



the catskill canister

Vol. XVIII, No. 1

W I N T E R 1 9 8 5

WILDLIFE IN THE CATSKILLS

One weekend John Kennedy and I decided to climb Lone and Table. Because I love the walk along the Neversink and knew there were lots of camping places near the Denning lean-to, we agreed to camp Saturday and to climb the peaks Sunday. We were surprised and delighted to find the lean-to empty. Naturally, we decided to stay there.

It was so hot when we were ready to go to sleep that we put our heads to the opening of the lean-to, rather than the wall. Sometime after I fell asleep, John wakened me, saying, "Look at that!" At first I did not see anything where his light was shining, but then I did: a porcupine not more than 15 inches from John's head. It had been nibbling on the lean-to. The porcupine moved, I screamed, and it ran off. John muttered something about the nerve of some animals, but I was sleepy and quickly dropped off again. A little later John nudged me, "There's another one!" Sure enough in almost the same spot! John yelled and away it went.

By this time we were having visions of porcupines in our sleeping bags, so we decided to put our heads to the wall and feet to the opening of the lean-to. We would have at least a running start if the next porcupine decided to come in. Also, by this time we were not quite so sleepy as we had been. Nevertheless, after a few times of suddenly sitting up and shining my light around, I managed to fall asleep again, only to be awakened by a scratching sound. "What was that?" I said, but John was already shining his light on two porcupines in front of the lean-to: one on the fireplace and one below it, both looking at us very intently. During the next couple of hours, we awoke frequently, sometimes seeing nothing in the light of our flashlights, but altogether seeing four more porcupines.

Sometime close to dawn, I was again awakened by a scratching noise alongside the lean-to. This time when I turned on my flashlight, there were two raccoons. When sleeping out, I have often thought I heard animals moving in the woods, but this time it seemed that whenever we looked for something, there it was--looking for us!

--Sue Eilers, #337, Mamaroneck, NY

THE LOYALSOCK TRAIL

The Loyalsock Trail (an Indian term meaning land between the waters) passes thru 57 miles of high forested plateaus and ridges. It follows deep stream valleys thru the "Land of the Endless Mountains" of two state forests (Tiadaghton and Wyoming) of north-central Pennsylvania, and is maintained by the Williamsport Alpine Club nearby.

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

Fred Schmelzer, President, R. D. 1, Box 433A, Pine Bush, NY 12566
Franklin B. Clark, Editor, 10 South Washington St., Athens, NY 12015
Elinore G. Leavitt, Assoc. Editor, 246 Joslen Blvd., Hudson, NY 12534
Deborah F. Glynn, Asst. Ed., RD1, Box 406, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

For some years now I have been intrigued by stories of the LT and have wanted to explore this wild area. The opportunity came the last week in June when I joined the Sierra Club. Ten of us backpackers comprised a Sierra Club Wilderness Outing.

Although it has an elevation range of only 600 to 2200 feet, parts of the trail are quite steep and rocky, and the giant waterfalls are spectacular. We touched upon extensive timbering operations of second growth northern hardwoods, including maple, cherry, ash and beech, intensively managed to provide timber for the area's wood-working industries. We also found evidence of good populations of turkey, deer and bear, as well as excellent trout fishing in the Loyalsock Creek and its tributaries. We terminated near the eastern end of the trail in the World's End State Park. (I understand the name was derived as a result of the precipitous journey over the first road there that made travelers think they were surely at the end of the world.) It is a well-managed state park of about 800 acres that has cabins for rent, a large tent site and trailer campground, and swimming in a cold mountain stream dam.

A friend and I celebrated our earning new patches for our backpacks by experiencing the luxury of an overnite stay at the fabulous Eagles Mere Inn on a sizeable lake of the same name about 10 miles away. It boasts of 8 miles of cross country ski trails, a Bow Hunters Festival, a toboggan slide that develops 50 MPH runs, and other attractions, only 150 miles due west of here.

--Alton Dieffenbach, #244, Morristown, NJ

HELP NEEDED

During the first year, each subscriber to THE CATSKILL CANISTER sent 4 self addressed stamped envelopes to the editor. Then for ten years, Kenneth Shuker addressed and stuffed the envelopes. Since 1978 Deborah French Glynn has assumed responsibility, and husband Fred does most of the stuffing. The circulation has increased from about 50 to 500, and there are 60 to 70 changes in names or addresses each year.

We believe it is time for someone else to volunteer for the job, and we hope that someone knows of a better way to keep the records than changing a card file by hand, in addition to having new stickers made for all those address changes. If you have either access to equipment or willingness to help, please write or telephone to Debby. Her address is above and her telephone is 914-635-8756.

CENTENNIAL

The 100th anniversary of the New York State Forest Preserve will be celebrated in 1985. Various activities will be taking place in the CATSKILLS and Adirondacks. The Catskill 3500 Club will be sponsoring a Centennial climb of Slide Mountain on June 15. Any club members who are interested in leading additional hikes or excursions to mark the Centennial Celebration are invited to send their proposals to Jon Clement, R.D. 1, Box 223, East Greenbush, NY 12061, by Feb. 28, 1985.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- 494 Maria Luz Scarpa 10/13/84
- 495 Paul Scarpa 10/13/84 203-653-4204
P. O. Box "H", East Hartland, CT 06027
- 496 Thomas R. Berrian 11/6/84 212-873-5209
10 W. 65 St., Apt. 5A, New York, NY 10023
- 497 Thomas O. Wall 10/19/84 516-921-8332
212 Split Rock Rd., Syosset, NY 11791

LETTERS

Our Club President has received a letter from a disappointed hiker who was rejected by a hike leader because the latter felt that he would not be able to keep up with the group who were going that day. Certainly we can sympathize with anyone who has got up early and driven some distance to go on a hike he needs to qualify for membership, only to be told that this hike is not for him. He has a point when he says that it is the tyro who needs the help of a leader more than does a strong experienced hiker.

On the other hand, we do not wish to repeat the mistake of the leader who permitted a newspaper reporter to accompany a hike over Peekamoose and Table. Not only was the hike disrupted when the man's legs gave out, but he had to go by ambulance to a hospital.

People go on group hikes for different reasons, only one of which is to be guided over the route. Even the sturdiest hikers in new territory appreciate having someone show them where the trailhead is and where to park the car. Many of us who are quite happy hiking alone at times prefer to have companions when bushwhacking, or when climbing in winter. There is the pleasure of meeting old friends. Sometimes there is stimulating conversation. The discussions of local history with Ed West, forest history with Mike Kudish, Greek literature with Ray Donahue, Mozart with Bill Hentschel, the formation of the Catskill 3500 Club with Bill Spangenberg, and dozens of other topics and persons are among the pleasant memories I have of hikes.

