

the catskill canister

Vol. XXVIX, No. 1

JANUARY - MARCH 1996

SNOWSHOE BASICS

When snow accumulates a foot or more, hikers require snowshoes for added traction and flotation. The purpose of this article is to provide tips for snowshoeing in the mountainous regions.

Many types and brands of snowshoes are available. While it is beyond the scope of this article to recommend a type of snowshoe, the writer has compiled the following advice based on experience with Sherpa snowshoes with Tucker bindings. For the most part, the content of this article applies to other types of snowshoes; however, each type of snowshoe will perform differently.

Assembly: Proper assembly of the snowshoe binding is important. Many manufacturers use nuts with nylon inserts to prevent loosening. These nuts offer resistance, so you may think the nut is securely tightened when it is not. Examine the shoe carefully. Be certain to tighten the screws securely. Pull on the binding; the pieces that clamp together should stay sandwiched together tightly.

Field Repair: There are two common problems in the field. First, binding hardware loosens and falls off because of improper assembly. If this happens, the snowshoe will be unusable unless you have replacement hardware. Before assembling your snowshoes, purchase exact replacement parts from a hardware store. Also, you will need a screwdriver (Swiss army knife) and a wrench. A small (ignition) wrench is ideal. The second, and less preventable, problem is breakage of the urethane lacing or neoprene decking material. For these problems, plastic tie straps are ideal. Also available from hardware stores, they can be used to repair most lacing problems. Bring at least eight of the 8" or 10" size and four of the 14" size.

Ski Poles: Snow can hide many hazards in the woods. Stepping on rocks, roots, branches, patches of ice or holes can cause you to lose your balance. Ski poles can help keep you on your feet. Whether you choose to use one or two ski poles is a matter of personal preference. Adjustable length ski poles can collapse when they are needed most; so if you use them, be certain they are securely locked in place.

Crossing Over Logs: Crossing logs, a relatively easy task in summer, can be very difficult when hiking on snowshoes. The following procedure works well. Walk as close to the log as possible. Place a ski pole on the other side of the log about two feet away from the log. Place the first snowshoe completely over the log. If possible, you can rotate your snowshoe sideways to reduce the length of this step. Slowly bring the second shoe over the log. Ensure that you raise this shoe high enough so it does not get stuck on the log. Since the entire process requires long strides and extra time to move the snowshoes, maintaining balance is difficult. As you transfer your weight over the log, your pack will tend to carry you forward too quickly. Plunging face first (face planting) can be countered with the forward ski pole.

Continued on page 3

THE CATSKILL CANISTER

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

Contributions of articles on hiking or travel experiences, essays on the history or natural history of the Catskills, or poetry relating to the Catskills are earnestly solicited from members and aspirants, and should be sent to the Editor, Darielle Graham, at 60 Barker Street, Apt. 419, Mount Kisco, New York 10549.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Winter Hiking Schedule	4
Annual Dinner	8
Winter Weekend	8

NEARING 1,000

1995 brought 56 new members - 19 women and 37 men. The women finished in 5½ years, the fastest in 5 months, the longest in 18 years 8 months; the men finished in 7 years 3 months, the fastest in 8 months, the longest in 36 years 8 months. Age averaged 46 years 4 months, ranging from 22 to 68 years old. The average male was about 5 years older than his female counterpart.

Wittenberg was mentioned as the favorite peak, with Eagle the least popular, and Rocky the most difficult. For most, Hunter was the beginning climb and Balsam the finishing climb.

We are approaching a milestone - member No. 1,000 will soon be reached. It will be an exciting moment when we present the certificate to this unknown climber whose identity will not be revealed until the Annual Dinner on March 30, 1996.

NEW MEMBERS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
979	Kenneth W. Henneberry	08/12/95
980	Joseph Knapp	09/02/95
981	Tara D. Badger	09/09/95
982	Victoria Fineberg	09/17/95
983	Robert J. Schultz, Jr.	09/24/95
984	Virginia McMath	10/14/95
985	Carolyn Harting	10/22/95
986	Diane Bamford	10/22/95
987	Donn J. Dwyer	10/29/95
988	Malcolm W. Archard	11/05/95

LOOKING FOR A SUNSET BIRD IN WINTER

*The west was getting out of gold,
The breath of air had died of cold,
When shoeing home across the white,
I thought I saw a bird alight.*

*In Summer when I passed the place,
I had to stop and lift my face;
A bird with an angelic gift
Was singing in it sweet and swift.*

*No bird was singing in it now.
A single leaf was on a bough,
And that was all there was to see
In going twice around the tree.*

*From my advantage on a hill
I judged that such a crystal chill
Was only adding frost to snow
As gilt to gold that wouldn't show.*

*A brush had left a crooked stroke
Of what was either cloud or smoke
From north to south across the blue;
A piercing little star was through.*

Robert Frost

Walking Along Logs: Occasionally, you may need to cross an unfrozen river. This is a dangerous obstacle. At times, the best route across may be along a fallen tree or log. If you choose to do this, here are a few tips. Sometimes it's best to remove your snowshoes. "Bare booting it" will allow for better maneuverability and balance. On the other hand, leaving your snowshoes on can give better traction, especially if they have crampons. Keep in mind that your crampons must be in full contact with the tree or log for the best traction and that your foot needs to be placed on the center of the log. Smaller steps will provide better balance. To achieve this, walk pigeon-toed, with one snowshoe tail hanging off each side of the tree or log. Another method is to face perpendicularly to the direction of travel and side shuffle, although balancing becomes more difficult.

Steep Uphill: Steep uphill requires kicking steps. In soft (not too dry) powder snow or on more gradual grades, steps form naturally. As the grade becomes steeper, or if the surface is crusty, the snowshoe will slide back down without forming a step. The trick here is to lift the snowshoe about 6" to 12" off the ground, then kick the tail of your snowshoe up in the air with a quick up and down motion. Just when the decking touches your heel, quickly move your foot straight forward, driving the front tip of the snowshoe into the snow. The steeper the grade or softer the powder, the higher you will need to lift your foot. After the shoe enters the snow, stamp your foot two or three times. This will form the step and pack the snow to make it stronger. Slowly transfer your weight to the new step, while pushing yourself up with your ski pole. If your steps collapse, try more packing or a more gradual transfer of weight. If they still collapse, look for a more gradual grade. When you kick steps, warn the person behind you as snow will be flying in his or her face and he or she could be hit by your snowshoe tail.

Spruce Traps: Last, and by no means the most fun part of snowshoe travel, is the legendary spruce trap. A spruce trap occurs when snow accumulates over spruce and other coniferous trees, creating cavities. When a hiker steps on the snow above this cavity, it collapses, sending the victim to the forest floor below. Spruce traps vary in depth; hikers have reported seeing them as deep as 12 feet. To make matters worse, when you fall into a spruce trap, your snowshoe will often slide, and become lodged, under the branch that created the cavity.

Getting out of a spruce trap is not easy, but here are a few useful tips. First, calm down - even if this is the tenth spruce trap in the last hour. Close your zippers to keep the snow out; put on your mitten shells to keep your hands dry and warm. If the spruce trap is deeper than 5 feet, give up the thought of climbing out with your pack on. Take it off and place it a few feet from the edge of the trap.

If branches are caught in the webbing of one or both of your snowshoes, try to lift them free. If the tip is caught under a branch, one way you can free it is by using the snow basket on your ski pole to lift the tail of your shoe up while you point your toes towards the ground. If this does not free the shoe, you may have to take it off. Once removed, the shoe should be easier to retrieve.

If the snow is not too dense, you may be able to climb out of the hole by kicking steps, using your poles to push yourself out. If the snow is hard packed (consolidated), lay your ski poles flat on the surface of the snow, grab them at the midpoint, and boost yourself up. Once your upper body is out of the trap, roll over and lay on your back. Bring your two shoes out of the trap. Place them a foot or so away from the trap and roll over onto your feet, all the while using your poles.

There is always more that can be said, but the best learning is experience.

*John H. Swanson (#592)
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CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: JANUARY - MARCH 1996ASSUMED RISK

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

December through April, 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. Full (not instep) crampons should also be carried. Properly dressed and equipped, and in proper physical condition, a hiker can enjoy the Catskills in what many people consider the most beautiful season of the year.

