with Wase Rd. at 9:15 A.M.
Leader: Marty Cohen (#728), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M. - No calls Saturday night)

Sat. June 26 **BEARPEN and VLY** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32

A moderately-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between June 21-25.
Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. June 27 **LONE and ROCKY** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 35

A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between June 21-25.
Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 914-967-8540 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.); 914-278-2770 (7:00-9:00 P.M.)

PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Allen Grunthal (#774) completed the New England 4000 Footers and the Northeast 111 on Katahdin on June 23, 1998. ... Dave Mattsen (#187) and his son, Bob (#186) completed the ADK 46ers on Mount Redfield on July 21, 1998. ... Herbert Coles (#440) and June Fait (#392) completed the White Mountain 4000 Footers on Passaconaway on July 24, 1998. ... On August 22, 1998, Bob Novick (#1,086) completed the White Mountain 4000 Footers, the New England 4000 Footers and the Northeast 111 on Isolation. ... On January 12, 1999, Charlie Goodrich (#447) climbed to 21,500 feet on Aconcagua which, at 22,834 feet, is the highest peak in the Western Hemisphere. ...

Send all items intended for this column to Ralph Ferrusi (see. col.2, p.2)

PUTTING IN THE SEED

*You come to fetch me from my work to-night
When supper's on the table, and we'll see
If I can leave off burying the white
soft petals fallen from the apple tree
(Soft petals, yes, but not so barren quite,
Mingled with these, smooth bean and wrinkled pea);
and go along with you ere you lose sight
Of what you came for and become like me,
Slave to a springtime passion for the earth.
How Love burns through the Putting in the Seed
On through the watching for that early birth
When, just as the soil tarnishes with weed,

The sturdy seedling with arched body comes
Shouldering its way and shedding the earth crumbs.*

Robert Frost

NEW! 3500 CLUB OFFERS SWEATSHIRT FOR SALE

Order your Catskill 3500 Club sweatshirt by June 1st for fall delivery. Medium weight, 50/50, with a hood and handwarmer pocket, the sweatshirt is available in heathery ash grey with the club's three-color emblem. If we receive orders for 25 or more, it's a "go," otherwise your money will be refunded.

Send your order along with a check, payable to **The Catskill 3500 Club, Inc.**, to Dave Sutter, 575 Grove Street, #C-6, Clifton, NJ 07013.

Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Apt. # _____

_____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cost: NY State residents: \$22.00
All other states: \$20.50

NEW MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,162	Bryce Button	11/4/98
1,163	Scott Larson	11/22/98
1,164	Jarrett Larson	11/22/98
1,165	Christopher S. Zaleski	11/24/98
1,166	Jeffrey Rand	12/19/98
1,167	Walter A. Clark	9/6/98
1,168	Joseph S. Toth	12/23/98
1,169	Leigh A. Toth	12/23/98
1,170	Noreen Pye	12/26/98
1,171	Maria R. Walsh	1/1/99
1,172	Richard F. Maemone	1/1/99
1,173	William T. Schafer	1/16/99
1,174	Dean McGeorge	1/24/99
1,175	Emerson Ellett	1/27/99
1,176	Geraldine Muckelbauer	1/30/99
1,177	Ann M. McMahon	1/30/99
1,178	Philip M. Bifulco	1/30/99
1,179	Michael C. Phelps	1/29/99
1,180	Paul H. Levine	2/5/99
1,181	Kathleen J. Smith	1/31/99
1,182	David L. Karlsen	2/7/99

NEW WINTER MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
404	Mark Zand	12/27/98
405	John C. Timm	12/28/98
406	Daniel Mulvill	1/4/99

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

James G. Cunningham
 Cecelia Horne
 Paul J. Hoyt
 Gary Klee, Jr.
 James D. Malumphy
 Joel T. Marchewka
 James C. Ruoff
 Timothy R. Stone



the catskill canister

Vol. XXXII, No. 3

JULY - SEPTEMBER, 1999

CLIMBING PEÑA DE BERNAL

Work often brings me to remote corners of the world, but seldom do I find the time to indulge myself in a hike. To my delight, my project in Mexico became an exception. When I told my Mexican colleagues that I liked hiking, they responded by saying, "You should visit the Peña de Bernal." I soon learned that the Peña de Bernal is a famous rock monolith north-west of Mexico City. People say it is the second tallest monolith in the world. My curiosity was piqued.

It was June 21st, the first full day of spring. My colleague, Abel Castro, and I decided to stop working mid-afternoon and go to Bernal. It had been a long, tiring day and I welcomed the excursion. As we drove to the small town of Bernal, I scanned the horizon for the monolith. As each mountain appeared, like a child I asked, "Is that Bernal?" Then I saw it and there was no doubt. I was in awe. It's like the first time you see the Rocky Mountains or the Grand Canyon.

Normally, we'd be able to drive to the trailhead parking, but the local constables had blocked the streets for the spring festival. Abel parked and we walked gradually uphill, past the street vendors, towards the Peña de Bernal. Crowds of people filled the streets. It was late afternoon and the sun had passed to the far side of this rocky massif. The high wispy clouds in the normally cloudless sky stirred the dry air. Birds soared around the top of the monolith enjoying their free ride in the wind. We climbed up the uneven, narrow, stone roadway. Dry dirt was lifted by the wind. The people we passed wore clothes covered with this same dirt.