Hikers fall roughly into three groups: the fast (who cannot stand to slow down), the moderate (by far the largest group), and the slow. A few persons are physically and temperamentally adaptable to any category. There is no more reason why a group should be tied to the pace of a slow person than there is that it be tied to the pace of a fast person. The trick is to form the group so that everyone will wish to go at more or less the same speed. That is why we indicate that hikes will be strenuous, moderate, or easy. The same mountain may be considered strenuous one time, or moderate another, depending

on the pace. A winter hike with fresh fluffy snow might be fairly easy with twenty persons to take turns breaking trail, but strenuous for one or two.

How is a slow hiker to become a member if he does not go on all of the group hikes? One way is by organizing private hikes. I have done Blackhead at least four times in winter with persons who could not have kept up with the average group, but who were capable of climbing the mountain at their own pace under good conditions. Bleeker's Creepers* is a bunch who like the same speed. Hiking is more fun for you and for everybody else if you go with others who enjoy the same comfortable pace. If you are in doubt about a particular hike, the best thing to do is to telephone the leader and find out how fast and where he or she plans to go. Once I called Bill Lawson, who was to lead Twin and Indian Head. "Bill, if I do a second mountain in winter, I get thigh cramps. How are you coming down?" He said that the return route from the col would be the same for everybody, and as it turned out, half of the people went out with me, while the others scooted up Indian Head and back.

If you need a mountain that you should not attempt on a scheduled hike, let us know. We may be able to arrange either a suitable group hike or a private hike tailored to your pace.

--F.B.C.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Any winter hike may become strenuous if ice, snow, sleet, wind, or thaw make the going difficult. Crampons (either instep or full) should always be carried. Snowshoes should be taken to the trailhead, and carried unless the leader knows there is little snow on top. The high ridges usually have deep snow through April. With proper equipment, the trailless peaks can be easier in winter than in summer.

Feb. 2 SUGARLOAF A bushwhack to summit and return via trail at moderate pace.
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2500' Elev.: 3800' Order: 13
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rt. 212 & Mink Hollow Rd. at Lake Hill, 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Howard Skarka (#379), 60 Montgomery St., Middletown, NY 10940
914-343-5145 after 6 p.m.

Feb. 9 HALCOTT A bushwhack at moderate pace.
Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3520' Order: 33
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

Feb. 16 VLY & BEARPEN A bushwhack at moderate pace.
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3569', 3600' Order: 31, 28
Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery, Phoenicia, at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Cy Whitney (#266), Morley Drive, Wyckoff, NJ 07481
201-447-2653

*See Vol. XVII, No. 4

- Feb. 23 SLIDE, CORNELL, WITTENBERG A strenuous trail hike at fast pace.
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2500' Elev.: 4180,3860,3780' Order: 1,9,14
Meeting Place: Leader requests that hikers call her.
Leader: Katrina Barteld (#67), R.D. 2, Box 109, Germantown, NY 12526
518-537-4816
- March 2 WESTKILL A steep bushwhack at moderate pace.
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev.: 3880' Order: 6
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 42 at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Howard Skarka (#379), 60 Montgomery St., Middletown, NY 10940
914-343-5145 after 6 p.m.
- March 9 NORTH DOME & SHERRILL A long bushwhack at moderate pace.
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600' Elev.: 3610, 3540' Order: 25, 30
Meeting Place: Parking lot behind pharmacy in Phoenicia at 8:00 a.m.
Leaders: Erik & Roman Hrycun (#347, 314), R.D. 1, Box 419B, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
914-876-2451
- March 30 BALSAM LAKE MT. A gentle trail hike at moderate pace.
Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev.: 3725' Order: 15
Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery, Phoenicia, at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Tim Watters (#268), 30 Godwin Dr., Wyckoff, NJ 07481
201-891-1553
- April 6 HUNTER & RUSK A long trail hike at moderate pace to fire tower & a bushwhack to Rusk.
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2700' Elev.: 4040, 3680' Order: 2, 20
Meeting Place: Devil's Tombstone parking lot, Rt. 214 at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Katrina Barteld (#67), R. D. 2, Box 109, Germantown, NY 12526
518-537-4816
- April 20 OVERLOOK MT. & MINISTERS FACE Easy trail to fire tower & bushwhack to M.F. at a moderate pace.
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1960' Elev.: 3140'
Meeting Place: Woodstock Playhouse, Jnct. Rts. 375 (off of Rt. 28) & 212 at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: William Lawson (#78), 395 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY 12203
518-436-1781
- April 27 WINDHAM HIGH PEAK, Burnt Knob, Acra Point, BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME, THOMAS COLE, Camel's Hump, & Caudal. A long trail hike at a fast pace.
Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 4300' Elev.: 3524,3940,3980,3940 Order:32, 5, 3, 4.
Meeting Place: Leader requests that hikers call him.
Leader: Tim Watters (#268), 30 Godwin Dr., Wyckoff, NJ 07481
201-891-1553

ASSUMED RISK

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

the catskill canister

Vol. XVIII, No. 2

S P R I N G 1 9 8 5

THE FOREST HISTORY OF PEEKAMOOSE

In searching for a trail rich in historic forest material over which to lead a hike for the 1985 New York State Forest Preserve Centennial celebration, I find that an ascent of Peekamoose Mountain from Rondout Creek may be very desirable. Such an ascent offers an especially clear picture of how human land-use intensity historically decreases with increasing elevation. Such a climb also offers a dramatic view of how different tree species appear and disappear at various elevations.

The trail starts at 1220' and immediately follows an old road to an elevation of about 1700', before diverging off on its own as a foot path. This road is shown on the old U.S.G.S. Slide Mountain quadrangle, printed in 1903. The road led to two farm houses (or a house and barn?) at elevations 1650' and 1730'. Settlement here in the upper reaches of the Rondout Valley occurred between 1837 and 1841, with the lands cleared probably a short time later.

The forest is young through elevation 2050', with few trees over 50 or 60 years old, and consists of species that pioneer in open abandoned pastures: black birch, white ash, red oak, and bigtooth aspen. At 1725' we pass through a grove of red pines--obviously a plantation, since the trees are all of the same age. Native red pine does occur in the CATSKILLS, but such stands are uneven-aged and do not look like this. Edward G. West, #45, former Superintendent of Land Acquisition, NYS Conservation Department, planted these pines in 1927 or 1928 after the farm was abandoned. At 1800', the forest, dominated by hop hornbeam (ironwood) looks like an overgrown pasture; at 2025', there are a few more planted red pines and the last of the aspens. The pastures ended at about 2050'.