- Mon. Jan. 1 BALSAM Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1500'
Elev.: 3600' Order: 28
A moderately-paced trail hike 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 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Henry Jenkins (#808), 914-471-6316
- Sat. Jan. 6 WINDHAM HIGH PEAK Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1475'
Elev. 3524' Order: 34
A moderately-paced trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Maplecrest Post Office at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Stephen Clark (#959), 914-452-8973 (before 9:00 P.M.)
- Sat. Jan. 6 DOUBLETOP and GRAHAM Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev. 3860', 3868' Order: 8, 7
A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Trailhead at Seager at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Sandy Aldrich (#914), 914-963-9802
- Sun. Jan. 7 BLACKHEAD Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1750'
Elev.: 3940' Order: 5
A strenuous 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: Maplecrest Post Office at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Stephen Schifani (#910), 914-691-7767 (Mon-Fri., 7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.)
- Sat. Jan. 13 KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22
A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Warms Restaurant in Tannersville FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Howard Dash (#458) 914-255-3409 (till 9:00 P.M.)
- Sun. Jan. 14 NORTH DOME and SHERRILL Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2550'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31
A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Jct. of Rtes. 28 and 42 in Shandaken at 8:00 A.M.
Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

- Sat. Jan. 20 **WITTENBERG (and possibly CORNELL)** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2430'
Elev.: 3780', (3860') Order: 14, (9)
A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. 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: Marguerite Munch-Weber (#892), 718-387-7320 (9:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.)
- Sat. Jan. 20 **Giant's Ledge and PANTHER** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18
A strenuous 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: Alpine Inn at 9:00 A.M.
Leader: Irene Logan (#888), 516-621-8129 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. Mon.- Th. only)
- Sun. Jan. 21 **INDIAN HEAD and TWIN** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3573', 3640' Order: 30, 23
A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Warms Restaurant in Tannersville FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 A.M.
Leader: Marguerite Munch-Weber (#892), 718-387-7320 (9:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.)
- Sun. Jan. 21 **SLIDE** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1
A moderate trail hike to a required winter peak. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Alpine Inn at 9:00 A.M.
Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (before 10:00 P.M.)
- Sat. Jan. 27 **RUSK and HUNTER** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3300'
Elev.: 3680', 4040' Order: 21, 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: Flagpole at Jct. of Rte. 42 and County Rd. 6 (Spruceton Rd.) in Westkill at 8:45 A.M.
Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 (Mon.-Th., 8:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)
- Sun. Jan. 28 **BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3723', 3868' Order: 16, 8
A moderately strenuous trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Bridge over Dry Brook on Rte. 28 in Arkville at 9:00 A.M.
Leader: Robert Walberg (#886), 914-876-1821 (before 9:00 P.M.)
- Sat. Feb. 3 **LONE and ROCKY** Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev. 3721', 3508' Order: 17, 35
A strenuous, fast-paced bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Denning Trailhead at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Anthony Amaral (#612), 212-603-2217 (9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.)
- Sun. Feb. 4 **BALSAM (and probably Belleayre)** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3600', (3375') Order: 28
A moderate trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Alpine Deli on Rte. 28 in Big Indian FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 A.M.
Leader: Warren Hale (#576), 908-236-9543

Sat. Feb. 10 **INDIAN HEAD Loop**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1500'
Elev.: 3573' Order: 30

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

Meeting Place: Prediger Road Trailhead at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Joan Dean (#360), 201-762-0396 (no calls after 10:00 P.M.)

Sun. Feb. 11 **THOMAS COLE and BLACK DOME**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2080'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

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

Meeting Place: Maplecrest Post Office at 8:00 A.M.

Leader: James Malumphy (#890), 203-355-5573

Sat. Feb. 17 **HALCOTT**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3537' Order: 32

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

Meeting Place: Jct. of Rtes. 28 and 42 in Shandaken at 8:30 A.M.

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

Sun. Feb. 18 **FIR and BIG INDIAN**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2150'
Elev.: 3680', 3625' Order: 20, 24

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

Meeting Place: Biscuit Brook Trailhead at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Robert Walberg (#886), 914-876-1821 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Feb. 24 **PEEKAMOOSE and TABLE**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2800'
Elev.: 3843', 3847' Order: 11, 10

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

Meeting Place: Trailhead at Peekamoose Road at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Greg Dyck (#882), 914-473-0933 (before 9:30 P.M.)

Sun. Feb. 25 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER and HUNTER**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3740', 4040' Order: 15, 2

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

Meeting Place: Hunter Mt. Trailhead on left side of Spruceton Road at 9:00 A.M.

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

Sat. Mar. 2 **BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3300'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

A steep, strenuous bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Jct. of Rtes. 28 and 28A in BOICEVILLE at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (before 10:00 P.M.)

Sun. Mar. 3 **PLATEAU**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1840'
Elev.: 3840' Order: 12

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 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Mar. 9 **VLV and BEARPEN**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3529', 3600' Order: 33, 29

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

Meeting Place: Municipal parking lot in Fleischmanns across from library at 8:00 A.M.

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

Sun. Mar. 10 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3740' Order: 15

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

Meeting Place: Flagpole at Jct. of Rte. 42 and County Rd. 6 (Spruceton Rd.) in Westkill at 8:45 A.M.

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

Sat. Mar. 16 **RUSK**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

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

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

Leader: Joe Gardner (#572), 518-439-1074

Sun. Mar. 17 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK, Roundtop**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3655', 3440' Order: 22

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

Meeting Place: Warms Restaurant in Tannersville FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:00 A.M.

Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Mar. 24 **THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME
and BLACKHEAD**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3940', 3980', 3940'
Order: 4, 3, 5

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

Meeting Place: Warms Restaurant in Tannersville FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Tim Watters (#268), 201-818-9542

Sat Mar. 30 **Huntersfield Ridge**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3423'

A moderately strenuous trail hike on the new Long Path section over Ashland Pinnacle and Huntersfield Mountain. Shuttle required. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader for details on or before March 28, 1996.

Leader: Lanny Wexler (#593), 516-938-5721 (7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

LEADERSHIP PATCHES AWARDED

Congratulations to Ed Goldstein (#861), Rick Taylor (#841) and Lanny Wexler (#593), who have each received a leadership patch.

The club awards the leadership patch to members who have led six separate hikes scheduled in the *Canister*. At least one hike must be to a trailless peak, and at least one other must be led during the winter.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING SCHEDULED

Keep Saturday, March 30, 1996, free for the Annual Dinner Meeting at the Hillside Manor in Kingston, New York. Invitations will be mailed in February.

CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND

January 19 - 21, 1996: The Alpine Inn, Oliverea, New York 12462, on Burnham Hollow Road off County Route 47, 4 miles south of Route 28 at Big Indian, New York. Telephone: 914-254-5026.

Members and aspirants are invited to our annual winter weekend in the heart of the Catskills. Hikes have been, and will be, scheduled for aspirants who might need any of the required winter peaks (**See Page 5 of hiking schedule for hikes already scheduled.**) You don't have to hike or stay overnight at the Inn, but if you're in the area drop by for the Happy Hour and dinner (reservations required for dinner). If you have any questions, contact Arthur Zimmerman, 766 Neptune Boulevard, Long Beach, New York 11561; telephone: (516) 432-1205.

All rooms have two twin or double beds and private bath. Rates are based on double occupancy. Please specify preference of roommate, if any. For a third and fourth person in a room, there is a 30% discount. Room assignments will be in the order of receipt of reservations. Saturday night only accommodations can be arranged, if available. Extra dinner Friday night and Sunday afternoon - \$19.50, plus tax and gratuity, available by reservation only. Dinner Saturday night only - \$25.00, plus tax and gratuity. \$6.00 will be added for the Saturday P.M. "Happy Hour." Saturday dinner is available by reservation only. Extra day stay \$62.00 plus tax and gratuity. Trail lunch - \$7.00, including tax (sandwich, fried chicken, fruit and cake).

Reservations: A \$50.00 deposit per person must arrive **by January 5, 1996**. Make check payable to "The Alpine Inn" and **mail, along with the completed form below, to The Alpine Inn.**

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

DELUXE ACCOMMODATIONS: 2 double beds. STANDARD ACCOMMODATIONS: 2 twin beds.