As we neared the top of the road where the trail climbed upward, I barely heard a soft, but unmistakable, song performed by the Cranberries. It was coming from one of the few isolated haciendas in the distance. My spirit lifted and I felt my pace increase, much to Abel's disdain as he breathed hard to keep up. The closer I got to the houses, the softer the music became, almost like a bizarre episode from the Twilight Zone. Before I reached the houses, the music faded away and all that was left was the whisper of the wind.

At the trailhead, the parking lot was filled with many barbecues. The trail wound up the mountainside; signs marked the way and asked us not to shortcut the switchbacks. In the distance, we saw people higher up the mountain. As it got darker, I thought about descending over the tricky, cactus-lined path in the waning light. After only a few minutes, Abel was happy to hear me say that we'd gone far enough for the day. On the descent, excitement filled my body. I was bitten by the peak-bagging bug: I wanted to summit this rock. In my attempt two months later, on August 17th, I was joined by another colleague, Omar Duran. Omar had previously climbed Peña de Bernal and knew the route, so much of my concern was calmed. The weather promised to be good, but the forest fires that burned throughout the country left a haze that limited the view.

The drive to Bernal from Querétaro is about one hour, but we soon realized that neither of us knew the way. We wound up taking the scenic route - a three-hour drive exploring many of the remote roads in the Mexican countryside. Somewhat embarrassing since I'd been to Bernal before. My only excuse - no map.

Cont'd on Page 3

THE CATSKILL CANISTER**President**

Michael E. Doehring
7 Cloverdale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10603

Editor

Darielle Graham
60 Barker Street, #419
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

Assistant Editor

Douglas H. Robins
33 Trailsend Drive
Canton, CT 06019

Associate Editor

Michael E. Doehring
7 Cloverdale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10603

Subscriptions

Cyrus B. Whitney
41 Morley Drive
Wyckoff, NJ 07481

Outings

John B. Graham
60 Barker Street, #419
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

Peripatetic Porcupine

Ralph Ferrusi
34 Kim Lane
Stormville, NY 12582

The Catskill Canister is published four times yearly by the Catskill 3500 Club, Inc., for \$5.00 a year.

Articles on hiking or travel experiences, essays or poetry, should be sent to Darielle Graham, 60 Barker St., #419, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.

IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>Peripatetic Porcupine</i>	3
<i>Hike Schedule</i>	4
<i>Poems</i>	6 & 7
<i>The Catskills</i>	7
<i>By-Laws Amended</i>	8
<i>New Members</i>	8

**CATSKILL 3500 CLUB
1999 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN**

President	Michael Doehring	914-761-7225
Past President	Doug Robins	860-693-0130
First Vice President	Gerald Gervais	914-795-2116
Second Vice President	Wanda Davenport	201-670-8383
Secretary	Amy Whitney	201-327-9420
Treasurer	George Sheedy	914-986-6807
Annual Dinner Meeting	Roy Messaros	201-337-5004
Canisters	Harry Rampe	914-292-6736
Conservation	Howard Dash	914-255-3409
Membership	Cyrus Whitney	201-447-2653
Outings	John Graham	914-241-2240
<u>The Catskill Canister</u>	Darielle Graham	914-241-2240
	Michael Doehring	914-761-7225
	Doug Robins	860-693-0130
Trails	Gerald Gervais	914-795-2116
Winter Weekend	Art Zimmerman	516-432-1205

ASPIRANT RESCUES TERRIER

Hiking to the top of Eagle Mountain, aspirant John Lavelle was greeted by 4-year-old Jasmine, a Wheaton terrier with frozen feet who had been missing for eight days. John fed the dog hot chicken soup and warmed her paws sufficiently so she could follow him down the mountain. He carried her over streams because she refused to step into the water. Afterwards, he found one of the posters he recalled seeing about a lost dog and called the owner, Steve Traum. Apparently, Jasmine "loves to run wild," and when Eileen Traum let her out of the house, she bolted into the woods and Eileen couldn't catch her. All efforts to find Jasmine failed until her rescue by John. The Traums took Jasmine to the vet who pronounced her fine and lighter by four pounds.

GERMAN SHEPHERD

He has never heard of tides,
of moon and sun
pulling the water to ebb, to flow.
All that he can know
is to outrun
white foam and waves,
wetting his paws, his muzzle,
playing the game
in the joy of a wetness
He can never name ocean.

Myra Cohn Livingston

Peña de Bernal is one of the few organized hiking areas in this part of Mexico. A local conservation group maintains the parking lot and the newly-constructed visitor center. The trailhead had a \$0.59 parking fee. While registering at the visitor center, we learned that climbing the Peña de Bernal was not recommended without the proper equipment. The fixed anchors were not being maintained and their condition could not be guaranteed.