Now we enter the zone of land that had been less intensely used: logged, but never cleared. An old road, presumably a logging road, crosses the ridge and trail at 2100'. Some trees greatly exceed 60 years of age; these stems were either too young or too deformed at the time of logging and were spared. The forest here on the ridge is rich in white ash and red oak, species which generally indicate past disturbance, such as logging. At elevation 2500', the oak stops.

The lower portion of the trail, below about 2500', lies in Great Lot 6 of the Hardenbergh Patent, Denning Tract, Lots 7 through 11. All of these lots (except #10) were acquired by the State of New York between 1908 and 1919. Thus all farming and logging had ceased by 1919 at the very latest. Lot #10 was acquired much more recently: between 1957 and 1970.

At elevation 2600', the forest begins to take on a first growth (old growth or virgin) appearance--dominant sugar maple and beech of all ages, some up to 2½ feet in diameter and 75 feet tall, and probably

Fred Schmelzer, President, R. D. 1, Box 433A, Pine Bush, NY 12566
Franklin B. Clark, Editor, 10 South Washington St., Athens, NY 12015
Elinore G. Leavitt, Assoc. Editor, 246 Joslen Blvd., Hudson, NY 12534
Deborah P. Glynn, Asst. Ed., RD1, Box 406, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

150 to 200 years old. Beneath them is a dense undergrowth of shrubs and ground cover plants. There are no more old roads. However, the presence of white ash up to 2800' makes me a bit wary of pronouncing this true first growth. After 2800', there is no more white ash, and the forest is certainly first growth all the way to the summit. The upper portion of the trail, above about 2500', lies in Great Lot 7 of the Hardenbergh Patent, Vernooey Survey, Lots 79 and 80. These lots were acquired by the State between 1877 and 1885, and thus have been part of the Forest Preserve for the entire century.

The trail turns east at about 2925' on a narrow, exposed ridge crest, the soils become shallow, and the forest becomes scrubbier: trees are only 25 to 35 feet high. Sugar maple drops out and is replaced by its hardier cousin, red maple. Black cherry and yellow birch become more abundant along with beech. Much of the first growth timber occupies the highest ridges--its inaccessibility and its scrubbiness being its salvation.

Now we are ready for the boreal species to enter--remnants of the northern Canadian-like forest which probably covered all of the CATSKILLS shortly after deglaciation, maybe 14,000 to 12,000 years ago. Sure enough, paper birch enters first at about 3050', with mountain ash soon after. Here comes red spruce at 3150'. Balsam fir completes the boreal quartet at 3200'. At 3500', the trail attains the south spur of Peekamoose. The near-absence of glacial till prevents a closed-canopy forest; the widely-spaced trees, only 10 to 20 feet tall, are surrounded by a sea of blueberries, ferns, and grasses. Lookout ledges and the junction with the old trail up the ridge on the east side of Buttermilk Falls Brook are here. Ahead, the 3843' dome of the Peak-of-the-moose, clothed only with balsam fir, paper birch, and mountain ash, looms above us.

--Michael Kudish, Ph.D., #147, Professor, Division of Forestry
Paul Smiths College, Paul Smiths, NY

FOREST BURGLARS

Last June I felt the call to experience some of the Adirondack High Peaks by way of another challenge. My plan was to start from the Keene Valley parking lot, "The Garden," via the iron bridge and to hike the entire Great Range, Rooster Comb to Marcy, including a side trip to Haystack. The tour worked out beautifully, amidst varied weather of haze, fog clouds on and off, drizzle and light rain, and some sporadic sunshine. Lower Wolfjaw caught the attention of a boy scout troop which was spewn all over the trail of the final ascent from the Wolfjaw col, interspersed by two families who were receiving more attention from black flies and mosquitos than they had bargained for. Then the crowds disappeared until I met up with a proud father who had been on the Range Trail all day with his two young children.

It was a memorable way to enjoy in one day eight major peaks plus some minor summits. On the way out my headlamp came in handy for the

last stretch of the Johns Brook Trail. After more than 9,000 feet of elevation gain (and loss) and almost a marathon distance of hiking, I returned to The Garden feeling in fine shape. Knees and feet had withstood the formidable challenge of some of the Adirondacks' most rugged trails. The test of conditioning and willpower had worked well.

At The Garden, though, another test was waiting for me. As soon as the light from my headlamp hit the inner part of my car, it had a surprise for me. Although I had hidden my belongings from view as well as a station wagon allows, the car had been totally cleaned out. Gone was the pack which had served me so well to the summit of Mt. McKinley, the Gortex and down parkas which shared with me substantial winter mountaineering experiences, the reliable MSR backpacking stove, pads, sleeping bag, pots and other camping and personal paraphernalia, the newly acquired cooler, several pairs of boots for alternative hiking plans, even some mountaineering magazines and Hornbein's book on Everest. Just before I returned to the car it had occurred to me that I would fit better into my reserve pants. Now, however, I did not have any pants to fit into. And nothing else anymore, for that matter, to become Mr. Normal again after a sweaty hike.

In hindsight the first clue came at the register which I found with the door open and the register book folded open--a very unusual sight. For a brief moment I felt then that something might not be right. I suspect the thieves might have compared car license plates with registered home towns and itineraries, whereby the out-of-state origin helped their cause.

At first, the episode left me emotionally neutral. Perhaps, I was just stunned in disbelief. Reality did not sink in immediately. Slowly, however, this attitude changed. A few days after the event, I became angry at those barbarians who had had the audacity coldly to take away a piece of myself, wipe out pleasant memories, and rob me of my "security blanket" and items which had served me well in marginal situations. Now, I must look forward to the fight with the insurance company where the policy fine print will probably try to convince me that none of these items had any monetary value anyway.

The irony of it all is that my wife had to be in Europe during this time, and it was her birthday. I had contemplated a visit for the occasion but a sense of fiscal priorities had prevailed. Now I know that I could have gone first class.

What a way to finish a marathon!

--Friedel Schunk, #248, Ramsey, NJ

SHAWANGUNK MAP SET

Enclosed is a flyer describing a set of new maps covering the Mohonk, Minnewaska, Maratanza area. Any member or aspirant wishing to acquire these maps is eligible to purchase them at the discount price of \$4.75 plus postage and tax. Indicate "Catskill 3500 Club" on the bottom of the order form.