Deluxe: des Alps _____ \$138.00 Edelweiss _____ \$138.00

Standard: Ski Hut _____ \$124.00 Edelweiss _____ \$124.00

\$ _____ deposit enclosed for _____ persons. Roommate _____

_____ Friday evening dinner. _____ Sunday afternoon dinner.

Signed _____ Address _____

Phone (____) _____ - _____



the catskill canister

Vol. XXVIX, No. 2

APRIL - JUNE, 1996

I LOVE NEW MEXICO

In 1970, I just drove through, from the southern border of Colorado down to El Paso, then west to Arizona. In 1992, my friends moved to Albuquerque. In July 1993, I went for a visit and ever since I've wanted to hike every corner of New Mexico wilderness and walk every trail. So, in the summer of 1994, I returned to New Mexico to climb its mountains and explore its canyons. The exceptional views, exquisite wildflowers, varied terrain and many trails totally devoid of people prompt me to share my experiences and enthusiasm for New Mexico.

At 11,000 feet, Mt. Taylor, an extinct volcano about 60 miles west of Albuquerque and just north of Grants, provides an exhilarating climb on a trail with easy footing and the occasional cow for company. One of the six sacred mountains of the Navajo, Taylor sits by itself and offers terrific views in all directions. South of Grants are remnants of the 600-year-old Zuni-Acoma trail winding through the remains of three different lava flows (El Malpais). The trail is marked by cairns composed of large chunks of cooled lava; and while there are no appreciable elevation changes on this hike, at seven miles one way, it affords a formidable and challenging walk through the desert.

On the eastern edge of Albuquerque is Sandia Peak, where the La Luz Trail rises from 7,000 to 10,900 feet in just over seven miles, with a variety of surfaces, including rock, gravel and dirt. Particularly imposing are rock slides traversed by switchbacks, huge slides I felt like tiptoeing past for fear that one wayward sound would send them crashing. After an exhaustive climb, with great views at the top, it was disconcerting to find tourists who simply drove to the summit. Shades of Mt. Washington and Greylock.

In the southern part of the state, near Socorro and Truth Or Consequences (Bob Barker was born there, really), many hiking trails are found in former mining areas. Outside Kingston, site of a silver boom in the 1880s, I completed an 11-mile circular hike in the Gila National Forest, the first national forest in the United States. From Emory Pass, I hiked to Hillsborough Peak (10,011 feet), which has a tower manned for three months during the fire season. Chipmunk and elk are abundant, bear common and mountain lions seriously rumored. On the way back down to Kingston, the Catron Trail, extremely underused, becomes hard to follow, and a compass comes in very useful. Between Socorro and Magdalena, the Water Canyon Mesa Trail winds its way up from Water Canyon Campground. A relatively brief, but strenuous, hike leads to the mesa, while a short side trail reveals the remains of someone's long abandoned dream -- a collapsed shack and a deserted mine shaft, carelessly sealed with sheep fence.

Toward the southeast, I discovered Dog Canyon in the Oliver Lee State Park ten miles south of Alamogordo. Supposedly the site of several massacres of U.S. cavalry by Apaches in the mid to late 1800s, the Dog Canyon Trail is 4½ miles long and rises from 4400 to 7500 feet. It offers a bit of everything: precarious paths, impressive plateaus known as "benches," a wide variety of cactus, giant cottonwood trees watered by a perpetual spring, an occasional jackrabbit, and a 100-year-old stone cabin once used by working cowboys. Farther east, outside Ruidoso, rises Sierra Blanca, at 12,000

Continued on page 3

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IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>Change in Hike Policy</i>	4
<i>April-June Hiking Schedule</i>	4
<i>Leadership Patches Awarded</i>	8
<i>New Members</i>	8
<i>New Life Members</i>	8

IN MEMORIAM: WALTER L. GREGORY - 1906-1996

Walter Gregory (#18), a charter member, died February 12, 1996 in his ninetieth year. He served in many capacities on the Executive Committee, strongly contributing to the success of the club in the early years. In addition to being a member of the Catskill Club, Walt, an ardent hiker and outdoorsman, was a 46er and had climbed all the New England 4,000 footers. A tireless trail builder, he was involved in the maintenance and construction of many sections of the Appalachian Trail, particularly in Putnam County. He enjoyed leading and teaching youth and was active in the Boy Scouts all his adult life. Walt retired to North Carolina, where he continued to be busy hiking and building trails in the Brevard area as recently as last summer. The club extends its sympathy to his family and many friends.

NEW ADK GUIDE TO CATSKILL TRAILS AVAILABLE

The Adirondack Mountain Club's (ADK) Guide to Catskill Trails (second edition) by Bruce C. Wadsworth and the Shenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club is now available. Slightly larger than the first edition (6-1/4" x 4-3/4" as opposed to 5-3/4" x 4-1/4"), the new guidebook incorporates more information in its 316 pages, while retaining an easy-to-read and descriptive format. For instance, the Introduction now contains informative sections entitled Winter Hiking, and Hiking with Children; for the backpacker, there are tips on bear-proofing a campsite, as well as a detailed diagram showing the proper way to hang a food bag. All hiking sections now comprise a paragraph titled Trail in Winter, which, among other things, warns climbers about particularly steep cliffs or routes, and rates the terrain for snowshoeing, and whether it is also suitable for cross-country skiing.

A new, easy-reference feature occurs within the hike sections, where each route guide contains the map number, as well as the grid notation, which hikers will find convenient and useful. Additionally, the current guidebook now contains 17 route guides instead of the 10 listed in the first edition.

Finally, the Appendix now includes a Table of Short Hikes, as well as a section titled Opportunities in the Catskill Region for Physically Impaired Recreation, comprising information on scenic vistas and drives, trail access and boat access.

The new ADK Guide to Catskill Trails is available from the ADK, RR3, Box 3055, Lake George, NY 12845 (telephone: 518-668-4447). It costs \$13.95 for members and \$16.95 for non-members.

feet easily the highest mountain in southern New Mexico. Laced by a series of trails, Sierra Blanca offers a host of possibilities for circular hikes. Though most of the mountain is located within the U.S. Forest preserve, the peak is on the Mescalero Apache Reservation, so the final ascent, theoretically, requires the tribe's permission. However, the Mescaleros recently agreed to allow federal use of their land for temporary storage of low-level nuclear waste, so any trace a hiker might leave should be considered trivial.

About an hour's car ride east of Santa Fe, 20 miles up the Pecos River from the town of Pecos, is a trail network encompassing several alpine lakes and two mountains over 12,000 feet. A little careless from over-confidence, I lost my way ascending the Lake Katherine Trail. After discovering my error and doubling back, I settled for hiking to Stewart Lake. In contrast to the much higher Katherine, Stewart offers only an obstructed view of Santa Fe Baldy (12,622 feet).

High-altitude lakes in glacial cirques are a feature of mountains in the Sangre de Cristo Range, and provided an easy segue to my ultimate day hike, Williams Lake (11,120 feet) and then Wheeler Peak (13,161 feet), the highest point in New Mexico, 20 miles northeast of Taos. From the Taos Ski Valley, Williams is 4 miles and 2,000 feet of altitude gain away. I started late and arrived at Williams just after noon. Two California women, half my age, convinced me to join them in an ascent of Wheeler. Constantly gasping for air, searching for footholds and fighting the urge to just slide back down the loose granular surface, I made it to the summit trail, crested Mt. Walter and finally stood on Wheeler where a dark, threatening sky hovered over the mountains of southern Colorado.

Of course, New Mexico is much more than a great place to hike. Between the diversity of its historic cultures, the Santa Fe Opera, the Pueblo pottery and Navajo blankets, rafting on the Rio Grande, horseback riding, the food -- have you ever had a chile bagel? Don't! -- and several wonders of modern science (the Very Large Array -- 24 mobile radio towers "listening" to the Milky Way), New Mexico offers a plethora of things to do and see on those rare rest days that even the most relentless hiker sometimes finds irresistible.

Arnold I. Gittell (#962)
2-12 Seaman Avenue
New York, NY 10034

DAFFODILS

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

*Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay;
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.*

*The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed--and gazed--but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought;*

*For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.*

William Wordsworth

CHANGE IN HIKE POLICY

For some time the DEC has been critical of the large number of people that occasionally show up for hikes to trailless peaks. Now they are proposing to remove the canisters as part of the revised Catskill Park State Land Use Master Plan. We hope to forestall this by taking measures to limit our impact on the trailless peaks.