The trail part of the hike was 750 feet of elevation gain in about one mile. Many local families were out for their weekend pilgrimage to the small shrine at the end of the trail, where most people stopped. The more adventurous souls continued up a 100-foot rock scramble which ended at a rock wall. From here, the route ascended about 130 feet (as measured by the altimeter) up a cliff. The climbing difficulty was a 5.5 or 5.6., but about 100 steel steps were installed to bring it down to about 5.3 with a beautiful exposure (read: near vertical, fall and you die). Though I would have preferred climbing with protection, neither of us wanted to turn back. After the steep part, a trail covered with loose, potato-sized rocks led upward; 70 feet of careful scrambling brought us to the wide-open false peak where we found a cross. A short walk away was the 10-foot higher true summit. The view was obscured by the haze, but we could see the town below and the surrounding hills.

At the top we met two men who had climbed up before us. They were drinking wine - rather risky considering the descent. Omar asked them about other hiking spots in the area and they told us of a couple of other places to visit. After the two climbers left the summit, we relaxed for a while, then caught up to them at the top of the wall, archaically belaying themselves down. They had neither friction device nor Münter hitch, but simply ran the rope through a carabiner. It would be scary if they fell, but they were light years ahead of our unprotected climbing.

We got back to Querétaro without getting lost. Omar talked about going back to Bernal with our company flag and taking some staged photos at the summit for the Colgate-Mexico magazine. I'm already thinking about my next trip south of the border.

*John H. Swanson (#592)
3 Rutledge Court
East Brunswick, NJ 08816*

PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

On March 13, 1999, John H. Swanson (#592) became the 17th person known to have climbed the New Hampshire 100 highest in the winter, finishing on The Captain... On March 7, 1999, Mike Bromberg (#479) completed all the New Hampshire 4000 footers at midnight in winter, finishing on Mt. Garfield with Mark Schneider and Mike Dellorfano... In February, Kathy Ferrusi (1,022) kayaked for five days in the Sea of Cortez, Baja, Mexico... Chuck Lawrence (#919) and Diane Lawrence (#920) completed their Adirondack 46 on September 6, 1998 on Iroquois... Martin Cohen (#728) and Wanda Davenport (#523) completed the Northeast 111 on August 30, 1998 on Saddleback and the Horn in Maine... Jane Smalley (#1,068), Kathie Laug (#938) and Ernest Laug (#606) completed the White Mountain 4000-footers on the Hancocks on July 23, 1998; Kathie and Ernie also completed the Northeast 111 on the same day.

Items intended for the "Peripatetic Porcupine" column should be sent to Ralph Ferrusi (see p. 2, col. 1)

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: JULY - SEPTEMBER 1999**ASSUMED RISK**

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

Sat. July 3 **PEEKAMOOSE and TABLE**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3190'
Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11

A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between June 30-July 2.

Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. July 11 **FIR and BIG INDIAN**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19

A moderately-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between July 5-9.

Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750

Sat. July 17 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER (and possibly HUNTER)**

Distance: 5 (8) mi. Ascent: 1800' (2100')
Elev.: 3740' (4040') Order: 15 (2)

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between July 12-16.

Leader: Sandy Aldrich (#914), 914-292-9802 (before 9:30 P.M.)

Sat. July 31 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

A moderate trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Long Path trailhead on Platte Clove Road at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Fabrice Schneider-Manoury (#966), 914-292-9802 (before 9:30 P.M.)

Sun. Aug. 1 **WESTKILL**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

A moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Flagpole at Jct. of Rte. 42 and Cty. Rd. 6 (Spruceton Rd.) in Westkill at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750

Sat. Aug. 7 **PANTHER**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A moderately-paced hike over Giant Ledge to Panther then bushwhack down to town of Big Indian. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Aug. 2-6.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Aug. 8 **CORNELL, WITTENBERG and SLIDE**

Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 3500'
Elev.: 3860', 3780', 4180' Order: 9, 14, 1

A strenuous trail hike at a sustained pace. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Giant Ledge trailhead at hairpin turn on Cty. Rd. 47 at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Steven Fishman (#618), 914-331-1206 or 914-354-0227 (before 10:00 P.M.)

Sat. Aug. 14 **BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3720', 3868' Order: 17, 7

A moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Bridge over Dry Brook in Arkville at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (call week before, 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Aug. 21 **BEARPEN and VLY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32

A moderately-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between August 16-20.

Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 914-967-8540 (8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.); 914-278-2770 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Aug. 22 **PLATEAU and SUGARLOAF**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3840', 3800' Order: 12, 13

A steady-paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Aug. 16-20.

Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411 (H); 201-524-4669 (W);
mike_selender@mindspring.comSat. Aug. 28 **LONE and ROCKY**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 35

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Aug. 23-27.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Aug. 29 **HALCOTT**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3520' Order: 34

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Aug. 23-27.

Leader: Howard Dash (#458), 914-255-3409 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Sept. 4 **BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME
and THOMAS COLE**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3940', 3980', 3940' Order: 5, 3, 4

A moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Intersection in Maplecrest at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (call week before, 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Sept. 11 **BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

A strenuous bushwhack at a fast pace. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Sept. 6-10.