PRICE LIST

Decal \$.25 Lapel pin \$3.00 Patch \$1.50 Winter \$1.00
Send Elinore Leavitt check payable to Catskill 3500 Club, Inc.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- 498 Eugene S. Daniell, III 12/31/84 603-225-6052
- 499 Eugene S. Daniell, IV 12/31/84
- 42 Eastman St., Concord, NH 03301
- 500 Shawn Hand 1/21/85 607-363-7467
- P. O. Box 248, Downsville, NY 13755
- 501 George D. Tilroe 1/26/85 518-439-7571
- 84 Salisbury Road, Delmar, NY 12054
- 502 Sister Francesca Husselbeck 2/1/85 518-489-9861
- 424 Second St., Albany, NY 12206
- 503 Elinor S. Grayzel 3/10/85 201-568-2122
- 262 Fountain Road, Englewood, NJ 07631
- 504 Bob Greenberg 3/10/85 201-894-8370
- 29 Old Quarry Road, Englewood, NJ 07631

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our New Zealand analogue reports that Vratislav and Vlasta Zbuzek, #431 & 432, have been seen on the Routeburn Trek, the Milford Trek, and the Tasman Glacier. * * * * Sam Steen, #92, has stopped counting, now that he has completed his quest for 20 times around the CATSKILLS, with Overlook, Tremper, and High Point thrown in. His log shows 224 winter climbs and 146 solo ascents. * * * * Bill Leavitt, #1, has not kept a log, but fifteen years ago he estimated that he had been up Blackhead 100 times. * * * * We have lost track of Ray Donahue, #23, but we used to see his name in every register at least twice a year. * * * * Franklin Clark, #33, and Edward West, #45, have hiked all of the CATSKILLS after age 70. * * * * Ralph Ferrusi, #122, has completed the ADK 46, as well as the 111, by climbing 38 during the summer of 1984. * * * * Katrina Barteld, #67, did all of the ADK 46 last summer. * * * * Eugene Daniell, III, #498, is chairman of the AMC 4000-Footer Committee. * * * * Thomas Wall, #497, is an ADK 46-er, and has hiked the AT from Maine to Virginia.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

- May 4 ESCARPMENT TRAIL From North Lake to Big Hollow via North Point, Stoppel Point, Blackhead. A long uphill trail hike at a moderate pace, with occasional stops for nature study and for enjoying the superb panoramic views.
Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elev.: 3940' Order: 5
Meeting Place: Jnct. of North Lake Rd. (Greene Co. Rt. 18) and Scutt Rd., just before the Gatehouse, about 2 mi. from Rt. 23A, 9:00
Leader: Franklin Clark (#33), 10 So. Washington St., Athens, NY 12015
518-945-1413

- May 11 SHERRILL & NORTH DOME A long bushwhack at moderate pace.
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600' Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 25, 30
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 42 & 28, Shandaken, at 9:00
Leader: David Lasky (#472), 35 Delmont Rd., Hewett, NJ 07421
201-853-4628

HIKES (continued)

-5-

May 25 WINDHAM HIGH PEAK A gentle trail hike at slow pace.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 3524' Order: 32
Meeting Place: Ramada Inn parking lot, Kingston at 8:00
Leader: Benedict (Uncle Ben) Morelli (#466), 117 Makatom Dr., Cranford,
201-276-2200 NJ 07016

June 1 DOUBLETOP & GRAHAM A moderate bushwhack.

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2728' Elev.: 3860', 3868' Order: 8, 7
Meeting Place: Intersection of Rt. 28 & Highmount at 8:30
Leader: Howard Dash (#458), 63 Montague St., Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-875-1513

June 8 BALSAM LAKE MOUNTAIN A good beginners trail hike from
Quaker Clearing at a moderate pace.

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3723' Order: 15
Meeting Place: Parking lot at Quaker Clearing at 9:00. Take County
Rt. 54* to jct. for Turnwood. Continue beyond
Turnwood on dirt road for Quaker Clearing.
Leader: Paul Hoyt (#315), 9 Fairmount Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530
516-775-2059

June 15 SLIDE This will be the re-enactment of a hike to the
summit of Slide on June 11, 1886 by the Hon.
Townsend Cox, one of three newly appointed Forest Com-
missioners, to recognize officially the return of lands
to the State from the Hardenbergh patentees. Commis-
sioner Henry Williams of Encon plans to attend as hon-
orary leader.

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 4180' Order: 1
Meeting Place: Jct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken at 10:00
Leader: Jonathan Clement (#68), R. D. 1, Box 223, East Greenbush, NY
518-477-6602

June 22 KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK Mostly on trail, some bushwhacking,
some scrambling, moderate pace, mar-
velous views, a wrecked airplane, a waterfall, a swim in a
secluded pond, dinner together for those who wish.

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3655' Order: 21
Meeting Place: Howard Johnsons at Saugerties exit of Thruway, 10:00
Leader: Richard Wolff (#321), 648 Market St., Newark, NJ 07105
Day: 201-344-1214 Eve: 201-746-7415

ASSUMED RISK

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

* Leave Rt. 17 at Livingston Manor, interchange 96. Take road to
Lewbeach (Sullivan Co. roads change numbers; 151 becomes 152),
keep going until Ulster Co. 54. --Ed.



the catskill canister

Vol. XIII, No. 3

S U M M E R 1 9 8 5

CLIMBING THE CATSKILLS BEFORE 1880

In 1848 the Swiss scientist Arnold Henri Guyot, at age 40 already well-known for his studies of glaciers in the Alps, came to the United States. He immediately began the exploration, measurement, and mapping of the entire Appalachian chain of mountains from New England to Georgia. This project became his life work. After six years of varied employment, mostly in Massachusetts, he was appointed to a professorship at Princeton University, an association which lasted until his death in 1884. In those thirty years he was a popular teacher, prolific producer of research papers, co-author of a series of geographic textbooks for public school use, and, in the words of a newspaper obituary, "remarkable not only for his wisdom and scientific attainments, but also for his great gentleness and humility." At the time of his death, a scientific colleague guessed that "he probably had not an enemy in the world."

Every summer he took to the hills. Probably no individual covered a wider variety of mountains throughout the eastern U. S. than Arnold Guyot between 1848 and the late 1870's. He made extensive explorations in the White Mountains, the Adirondacks, the CATSKILLS, and spent more modest amounts of time among the upper elevations of the Green Mountains, the Shawangunks, the hills of Massachusetts and Connecticut. For all this, he was even more active in the Southern Appalachians. With pardonable hyperbole, one Appalachian Trail authority notes: "Indeed, he seems to have climbed almost every major peak that the A.T. passes over from New Hampshire to Georgia in a time when most of these mountains had no trails or roads to the top. A most interesting individual!"

Guyot's relentless researches left the landscape littered with exposed fallacies. Before he went to work, Mount Washington was regarded by many as the highest peak east of the Mississippi; he demonstrated that the Southern Appalachians had many higher peaks. Ante Guyot, the CATSKILLS were perceived as the area adjacent to the Catskill Mountain House; he proved that Slide Mountain was the highest in the range, and he identified, and mapped squads of other mountains to the south and west. Previous measurements of summit altitudes were corrected in wholesale lots; Guyot's figures compare quite closely with currently accepted data.