Consequently, we must ask that all those who wish to take part in club hikes to peaks with canisters register in advance with the leader, who will limit the number of participants to twelve. We would ask that those who have not formally registered not show up, so as to avoid placing the leader and the club in a compromising position.

In addition, the DEC has expressed concern about the formation of herdpaths on the trailless peaks. Seek out different routes instead of using herdpaths. When practical, walk abreast rather than in single file, and try not to break branches. Never mark a route in any way, as this destroys the feeling of wilderness. Be aware that the most damage can occur in muddy conditions and plan accordingly.

It's up to all of us to demonstrate that we can climb the mountains without impacting them unduly, because if we don't, future generations of hikers won't know the joy of finding a remote canister. Your cooperation is urgently requested.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: APRIL - JUNE, 1996

ASSUMED RISK

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

Sat. April 6 **BEARPEN**

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1500'
Elev.: 3600' Order: 29

A moderate hike at an easy pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Call leader for details.
Leader: Joe Gardner (#572), 518-439-1074

Sat. April 13 **FIR & BIG INDIAN**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2150'
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace. Heavy precipitation cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Pre-register on tape April 10th-11th.
Leader: Joan Dean (#360), 201-762-0396.

Sun. April 14 **HALCOTT**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3537' Order: 32

A easy-paced bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between April 8th-12th.
Leader: Doug Robins (#153), 860-693-0130 (before 9:00 p.m.)

Sat. April 20 **DOUBLETOP & GRAHAM**

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

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between April 15th-19th.
Leader: Sandy Aldrich (#914), 914-963-9802

- Sun. April 21 **SHERRILL & NORTH DOME** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3540', 3610' Order: 31, 26
A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between April 15th-19th.
Leader: Fabrice Schneider-Maunoury (#966), 914-963-9802
- Sat. April 27 **WESTKILL End-to-End** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6
A moderately-paced trail hike. Will require car shuttle. Very heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Flagpole at Jct. of Rte. 42 and County Rd. 6 (Spruceton Rd.) in Westkill at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 203-355-5573 (5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)
- Sun. April 28 **Olderbark, Little Rocky
& PLATEAU** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3440', 3040', 3840' Order: 12
A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register after April 22nd.
Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)
- Sat. May 4 **TABLE & PEEKAMOOSE** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3190'
Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11
A moderate, all-weather trail-clearing hike on a portion of the Long Path that the club is responsible for clearing. Bring loppers, weed whackers, etc., if you have them. If not, the club will furnish them - BUT, COME.
Meeting Place: Trailhead at Denning at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Jerry Gervais (#687), 914-795-2116
- Sun. May 5 **WINDHAM, Burnt Knob, Acra Pt.,
BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME
& THOMAS COLE** Distance: 15 mi. Ascent: 4000'
Elev.: 3524', 3940', 3990', 3945'
Order: 33, 4, 3, 5
A strenuous, fast-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Maplecrest Post Office at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Veronica O'Neil (#932), 914-776-5256 (before 9:00 p.m.)
- Sat. May 11 **HUNTER & SOUTHWEST HUNTER** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 4040', 3740' Order: 2, 15
A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between May 6th-10th.
Leader: Sandy Aldrich (#914), 914-963-9802
- Sun. May 12 **SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 4180', 3865', 3780'
Order: 1, 9, 14
A strenuous trail hike. Car shuttle required. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Slide Mt. trailhead on County Road 47 at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Stephen Schifani (#910), 914-691-7767 (Mon.-Sat. 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)
- Sat. May 18 **INDIAN HEAD, TWIN, SUGARLOAF
& PLATEAU** Distance: 14 mi. Ascent:
Elev.: 3573', 3640', 3800', 3840'
Order: 30, 23, 13, 12
A strenuous, fast-paced trail hike. Car shuttle required.
Meeting Place: Stony Clove parking area on Rte. 214 at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 (before 9:00 p.m., May 16th)

Sat. May 18 **BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3300'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Pre-register on tape May 15th and 16th.
Leader: Joan Dean (#360), 201-762-0396

Sun. May 19 **RUSK**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

An easy-paced bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between May 13th-17th.
Leader: Doug Robins (#153), 860-693-0130 (before 9:00 p.m.)

Sat. May 25 **PANTHER End-to-End**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730

Sun. May 26 **BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME
& THOMAS COLE**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3940', 3990', 3945'
Order: 5, 3, 4

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Car shuttle required. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Maplecrest Post Office FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (weekdays after 5:00 p.m.)

Sat. June 1 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3740' Order: 15

A moderately-paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between May 27th-31st.
Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750 (till 9:00 p.m.)

Sun. June 2 **HUNTER & WESTKILL**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 5,200'
Elev: 4040', 3880' Order: 2, 6

A strenuous, fast-paced trail hike and bushwhack. For strong hikers only. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Phoenicia Pharmacy in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Stephen Fishman (#618), 914-331-1206 (before 10:00 p.m., Mon. & Wed. only)

Sat. June 8 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK & Roundtop**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3655', 3440' Order: 22

A moderately-paced trail hike and bushwhack. Very heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between June 3rd-7th.
Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 203-355-5573 (5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

Sat. June 8 **Far Western Catskills, Part II**Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 2512', 2461'

A strenuous trail hike in a rarely visited area of the Catskills. Rain cancels. Rain date Sun. June 9.
Meeting Place and Time: Call leader for details.
Leader: Lanny Wexler (#593), 516-938-5721 (7:00-10:00 p.m.)

Sun. June 9 **BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3723', 3868' Order: 16, 8

A moderately strenuous trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Trailhead at Mill Brook Road (off Dry Brook Road) at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Marguerite Munch-Weber (#892), 718-387-7320 (9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.)

Sat. June 15 **FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3300'
Elev.: 3694', 3623' Order: 20, 24

A steep, strenuous bushwhack. Wanda's sedate pace to Friday; Marty's more brisk pace over to Balsam Cap. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place and Time: Call leaders to register on Wednesday, June 12th only.

Leaders: Wanda Davenport (#523) and Marty Cohen (#728), 201-670-8383 (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.)

Sun. June 16 **WITTENBERG, CORNELL & SLIDE**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3780', 3860', 4180'
Order: 14, 9, 1

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Woodland Valley Campground parking lot (small fee) at 9:15 a.m.

Leaders: Wanda Davenport (#523) and Marty Cohen (#728), 201-670-8383 (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.)

Sat. June 22 **VLY & BEARPEN**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3529', 3600' Order: 33, 29

A moderate trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between June 17th-21st.

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

Sat. June 22 **LONE & ROCKY**

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev. 3721', 3508' Order: 17, 35

A strenuous bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between June 17th-21st.

Leader: Henry Jenkins (#808), 914-471-6316

Sun. June 23 **RUSK & HUNTER**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3680', 4040' Order: 21, 2

A moderate bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between June 17th-21st.

Leader: Veronica O'Neil (#932), 914-776-5256 (before 9:00 p.m.)

Sun. June 30 **PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2800'
Elev.: 3843', 3847' Order: 11, 10

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

Meeting Place and Time: Trailhead at Peekamoose Road at 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Stephen Schifani (#910), 914-691-7767 (Mon-Fri., 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)

LEADERSHIP PATCHES AWARDED

Congratulations to Sandy Aldrich (#914) and Veronica O'Neil (#932), who have each received a leadership patch.

The club awards the leadership patch to members who have led six separate hikes scheduled in the *Canister*. At least one hike must be to a trailless peak, and at least one other must be led during the winter.

