A VIEW FROM THE TOP

One day during the hot summer of 1983 I had lunch with the President--no, not of the United States, but of our club, Fred Schmelzer. He reminded me that, had it not been for him, I probably would never have made it there. There was a world of bitter coldness, of giant ice slabs, of towering rock faces, of soft snow banks, of beautiful northern lights, and of varied characters--the top of the U.S.A.

Perhaps Fred was right, but let's not give him all the credit. After all, I had started hiking some 30 years ago in the Old Country. Now, the CATSKILLS, the Adirondacks, the Green Mountains, and the White ones, the Baxter's, and the Rangeley's have become the new ranges, in greenery, in snowery, and in between.

There had started to loom in the back of my mind this high and cold one way up there in the detached territory of the Northwest. McKinley became a fascination. For years I read everything I could lay my hands on, studied maps and routes and tried to imagine an opportunity to climb its flanks. In this process I built up a lot of respect for the mountain. Every local winter outing became a test of simulated conditions in terms of cold resistance, endurance, will power, stamina, companionship or lack of. Running training and nautilus* provided added burden and frustrations. Crevasse rescue training in the Alps, probing the heights of Mexican volcanoes, training on rock, it all was part of the plan.

Finally, the planning stage was in full swing. Last equipment checks and coordination of food provisions were completed. The long flight to Alaska is somewhat relaxing, but harbors the uncertainties of anticipation. Will the weather cooperate? Can we fly onto the glacier as planned? Will there be a chance at the summit? The year before, during our first visit, my wife and I had to succumb to fierce winds and -40° F. temperature, which turned back our challenge above Denali Pass, near the Archdeacon's Towers, close to 19,000.

Early May of 1983, however, was seemingly milder, with summerly air temperatures during the day on the lower part of the glacier and night temperatures mostly around the zero mark--good conditions to acclimatize well, to ferry loads, and to advance camp without hurry. Hard work, nevertheless, until finally camp at 14,000 was reached on day 10. The desire to rest up for the push up the steeper slopes raced against the concern about changing weather conditions which might upset logistics for the advance. But relaxation was a welcome break in the hectic schedule of the past two weeks. The tales of three veterans of Everest's summit who happened to camp in the area provided plenty of inspiration and fun.

* an exercise machine --Ed.
A light carry up the headwall on day 14 set the adrenalin in motion again. The weather looked fine and promised to hold for a few more days—-a condition which might change at any moment, as many before us have experienced. My wife decided to wait it out at 14,000; she wished me luck. I needed it. After all, she had our cozy tent and the reliable stove. But I carried heavily anyway. The solo trek up the headwall was aided by fixed ropes which sped up the trip without adding much to a sense of absolute safety on this 40 to 50° slope. But my condition was superb. At the top of the headwall I increased my load through the items cached the evening before. They would allow me to stay a few days at 17,000 and, theoretically, permit me to have at least two tries at the summit, or to wait out a storm, should I get caught. I cherished the views down to the Kahiltna and Peters glaciers, more than 10,000 feet below. A unique experience to have this snow, and ice, and rock all to myself! I pushed on over the West Buttress on this beautiful cold but calm late afternoon, slowly pulling into 17,000, and ready for some rest. I was offered some comfort in already cramped tent quarters, and I could enjoy the luxury of a borrowed stove. But during the night I was restless, I could not really retire. The cold wall ahead of me into Denali Pass which I would have to negotiate before the sun would reach me gave me much to be reminiscent of. Finally, when the morning had long broken I decided to get going. It is not fun to operate in the shade of McKinley's huge summit cone at -24°F. But liquid had to be consumed, breakfast had to be eaten, and more liquid had to be prepared for the trip. Two hours later I was on my way.

At this elevation and temperature progress is slow. Every step is carefully tested. Safety margins for a small party are already reduced to a minimum; the trip solo does not allow for errors. I inched my way up the slope, reaching the pass in less than three hours. By now there was nothing higher anymore surrounding this location. Fornaker ("Denali's wife") across looked higher, but so did mountains in the distance most of the time. As is almost always the case the wind started to pick up above the Pass. Here we go again, I thought to myself. But this time I was determined to fight a little harder; I was mentally better prepared, and I was more adequately equipped. A nasty head wind lingered around and tried to absorb my reserves. I was moving into an area which seemed to have a light whiteout in store for me. Fortunately, by the time I got there it had vanished. The wind was tiring, but not over-burdening. I pushed on slowly, but steadily. The summit ridge appeared to come closer, but it proved to be an intermediate one. Finally, another plateau and a broad col lay in the way to the summit ridge. Its proximity was deceiving, for it stretched without end. Much discipline was called upon to embrace the last reserves. Some other people near the ridge ahead seemed to provide the needed impetus. Our paths crossed while I started up the corniced ridge, the last half hour between me and the top of North America.

I paused frequently to regenerate, to look, to enjoy, to take pictures. One of my down mittens started down ahead of me, an unnecessary blunder, but one which I could correct. Soon, I stood elat-
ed and thankful on top of our northern continent at 20,320 feet, a brief but happy visitor to this arctic wasteland. What a tremendously rugged world! The deep basin below, the ridges, the Muldrow to the north, and the soft cone of the North Peak across, almost 1,000 feet lower at 19,400! Foraker, Hunter, Huntington, they all were along every day of the trip, looking down on me. Now, it was my turn. I had left them far below me. What a magnificent midafternoon! I relished the brief moments of this 15th of May, my 16th day on the mountain. A long dream had all of a sudden come true.