Through much of the 1860's and 1870's Guyot devoted extensive time to the CATSKILLS. He and his aides carefully determined and mapped the location of all the peaks of consequence, named them--sometimes revising traditional nomenclature where it was confusing, so as to reduce the number of "Round Tops," "North" and "South" Mountains--and painstakingly measured elevations. Like almost everyone else, Guyot started out assuming that Kaaterskill High Peak was the highest in the range. It did not take him long to discover that Black Head was higher: he called it 3945 feet to High Peak's 3664 feet. Then his assistant, Henry Kimball, who had been climbing Catskill peaks since 1847 and was convinced that the Pine Orchard peaks were not the highest, escorted him up Hunter,

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

John M. Kennedy, President, Post Office Box 71, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
 Franklin B. Clark, Editor, 10 South Washington St., Athens, NY 12015
 Elinore G. Leavitt, Assoc. Editor, 246 Joslen Blvd., Hudson, NY 12534
 Deborah P. Glynn, Asst. Ed., R.R. 1, Box 406, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

which they measured at 4038 feet. Finally in 1872, at age 65, he climbed and measured Slide Mountain, and determined that it was in fact the apex of the CATSKILLS, 4205 feet by his measurement. Before he was through, Guyot and his assistants had climbed at least 27 of the 34 peaks listed by today's Catskill 3500 Club as being more than 3500 feet. The impact of Guyot's studies on how people perceived the CATSKILLS was revolutionary. No longer were they a tame little collection of picturesque peaks and vales within strolling distance of the Mountain House's columned piazza. As Guyot proved: "The wilderness of the Adirondacks is more extensive but hardly more complete than that of the pathless forests of the Southern Catskills, the haunts of numerous bears, wildcats, and occasional panthers."

Following is a list of Catskill 3500' peaks, classified as to whether Arnold Guyot climbed them prior to 1880.

<u>Peaks Climbed</u>	<u>Apparently Not Climbed</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	<u>Guyot's Name</u>
Slide			
Hunter			
Black Dome			
Thomas Cole			Kimball
Blackhead			Black Head
Westkill			Big Westkill
Doubletop			
Graham			
		Cornell	Friday
Table			
Peekamoose			Peak o' Moose
Plateau			Stony
Sugarloaf			Mink
Wittenberg			(Great)Wittenberg
	Balsam Lake		
Lone			
Panther			Pantherkill
Friday			Cornell
		Big Indian	Fir
Rusk			Evergreen
High Peak (Kaaterskill)			
Twin			Schoharie
Fir			Sprucetop
	Balsam Cap		
	North Dome		
Eagle			
Balsam			
Bearpen			
Indian Head			
	Sherrill		Deep Hollow
Vly			Vlaie or Fly
Windham High Peak			
Halcott			
	Rocky		

"Peaks Climbed" are peaks for which Guyot gives a barometrically-determined elevation. The only exception is Halcott, included because of the strong possibility that the "Pocket Level" reading for Sherrill was obtained while standing on Halcott. "Apparently Not Climbed" are peaks for which Guyot gives no elevation or gives "Pocket Level" as his method of measurement. "Not Sure" are peaks which would seem almost difficult to avoid climbing in light of other places he was.*

In connection with preparation of a comprehensive history of mountain-climbing in northeastern United States, we would like to be able to state with reasonable confidence which of the Catskill peaks Guyot climbed and which he did not. With the aid of people who know the CATSKILLS well--notably Edward West and Father Ray Donahue--the above tabulation has been prepared. If readers of THE CATSKILL CANISTER have any opinions or evidence that any of the entries in this tabulation ought to be reconsidered we would be very grateful for comments.

--Laura and Guy Waterman, East Corinth, VT 05040

1985 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

President, John Kennedy; Past President, Fred Schmelzer; First Vice President, Cyrus Whitney; Second Vice President, James Stone; Secretary, Roman Hrycun; Treasurer, David Clapper; Annual Dinner, Roy Meszaros; 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, Cyrus Whitney; Winter Weekend, Walter Gregory.

LONG TRAIL PROJECT

Several people are planning to hike The Long Trail in Vermont on occasional weekends over the next several years. If you are interested in joining them, telephone Don Rain at 914-462-2219 or Stella Green at 201-391-9410.

LETTERS

It is our pleasure to write to you again after our trip to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Cook Island, and Tahiti, our jubilee--tenth major travel in remote areas of the world. In our thoughts remain many unforgettable moments: The Milford Trek in N. Z.'s Fiordland, watching the seal colony and gold-crested penguins in Martin's Bay, climbing a 16-mile long Tasman Glacier in the Southern Alps of N. Z., the tropical islands of Polynesia. We are not wealthy, but we own a treasure of our slides in our home. Even more, we treasure in our minds and hearts the unforgettable experiences. And you may be pleased to hear that our beloved CATSKILLS is the place we have always found to be very good and sufficient mountains to train and get ready for all our past travels.

--Vratislav & Vlasta Zbuzek, #431, 432

*Sources: "On The Physical Structure and Hypsometry of the Catskill Mountain Region," American Journal of Science, June 1880, and "On a New Map of the Catskill Mountains," Appalachia, July 1880.



NO. 500, SHAWN HAND, RECEIVING HIS CERTIFICATE

President Fred Schmelzer

Rev. Ray Donahue

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- 505 Fred Blakeley 3/9/85 201-347-2745
18 Tate Road, Andover, NJ 07821
- 506 Peter Lazio, Jr. 3/16/85 516-423-1825
164 New York Ave., Halesite, NY 11743
- 507 Harold Lesser 4/5/85 914-473-4146
15 Skyview Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
- 508 George H. Buttler, III 4/14/85 914-297-6509
20 Wasson Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
- 509 David M. Hildebrand 4/14/85 914-473-5322
173 Union St., #6, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
- 510 James Liptack 4/20/85 203-866-8467
7 Eagle Road, Norwalk, CT 06850
- 511 Fred Gustavson 4/21/85
70 S. State Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510
- 512 Tim R. Houserman 4/27/85 914-586-4713
P. O. Box 726, Arkville, NY 12406
- 513 Robert A. Veino 4/27/85 518-415-9499
42 Willett St., Albany, NY 12210
- 514 Evelyn E. Salinger 5/12/85 518-785-1705
- 515 Gerhard L. Salinger 5/12/85
2976 Oak Tree Lane, Schenectady, NY 12309
- 516 Bret R. Schneider 5/12/85 301-490-4065
11716 Laurel Drive, # 2B, Laurel, MD 20708
- 517 Ronald E. Schneider 5/12/85
389 Willard Road, Aurora, Ohio 44202
- 518 Georgia A. Schadt 5/26/85 607-432-8909
- 519 Richard S. Schadt 5/26/85
60 Richards Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820
- 520 Kathleen Delphin-Balthazar 6/7/85 518-943-6757
21 Harris St., Cat kill, NY 12414

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Sept. 14 FIR & BIG INDIAN A fast paced bushwhack.

