



# the catskill canister

Vol. XIV, No. 1

W I N T E R 1 9 8 1

## MY FIRST HIKE IN THE CATSKILLS

It was encouraging to read Walter Gregory's account of his first hike in the CATSKILLS. My first, although not quite as exciting as his, was no less an eye opener.

Formally becoming an aspirant, I attended the Club's most recent annual dinner. A pitch was made to my table companions to find weekday hikers to show me the way. Having spent many years in active Boy Scouting, my desire to get out is curtailed by those business commitments many of us seem to bump into. Mine restrict weekend hiking, since the resort hotel I manage caters to weekend vacationers.

My good fortune the evening of the Club's dinner was to be introduced to Richard Davis. Richard was kind enough to follow up on our introduction almost immediately. He invited me to join him on a walk during the week. We finally agreed on Thursday, April 3, 1980. We would meet in Kingston at 7:30 a.m., those business commitments forcing me to start in time to finish early for the return to my hotel.

Some eleven years earlier I had the exciting pleasure of escorting six Explorer Scouts up the trail of Mount Whitney on the Nevada side of the Sierras. The entire Labor Day Weekend of 1969 was set aside for the climb, which started at 10,000 feet. Certainly, with experience like that behind me, a short hike up to the summit of 3,573-foot Indian Head, and possibly Twin that same day, would be the proverbial "piece of cake," no thought being given to the fact that that was my most recent hike.

I had on my kangaroo leather boots, an old Boy Scout day pack, and layers of clothing to beat the cold. Being anxious to get back to the robust way of outdoor life, I arrived at Kingston with time enough to chomp on a muffin and swoosh down some hot coffee at the Ramada Inn. Upon my return to the parking lot I saw that Richard had Sam Steen waiting with him. After exchanging pleasantries, we agreed on my being chauffeur in order to learn the way for future walks.

At this point these two experienced CATSKILL climbers readied their gear for my car trunk. They had packs on pack frames, snow shoes, and crampons. Noticing all of this, I wondered to myself if I was under-equipped or if they were over-equipped. With due respect for my elders (by at least 15 years each) and their experience, I opted neither to laugh at nor question them or their knowledge and skills.

Once we reached our jumping-off point and hitched up our packs. Richard and Sam decided the snow shoes were probably not necessary. I took a gulp of fresh air, and off we went. After about twenty

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minutes of walking I felt in the pink, and told my companions that two peaks would indeed be my goal this morning. Richard, nodding his head with an encouraging smile, said he would certainly be happy to accomodate me, but advised me to wait till later before deciding. Once again, I said no more, and continued to walk.

As any CATSKILL hiker knows, the walk began to climb a bit. The climb started getting steeper. It seemed as if my legs understood this sooner than I. Soon, we were walking on snow, and ice-covered parts of the trail. Footing became a little trickier. Time for a breather! Standing in place I, upon the urging of my companions, took off the first layer of clothing. It was really not too cold out after all, or was it I that was warm? Outer jacket now strapped to my pack, shirt and sweater unbuttoned, the walk continued. As the walk climbed higher (the ascent being measured inch by additional inch through my legs), the distance between me and them grew wider. The breathers came more often and each lasted a little longer. What had happened to my once strong legs? Where had my stamina gone? Was the easy life around my waist telling me something? Had eleven years of inactivity ruined me for my hopes of earning a 3500 Club patch?

With great patience and encouragement on the part of Davis and Steen, we did make it to the top of Indian Head. We then retreated to a quiet overlook for lunch. Sitting on a rock looking across at the ski slopes of Belle Ayre on one side and down at Ashokan Reservoir on another certainly made it worth all the effort. The sound of quiet and the brush of the slightest of breezes melted together in the brightness of the unclouded sun. Lord, isn't this what it's all about? Still, with all this justification, I decided not to subject my companions to the possibility of having to carry me down from the top of Twin, and deferred that climb to another time. That is until some time after a substantial weight loss and a substantial gain in leg strength and stamina. Perhaps increased jogging and more racquetball might help. Now, if I could only get rid of those business commitments...