The job, however, was not yet completed. The long way back to 17,000 was over three miles and across the steep wall below Denali Pass. Tired but exuberant I pulled into 17,000. Some of my equipment which I had not needed during the day was awaiting my arrival. After a brief refueling stop I decided to tag on the unplanned next step: retrieval to 14,000. The weather did not promise further improvement. Threatening clouds had started to move in, and I did not want to get locked out on the Buttress. So, I descended in good style to the accompaniment of the setting sun; an experience in fieriest red. Upon reaching the headwall, night had set in, joined by light but nastily blowing of snow. Some fixed ropes had shrunk and fallen victim to some shenanigans. The descent became arduous and slow, amidst the painful development of a "Denali toe" (which ultimately shed its nail). I was a happy and lucky person when I pulled into 14,000 that night, exhausted, but back in one piece. Helke greeted me with joy.

After a day of hard work through slushy snow and around gaping giant crevasses, day 18 found us back at the airstrip, Kahiltna International, where poor weather prevented the pilot from attempting to fly in. On the following day we reached civilization again, Talkeetna. Another goal had been accomplished.

--Friedel Schunk, Ramsey, NJ

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

454 Jill S. Welch 9/25/83
3 New Hackensack Rd., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
455 Robert C. Janku 9/25/83
R. R. 1, Box 175, West Hurley, NY 12491
456 Diana L. Tschinkel 10/10/83
Hyland Rd., East Durham, NY 12423
457 Andrew C. Schauffert 10/15/83
Box 5, East Jewett, NY 12424
458 Howard J. Dash 10/17/83
63 Montague St., Brooklyn, NY 11201
459 Arthur N. Smith 10/30/83
Mill Creek Dr., Apt. 13K, East Greenbush, NY 12061
460 Peter Heckler 11/2/83
160 Lozier Terrace, River Edge, NJ 07661
461 Rachel Phillips 9/10/83
P. O. Box 195, New Kingston, NY 12459
462 Carolyn J. DeWitt 9/24/83
2 Whaleback Rd., Red Hook, NY 12571
463 Hanna Abolitz 11/26/83
61-03 255th St., Little Neck, NY 11362
CHANGE OF DATE

The annual dinner will be March 17, not March 31, 1984.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Feb. 4 NORTH LAKE SKI TOUR

Distance: 5 miles
Meeting Place: Entrance to North Lake campsite (follow signs from Haines Falls) at 11:00 a.m. Bring a lunch.
Leader: Deborah F. Glynn (#159), R. D. 1, Box 406, Pleasant Valley, 914-635-8756

Feb. 5 FRIDAY A strenuous bushwhack.
(Sun.)
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2724' Elevation: 3694' Order: 18
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Norman Smith (#199), 517 Rt. 211 East, Middletown, NY 10940
Home: 914-342-5817 Work: 914-692-6727

Feb. 18 INDIAN HEAD & TWIN A moderate trail hike.

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2300' Elevation: 3540', 3573' Order: 22, 29
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Wilson Hoyt (#309), 9 Fairmount Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530
516-775-2059

Mar. 3 WESTKILL A moderate trail hike.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elevation: 3880' Order: 6
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rt. 42 & Spruceton Rd., at Westkill, 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Cy Whitney (#266), Morley Drive, Wyckoff, NJ 07481
201-447-2653

Mar. 10 WINDHAM HIGH PEAK A moderate trail hike to the great northeastern viewpoint.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elevation: 3524' Order: 32
Meeting Place: Trailhead on Rt. 23, 3 mi. west of East Windham, 9:00
Leader: Jim Stone (#299), 7 W. Chestnut St., Rhinebeck, NY 12572
Home: 914-876-7676 Work: 914-432-7247

Mar. 17 FIR & BIG INDIAN A strenuous bushwhack.

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elevation: 3625', 3700' Order: 23, 19
Meeting Place: Flower Restaurant (formerly Village Bakeshop), Phoenicia at 7:30, leave at 8:00 a.m. Return in time for dinner.
Leader: Tim Watters (#268), 30 Godwin Drive, Wyckoff, NJ 06481
201-891-1553

Mar. 31 VLY & BEARPEN A moderate bushwhack.

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elevation: 3529', 3600' Order: 31, 28
Meeting Place: Municipal parking lot in Fleischmans across from Library at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Ernest Mahlke (#72), P. O. Box 137, Laurens, NY 13796
HIKES (cont'd)

Apr. 14  THOMAS COLE & BLACK DOME  A moderate trail hike

Distance: 6 mi.  Ascent: 2100'  Elevation: 3940', 3980'  Order: 4, 5
Meeting Place: In front of the Sugar Maples in Maplecrest at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Paul Hoyt (#315), 9 Fairmount Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530
516-775-2059

Apr. 21  BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY  A strenuous bushwhack.

Distance: 6 mi.  Ascent: 3000'  Elevation: 3623', 3694'  Order: 24, 18
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville, at 7:45 a.m.
Leader: Tim Watters (#268), 30 Godwin Drive, Wyckoff, NJ 07481
201-891-1553

Apr. 28  PALENVILLE OVERLOOK  A moderate hike, mostly on abandoned
roads, walking up the mountain from
Palenville to the sites of the Dodd House, the Kaaterskill
Hotel, and the Catskill Mountain House. Joint trip with
Catskill Chapter AMC.
Leader: Franklin Clark (#33), 10 S. Washington St., Athens, NY 12015
518-945-1413

ASSUMED RISK

Hiking involves certain inherent hazards, and persons partici-
at ing do so at their own risk.