Leader: Bob Novick (#1,086), 201-385-3161 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Sept. 12 **SLIDE and Giant Ledge**Distance: 8-10 mi. Ascent: 4000'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1A bushwhack up to Giant Ledge and to Slide Mountain; short trail walk between and over Giant Ledge.
Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Sept. 6-9 only (no weekend calls between 9/1 - 9/9).

Leader: Donnabeth Stewart (#1,003), 212-722-2028 (up to 11:00 P.M.)

Sat. Sept. 18 **BEARPEN and VLY** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32

Join us for another "kid-friendly" peak-bagging trip. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register.

Leader: Timothy J. Watters (#268), 201-818-0156 (work); 201-818-9542 (weekend)

Sat. Sept. 18 **INDIAN HEAD and TWIN** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3753', 3640' Order: 30, 23

A moderately-paced through trail hike. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: New parking lot off Elka Park/Dale Road just west of jct. with Wase Road at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun. Sept. 19 **RUSK and HUNTER** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3680', 4040' Order: 21, 2

A moderately-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Sept. 13-17.

Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 914-967-8540 (8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.); 914-278-2770 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Sept. 25 **DOUBLETOP** Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1850'
Elev.: 3860' Order: 8

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Sept. 20-24.

Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Sept. 26 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Sept. 20-24.

Leader: Sandy Aldrich (#914), 914-292-9802 (before 9:30 P.M.)

MOUNTAIN PEAKS

*With bated breath the mountains soar,
Where earth and sky, apart no more,
Unite in silence with the night,
And lift the soul in easy flight.*

*On heights where mighty visions grow,
Remote from all the strife below,
The stars, their message ever shined,
For all who would their secrets find.*

*The balm of peace no sound can mar,
Upon the peaks that pierce so far,
Into the vast and empty space,
Where God and man come face to face.*

Theodore Wheldon (1891-1956)

THE CATSKILLS: A NEW ENGLANDER'S PERSPECTIVE

A New Englander from the Boston area, I've hiked extensively throughout the region for over twenty years, from the summits of Baxter Park in Maine to the Taconic Hills near the Massachusetts-Connecticut border. As a card-carrying member of the New England AMC (Appalachian Mountain Club), it seems I'm supposed to have regional myopia in terms of hiking destinations. We're allowed the occasional foray into the High Peaks area of the Adirondacks. Other mountain ranges west of the Hudson are either unknown or have been deemed unworthy by the New England hiking establishment. On countless occasions, while hiking in Northern New England, I've mentioned the Catskills as a worthwhile destination. The response is usually one of lukewarm interest: "Are there mountains there?" or "Isn't that a hilly place with a lot of big hotels?" I've been making two or three trips a year to the Catskills for the last ten years. I'm truly shocked that more New Englanders haven't discovered these fine mountains.

When I was a youngster, my family made an extended camping trip one summer down the Eastern Seaboard. On our way back we stopped for a few nights at North Lake Campground. The beautiful cliffside hiking and the deer roaming through the campground cemented my love for this area. Ten years later while visiting a friend who was in school in New York City, we made a trip to Wittenberg on a sunny fall day. From then on I've been a true Catskill devotee. I've managed to persuade my girlfriend to give the Catskills a chance and she's hooked too. Our trips to the Catskills have provided me with enduring memories as cherished as those from anywhere else: seeing a deer drinking midstream from the East Branch of the Neversink near Denning, spying a speckled native brook trout finning in a clear pool in Donovan Brook on the slopes of Lone Mountain. I've witnessed beautiful mountain vistas such as the endless waves of hills that can be seen from Doubletop's summit ledges. While descending the north slope of Panther, I passed through a cathedral grove of hardwoods. My girlfriend and I have found our way through the thick evergreen growth between Friday and Cornell to emerge at Cornell's fine summit outlook. We've marveled at the diverse old growth forest of maple, hemlock, spruce and yellow birch on the middle slopes of Westkill. On the same trip, we enjoyed a sun-warmed, late spring day atop Westkill looking south at the pastel-green valley that leads to Phoenicia and the Esopus valley.

I feel lucky and privileged to be a New Englander who loves the Catskills. The drive time from the Boston area to the Catskills is about the same as to the mountains of Western Maine. If more New Englanders took the time to venture into the Catskills, I'm sure they would become Catskill converts. To me, the Catskills truly represent our eastern mountains and need not be defended against any other competing mountain region.

Bob Parlee (Aspirant)
10 Quarry Street
Gloucester, MA 01930

IN FIELDS OF SUMMER

The sun rises
The goldenrod blooms,
I drift in fields of summer,
My life is adrift in my body,
It shines in my heart and hands, in my teeth,
It shines up at the old crane
Who holds out his drainpipe of a neck
And creaks along in the blue,

And the goldenrod shines with its life, too,
And the grass, look,
The great field wavers and flakes,
The rumble of bumblebees keeps deepening
A phoebe flutters up,
A lark bursts up all dew.