<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>			<u>NEW LIFE MEMBERS</u>
<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>	
989	James S. Appleyard	11/5/95	Eleanor Bramley
990	Martha F. Davis	11/23/95	Richard Brooks
991	Kevin D. Donnelly	11/25/95	Lawrence T. Cagle
992	Eugene M. Simonson	11/25/95	Greg A. Dyck
993	Donald H. Black	11/29/95	Joe Gardner, Jr.
994	David W. Fernekes	12/15/95	Dean M. Giuliano
995	Paul Rouse	12/16/95	William P. Haynes
<p>New members 996 through 1,005 will be announced on March 30, 1996 at the Annual Dinner.</p>			Albert A. Mullen
1,006	Karen Dwyer	1/14/96	Edith K. Mullen
1,007	Thomas Dwyer	1/14/96	Dan A. Nielsen
1,008	James W. Havender	2/4/96	Paul W. Rehm
			Stephen L. Schifani
			Jeff Starbuck
			Mary M. Tynes
			Bertha T. Vanderburgh
			Mark Zand



the catskill canister

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JULY - SEPTEMBER 1996

HIKING IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

The wind was blowing hard on the summit of Fairfield, so we scrunched down in a rock shelter for our afternoon snack. Two sheep boldly approached us to beg for apples and peanuts, which reminded Gideon, our leader, of a funny story. The local Search and Rescue annual report provided information on all rescue calls responded to that year, including one in which hikers' cries for help were heard for hours. When the rescue team finally arrived on the scene, no doubt with litter basket, first aid and other survival equipment, they found six Americans penned in a rock shelter by bleating sheep. "You're sure they were Americans, Gideon?" I asked. "Oh, yes, I'm sure," he teased me, fully aware that my husband, Franz, and I were the only Americans in this group of nine completing the Lakeland Circuit.

We were on our third day of hiking in the Lake District, a lake and mountain region in northwest England. The mountains are composed of volcanic rock, and glaciers gouged the valleys and dales where lie lakes like Windermere and Grasmere made famous by Wordsworth. Each morning, we would climb out of a valley through rowan and other trees, heather, gorse and Scotch broom, and finally walk onto grassy moors, high plateaus stretching for miles, broken only by crags of bare rock. While the Lake District is not that high (Scafell Pike is only 3,206 feet, the highest point in England), the alpine vegetation and glaciated terrain made the moors seem very high and remote.

Franz had hiked in the Lake District years ago and had found the route hard to follow, despite using a map and guidebook. Unlike our blazed trails, those in the Lake District will follow an ancient road out of the village, a path along a wall, or one of the myriad sheep tracks, with only occasional cairns for guidance. Franz decided we'd be better off with a leader, so we signed up with Countrywide Holidays, which leads daily walks of varying difficulty from its guest houses in England. Each walk in the Lakeland Circuit was nine to eleven miles, with ascents of 2,500 to 3,000 feet. Our baggage was transported by van from house to house, so we only had to carry water, lunch and raingear in our packs.

The classic guide for the Lake District, *A Pictorial Guide to the Lakeland Fells*, was handwritten by a man named A. Wainwright. Peakbaggers are said to be "doing their Wainwrights," which number 214.

One day we followed the Esk River up onto the southern end of Crinkle Crags, then traversed these rocky tors to Three Tarns Pass. Another day, we climbed Helm Crag above Grasmere, and Gideon, Franz and Lyn, Gideon's girlfriend, scrambled up to Helm Crag's highest point via summit rocks called "The Lion and the Lamb" because of their remarkable resemblance to these animals from various viewpoints. When we started out again, Gideon muttered under his breath, "I got three people up the Lion, but I have to get all nine up Lord's Rake on Friday."

Despite warnings of rain, our week in September had sunshine for four days, drizzle on the fifth and a downpour on the last day, when we were scheduled to ascend the scree of Lord's Rake to the summit of Sca Fell for exceptional views of the scenery. Gideon said we could make a final decision to carry on when we reached Sty Head. By that time, it was still pouring, and Gideon decided we

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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>Following in My Father's Footsteps</i>	3
<i>Hiking Schedule</i>	4
<i>Hike Leaders Wanted</i>	6
<i>Leadership Patch: Change in Policy</i>	8
<i>New Members</i>	8

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	Doug Robins	860-693-0130
Trails	Gerald Gervais	914-236-4208
Winter Weekend	Art Zimmerman	516-432-1205

SENSATION

*On blue summer evenings I'll go
 down the pathways
 Pricked by the grain, crushing the
 tender grass --
 Dreaming, I'll feel its coolness on my
 feet.
 I'll let the wind bathe my bare head.*

*I won't talk at all, I won't think about
 anything.
 But infinite love will rise in my soul,
 And I'll go far, very far, like a gypsy,
 Into Nature -- happy, as if with a
 woman.*

Arthur Rimbaud

REMINDER

Membership dues for members and subscription fees for aspirants are now past due. Please send \$5.00 to Cy Whitney, 41 Morley Drive, Wyckoff, NJ 07481-3322.

shouldn't chance it and promised us a pub with good soup down in Wasdale Head. It was such a relief to shed our dripping jackets; moreover, the soup was good, as were the cider and puddings.

Hiking with an English company gave us the opportunity to get to know Britons over a period of time. Gideon clearly loved the mountains, and had two degrees in environmental sciences, while Lyn was about to return to college. Sue was a nurse from Birmingham; Fay lived in Berkshire, and, since her retirement, had hiked in Kenya and Nepal. Michael was an auditor in London; Martin kept much to himself. Jeff, from Wales, wrote on our souvenir postcard, "You are the first Americans I've slept with." Some of the accents were hard to understand, and when Gideon from Yorkshire and Lyn from the Midlands talked to one another, I couldn't understand a word, but just listened to the melody and cadence of their speech. Michael's parting words to Gideon were, "You'll get us up Lord's Rake yet." I hope he's right!

Annice M. Alt (#614)
250 Cabrini Boulevard
New York, NY 10033

AN EVENING WALK (excerpts)

*Into a gradual calm the breezes sink,
A blue rim borders all the lake's still brink;
There doth the twinkling aspen's foliage sleep,
And insects clothe, like dust, the glassy deep;
And now, on every side, the surface breaks
Into blue spots, and slowly lengthening streaks;
Here, plots of sparkling water tremble bright
With thousand thousand twinkling points of light;
There, waves that hardly weltering, die away,
Tip their smooth ridges with a softer ray;
And now the whole wide lake in deep repose
Is hushed, and like a burnished mirror glows.*

* * *

*Now, while the solemn evening shadows sail,
On slowly-waving pinions, down the vale;
And, fronting the bright west, yon oak entwines
Its darkening boughs and leaves, in stronger lines;
'T is pleasant near the tranquil lake to stray
Where, winding on along some secret bay,
The swan uplifts his chest, and backward flings
His neck, a varying arch, between his towering wings;
The eye that marks the gliding creature sees
How graceful pride can be, and how majestic, ease.*

* * *

*Unheeded night has overcome the vales;
On the dark earth the wearied vision fails;
The latest lingerer of the forest train,
The lone black fir, forsakes the faded plain;
Last evening sight, the cottage smoke, no more,
Lost in the thickened darkness, glimmers hoar;
And, towering from the sullen dark-brown mere,
Like a black wall, the mountain-steeps appear.*

William Wordsworth

FOLLOWING IN MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

"I hiked a peak once."

I had been telling my father about some of my hiking experiences when he interrupted me. My father was a walker, not one of those vigorous, power walkers of today, but at his prime he kept a fairly steady pace. As he grew older, it became more of a leisurely stroll.

He told me he climbed Mt. Tremper. "It was difficult going up, but much easier going down." In the summer of 1935, my family stayed at a Catskill resort in the village of Chichester, and Mt. Tremper was close by. That was obviously when my father climbed it. He was forty years old at the time.

I started hiking and climbing at age forty-six. After my father told me about his climb, I resolved some day to duplicate it.

At 2,740 feet, Mt. Tremper is not one of those peaks sought after by hardcore hikers and climbers. It poses no challenge; it is a straightforward, simple walk up a wide path, much of it smooth. And while the elevation from the western shorter trail to the summit increases from 800 feet to 2,740 feet in two and three quarter miles, it is a walk rather than a climb.

I felt I would get around to climbing Mt. Tremper some day, but was in no hurry. That day arrived when two of my hiking companions weren't able to go for a planned weekend outing. I decided to hike Mt. Tremper and to make it an overnight trip. I carried my backpack to the first leanto on the western slope; at an elevation of 2,100 feet, it was about two miles from the trailhead. I set up my tent, left my heavy gear and started towards the summit.