"CATSKILL CANISTER" SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

Annual subscription fee ($2.00) now payable. Please send to
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Annual dues ($2.00) now payable. Please send to Mrs. William Leavitt,
246 Joslen Blvd., Hudson, NY 12534. (Make check payable to Catskill
3500 Club, Inc.) Please send change of address by March 1.

Name_________________________  #___________
Address_______________________

Phone (_____)(_____)_____________

Please indicate here if you want a new roster.
Hiking in Yugoslavia

Last year, for the fourth time, I joined the English Rambler organization for one of their marvelous vacations in Europe. My wife and I flew to London, met the English leader and the rest of the group, and flew to Dubrovnik on a Yugoslav airline. Then into a bus for a five-hour trip over a spectacular mountain road to the town of Zabljak. This road is not wide enough for a bus and a car to pass one another. One or the other must pull onto the shoulder, if one exists, or else back up to a suitable place. It has more hairpin turns per mile than I have seen anywhere, Switzerland included.

Our arrival in Zabljak was at a modern hotel at about 10 p.m., and they immediately served us dinner. The next morning, to break us all gently, we took a very easy walk--but to what a view! We went to the lip of the Tara River canyon, which is supposed to be the second deepest in the world next to our own Grand Canyon. The walls in many places plunge vertically from the plateau on top to the river.

On all our hiking days we used no transport. We were off wheels for the entire vacation. Each day we took our packed lunches and set off in a different direction. One day was a rest day. Part of the group went off on a coach tour to the Tara River and spent the day on the beach. The rest attempted hiking a mountain that is off limits as far as the Rambler organization is concerned. The leaders are not permitted to take the party there as a group. I found out why when I tried it with two of the group, while three others tried it in the reverse direction. After climbing up most of the mountain we arrived at a high angle grass slope about 10 feet wide with a wall on one side and a drop-off of 100 feet on the other. I like airy walks, but there is a limit to how much exposure I can take, and so I bowed out while my two companions went on and over to the other side. While this was going on the other three were coming up the other side and exactly the same thing happened. One of them retreated after getting most of the mountain behind him.

We were blessed with fine weather--just two light showers for short periods during the entire vacation. The countryside has hardly changed since the last century, except for the car parked alongside each house. The women almost all are dressed entirely in black--kerchief, dress, sweater, stockings, shoes, everything black. Many of the homes have no electric lines going to them.

Immense fields are scythed for hay by hand--not a tractor to be seen. They start working as soon as it is light enough and continue to dusk. Fourteen hour days! A section of road near the hotel was being repaired while we were there. No pneumatic drills, but the sound of men hammering on the rock was our alarm at seven in the morning, and they were still pounding away when we returned from our walks about six in the evening.
Yugoslavia is still an inexpensive country for the Western tourist. A bottle of wine purchased from the hotel was only $2.00. A bottle of beer was 50¢. A huge watermelon was $1.25. We spent the last night in Dubrovnik and saw a marvelous dance troupe of perhaps 40 people, dancers and musicians together, perform for about three hours, for a ticket price of $4.50.

And Dubrovnik! Your first view of it, coming from the airport, is from a road about a thousand feet above it. A walled city, with a fort at each corner, and inside, unchanged for centuries, white walls and red tile roofs, everything surrounded by the brilliantly blue Adriatic. I can hardly imagine anyplace having more initial impact on the eye.

The trip home was as pleasantly without event as our trip over, and we said goodbye to our English companions after exchanging addresses and mutual invitations to visit one another.

--Dick Wolff, #321, Newark, NJ

TWILIGHT PARK CLOSED TO HIKERS

I had planned to lead a hike for the ADK up Kaaterskill Gorge, through the ruins of East Tannersville, over Faun's Leap (Dog Hole) and the Naiads Pool, up the Five Cascades and, finally, up Haines Falls. From there I had hoped to walk through Twilight Park to Santa Cruz ravine and go down the slide. It would be a strenuous and interesting circular with varied terrain. The way had been scouted, alternate routes planned over the steep and dangerous area, and reliable people selected to help.

It was my understanding that the cascades were on state land, for on at least three scouting expeditions up the gorge I had run across no posted signs or any other indication that private property bordered the creek. Of course, I needed permission to traverse Twilight Park to the Ravine, which, I believe, is public land. So, I asked the Twilight Park people for permission to use their road to reach the Ravine. If it was not forthcoming, we could always walk down the road to Palenville, or extend the hike over the old "Huckleberry" road. Indeed, just climbing the falls might be enough for most people. So, whether permission was forthcoming to make the circular made little difference.

Imagine my disappointment when permission was denied and I was informed that the bottom of the clove, including the Five Cascades and the Falls, was also private property, and access was prohibited. Twilight Park never got around to posting the bottom.

The reason for the refusal was quite logical, as you may know. Not long before a young woman with a group trespassed the clearly indicated line, and without preparation tried to descend the dangerous
and trailless Haines Falls in the rain. Foolishly walking over loose, wet rat-tail shale, she took a header into the torrent 80 or 90 feet below. A needless tragedy.

Now, in spite of the fact that the Twilight Park Association was quite blameless, and that the poor girl was a willful, neglectful, and careless trespasser, the estate is suing Twilight Park for $11,500,000. The insurance carrier cancelled the Association's policy, and it has been replaced at a great increase of premium. The trial will take place in Brooklyn, far from the site of the accident.

Needless to say, wise legal counsel now precludes any hiker from walking the Association's property. It is a sad commentary that we have spawned such a litigious society that the fabric of civility is being ravelled by abusers of privileges. And, let even the most experienced leader not fall into the trap that I did: assuming all land un-posted on the other side of the yellow blaze is public. Before you lead a hike, even over land you have walked for years, check your corners! Avoid the disappointment I caused a club (for which I apologize).