Galway Kinnell

APPROVED CHANGES TO THE BY-LAWS CONCERNING ELEVATIONS

At the 34th annual meeting of the Catskill 3500 Club held at the Hillside Manor in Kingston, New York on March 20, 1999, on motion by Franklin Clark and seconded by Roy Messaros, the members unanimously approved amending the by-laws to conform the altitudes to the latest data published by the U.S. Geological Survey.

In Article III, Section 5, the note preceded by an asterisk is replaced with the following:

**As shown on the most recent version of the 7.5 minute series topographical maps published by the United States Geological Survey. Where the maps show surveyed elevations for the summits, these elevations will be used. Where the maps do not show surveyed elevations, the highest contour line on the map will be used as the summit elevation. In the event the U.S. Geological Survey publishes new maps with metric measurements, the metric elevations will be converted and rounded to the nearest foot.*

The following language has been added to Article XI, Section 2:

Because the elevations and order of the peaks in the Official List (Article III, Section 5) are derived solely from the most recent U.S. Geological Survey maps, there need be no vote of the membership to amend the By-Laws when updates to the maps dictate changes to the elevations or order of the summits on the Official List.

<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>			<u>NEW WINTER MEMBERS</u>		
<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,183	Thomas Kasenchak	2/14/99	407	Janet M. Stein	1/31/99
1,184	Philip Corwin	2/21/99	408	Brian Berry	2/13/99
1,185	Edgar W. Robertson	2/20/99	409	Leigh A. Toth	2/7/99
1,186	Ralph Ryndak	2/27/99	410	Joseph S. Toth	2/7/99
1,187	Roeli Johansson	2/27/99	411	Virginia McMath	2/14/99
1,188	Kay Cynamon	3/7/99	412	Jack Barnes	2/14/99
1,189	John W. Ward	3/7/99	413	Kathryn Ferrusi	2/15/99
1,190	Paula J. Ward	3/7/99	414	Thomas Kasenchak	2/20/99
1,191	Robert A. Delia	3/11/99	415	Gary St. Onge	2/28/99
1,192	Elizabeth K. Lesar	3/7/99	416	David W. Fernekes	2/28/99
1,193	Heide Seaman-Mahlke	3/13/99	417	John W. Ward	3/7/99
1,194	Justin Giuliano	3/17/99	418	Paula J. Ward	3/7/99
1,195	Joan A. McNulty	3/17/99	419	Robert A. Delia	3/11/99
1,196	Marsha K. Finnan	3/16/99	420	William H. Nixon	3/13/99
1,197	Terence L. Finnan	3/16/99	421	Jay Sadowitz	3/14/99
1,198	Matthew Aberle	3/20/99	422	Charles B. Brock	3/14/99
1,199	Dale D. Hughes	3/21/99	423	Lawrence Blumberg	12/31/98
1,200	Pauline Lavery	3/27/99			
1,201	David M. Galvin	4/8/99			
1,202	Michael Lepore	4/10/99			
1,203	Gordon Hobday	4/12/99			
1,204	Peter Anderson	4/24/99			
1,205	Robert J. Saturn	4/26/99			



the catskill canister

Vol. XXXII, No. 4

OCTOBER - DECEMBER, 1999

SEARCHING FOR SPENCER'S LEDGE

With not enough snow to ski, I contented myself with hiking. I usually pick a spot where I don't expect to see any other hikers for at least most of the day. That often means hiking off trail, which I enjoy. Accompanied by my dog, Puma, I headed south from Peekamoose Road on the Long Path towards Bangle Hill. The first part was very steep and followed a creek cut deeply into the mountain. After about 800 feet of climbing, the trail started to level off before reaching the ridgeline at about 2500 feet. In winter, you can see across the road through the trees to the more popular mountains of Table and Peekamoose. From the ridge the trail descended the other side of Bangle Hill. But Puma and I left the trail and instead cut east following a compass bearing and the blurry image of a summit to the top of Samson Mountain at about 2850 feet. The top of this mountain is covered in trees, providing no views, even in winter.

We continued east down Samson to a long ridge which ended at Spencer's Ledge, our destination. Staying towards the southern side of this long ridge, we were treated to many decent views through the trees, but in my mind there was one clean rock ledge with unobstructed 180-degree views to the south. I remembered another winter hike when I followed a different route to this spot and turned around before finding it. This time, I was determined. Whenever a stand of hemlocks looked familiar, I thought the ledge would be just beyond. As the minutes ticked by and I passed other stands of hemlocks, I began wondering if I'd ever find the ledge or if I might have missed it. Luckily, Puma didn't question me and didn't seem the least concerned about getting back to the car before dark. Then I recognized a stand of hemlocks and the remnants of an old logging road - a definite sign the ledge was near. And almost as if I remembered exactly, I headed to the right and straight through the trees to the ledge. The sun had reappeared and the view was glorious. We sat down - Puma with her biscuit, me with my thermos - and took it all in. Eventually, I glanced at my watch. It was 3:20 p.m., and I knew we needed to start down to avoid crossing the Roundout Creek in the dark.