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev.: 3625', 3700' Order: 23, 19
Meeting Place: Ramada Inn parking lot in Kingston, 8:00
Leader: Katrina Barteld (#67), R. D. 2, Box 109, Germantown, NY 12526
518-537-4816

Sept. 29 THOMAS COLE & BLACK DOME A trail hike at a moderate pace.
(Sun.)

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev.: 3945', 3980' Order: 4, 3
Meeting Place: Sugar Maples in Maplecrest, 9:30
Leader: Arlene Scholer (#441), 17 Willow Rd., New Hyde Park, NY 11040
516-354-0231

Oct. 5 CENTENNIAL EVENT A historical and scenic hike at easy
pace to the site of Catskill Mountain
House via Kaaterskill Falls.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1000'
Meeting Place: Parking lot on Rt. 23A, 3 mi. west of Palenville (up
Kaaterskill Clove), 8:30
Leader: Fred Schmelzer (#140), R. D. 1, Box 433A, Pine Bush, NY 12566
914-361-3629

Oct. 12 SLIDE MT. BUSHWHACK A moderately paced bushwhack through
some dense ground cover.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 4180' Order: 1
Meeting Place: Big Indian Post Office, 8:30
Leader: Rev. Ray Donahue (#23), St. Mary's Church, Downsville, NY 13755
607-363-2565

Oct. 19 INDIAN HEAD A moderately paced trail hike, lead by one of
the younger members of the Club.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev.: 3573' Order: 29
Meeting Place: Catskill exit NYS Thruway, 8:30
Leader: Christine & Katrina Barteld (#482, 67), R. D. 2, Box 109,
518-537-4816 Germantown, NY 12526

Oct. 27 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, Rt. 214, 9:00
Leader: Paul Hoyt (#315), 9 Fairmount Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530
516-775-2059

Nov. 2 WITTENBERG BUSHWHACK A tough strenuous bushwhack from
Moon Haw road.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2200' Elev.: 3780' Order: 15
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A, Boiceville, 8:30
Leader: Kip Patnode (#324), 266 N. Main St., Spring Valley, NY 10977
914-356-4090

ASSUMED RISK

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

the catskill canister

Vol. XIII, No. 4

A U T U M N 1 9 8 5

KILIMANJARO 1985

On February 2, 1985, during a regular 3500 Club hike, I mentioned to Howard Skarka, Bill Reimvis, Franklin Clark, and a young Englishman named John that in four weeks I would be climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. Three days later our thoughtful editor sent me the Autumn 1971 edition of THE CATSKILL CANISTER. The lead story was entitled "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" and was written by F. I. Smith, #58. He had made it to the roof of Africa, a 19,320 foot mountain situated in Tanzania. Glacier-covered the year round, "Kibo" (the Swahili name for one of the world's most famous and glamorous summits) is located within two hundred miles of the equator.

In the fifteen years between the time Smith did his trek and I accomplished mine, not a great deal has changed in the experience of those who make the pilgrimage from remote parts of the world to Kilimanjaro's slopes. Traditionally all climbers commence their junket at either the Kibo or the Marangu Hotels, both located in Marangu, near the entrance to Kilimanjaro National Park. Like Smith, I stayed at the Kibo, a hostelry built before plumbing and electricity emerged as desirable amenities for the traveling public. These have now been added in a makeshift fashion.

The hotel dining room my first night was alive with expectation and trepidation for those about to embark on their climb of the high peak, and celebration for those who had completed their journey, and even for those who had failed to attain the summit. An Italian group of seven planning on climbing on the morrow were filled with song. An English group of about a dozen were consuming copious quantities of beer. From their stiffened legs (that most hikers experience) it was not difficult to deduce that they had descended from the upper slopes, their odyssey almost over. There were others, among them Germans, Danes, Austrians, Japanese, and three Americans, drawn to this spot by what has always attracted adventuresome spirits, a mountain to be climbed. Most were beautiful young people; at fifty-seven I was the senior by at least four years.

The next morning I learned that there had been a mix-up in dates and there was no guide available for me. The other two Americans kindly invited me to share their guide, Claude, a thirty-four-year-old nearby resident who had spent much of his life dealing with the needs of climbers. There were to be porters to carry our gear, those of the guides, and even porters to carry the porters' personal equipment. Then there was a need for the upward movement of food and firewood, since two of our nights would be spent above timberline. Describing the entourage as an expedition would not be inaccurate.

Nearly all who seek the upper slopes of the mountain follow the "tourist route." For each of three days there are four-to five-hour hikes to surprisingly modern A-frame huts. The first of these was at

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

John M. Kennedy, President, Post Office Box 71, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
Franklin B. Clark, Editor, 10 South Washington St., Athens, NY 12015
Elinore G. Leavitt, Assoc. Editor, 246 Joslen Blvd., Hudson, NY 12534
Deborah P. Glynn, Asst. Ed., R.R. 1, Box 406, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

9,000 feet, then at 12,000 feet, and the last night before the final try at 15,500 feet. The relatively short allocation of travel time each day was a deliberate design to assist each climber to acclimatize to the altitude and the diminishing presence of oxygen. On each of our days probably two dozen others ascended over the same route and an equal number were descending. Although I conducted no survey, the presence of probably fifteen nationalities eloquently attested to the great appeal of Kilimanjaro.

At each hut we were offered afternoon tea, undoubtedly a vestige of colonial days. One of our porters was a cook, and the evening meal consisted of ample quantities of hot meat, potatoes, two vegetables, and desert, served to us seated at a table covered with a bright table cloth. Since there were at least a half-dozen cooks for the various entourages, the cook shed was bedlam and best viewed from a discreet distance. Sleeping accommodations included mattresses with a maximum of four to the room. The lower hut complex had flush toilets, while the upper two had the more rudimentary variety.

Starting with jungle vegetation, savannah, moorland, heather, desert, and finally arctic glacier all greeted the treker. Temperature on the desert in the col between Kibo and its sister mountain, Mawenzi, can reach 100 degrees Fahrenheit on any day of the year, and will be below freezing every night. So summer every day and winter every night would be an apt description of the temperature. Rainfall above 12,000 feet is extremely sparse. In descending the mountain the hiker experiences a two-day journey from vegetation of the arctic to the plant life of the equatorial zone. In effect it is a miniature five-thousand mile trip through all the vegetation zones of the world, a unique and unforgettable experience that exists nowhere else.