--David Mack, #267, Tenafly, NJ

LETTERS

My recent exotic endeavors included four days hiking in the Ozark Mountains in central Missouri around Lake of the Ozarks, one of the largest man-made lakes in the world, with a serpentine shoreline of 1,150 miles. As an engineer, I was particularly interested in witnessing the re-winding of eight giant 50-year-old Westinghouse turbo-generators, each rated 21,500 kilowatts. The Lodge of the 4 Seasons, on its shore, is one of the most versatile and interesting inns I've ever utilized.

Three weeks hiking and climbing in the magnificent Pyrenees and snow-capped Sierra de Grados Mts. in northern Spain was the most enjoyable mountaineering I have experienced. Six of us (out of 24) made it to the top of Mt. Alonanzer, Spain's highest peak (8,324 ft.), after which I was the proud recipient of our group's (AMC) "Sir Edmond Hillary Mt. Goat" award.

--Al Dieffenbach, #244, Morristown, NJ

SHORE WALKERS OF NEW YORK

The Shore Walkers intend to hike the entire coast of New York City--over 500 miles, if one follows all its varied indentations--in day-long expeditions, six to fifteen miles at a clip. Walks will usually take place on the first Sunday of each month, starting at 9 or 10 a.m. For a schedule, write or telephone C. Adler, 241 W. 97 St., New York, NY 10025. 212-663-2167.

A REMINDER

Please check your last issue of the CANISTER for dues and subscription notices. Several members and aspirants are delinquent. Only one payment is needed--for either members' dues or aspirants' subscriptions. Send it in today to keep your membership active and your CANISTER coming.
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Box 115, Church Rd., Putnam Valley, NY 10579

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Joel Pomerantz 3/24/84 212-691-3844
P. O. Box 43, Old Chelsea Sta., New York, NY 10113

Hamilton Topping 2/17/84 518-589-6203
Box 503, Tannersville, NY 12485

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our New England cousin reports that Kip Patnode, #324, was seen in Maine last Labor Day qualifying for membership in the 111-ers of Northeastern U. S. A. She has also climbed the New England 100 Highest, and is a Winter Adirondack Forty-sixer. ** ** ** Clancy Beehler, #25, is still building houses and playing tennis in North Carolina. ** ** ** Bleecker Staats, #272, who has had a quadruple by-pass, is planning to start his cardiologist climbing this spring. ** ** ** Henry Young, #59, and Art Beach, #17, almost made it to the annual dinner. Before they reached Harriman on the Thruway, Henry's left rear snow tire ripped up, and they waited until 8:00 for the emergency crew. ** ** ** Gary Klee, Jr., #160, is now a product marketing engineer with the General Instrument Corporation, Hicksville. ** ** ** Mike Bromberg, #479, has completed The Long Trail, the ADK 46, the 100 Highest of New Hampshire, and the 100 Highest of New England in winter.
ROSTER CHANGES

200 John Leyden, 590 West End Av., Apt. 3G, NY, NY 10024 212-799-2577
421 Franz Alt, 245 Bennett Ave., NY, NY 10040 212-569-6149
423 Anne Bartash, 261 High St., Manchester CT 06040 203-643-2362

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Apr. 28  PALENVILLE OVERLOOK  A moderate hike, mostly on abandoned roads, walking up the mountain from Palenville to the sites of the Dodd House, the Kaaterskill Hotel, and the Catskill Mountain House. Joint trip with Catskill Chapter AMC.
Meeting Place: Rowena School, jnct. Rts. 23A & 32A, Palenville, 9:00.
Leader: Franklin Clark (#33), 10 S. Washington St., Athens, NY 12015 518-945-1413

May 12  HUNTER  A moderate trail hike via Becker Hollow-Devil's Tombstone loop.
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elevation: 4040' Order: 2
Meeting Place: Devil's Tombstone parking lot, Rt. 214, 8:15.
Leader: Paul Hoyt (#315), 9 Fairmount Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530 516-775-2059

May 19  SLIDE  A strenuous bushwhack via Deer Shanty Brook through virgin spruce and hemlock.
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2200' Elevation: 4180' Order: 1
Meeting Place: Slide Mt. parking lot on county Rt. 47, 9:00.
Leader: William Lawson (#78), 395 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY 12203 518-436-1781

June 3  PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE  A moderate trail hike.
(Sun.)
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2500' Elevation: 3843', 3847' Order: 10, 11
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville, 8:30.
Leader: Howard Dash (#458), 63 Montague St., Brooklyn, NY 11201 212-875-1513

June 10  KAATERSKILL FALLS  An easy joint hike with the AMC, from Rt. 23A to Kaaterskill Falls, then to North & South Lakes for a swim & picnic, weather permitting.
(Sun.)
Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1000'
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville, 9:00.
Leader: Howard Skarka (#379), Rion Road, Box 19A, Chichester, NY 12416 914-688-5535

June 23  KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK  Mostly on trail, some bushwhacking, some scrambling, marvelous views, a wrecked airplane, a waterfall, a swim in a secluded pond, dinner together for those who wish.
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elevation: 3655' Order: 21
Meeting Place: Howard Johnson's at Saugerties exit of Thruway, 10:00.
Leader: Richard Wolff (#321), 648 Market St., Newark, NJ 07105
days: 201-344-1214  Eves: 201-746-7415

ASSUMED RISK

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

On the many enjoyable hikes for my Catskill 3500 Club patch, I practiced compass skills I had begun to learn in an orienteering class. I look back now with mild chagrin on my initial experience. Being new to the Catskill area, I was introduced to an array of folks, including Richard and John. By way of introduction, Richard told me that John had climbed the wrong mountain the previous weekend.