It was a cool day for November, with sudden bursts of wind, and the patchy cloud cover constantly changed as I approached the summit. There was no one else about. The closer I came to the summit, the more aware I was of my father's presence. It was sixty years since he had climbed Tremper - I was sixty-five years old now, my father had been dead for twelve years. His presence was overwhelming. I found myself moving slowly up to the base of the fire tower at the peak. Looking across the valley, I saw other mountains silhouetted against the sky. My eyes began filling with tears as I realized that my father had actually stood on this same ground. I stooped and picked up some stones, put them in my pocket, then continued on the trail.

*Richard Levine (#852)
11 Carnegie Court
Middletown, NJ 07748*

A BOY, A LAKE, A SUN

*My little boy, the vast, still lake,
And the big low sun
Keep each other company,
Now the day is done.*

*The child is quiet, and his curls
Are full of evening light,
He sits in utter confidence
On the edge of night.*

*A little golden bubble cast
Up from eternity,
The sun is just as much his friend
As the evening bee.*

*He does not know that he is small
Or different or apart,
The sun is not a grander thing
Than a daisy's heart.*

*But he is pleased to have me come
And moves to let me sit
Beside him and the setting sun,
And I am proud of it.*

Robert P. Tristram Coffin

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: JULY - SEPTEMBER 1996ASSUMED RISK

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

- Sat. July 13 INDIAN HEAD and TWIN Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3573', 3640' Order: 30, 23
- A moderate trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Trailhead at Prediger Road at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (weekdays after 5:00 p.m.)
- Sun. July 14 LONE, TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3847', 3843', 3721'
Order: 10, 11, 17
- A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace. Short shuttle. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between July 8 - 13.
Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)
- Sat. July 20 BALSAM and EAGLE Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3600', 3605' Order: 28, 27
- A bushwhack to Eagle and trail hike to Balsam at a leisurely pace. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between July 15 - 19.
Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)
- Sat. July 20 KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK Distance: 12mi. Ascent: 30'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22
- A strenuous trail hike from Palenville. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Howard Johnson's, Rte. 32 just north of Saugerties (Exit 20 of Thruway) at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750 (till 9:30 p.m.)
- Sun. July 21 BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3720', 3868' Order: 17, 7
- A moderate trail hike at a leisurely pace. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Trailhead at end of McKinley Hollow Road in Oliveria (approx. 3 mi. south of Rte. 28, off County Rd. 47) at 9:30 a.m.
Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)
- Sat. July 27 LONE and ROCKY Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 35
- A strenuous bushwhack at a fast pace. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between July 22 - 26.
Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (before 9:00 p.m.)
- Sun. July 28 PANTHER End-to-End Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18
- A moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Veronica O'Neil (#932), 914-776-5256 (before 9:00 p.m.)
- Sat. Aug. 3 RUSK Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1750'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21
- A short but steep bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between July 29 - August 2.
Leader: Sandy Aldrich (#914), 914-963-9802 (before 9:30 p.m.)

Sun. Aug. 4 **SLIDE, CORNELL and WITTENBERG**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000'
 Elev.: 4180', 3865', 3780'
 Order: 1, 9, 14

A scenic trail hike at a moderate pace. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Woodland Valley Campground FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (weekdays after 5:00 p.m.)

Sat. Aug. 10 **FIR and BIG INDIAN**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2150'
 Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace.

Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between August 5 - 9.

Leader: Grey Dyck (#882), 914-473-0933 (before 9:30 p.m.)

Sun. Aug. 11 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600'
 Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Very heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between August 5 - 9.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 203-355-5573 (5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

Sat. Aug. 17 **North Point**

Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 2400'

A strenuous trail hike from Palenville. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Howard Johnson's, Rte. 32 just north of Saugerties (Exit 20 of Thruway) at 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750 (till 9:30 p.m.)

Sun. Aug. 25 **BEARPEN and VLY**

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

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

Meeting Place: Municipal parking lot in Fleischmanns across from library at 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Kevin Lockett (#1010), 607-652-2058

Sat. Aug. 31 **HALCOTT**

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

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between August 26 - 30.

Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (between 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)

Sun. Sept. 1 **TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE**

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

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Peekamoose Parking Lot on Peekamoose Road FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:15 a.m.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (weekdays after 5:00 p.m.)

Sat. Sept. 7 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER and HUNTER**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'
 Elev.: 3740', 4040' Order: 15, 2

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

Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between September 16 - 19.

Leader: Marguerite Munch-Weber (#892), 718-387-7320 (9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.)

Sun. Sept. 8 **Millbrook Ridge, Kelly Hollow
and BALSAM LAKE**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2500'
 Elev.: 3723' Order: 16

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Bring compass and map. Short shuttle. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between September 2 - 7.

Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

- Sun. Sept. 8 **WINDHAM, Burnt Knob, Acra Pt.,
BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME
and THOMAS COLE** Distance: 15 mi. Ascent: 4000'
Elev: 3524', 3940', 3990', 3945'
Order: 33, 4, 3, 5
A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Shuttle required. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Maplecrest Post Office at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Marguerite Munch-Weber (#892), 718-387-7320 (9:30 p.m. -10:30 p.m.)
- Sat. Sept. 14 **PLATEAU and SUGARLOAF** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3840', 3800' Order: 12, 13
A moderate trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Warms Restaurant in Tannersville FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 a.m.
Leader: George Sheedy (#806), 914-986-6807
- Sun. Sept. 15 **WITTENBERG and CORNELL** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3120'
Elev.: 3780', 3860' Order: 14, 9
A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750 (till 9:30 p.m.)
- Sat. Sept. 21 **BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3300'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20
A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between September 16 - 20.
Leader: Sandy Aldrich (#914), 914-963-9802 (before 9:30 p.m.)
- Sun. Sept. 22 **WESTKILL End-to-End** 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 County Rd. 6 (Spruceton Rd.) in Westkill at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Veronica O'Neil (#932), 914-776-5256 (before 9:00 p.m.)
- Sat. Sept. 28 **DOUBLETOP and GRAHAM** Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3860', 3868' Order: 8, 7
A strenuous bushwhack at a fast pace. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place and Time: Call leader to register between September 23 - 27.
Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (before 9:00 p.m.)

HIKE LEADERS WANTED

The Catskill 3500 Club wishes to encourage all members who would like to lead hikes for the club. It is not necessary to be a strong or very experienced hiker, but rather, a responsible one who is willing to take the time to scout the hike. Being a leader is an excellent way to gain experience and bond with the club. Guidance is available for those who feel they need it. Contact John Graham, the Outings Chairman, at 914-241-2240.

**LEADERSHIP PATCH: AN AWARD AND
A CHANGE IN POLICY**

Congratulations to Lanny Wexler (#593), who has received a leadership patch. The club awards the leadership patch to members who have led six separate hikes scheduled in the *Canister*. At least one hike must be to a trailless peak, and at least one other must be led during the winter.

A new requirement, passed at the March 30, 1996 Annual Dinner Meeting, includes the obligation to attend at least one club-scheduled trail maintenance hike.

MILESTONE REACHED

An enthusiastic group of 240 members, along with their families and friends, met at the Hillside Manor in Kingston on March 30, 1996 for the annual dinner meeting of the club. As usual, the highlight of the evening was the presentation of certificates to the 59 new members and 13 winter finishers. Kay Spangenberg (#4) and Betty Hurd (#5) assisted in a special presentation to a surprised Jean Dolen who became member number 1,000. A list of the new members follows.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
996	David Dombrowski	12/27/95
997	Paul Hartney	12/11/95
998	Thomas Hartney	12/11/95
999	Paul Rabenold	12/23/95
1,000	Jean M. Dolen	12/30/95
1,001	Frank P. Gardner	12/30/95
1,002	James C. Ruoff	01/01/96
1,003	Donna Beth Stewart	01/01/96
1,004	Paul A. West	12/30/95
1,005	Judith D. Hakam	12/30/95
1,006	Karen Dwyer	01/14/96
1,007	Thomas Dwyer	01/14/96
1,008	James W. Havender	02/04/96
1,009	Carl R. Howard	03/11/96
1,010	Kevin C. Lockett	03/09/96
1,011	Vera Hoar	03/10/96
1,012	Joseph Phillips	03/16/96
1,013	Elizabeth B. Sparr	03/16/96
1,014	Kent Simon de Montfort	03/16/96
1,015	Steven Makucewicz	03/17/96
1,016	Nancy P. Newman	03/16/96
1,017	Raymond M. Pride	03/16/96
1,018	Carole Ehleben	03/17/96
1,019	Karen Scannell	03/23/96
1,020	Mirjana V. Djordjevic	03/24/96
1,021	Laura Y. Gilligan	03/16/96
1,022	Charles H. Checkley	04/01/96
1,023	Robert M. Buckley	04/21/96
1,024	Timothy B. Tillson	05/03/96
1,025	Paul J. Brach	05/11/96



the catskill canister

Vol. XXIX, No. 4

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1996

BETTER BUSHWHACKING

Many of the mountain summits in the northeastern United States can only be reached by bushwhacking (off-trail hiking). As with any sport, the more you practice, the better you become. Even so, there are a number of mistakes commonly made by both the novice and the expert. In this article, I will offer some advice on bushwhacking and methods for avoiding these mistakes.