Altitude sickness haunts the mind and body of those who seek the highest point on the African continent. Some experienced severe headaches the second day out. Higher up, the numbers of ill increased, as did the severity of that sickness. Cramps, diarrhea, convulsions, and nausea all manifested themselves. The only known remedy is quickly to descend to a lower elevation. Fortunately, I experienced no signs of altitude sickness. One of the two Americans I treked with climbed for only a half hour on the final ascent before turning back. The other collapsed at around 17,500 and uttered that he could not go on. After a short respite, and with assistance from me and our guide, he slowly, three to six steps and then rest, made it to the summit. Helping him nearly did me in, and caused the moral dilemma as to what was my responsibility to this acquaintance of a few days who had agreed to share his guide. Had I come so far only to be defeated by a sense of necessity to assist someone else? Fortunately we both made it. On the way down he had the dry heaves for ten minutes, and twenty hours later, in the middle of the night at 12,300, had convulsions for over an hour. Such was the toll on the body of one who had the unusually strong grit to make the dream a reality even when the body said not to go on.

F. I. Smith in 1971 wrote that only seven out of eighteen of those who climbed with him made the summit. Probably a similar 35-40% of those who reached the final hut with me made it to the summit. To travel a third of the way around the world and not reach the top must be a tremendous disappointment.

We started the final leg of 3,800 feet in altitude change at 1:00 in the morning while the scree was still frozen. The first three hours were by the light of an almost full moon, the next hour the climb was by lantern, and the last sixty minutes or so was by the early light of morning, when the rose and lemon hues of an eastern sky reflecting off the glacier was an unreal experience. As I gazed for perhaps two hundred miles across eastern Africa, fresh with the promise of a new day, there was an inner repose that made worthwhile the strenuousness of an ascent that had pushed my entire body to the limits of its physical ability. Upon reflection now, what a paradox!

There is no technical climbing in reaching the top of this mountain. Perhaps if I were to liken it to the scree on the west slope of Blackhead above Lockwood Gap, most would have a good idea of Kibo's last 3,800 feet. Of course there are no trees, nor have the DEC put in their steps. The real challenge is the altitude. Dr. Charles Houston, in his book "Going Higher," states that for each 1,000 feet above sea level we lose 3% of our maximum physical efficiency. This would mean at 19,000 feet, even if one was able to operate at optimum capacity, it would be only 43% of what could be accomplished at sea level. At 15,000 feet the atmosphere is only one-half of that at sea level. For the same amount of oxygen, therefore, one must breathe twice the rate as at sea level.

Recollections of my six days on Kibo will certainly enrich my life. Perhaps the most memorable will be of the Italian group singing on their descent, even though only two of their number made it to the summit. I was preceding them by about a half hour and could not see them, but the lustiness of their song resounding off the barren mountain brought to mind the words of the Psalmist: "The hills shall be filled with song." As with those whom we meet in passing on the trail, in a shelter, or around the campfire, the fleeting camaraderie is an important part of our hiking. The inner person glows with smugness and satisfaction, and even a transitory sharing is pleasurable. The ascent of any mountain is an event impossible to express adequately, and because it is so difficult, it avoids the risk of ever being a commonplace experience.

--James Matthews, #436, Kingston, NY

A HYPOTHERMIC EXPERIENCE

Hypothermia can happen to anyone given certain conditions. Those who are the experienced outdoor type may think they would immediately recognize its start. That is not quite the way it works.

Walking in to Feldspar lean-to from Tahawus in a cold rain with temperatures in the low forties, I failed to recognize its arrival. I was wearing polypropylene underwear top and bottom, Gortex jacket, wool hat, polypro gloves, wool socks, and Limmer boots. Mistake number one was stopping too long on the Lake Colden dam in a driving, rain-laden wind. The storm was impressive as it swept down the lake, but it was a show put on by nature that I should have ignored. Even though it

was hard work walking with a full pack in the muddy, root-strewn trail, from the time we left the dam I got colder, no matter how hard and fast I walked.

I was losing ground to hypothermia and failed to recognize it. Even though I had read about many hypothermia cases, and had even seen a few, I still did not recognize the symptoms as they developed within me. Hypothermia had always been abstract and never personal. Mistake number two. Further, I kept all this from my hiking companions. Mistake number three. I found myself becoming very uncoordinated on the rough trail, repeatedly stumbling. As I recovered from a near fall, someone asked me how come I was shivering. Suddenly, we all realized what was happening to me. Hastily, I was helped into a woolen shirt and sweater. Should we go on? Yes, we were within 30 minutes of our destination.

Arriving at the lean-to, I immediately crawled into my bag. However, the decision was that I should take off only the Gortex jacket. As I lay in my winter down bag, I gradually got colder. I was wearing thick polyester booties inside a winter bag and still my feet got colder! The decision to get into my bag had included keeping on my wet wool shirt and sweater. That was a mistake. My leaky Gortex jacket had dampened the wool I was wearing. Wet wool was keeping me from warming up. All damp clothing was removed and another sleeping bag was opened and placed over me and my bag. Ninety minutes later, I arrived back in the land of the warm.

The lesson gained from this experience is that you must react early to a chill or any other symptom that is negative. Also, let your companions know how you feel and what is going on. Hiking experience is not necessarily your mainstay when hypothermia strikes for the first time.

--Howard Adriance, #327, Kingston, NY

MOUNTAIN HIKING IN WINTER

Hike leaders last winter reported several times that persons had come to the trailhead ill-prepared for winter hiking. Winter starts in the mountains about December 1, and lasts through April. The temperature can drop below zero without warning, and the windchill on exposed ridges may reach 50 below zero. If you have not had experience and do not know whether your boots, socks, pants, sweaters, jacket, mittens and hat will be adequate, telephone the hike leader for advice.

The winter pack should always carry crampons, either full or in-step. Snowshoes should be carried unless the leader knows that there is no use for them that day. I have carried snowshoes half way up Slide in December, and found plenty of snow the rest of the way. We have walked up bare rocks in April, and found two feet of snow on top of Plateau. If you can not buy, rent, or borrow snowshoes, avoid the mountains in winter. Breaking trail is a group responsibility; everyone should take a turn; it is not fair to expect other persons to do all of the work. Properly dressed, properly equipped, and in proper physical condition, a hiker can enjoy the CATSKILLS in what many people consider the most beautiful season of the year.

--F.B.C.

ANNUAL DINNER DATE

Save the date of Saturday, March 22, 1986, for the annual meeting of the Catskill 3500 Club. The dinner will be at Meadowbrook Lodge, New Windsor, NY, near Newburgh.