Richard, John and I set out early one Saturday to climb Fir Mountain, with John's wrong mountain ("Fake Fir") nearby. We followed the Big Indian trail for a bit, then a streambed, and then bushwhacked. I was impressed by the abundance of undergrowth which gave the woods a bright green tone compared to the Northern New England woods I was more familiar with. A pleasant warm hike to the summit, and we indeed found the Fir register. Traipsing around the summit, we were unable to find a view, to our disappointment.*

We began the descent, realizing we were slightly east of our planned route. Richard, with his long stride, kept a fast pace. John and I followed down the steep slope, grabbing tree trunks to steady ourselves. I had a penchant for grabbing dead trees, which would fall over. John and Richard began to refer to me as the firewood gatherer. Soon we came to a stream, and followed it down. "Gee, I remember that rock,...or that waterfall," we would say. "Well, this stream must join the other one then." Perhaps and hour later: "What does the compass say anyway?" "We're going NE," "But we're supposed to be headed SW." "Maybe the stream takes a sharp turn up here."

Then people ahead. Sunbathers. Nude sunbathers in fact. "Could you tell us where we are?" Richard bounded out and boldly asked them. They advised us to go back from whence we had come, as it was five miles further to the road in the direction we were headed. My companions and I decided it was not a day to follow the advice of nude sunbathers, proceeded in the same direction, and within a short distance came within sight of buildings. A climb up another stream bank put us in a pasture belonging to a large and mean-looking horse. A scramble out of the pasture put us next to some surprised-looking vacationers relaxing by a pool. Again we inquired as to our whereabouts, and were informed by the proprietor that we were approximately ten miles from our parked car.

Moral of the story: Check your compass frequently!

--Anne Bartash, #423, Manchester, CT

*There is a fair view, 10-15 minutes from the canister, straight north. --Ed.
CATSKILL TRAILS BOOSTER PROGRAM

If you want to see where your 1983 trail contributions went, take a hike to Giant Ledge or to Big Indian to see the trail maintenance work accomplished by the AMC professional trail crew last September. At a severely eroded and dangerously steep ravine near the summit of Big Indian at Lookout Rock, the crew constructed four waterbars, fifty-two rock steps, and a fifty-foot drainage ditch. The work at Giant Ledge included the construction of thirty-five rock steps, twenty waterbars, and twenty-five feet of drainage ditching. This work was the result of an agreement between DEC and AMC, for DEC to pay half of the expense of the crew. The funding by AMC to cover the remaining cost of this crew was through donations to the Catskill Trails Booster Program.

The work in 1984 will include trail stabilization on Slide Mountain in Region Three, and on Blackhead Mountain in Region Four of the Catskill Preserve. The Booster Program this year will be run by both the Trail Committee and the Search and Rescue Committee of the AMC. A joint fund-raising project will sell bandannas for a minimum five-dollar donation that will equally support both programs. The Trails dollars will go toward funding major trail rebuilding projects in the CATSKILLS and the White Mountains, while the Search and Rescue Committee funding will go towards continuing their goal of upgrading White Mountain radio communications. Bandannas come in four colors: red, green, navy, royal blue. Address mail orders to: Bandanna Project, AMC, 5 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02108. If you would like your donation to go towards a specific funding area, please specify. If you would like more information, please contact: Dennis Regan, AMC Trails Coordinator, % Office of Parks, Taconic Region, Staatsburg, NY 12580. 914-889-4100.

LETTERS

Recently, I was shown a copy of your publication which contained a piece by your member, #267, David Mack, entitled "Twilight Park Closed to Hikers." I would like to express my gratitude for Mr. Mack's understanding of a situation which no one deplores more than we do. It is a sad and frightening evolution of mores whereby individuals seek legal redress for their own lack of judgment and responsibility. The victims of this situation are those like your members who are certifiably responsible citizens and who, under more pleasant circumstances, would be welcomed in our midst.

Twilight Park also has many hikers, and in fact we have a hiking club within our community known as "The Linger-Nots." It was formed approximately in 1905, and in its peak years comprised a highly formal but very fun-filled enterprise which awarded annual degrees in "Pedistry," with most impressive-looking diplomas written in Latin attesting to the prescribed requirements having been accomplished by the
awardee. The top degree, known as P.D.Q. (translated by some deviation to Doctor of Pedistry) required walking 300 miles in a season, including one walk of at least 35 miles; climbing at least twenty Catskill mountains including the five highest; and climbing one mountain never before climbed by a member of the Linger-Nots. Formal examination of the candidate's credentials was held, and at the commencement exercises traditionally held over Columbus Day weekend, a final three-part written, oral and "physical" quizzing was held covering the topography of the CATSKILLS, and a ceremonial walk, all in good fun, culminating with a formal presentation in front of an open fire in the evening, liberally lubricated with Catskill Mountain applejack.

The society remains on the books but the formalities have not been exercised since the last P.D.Q. commencement in 1939. Some interest in reviving the organization exists now, particularly in consideration of the centennial of Twilight Park which will take place in 1988.

It has occurred to a number of us over the years that it might be appropriate to affiliate the Linger-Nots, to some degree at least, with the Catskill 3500 Club. We clearly have the same interests and goals. You are better organized at present than we are, but perhaps something in that direction might develop?