Route Planning: Talk to people who have been there as nothing beats first-hand knowledge; minutes in conversation could save hours on the hike. Also, scout your route and keep your eyes open while doing so; difficult sections, including dense coniferous growth, cliffs, and fields of blown down trees, are often visible from the distance.

The Start: It can be very difficult to get to your destination if you think you're starting from one point and you're really somewhere completely different. Check your starting point with extra care, especially if you're not certain.

Route Flexibility: Some bushwhackers will stand firm with their decisions and push their way through, over or under obstacles. Keep in mind that it's better to be flexible when following a route; if the route chosen is excessively difficult, change it.

Sections of Dense Growth or Blown-Down Trees: These sections are usually bounded by the topography. For instance, the dense growth may be found on only one side of the mountain, above a certain elevation, or only along the top of the ridge. You may have determined this from your scouting, from a scenic viewpoint along the way, or you may just find yourself in the thick of it. In any event, seek an alternate route by dropping a few hundred feet of elevation or, possibly, traversing the ridge to the other side.

"The 50-Foot Rule" And Leap Frogging: On a smaller scale, 50 feet away from your selected route, the hiking is easier (or more difficult). So when you find yourself looking at thick vegetation, seek an alternate route just a little to the left or right. Here's where teamwork pays off: if the lead hiker says the next 25 feet look bad, one of the following hikers can veer to the left or right looking for a better route. Using this method, a pair of hikers can move forward more swiftly than if they stay together.

Follow Your Progress: Your compass is not worth much if you keep it in your pack. Use your navigational tools - map, compass, sun, altimeter, GPS (global positioning satellites) - to follow your progress as you hike. It is always easier to determine your route from a known position than it is to do so later. You can begin acquiring these skills while hiking on trail. Look at the terrain and compare it to what you see on the map.

Redundant Navigation: It's important to remember that all navigational tools are fallible. Even the compass doesn't always point north - local magnetic disturbances do occur in the wilderness. The

Continued on page 3

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Hiking Schedule:
October - December 1996 4

Catskill 35er Bags Rainier 7

Leadership Patch:
New Requirement 8

Winter Weekend: Dates Set 8

Poem: The Quest of the Purple-Fringed 8

AUTUMN CHANT

*Now the autumn shudders
 In the rose's root.
 Far and wide the ladders
 Lean among the fruit.*

*Now the autumn clambers
 Up the trellised frame,
 And the rose remembers
 The dust from which it came.*

*Brighter than the blossom
 On the rose's bough
 Sits the wizened orange,
 Bitter berry now;*

*Beauty never slumbers;
 All is in her name;
 But the rose remembers
 The dust from which it came.*

EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY

NEW MEMBERS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,026	Thomas W. Regan	05/18/96
1,027	A. Dale Timpe	05/18/96
1,028	Susan Gerhardt	05/29/96
1,029	Timothy Owney	06/18/95
1,030	Fred Cady	06/22/96
1,031	Thomas N. Dincecco	06/01/96
1,032	Gail Hoffman	07/07/96

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Martin A. Cohen	Jeffrey H. Glans
Robert N. Colicchio	Raymond M. Pride
Stephen Fishman	Brian T. Sullivan

PEAKING OVER EIGHTY

In what may be a first, Paul Leiken (#330) has climbed all 35 peaks after the age of 80. Congragulations Paul. You give all of us hope that there is a lot of hiking to look forward to.

surest way of navigating is a method that uses several of these tools in a redundant style. Check your bearing with the sun; check your altimeter with the topography; compare your altimeter's elevation to the elevation of surrounding peaks, ridges or bumps. Lastly, keep in mind that a 50-foot error on maps is not uncommon.

Maps: The 7.5 minute USGS topographic maps are recommended for bushwhacking because they provide more detail. Hiking maps and the Delorme Gazetteer are also recommended because they are more likely to be up to date.

Map Orientation: When using a topographic map with grid lines, ensure that you use the north lines for deriving your bearing. When the map is folded in a plastic zipper bag, it is easy to mis-orient the lines, especially when the words on the map are written sideways.

Bearing Verification: When hiking through dense forest, it is not uncommon for the bezel of your compass to rotate from brushing against vegetation. If you set your compass quickly, you may not remember the bearing. Saying the bearing out loud can help you commit it to memory so you can confirm that your compass is set correctly later. It also gives your companions the opportunity to confirm the bearing.

Trust the Compass: Bushwhacking is usually slower than on-trail hiking. A common error is to believe you've gone farther than you actually have, and start doubting your bearing. This is especially true when it is taking a long time to reach a relatively close destination. Once you are sure your bearing is correct, you need to trust it.

Going Back-itis: Be careful when leaving the summit of the mountain; it's easy to neglect your bearing because you're certain of your location. If you leave the summit on an incorrect bearing, the mountain may suck you into a wrong drainage and take you progressively farther from your destination. This type of error is difficult to correct, because gravity is working against you.

Herdpaths: Large numbers of hikers taking the same routes produce herdpaths. To minimize environmental impact, avoid using them unless absolutely necessary. There are, however, true herdpaths made by animals. In a particularly difficult section, it sometimes pays to think like a meandering moose. Of course, they're particularly fond of swamps.

Going Off The Bearing: If you follow any route off your bearing, you should mentally note the degree and amount of time spent on the deviation. The shorter it is, the smaller the precision required, i.e., "I'm going a little left of the bearing around this blowdown," or "I'm going far right of the bearing around this bad section." If you find yourself saying left or right, this will help you subsequently correct your bearing and prevent you going off course. For longer, more consistent deviations, such as roads, you should note the approximate bearing and time, i.e., "This road is 30 degrees left of bearing ... I've been on this road for 10 minutes."

Slabbing A/K/A Skirting, Or Following The Contour: If you want to hike alongside the mountain without losing elevation, then you should feel as though you're climbing; if you don't, gravity is pulling you down. This is especially true on steep slopes. Take advantage of obstacles by passing them on the uphill side.

Disclaimer: Don't blame me if you make mistakes. In other words: "Hiking involves certain inherent risks, and persons participating do so at their own risk." Bushwhacking is inherently more risky than on-trail hiking.

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

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1996ASSUMED RISK

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

Sat. Oct. 5 HUNTER

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2800'
Elev.: 4040' Order: 2

A moderately strenuous trail hike from Lanesville to Becker Hollow. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Becker Trail parking area, west side of Rte. 214, about 1 mi. south of junction with Rte. 23A at 9:00 a.m.

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

Sat. Oct. 5 FRIDAY, BALSAM CAP, ROCKY,
LONE & PEEKAMOOSE

Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 5,000'
Elev.: 3694', 3623', 3508', 3721',
3843' Order: 20, 24, 35, 16, 11

An extensive, strenuous bushwhack at a steady, moderate pace. Compasses required. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register by Oct. 3.

Leader: Tom Regan (#1026), 516-822-3720 (before 10:00 p.m.)

Sun. Oct. 6 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 Sept. 30 - Oct. 4.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (after 5:00 p.m. weekdays)

Sun. Oct. 6 CORNELL & FRIDAY

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2900'
Elev.: 3860', 3694' Order: 9, 20

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register Sept. 30 - Oct. 4.

Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

Sat. Oct. 12 BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME &
THOMAS COLE

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2400'
Elev.: 3940', 3980' 3940'
Order: 5, 3, 4

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate place. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)

Sat. Oct 19 PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE

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

An all-weather trail-clearing hike on a portion of the Long Path the club is responsible for clearing. Bring loppers, weed whackers, etc., if you have them; if not, the club will furnish them - BUT, COME.