My plan was to follow a basically rectangular path. I had reached the halfway point by heading south on the trail, and then turning east. Now, I had to turn north which would take me down the mountain. At the bottom, I would have to ford the creek, then follow the last leg west along the road. I didn't mind the idea of walking along the road in the dark, but I preferred to minimize my time on it by veering northwest. Of course, I realized that if I stayed too long in the woods, then I would have to cross the creek in the dark. So I tried to balance the two desires. I rushed down the hill, too hastily because I stumbled through the leaf litter and my foot sank into a crevice up to my knee. Fortunately, my knee didn't bang too hard into the surrounding rock, but the incident shook me and woke up my Zen consciousness. Imagining myself a monk, I walked purposefully down the hill and felt a greater awareness of my surroundings. I followed the terrain heading mostly north towards the road, and realized that the idea of rushing to the northwest was stupid and dangerous. I continued following the terrain straight down the hill and came to a large cut in the mountain which would have been pointless to cross. So I followed it down and was treated to a route through majestic hemlocks and frozen waterfalls. The weather had changed during the day and thrown off my altimeter. The creek and the road appeared sooner than I expected.

Cont'd on Page 3

THE CATSKILL CANISTER

President

Michael E. Doehring
7 Cloverdale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10603

Editor

Darielle Graham
60 Barker Street, #419
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

Assistant Editor

Douglas H. Robins
33 Trailsend Drive
Canton, CT 06019

Associate Editor

Michael E. Doehring
7 Cloverdale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10603

Subscriptions

Cyrus B. Whitney
41 Morley Drive
Wyckoff, NJ 07481

Outings

John B. Graham
60 Barker Street, #419
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

Peripatetic Porcupine

Ralph Ferrusi
34 Kim Lane
Stormville, NY 12582

The Catskill Canister is published four times yearly by the Catskill 3500 Club, Inc., for \$5.00 a year.

Articles on hiking or travel experiences, essays or poetry, should be sent to Darielle Graham, 60 Barker St., #419, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.

IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>Poem</i>	3
<i>Hike Schedule</i>	4
<i>Poem</i>	7
<i>New Members</i>	8
<i>Poem</i>	8

HELP WANTED

The Catskill 3500 Club is seeking someone with computer knowledge to assist Howard Dash in maintaining the club's sizable database of members and aspirants. The program currently in use is Microsoft Access. Flexible hours - work at home. Anyone interested should contact either Mike Doehring, (914) 761-7225, clover7med@aol.com, or Howard Dash, (914) 255-3409, howiedash@aol.com.

**LONG PATH RELOCATION WORK TRIPS
CATSKILLS TRAILS AVAILABLE
YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

Relocation of the Long Path between Mt. Tremper and Silver Hollow Notch will begin this fall. Volunteers are needed to assist in the creation of this 3½-mile trail segment through a wild and rugged section of the Catskill Forest Preserve. If you already help maintain the 3500 Club's section of the Long Path on Table and Peekamoose and are interested in providing further assistance, please contact Bruce Warden (914) 657-8348, walksalot@aol.com. In addition, prime sections of Catskills trails are available for "adoption." If interested, please contact Peter Senterman, Catskill Trails Chair for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, (914) 221-4392, psenterman@pirnie.com, or by letter c/o the NYNJTC, 232 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016 (212) 685-9699, nynjtc@aol.com.

IN SEARCH OF HISTORY

Mary Sive (#595) informs us that this year's exhibit at the Empire State Railway Museum in Phoenicia contains much of interest to hikers. Entitled "Catskill Villages, Railroads and Industries," the exhibit comprises photographs of the ski trains that were popular in the 1930s and brought many hikers to the Catskill mountains. Other historic photographs and postcards show Catskill scenes when the trains ran to Arkville and beyond and up Stony Clove to Hunter and Tannersville. A video can be viewed - or purchased - that combines several silent shorts from the early days of the century. They were filmed here, though the title may refer to a "Rocky Mountain Train Robbery."

The museum, located in the 100-year-old Phoenicia train station, closes for the season after Columbus Day Weekend and will reopen Memorial Day Weekend.

The creek was about 25 feet across in most spots. At the trailhead where I parked, the road was on the near side of the creek, so it wasn't a problem at the beginning of the hike. Now I had to find a spot to cross without getting too wet. It was about 4:30 p.m. and just beginning to get dark. I walked west along the stream looking for either a downed tree that spanned the distance or a path of rocks from one bank to the other. Always the rocks would go only about halfway before a gap of a few steps in the creek. The water wasn't too deep but I figured it would make it over the top of my Goretex boots. So I kept walking, hoping to find a tree or rocks spanning the creek. At times I had to cut back up the bank, and after a while I saw a waterfall across the road and knew exactly where I was. I had probably more than a two-mile walk to the point where the road crossed the creek which I knew I could never make before dark. So I ruled that possibility out. Eventually I reached a point where I would have had to climb back up the bank to continue on that side. There was a mixture of large and small rocks I could step on at least to the middle of the creek. Since it was getting dark, I told myself this was it.