--John A. MacGahan, Sec'y, Twilight Cottagers

When I started climbing the southern peaks I just did them because I wanted to see them all and so I kept no record. In 1982 I decided I would like to join your organization, so I started doing winter peaks. I don't know if you keep records of the names in your registers, but I signed them all except Fir, which I couldn't find. I got to the top of Fir just as a bad thunderstorm started, a bolt of lightning hit a tree very near us, so we did not hang around long.

In the late 1960's I laid out and helped build several trails in the northern CATSKILLS, including the Westkill trail. At that time I would have liked to continue that trail system on over North Dome and Sherrill, but those plans were squashed. I now realize that it is better that they were. We have enough trails and developed use.

I would also like to thank the members of the 3500 Club for the letters they wrote during the proposed lay-off of the Forest Ranger Force earlier this year.

--Hamilton Topping, (#481)

Saturday, March 3, 1984, I completed the 3500 peaks on Blackhead in the company of a group of ten friends. The day couldn't have been better. We celebrated at the intersection of the yellow and Escarpment Trails, and even passed a cup of champagne to a couple of strangers that wandered through the group. It has been a fine experience, a lot of fun, and I'm already into the winter peaks with 14 completed.

--Bill Clock, (#473)
1984 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

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

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

482 Christine Barteld 4/21/84
R. D. 2, Box 109, Germantown, NY 12526 518-537-4816
483 Jack Driller 4/21/84
281 Kenilworth Rd., Ridgewood, NJ 07450 201-652-7868
484 Lee McAllister 4/21/84
20 Drury Lane, Syosset, NY 11791 914-338-6274
485 Maryett M. Gyula 5/26/84
148 Pine St., Kingston, NY 12401 914-338-6274
486 Lillian W. Hayes 6/2/84
26 Royden Rd., Tenafly, NJ 07670 201-569-8121
487 Robert Nunnally 6/2/84
P. O. Box 171, Harrington Park, NJ 07640 201-768-1758
488 William G. Kemsley 6/2/84
176 Bedford Rd., Greenwich, CT 06830 203-661-8598
489 Lucien Thibault 6/2/84
160 Meyer Oval, Pearl River, NY 10965 914-735-5813
490 Myron Ochman 6/16/84
141-40 84th Drive, Briarwood, NY 11435

EAST HUDSON TRAILS MAP SET

EAST HUDSON TRAILS (1984 edition) detailed contour maps cover the Fahnestock State Park, Hudson Highlands State Park, Breakneck Ridge, Beacon Ridge, and the Appalachian Trail as it winds its way through this area. These maps, in addition to all hiking trails, show parking areas, viewpoints, campgrounds, lakes, park boundaries, and mines and beaches. They are in 4 colors on waterproof, tearproof Tyveck. The reverse side of the maps includes historical information, hiker's notations, and emergency phone numbers.

The three-map set is available by sending a check or money order payable to "TRAILS" to: NY-NJ Trail Conference, 20 West 40th Street, New York, NY 10018. New York State residents should add applicable tax.

PINS

Catskill 3500 Club lapel pins are now available. Members only send $3.00 donation to Elinore G. Leavitt, 246 Joslen Blvd., Hudson, NY 12534, after September 1.
Sept. 29  **TABLE, LONE & if time allows ROCKY.** A strenuous bushwhack.

Distance: 10 mi.  Ascent: 2300'  Elev.: 3847, 3721, 3508  Order: 10, 15, 34
Meeting Place: Leader requests hikers to call him for details.
Leader: Tim Watters (#268), 30 Godwin Dr., Wyckoff, NJ 07481
201-891-1553

Oct. 6  **DOUBLETOP & GRAHAM**  A strenuous, part trail, but predominately bushwhack hike, via Biscuit & Pigeon Brooks.

Distance: 7.5 mi.  Ascent: 1860'  Elev.: 3860', 3868'  Order: 8, 7
Meeting Place: Parking lot behind pharmacy in Phoenicia at 8:30 a.m.
Leaders: Erik & Roman Hrycun (#347 & 314), R. D. 1, Box 419B, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
914-876-2451

Oct. 13  **HALCOTT**  A moderate bushwhack to this delightful peak.

Distance: 4 mi.  Ascent: 1500'  Elev.: 3520'  Order: 33
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 42 & 28 at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Katrina Barteld (#67), R. D. 2, Box 109, Germantown, NY 518-537-4816

Oct. 21  **HUNTER**  A moderate trail hike on the Devil's Path. (Sun.)

Distance: 7 mi.  Ascent: 2000'  Elev.: 4040'  Order: 2
Meeting Place: Devil's Tombstone parking lot at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Arlene Scholer (#441), 17 Willow Rd., New Hyde Park, NY 11040 516-354-0231

Oct. 27  **BIG INDIAN & EAGLE**  A moderate hike, mostly on trails.

Distance: 7 mi.  Ascent: 1100'  Elev.: 3700', 3600'  Order: 18, 26
Meeting Place: Arkville R.R. station parking lot, Rt. 28, at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Katrina Barteld (#67), R. D. 2, Box 109, Germantown, NY 518-537-4816

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ASSUMER RISK

Hiking involves certain inherent hazards, and persons participating do so at their own risk.
A HEART ATTACK IN THE CATSKILLS

There is an awesome stillness on Roundtop this morning and the clear 30-degree air is just what we had hoped for. It is 5:30 a.m., May 17th, as we slide out of our sleeping bags, grab our cameras, and head toward the ledge. The stillness is broken by the crunching of our boots on the frozen duff. Cold as it is, the scent of balsam is heavy on the air.