Meeting Place: Trailhead on Peekamoose Road at 9:30 a.m.

Leader: Jerry Gervais (#687), 914-795-2116 (leave message on 914-341-5515)

Sun. Oct. 20 Evergreen & RUSK

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Shuttle required. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register Sept. Oct. 14 - Oct. 18. No calls Saturday night.

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

Sat. Oct. 26 **BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3720', 3868' Order: 17, 7

A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Bridge over Dry Brook in Arkville at 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)

***** DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS - DON'T FORGET TO TURN CLOCKS BACK *****

Sun. Oct. 27 **WITTENBERG & CORNELL**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3120'
Elev.: 3780', 3860' Order: 14, 9

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

Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Irene Logan (#888), 516-621-8129 (Mon.-Thurs., 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

Sat. Nov. 2 **EAGLE, BIG INDIAN & FIR**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3600', 3700', 3620'
Order: 27, 19, 25

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a fast pace.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register Oct. 28 - Oct. 31.

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

Sat. Nov. 2 **DOUBLETOP**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1850'
Elev.: 3860' Order: 8

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register Oct. 28 - Nov. 1.

Leader: Henry Jenkins (#808), 914-883-7853

Sun. Nov. 3 **NORTH DOME & SHERRILL**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register Oct. 28 - Nov. 1.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (after 5:00 p.m. weekdays)

Sat. Nov. 9 **SLIDE**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1

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

Meeting Place: Slide Mountain parking lot on County Rd. 47 at 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Stephen Schifani (#910), 914-883-7933 (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Thurs. & Fri.)

Sat. Nov. 9 **HUNTER & SOUTHWEST HUNTER**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 4040', 3740' Order: 2, 15

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register Oct. 28 - Nov. 1.

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

Sun. Nov. 10 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

A moderate trail hike at a comfortable pace. Heavy rain/bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader for details.

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

Sat. Nov. 16 HALCOTTDistance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3520' Order: 34

A short bushwhack at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register Nov. 11 - Nov. 15.
Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 203-355-5573 (5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

Sun. Nov. 17 PLATEAU & SUGARLOAFDistance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3840', 3800' Order: 12, 13

A moderate trail hike at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Warms Restaurant in Tannersville FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (after 5:00 p.m. weekdays)

**Nov. 18 - Dec. 10: HUNTING SEASON (FIREARMS) IN THE CATSKILLS.
NO HIKES SCHEDULED IN THE CATSKILLS.**

December through April 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.

Sun. Nov. 24 Lake Awosting

Distance: 10 mi.

A moderately strenuous trail hike from Lake Awosting to Lake Minnewaska. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Lower parking lot off Rte. 44/55 at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750 (till 9:30 p.m.)

Sat. Dec. 14 SOUTHWEST HUNTER & RUSKDistance: 11 mi. Ascent: 3300'
Elev.: 3740', 3680' Order: 15, 21

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 by Dec. 12.
Leader: Tom Regan (#1026), 516-822-3720 (before 10:00 p.m.)

Sun. Dec. 15 NORTH DOME & SHERRILLDistance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Compass required. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register by Dec. 12.
Leader: Tom Regan (#1026), 516-822-3720 (before 10:00 p.m.)

Sun. Dec. 15 Samuel's Point, Cross Mountain
& Mt. Pleasant

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3500'

A strenuous to moderate 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 Dec. 11 - Dec. 14.
Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

Sun. Dec. 21 WINDHAM HIGH PEAKDistance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1825'
Elev. 3524' Order: 33

A moderately-paced trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Call leader for details.
Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750 (till 9:30 p.m.)

CATSKILL 35ER BAGS RAINIER

My surprised partner, Gary Tenney, uttered an invective. I looked upward to see the parting clouds reveal an intimidating scene. Extending 8,000 vertical feet above us was a complex of cascading blue-green glaciers with yawning crevices and shattered ice falls. A brilliant white snow cap extended from 1,000 feet below us to the summit where high winds tore a long trail of spindrift into the sky. Immense spurs, ridges and headwalls of reddish-brown volcanic rock added to the spectacle.

We moved steadily up the Muir Snowfield, halting often to marvel at increasingly striking views. By early afternoon, we had set up camp on Ingraham Flats at 11,000 feet on the Ingraham Glacier, the last safe bivouac area on the Disappointment Cleaver route. It was an electrifying place to be, below a dangerous icefall but protected by two immense crevasses large enough to swallow any falling seracs. Below us, the glacier dropped away steeply in a series of large fissures, some of them 40 feet across. We were on a lofty aerie overlooking hundreds of square miles of Cascade wilderness. During the afternoon, several other parties arrived. An upbeat mood prevailed as we anticipated the excitement of summit day.

To insure against rockfall from climbers above, and to travel when the mountain was coldest and its surface most stable, we left at 12:40 a.m.. Lights were just going on in the other tents as we started up the glacier. For snow travel it was a surprisingly dark night; then I realized that at this altitude, the normal atmospheric haze which reflects diffused light onto the snow was far below us.

We cramponed steeply upward, axes ready for self-arrest should we slip. From 1,000 feet above the Flats, we looked down on tiny caterpillars of light as the other parties left camp. Higher up, the route traversed an increasingly steeper grade. As Gary's head lamp occasionally swept the slope below us, I knew his thoughts: "Is this getting too sheer to arrest on?"

Near the crest the distant lights of Seattle appeared; then a faint glow bathed the eastern horizon. We switched off our lamps and there seemed to be almost instant daylight. The grade eased. At 4:55 a.m. we were over the crater rim. Another twenty minutes saw us across the crater floor and atop Columbia Crest as the sun rose above the horizon. Emotions peaked as we high-fived and snapped summit photos. Fifty miles to the south, 12,000 foot snow-capped Mount Adams stood out vividly. Only Rainier's summit was sunlit. The panorama surrounding us was still in shadow, creating an eerie effect. A bitter wind made me regret leaving my face mask in the tent.

Recrossing the crater, we huddled out of the wind and ate. I kept looking over the rim, surprised no one else was in sight. As we started back down, three climbers appeared far below. Out west, the party coming uphill, whether a climbing team or a vehicle on a jeep road, has the right of way. As we met ascending parties, we would kick out a stance on the uphill side and let them pass. The descent to the tent was fast and pleasant, with a chance to enjoy breathtaking views, but from the tent to the trailhead, time and distance seemed interminable. We savored our impressions of Rainier on a relaxing drive to our next adventure in British Columbia's spectacular Bugaboo Spires.

Robert McElroy (#797)
36 Rabbit Run Road
Malvern, PA 19355

NEW REQUIREMENT FOR LEADERSHIP PATCH

The club awards the leadership patch to members who have led six separate hikes scheduled in the *Canister*. At least one hike must be to a trailless peak, and at least one other must be led during the winter.

A new requirement, passed at the March 30, 1996 Annual Dinner Meeting, includes the obligation to attend at least one club-scheduled trail maintenance hike.

DATES SET FOR WINTER WEEKEND

Keep the dates of January 24 - 26, 1997 free for the winter weekend, which will take place at its new venue of Mountain Gate, located on McKenley Hollow Road (off County Road 47) in Oliverea, New York. Full details will appear in the January - March, 1997 *Canister*.

THE QUEST OF THE PURPLE-FRINGED

I felt the chill of the meadow underfoot,
But the sun overhead;
And snatches of verse and song of scenes like this
I sung or said.

I skirted the margin alders for miles and miles
In a sweeping line.
The day was the day by every flower that blooms,
But I saw no sign.

Yet further I went to be before the scythe,
For the grass was high;
Till I saw the path where the slender fox had come
And gone panting by.

Then at last and following him I found,
In the very hour

When the color flushed to the petals it must have been,
The far-sought flower.

There stood the purple spires with no breath of air
Nor headlong bee
To disturb their perfect poise the livelong day
'Neath the alder tree.

I only knelt and putting the boughs aside
Looked, or at most
Counted them all to the buds in the copse's depth
That were pale as a ghost.

Then I arose and silently wandered home,
And I for one
Said that the fall might come and whirl of leaves,
For summer was done.

Robert Frost