A DIFFERENT SKI TRAIL

One winter, while the Northeast suffered a drought of snow over Christmas-New Year's period, I was lucky enough to have planned a vacation at Yellowstone Park with the Wilderness Institute. Snow depths varied from nil next to the thermal features (geysers, hot pools, mud pots and fumaroles) to thigh deep in the woods. Since most of the skiing was in the woods, conditions were just perfect. Temperatures were in the teens and twenties, another lucky happening, since week-long readings of 50 below zero for this area are not considered unusual. The sun shone brightly every day except one, when it snowed all day, just when the trails needed replenishing. We were lodged at Old Faithful Snowlodge, a rather new building, two persons per room with private bath.

Quite often as we skied along we came upon bison or elk, who just stood and stared at us from distances of as little as 50 feet. One morning as I walked out of the lodge to go to breakfast, I startled an elk who was chewing on a pine tree right alongside the door. Another day we were zooming down a trail and came almost face to face with a bison, who fortunately must have been more accustomed to the sudden confrontation than we were, since he just kept grazing, while the rest of us experienced rapid rises in blood pressure.

It was quite a spectacular thing to ski along the boardwalks between the geysers. With all the steam they let off, it's a very other-worldly sight. Evenings were very quiet, with slide shows and films shown by the hotel at 7:30 and the park rangers at 8:30. Not a sound was heard in the lodge after the second show until 7:00 the next morning.

Although dozens and dozens of snowmobiles also enjoy the park, they are restricted to the same roads that automobiles use in the summer, so the trails are left in perfect shape for skiing; the tracks are never destroyed. Entering and leaving the park is a pleasure also. You travel in and out in a 12-passenger tracked vehicle, stopping at different places of interest, with information constantly given by the driver who stops whenever there is something of interest to look at or photograph. It was a truly unique holiday, and very different from anything I had done before.

--Dick Wolff, #321, Newark, NJ

SKI REPORT 2/28/85

From Jessup Road, Willow, to old Route 28, Phoenicia, via the summit of Mt. Tremper. Ascent, using the Long Path, 3½ hours; descent, 1 hour. Snow: NE (climbing) side, 15" untracked powder; SW side, 6-9" packed powder. Temperature: 10 degrees F. Skill level required: expert. Equipment used: climbing skins, steel-edged touring skis, telemarking boots. Recommendation: Reverse the above route. This would provide greater snow depth for the descent (to Willow).

--Howard Adriance, #327, Kingston, NY

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Nov. 18 - Dec. 10 HUNTING SEASON (firearms) No scheduled hikes.

Dec. 28 PLATEAU, SUGARLOAF (MINK), TWIN, & INDIAN HEAD A fast-paced trail hike.

Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 4300' Elev.: 3840,3800,3640,3573' Order:12,
Meeting Place: Call or write leader for details. 13,22,29.
Leader: Katrina Barteld (#67), R.D. 2, Box 109, Germantown, NY 12526
518-537-4816

Jan. 4 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 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Cy Whitney (#266), Morley Drive, Wyckoff, NJ 07481
201-447-2653

Jan. 11 SLIDE A required winter peak, via jeep road; ideal for beginning snowshoers; short easy grades, superb

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1850' Elev.: 4180' Order: 1 /scenery.
Meeting Place: Ramada Inn parking lot in Kingston at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: John Kennedy (#247), P.O. Box 71, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
914-876-3269

Jan. 18 BALSAM A moderate trail hike to a required winter peak.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1600' 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 12566
914-361-3629

Jan. 25 WINTER WEEKEND at Alpine Inn.

Feb. 1 NORTH LAKE SKI TOUR Distance: 5 miles.

Meeting Place: Entrance to North Lake campsite (follow signs from Haines Falls) at 9:00 a.m. Bring a lunch.
Leaders: Erik & Roman Hrycun (#347 & 314), R.D. 1, Box 419B, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
914-876-2451

Feb. 9 PANTHER Moderate trail hike via Giant Ledge.
(Sun.)

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3720' Order: 17
Meeting Place: Ramada Inn parking lot in Kingston at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Paul Hoyt (#315), 9 Fairmount Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530
516-775-2059

Feb. 22 BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY A strenuous bushwhack.

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 3100' Elev.: 3623, 3694' Order: 23, 19
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville at 8:00 a.m.
Leaders: Erik & Roman Hrycun (#347 & 314), R.D. 1, Box 419B, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
914-876-2451

ASSUMED RISK

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

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- 521 Bertha Vanderburgh 6/9/85 914-454-3287
15 James St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
- 522 Larry M. Russ 6/22/85 914-352-7013
3 Dunlop Drive, Spring Valley, NY 10977
- 523 Wanda A. Davenport 7/6/85 201-445-0385
500 Knollwood Road, Ridgewood, NJ 07450
- 524 Burton L. Marker 7/6/85 607-729-2551
R. D. 2, Box 2372, Windsor, NY 13865
- 525 Richard E. Moore 9/1/85 718-445-5609
189-30 37 Ave., Flushing, NY 11358
- 526 Anthony N. Roscigno 9/15/85 617-682-8549
60 Newbury St., Lawrence, MA 01840
- 527 Roger L. Meyer 10/6/85 201-755-6732
Regency Village 12F, North Plainfield, NJ 07060
- 528 James J. Persinko 10/6/85 201-638-8717
30 West Main St., High Bridge, NJ 08829

IN MEMORIAM - Gertrude Bohm, Ph. D., #15; James G. Hoyt, #308

CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND

January 24, 25, 26, 1986 - The Alpine Inn, Oliverea, NY 12462, 4 miles on County Rt. 47, south of Rt. 28 at Big Indian, NY. Tel. 914-254-5026

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

All rooms have twin beds. All rooms have private baths. Rates are based on double occupancy. Please specify preference of roommate, if any. Room assignments will be in the order of receipt of reservations. Saturday night only accomodations can be arranged if available. Extra dinner Friday night and Sunday afternoon - \$12.50 plus tax & gratuity. Extra dinner Saturday night - \$14.00 plus tax & gratuity. \$2.75 will be added for Sat. p.m. "Happy Hour." Trail lunch - \$6.00.

.....
 2 nights = 2 lodgings, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner (tax & gratuity included)
 des Alps - 10 rooms... 82.00 Edelweiss - #3,6,8,10... 82.00
 Ski Hut - 2 rooms.... 71.00 Edelweiss - #7..... 75.50

\$ _____ deposit enclosed for _____ persons. Roommate _____

_____ Friday evening dinner. _____ Sunday afternoon dinner.

Please notify registrar if you plan Saturday dinner only.

Signed _____ Address _____

Phone () _____