Peter, my free-lance writer friend, his St. Bernard named George, and I spent yesterday ascending via a circuitous route from Platte Clove. Despite the intermittent snow showers, a myriad of peppermint-faced Spring Beauties and Blue Violets burst forth everywhere. Bush-whacking our way over slippery slabs, and getting under, over, and around the numerous blowdowns was not easy. My packframe seemed to catch on every limb and root as we scrambled up the ledges. By late afternoon we had reached the summit, and had anchored the tarp against the wind and lingering snow showers. The venison stew by a small fire topped off a good day's hike. It was not long before tired muscles, full stomachs, and the wind in the balsams brought deep sleep.

Now the time has come when we will view dark and massive Kaaterskill High Peak against the sunrise. And there it is, the distant bright orange dot finally appearing against the pale sky. The first rays are gilding tiny clouds around Mt. Greylock in Massachusetts. Now the golden glow begins to tint the shoulder of High Peak and spills into the valley below. It reminds me of a painting done from this spot by Thomas Cole over a century ago. It is time just to sit and watch this beautiful scene change from dark tones and shadows to rosy pinks and slate blues. It is time too, for personal reflection, and to feel grateful just to be here at this glorious Catskill sunrise. My last backpack was eight months ago.

Friday, September 23rd had been sunny, cool, and clear. Pete, "Uncle Ben," and I were the advance party of ten hikers named "Bleecker's Creepers" by Ben, because we take our time. We were headed for Deer Shandy Brook lean-to and had driven in through Claryville. I had carried my pack for about five minutes when the pressure on my upper body caused a sickening aching tightness in my chest and neck. Although the pack was no more than 45 lbs., it seemed to me to be too much for a 54-year-old who works at a desk all day. By the time we reached the lean-to, I thought that I was going to vomit. Removing the pack, I sat down. Soon we donned our packs again and moved further upstream to a larger more private area for our weekend camp. I did not mention my discomfort to anyone, for we had only a short distance to go, and I was convinced that either the waist strap was not tight enough to take the weight from my shoulders, or my body was telling me that I was no longer a young man. What a relief it was to get that
pack off again and to set up camp. We had it all done in a quarter of an hour, and by then my discomfort was gone.

The next morning we ate a late breakfast beneath the hemlocks, and with only day packs began the climb up Table. We rested at every place there was a view, and ate lunch on the sunny top of Peekamoose. I had never seen such a large crop of Mountain Ash berries! The red clusters were beautiful against the clear blue and green of the Catskill landscape. Later, the view from Table was the best that I had ever seen it. Twenty-five of the other 3500-foot peaks and the Ashokan seemed a ten-minute hike away. Excited as I was to be capturing all this on film, it was hard to realize that less than 24 hours earlier, I had felt so miserable.

Charged with the sight of Lone, Carolyn led the bushwhack to our destination. This was her last peak needed to qualify for membership. We gave her a big round of applause when she signed the register at the summit. After a short rest, we descended between Lone and Table to the Neversink and camp for a champagne toast to Carolyn. It had been a long happy day and it didn't take long for the low gurgling of the Neversink to have us all fast asleep.

On October 4th, at my desk, my first sip of morning coffee suddenly brought that sickening tightness again. And that time my left arm began to feel numb. I left my desk and headed down the hall to the medical department. I felt better while lying down and getting an EKG. Next was the sort of fun experience of my first ambulance ride to a local hospital for more tests. Shortly after the tests, a cardiologist informed me that I had experienced an "MI" (Myocardial Infarction) and would be admitted to the coronary care unit immediately. He informed me that the tests also indicated that I had experienced a worse MI within the past two weeks. He asked me to recall the last time that I had experienced angina. I told him of my Catskill weekend and the discomfort that I had felt on the way to the campsite. He was appalled that I had not taken the angina more seriously, and that I had climbed three mountains the next day.

In two weeks it was another ambulance ride from the hospital to the Westchester Medical Center, where an angiogram indicated a blockage in the coronary arteries. A cardiologist discussed the matter fully with me and recommended open heart surgery to improve the blood flow to my heart. He felt that if everything went well, I would probably be back in the CATSKILLS by April. On October 28th, a team of surgeons spent seven hours performing a quadruple by-pass on me. Recovering in the hospital, I had time to wonder, "How could it have happened to me? I'm not over weight; I don't have high blood pressure; my job doesn't seem stressful; I climb a lot and sit around very little." I learned that arteriosclerosis was the cause of my problem. It was the grace of God, the prayers of family and friends, and medical
science that got me back home a week before Thanksgiving. From that time on it was resting, reading, and walking. I started with about 50 yards, three times a day, and each day added to the distance. By the time of my physical stress test in April, I had worked my way up to a daily jaunt of five miles in 90 minutes. With the doctor's approval, I was on my first Catskill hike on April 27th. A group of us took the Escarpment Trail from North Lake to North Point for lunch, and back through Mary's Glen. That was the first really sustained uphill that I had experienced since the stress test. I had no chest pain at all, but there were times when I wished that they had done a by-pass on my knees as well. Peter called me for the second hike. We did the Diamond Notch Trail from Lanesville, and then climbed Westkill. It was a long day.

Now the sun has climbed higher, lighting the eastern horizon on both sides of still dark High Peak. The shadowy valley below has been split by the pale blue ribbon of the Hudson. Below and to our left, resting quietly in purple velvet, the mirror surfaces of North and South Lakes reflect the glory of the dawn. Far to the east, even Lake Taghkanic has picked up the sun's rays. Again I am reminded how thrilled and thankful I am to be present in this Catskill setting. From here, everything seems to be so far away. Far away, too, seems the time of the heart attack.