The first couple of rocks were easy. Then I knew that either way I turned I'd have to take two or three steps in the creek. The next rock was icy, so I ignored it and simply stepped into the water. A little seeped over the tops of my boots; surprisingly it didn't feel cold, and I kept going till I reached the other side. My fear of getting my feet soaked was unfounded. Thanks to two layers of synthetic socks, my feet remained warm and comfortable. A short scramble up the bank brought Puma and me back on the road, the best place to be walking now that it was dark.

*Peter Ford (#755)
29 Molls Brook Road
Napanoch, NY 12458*

THROUGH THE GREEN FOREST

Through the green forest softly without a sound,
 Wrapped in a still mood
 As in a cloak and hood
 I went, and cast no shadow in the shadow of the wood.

There grew beeches taller than a ship's mast
 That rocks from wave to wave
 On the great seas of the world.
 I looked into their tops;
 Their tops were in another world;
 Tossed in a sunny air as far from me
 As the foam on waves that follow each other fast,
 All day, unseen by man, over the sunny sea.

Naked birches, whiter than a god's thigh,
 I saw, and stared, between the stems of the black pines;
 Boulders whiter than a dream remembered by day
 Stood in the brook's way,
 Damp with mosses greener than an emerald's eye.

And ferns where the water sloped from stone to stone in the clear dark
 Without ripple or speech
 Curved motionless, rooted in rotted bark
 And leaves laid together and the rifled husks of the beech.

Edna St. Vincent Millay

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1999**ASSUMED RISK**

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

Sat. Oct. 2 **PEEKAMOOSE and TABLE**
Trail Maintenance

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2850'
Elev.: 3843', 3847' Order: 11, 10

A rewarding hike which will allow you to give something back to the mountains. Come ready to work and bring hand tools if you have them. If not, the club will provide them. All who want to get to the top of both peaks will get there.

Meeting Place: Trailhead at Peekamoose Road at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Jerry Gervais (#687), 914-795-2116 (before 10:00 P.M.) or leave message at 914-341-5515

Sun. Oct. 3 **Ashokan High Point**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3080'

A moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Junction of Routes 28 and 28A in Boiceville at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750 (between 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Oct. 9 **BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY**

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

A fast-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Oct. 4-8.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun. Oct. 10 **Touchmenot**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1500'
Elev.: 2760'

A moderate trail hike in the western Catskills via Little Pond, Touchmenot and Alder Lake loop trails. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register by Oct. 8.

Leader: Richard Barr (#604), 212-877-2694.

Sat. Oct. 16 **BEARPEN and VLY**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32

A moderately-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Oct. 11-15.

Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Oct. 17 **DOUBLETOP and GRAHAM**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev.: 3860', 3868' Order: 8, 7

A dog-friendly, strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Oct. 11-15.

Leader: Sandy Aldrich (#914), 914-963-9802 (before 9:30 P.M.)

Sat. Oct. 23 **HUNTER MOUNTAIN Loop**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 4040' Order: 2

A moderately-paced trail hike. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Devil's Tombstone Campground at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Jane Smalley (#1,068), 914-941-3918 (7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.)

Sat. Oct. 23 **FIR and BIG INDIAN**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19

A moderately-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Oct. 18-22.

Leader: Howard Dash (#458), 914-255-3409 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Oct. 24 **HALCOTT**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3520' Order: 34

A moderate bushwhack at a comfortable pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Oct. 18-22.

Leader: Doug Robins (#153), 860-693-0130 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Oct. 30 **SHERRILL and NORTH DOME**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev.: 3540', 3610' Order: 31, 26

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Oct. 25-29.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun. Oct. 31 **WITTENBERG and CORNELL**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3780', 3860' Order: 14, 9

A dog-friendly, moderately-paced trail hike.

Meeting Place: Parking lot behind the Phoenicia Pharmacy in Phoenicia at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Fabrice Schneider-Manoury (#966), 914-963-9802 (before 9:30 P.M.)

Sat. Nov. 6 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK
and Roundtop**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

A moderate bushwhack and trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or e-mail leader to register between Nov. 1-4.

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 or e-mail: mountain.man.france@prodigy.netSun. Nov. 7 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK and
Burnt Knob**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3524' Order: 33

A moderately-paced, scenic trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Jct. of County Routes 40 and 56 in Maplecrest (by the former post office) at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Nov. 13 **Finger Lakes Trail**

Distance: 17 mi.

A moderately-paced trail hike (2 miles on road) from Mary Smith Hill Road to intersection of Campbell Mountain and Campbell Brook Roads. (Catskills Trail Map 44 or Finger Lakes Trail Map M30.)

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Oct. 31-Nov. 4.

Leader: Jim Chambers (#1,097), 315-589-8500 (6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Sun. Nov. 14 **RUSK**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

A moderate bushwhack at a comfortable pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Nov. 8-12.

Leader: Doug Robins (#153), 860-693-0130 (before 9:00 P.M.)