--Bleecker Staats, #272, Red Hook, NY

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

491 Dianne Endy 6/23/83
P. O. Box 55, Acra, NY 12405
518-622-8008

492 Linda M. Gilner 7/28/84
5 Home Lane, Hicksville, NY 11801
516-938-8799

493 Jo Ellen Elsner 8/24/84
46 W. 22 St., Deer Park, NY 11729
516-667-4728

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Dianne Endy, #491, has been a DEC Wilderness Ranger in the CATSKILLS for five summers. * * * * Seb Eggert, #64, who climbed Mt. Rainier when he was 16, is living in WA, still hiking, is married, and has a two-year-old named Katrina Blair. * * * * As part of the celebration of the Centennial of the Forest Preserve in the Adirondacks and CATSKILLS, the ADK Calendar for 1985 will include a picture taken on the top of Slide Mountain by Winifred Clark, #289. * * * * Greg Horne, #298, has been hiking and climbing in Tierra del Fuego, Patagonia, and the lake districts of Chile and Argentina. The high point was Aconcagua, 6959m. (22,831 ft.) * * * * Ken Kleinberg (Little Mountain), #184, has made it to the top of the Grand Teton. * * * * Erika Lawson, #90, is ascending and descending scales on the violin and viola in Rochester these days. * * * * Bill and Elinore Leavitt, #1, #2, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at North Conway, NH, in the company of daughter Ann, #13, son-in-law David, #177, and charter-member-friend Ray Donahue, #23. Three hiked up Mt. Washington while two rode the train to meet for lunch on top. Because of a track delay, the hikers beat the train down.
CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Nov. 3 NORTH DOME & SHERRILL A moderate bushwhack. Joint hike with Ramapo Chapter ADK.
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600' Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 25, 30
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken at 8:30 a.m.
Leaders: Norm Smith (#199), 517 Rt. 211 East, Middletown, NY 10940 914-342-5817 (home)
Kip Patnode (#324), 266 N. Main St., F-3Y, Spring Valley, 914-356-4090 (evenings)
NY 10977

Nov. 19-Dec. 11 DEER SEASON (firearms) IN CATSKILLS No scheduled hikes

Jan. 5 BLACKHEAD A moderate trail hike to a required winter peak.
Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1780' Elev.: 3940' Order: 5
Meeting Place: In front of Sugar Maples in Maplecrest at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Wilson Hoyt (#309), 9 Fairmount Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530 516-775-2059

Jan. 13 SLIDE A required winter peak via jeep road; ideal for beginning snowshoers; short easy grades and superb scenery.
Distance: 5½ mi. Ascent: 1850' Elev.: 4180' Order: 1
Meeting Place: Ramada Inn parking lot in Kingston at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: John Kennedy (#247), P. O. Box 122, Rhinebeck, NY 12572 914-876-3269

Jan. 18-20 CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND at Alpine Inn, Oliverea, NY

Jan. 19 PANTHER Moderate trail hike to a required winter peak.
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3720' Order: 5
Meeting Place: Alpine Inn, Oliverea, NY at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Roy Messaros (#97), 249 Mulberry Way, Franklin Lakes, NJ 201-337-5004 07417

Jan. 26 BALSAM Moderate trail hike to a required winter peak.
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2700' Elev.: 3600' Order: 27
Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery, Phoenicia at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Fred Schmelzer (#140), R. D. 1, Box 433A, Pine Bush, NY 914-361-3629 12566

ASSUMED RISK

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

HERRING AND SNOW WITHOUT AIR FARE

For our Christmas vacation in 1981 we traveled to the Eastern Townships area of Quebec province, just above the Vermont border--eight easy driving hours, almost totally on expressways. We had chosen a lodge run by a Danish couple because it was in the same town as the only ski touring center we knew about. What luck! All week long we had terrific powder snow. We discovered so many touring centers within minutes from the lodge that we skied at a different one each day
for eight days. And the lodge had as wonderful smorgasbord as we had had in Norway, but in Canada we had it every night. Figuring the exchange rate (about 17% in our favor), overnight lodging in their motel unit with two meals, tax and tip, was $36 per day. I've never eaten so well for so little.

This would also be a good vacation area for downhill skiers other than expert-class. There were five downhill areas which share a one-week ticket deal for $54. The great thing about going to Quebec is the air of Frenchness about the province. All the road signs and business signs are in French, but the people speak enough English that you have no trouble getting where or what you want. And we got there on about 20 gallons of gas!

--Dick Wolff, #321, Newark, NJ

CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND

January 18, 19, 20, 1985 - The Alpine Inn, Oliverea, NY 12462, 4 miles on County Rt. 47, south of Rt. 28 at Big Indian, NY. Tel. 914-254-5026


All rooms have twin beds. All rooms have private baths. Rates are based on double occupancy. Please specify preference of roommate, if any. Room assignments will be in the order of receipt of reservations. Extra dinner Fri. p.m. - $12.00 plus tax & gratuity. Extra dinner Sat. p.m. or Sun. - $13.50 plus tax & grat. $2.50 will be added for Saturday evening "Happy hour." Box lunch - $5.50 plus tax.

1 night = 1 breakfast, 1 lodging, 1 dinner ) tax and gratuity
2 nights = 2 breakfasts, 2 lodgings, 1 dinner) included.

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$_____ deposit enclosed for_____persons. Roommate__________________________

_____ Friday evening dinner. _____ Sunday afternoon dinner.

Please notify registrar if you plan Saturday dinner only.

Signed__________________________ Address__________________________

Phone (_____ ) ___________________