**NOV. 15 - DEC. 6: HUNTING SEASON (FIREARMS) IN THE CATSKILLS.
NO HIKES SCHEDULED IN THE CATSKILLS.**

Sat. Nov. 20 **Harriman Park** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1800'
A moderately-paced bushwhack in Harriman State Park to rarely visited sites.
Meeting Place: Anthony Wayne parking area off Palisades Interstate Parkway at 9:30 A.M.
Leader: Dave Sutter (#1,110), 973-778-0992 or e-mail: dsuttr@aol.com

Sat. Dec. 4 **Harriman Park** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1600'
A moderately-paced bushwhack to Hamil mine and Blauvelt Mountain - no canister!
Meeting Place: Reeves Meadow parking area off Seven Lakes Drive at 9:30 A.M.
Leader: Dave Sutter (#1,110), 973-778-0992 or e-mail: dsuttr@aol.com

Sun. Dec. 5 **Hudson Highlands** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2000'
A moderately-paced trail hike to Breakneck Ridge, the Undercliff Trail and Mount Taurus. Spectacular views of the Hudson River.
Meeting Place: Route 9D 2 miles north of Cold Spring at north end of tunnel for 9:00 A.M. start.
Leader: Roy Messaros (#97), 201-337-5004

December through April in the Catskills, the windchill on exposed ridges may reach 50 below zero. If you do not know what type of clothing will be adequate, telephone the hike leader in advance. If you cannot buy, rent, or borrow snowshoes, avoid the mountains in winter. Unless specified otherwise, full crampons should be carried. Properly dressed and equipped, and in proper physical condition, a hiker can enjoy the mountains in what many people consider the most beautiful season of the year.

Sat. Dec. 11 **FIR, BIG INDIAN, EAGLE and BALSAM** Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 3500'
Elev.: 3620', 3700', 3600', 3600'
Order: 25, 19, 27, 28
A very strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a fast pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Dec. 6-9.
Leader: Bob Novick (#1,086), 201-385-3161 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Dec. 12 **LONE and ROCKY** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 35
A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Dec. 6-10.
Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 914-967-8540 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.); 914-278-2770 (7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.)

Sat. Dec. 18 **Ashokan High Point** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3080'
A moderately-paced trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Dec. 13-17.
Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Dec. 19 **SOUTH WEST HUNTER**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3740' Order: 15

A dog-friendly, strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Dec. 13-17.

Leader: Sandy Aldrich (#914), 914-963-9802 (before 9:30 P.M.)

Fri. Dec. 24 **Required Winter Peak: SLIDE,
BLACKHEAD, PANTHER or
BALSAM**Distance: 5-7 mi. Ascent: 1800'-2100'
Elev.: 4180'/3940'/3720'/3600'
Order: 1/5/18/28

Hikers' requests will decide which required winter peak will be hiked. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader for details and with your hike preferences between Dec. 18-21.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710

Sun. Dec. 26 **SLIDE**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1

A moderate trail hike at a moderate pace to a required winter peak. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750 (between 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

LOOKING FOR MID-WEEK HIKERS: Small group reforming: hike out of Valley View (yes, it's still open!). Next dates: September 27-30, 1999, hike Tuesday through Thursday. For information contact Sandy Dunn, 30 Thomas Leighton Boulevard North, Cumberland, RI 02864.

LOST: Black EMS rain-fly for backpack on upper north flank of Doubletop Mountain (bushwhack heading toward Graham) on Friday, July 9, 1999. If found, please call Chris Olney at 914-679-0726 (home), 914-586-2611 (work), or e-mail to chris@catskill.net. Mailing costs will be reimbursed.

LISTENING

My father could hear a little animal step,
or a moth in the dark against the screen,
and every far sound called the listening out
into places where the rest of us had never been.

More spoke to him from the soft wild night
than came to our porch for us on the wind;
we would watch him look up and his face go keen
till the walls of the world flared, widened.

My father heard so much that we still stand
inviting the quiet by turning the face,
waiting for a time when something in the night
will touch us too from that other place.

William Stafford

NEW MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,206	Susan Hoyer	5/17/99
1,207	David B. Spriet	5/22/99
1,208	Susan Puretz	6/7/99
1,209	Thomas Rockwell	5/28/99
1,210	Frank A. Serravallo	6/12/99
1,211	Kenneth Marriott	6/26/99
1,212	Thomas R. McGuire	6/30/99
1,213	Mary Jo Bowdoin	6/30/99
1,214	Ellen M. Cronan	7/4/99
1,215	Steven L. Kelley	5/8/99
1,216	Roman J. Benke	6/26/99
1,217	Alan Chevat	7/1/99

NEW WINTER MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
424	Brian Lee Bailey	3/20/99
425	Steven Herrmann	3/21/99

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Craig Mitchell

A Late Walk

When I go up through the mowing field,
 The headless aftermath,
 Smooth-laid like thatch with the heavy dew,
 Half closes the garden path.

And when I come to the garden ground,
 The whirl of sober birds
 Up from the tangle of withered weeds
 Is sadder than any words.

A tree beside the wall stands bare,
 But a leaf that lingered brown,
 Disturbed, I doubt not, by my thought,
 Comes softly rattling down.

I end not far from my going forth
 By picking the faded blue
 Of the last remaining aster flower
 To carry again to you.

Robert Frost