Our trip down, with Richard's crampons on my boots, was certainly much easier, even though some newly awakened muscles decided to renew their acquaintance with me. About a fourth of the way down we met three other hikers who were on their way up the hill. We stopped to chat and exchange amenities. I noted how smug I seemed to myself when I smiled and wished them well on their trip. After all, I was finishing my ordeal and they were just getting there. I then realized that my trip was not really over even though we were heading down. My trip, in fact, had just begun--thirty-three peaks left to go! I now could not wait to get down to start working on my physical conditioning. Watch out, Slide!

--Lenny Stark, Spring Glen, NY

SUBSCRIPTION RATE CHANGE

In 1968 the subscription rate was, "Send 3 self-addressed, stamped envelopes to the editor." In 1969 it was changed to \$1.00 per year, which was still the rate in 1980. Postage has increased, however, so that it now takes seventy-five cents for five mailings, and more if any of them are overweight. Mimeograph stencils, paper, and other supplies have all increased in price. Although the mailing list has grown from 50 to 400, all of the work is still being done by volunteers. The associate editor types and mimeographs with a hand-cranked machine. The assistant editor and her Club neighbors address, stuff, and seal envelopes. Members and aspirants send in the articles and the news items.

At the October meeting of the Executive Committee, it was voted to change the subscription rate to \$2.00 in 1981. It was mentioned that members have long paid dues of \$2.00, and that aspirants get all of the mailings, and have the same benefits from Club income as do members.

--F. B. C.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #342 Leonard S. Bernstein 10/19/80 201-494-1888  
10 Poets Lane, Metuchen, NJ 08840
- #343 Cindy Bloom 11/16/80 212-379-8739  
140-21C Casals Place, Bronx, NY 10475

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our New England cousin reports that #199 completed the New England 4,000 footers on Sugarloaf Mt. in Maine, September 12, in the company of #306 and #324. Twelve days later he finished the ADK 46 on Allen, with #92 and #306 for companions. \* \* \* \* #338 has returned to her home in Japan. She earned her membership in style, hiking enthusiastically and never asking for a rest. She was greatly impressed by the vistas in the CATSKILLS.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Feb. 7      SOUTHWEST HUNTER      Part trail hike, part bushwhack on this much talked-about peak.  
Distance: 6-7 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 3740'  
Meeting Place: Big Scot parking lot in front of Ramada Inn in Kingston at 8:00 a.m. or call or write leader for other meeting place.  
Leader: Don Rain (#246), 23 Fair Way, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603  
914-462-2219

Feb. 14      WESTKILL      Moderate trail hike.  
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev.: 3880' Order: 6  
Meeting Place: Howard Johnson parking lot in Hyde Park at 7:30 a.m. or Big Scot parking lot in front of Ramada Inn in Kingston at 8:00 a.m. or call or write leader.  
Leader: Ralph-Joseph Ferrusi (#122), Old Hopewell Rd., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590  
914-297-8753

Feb. 20, 21, 22, 23      ADIRONDACK LOJ WEEKEND

Feb. 28      LEADERS CHOICE - SLIDE OR PANTHER      Slide will be preference with Panther as an alternate if conditions warrant. Joint trip with Knickerbocker Chapter ADK. Hike up Slide will be on the unmarked Dutcher Trail with return on the scenic Curtis-Ormsbee Trail.  
Distance: 6 mi. (8) Ascent: 1650' (1500') Elev.: 4180' (3720')  
Order: 1 (5)  
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: H. Neil Zimmerman (#306), 10 W. 65th St., New York, NY 10023  
days: 212-644-1620      evenings: 212-873-5209

Apr. 4      PEEKAMOOSSE      Moderate trail hike.  
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600' Elev.: 3843' Order: 11  
Meeting Place: Grocery store in Sundown at 9:00 a.m.  
Leader: Frances Jones (#205), 134 Union Ave., Nutley, NJ 07110  
201-661-2991

Apr. 11      FRIDAY      Strenuous bushwhack  
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2700' Elev.: 3694' Order: 18  
Meeting Place: Winchell's Corner Antique Store in Shokan at 9:00 a.m.  
Leader: Joseph Oxnard (#230), 51-58 Manilla St., Elmhurst, NY 11373  
212-458-3390

Apr. 25      PALENVILLE OVERLOOK      Moderate hike, mostly on abandoned roads, walking up the mountain from Palenville to Boulder Rock and the sites of the Kaaterskill Hotel and the Catskill Mountain House.  
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 2460'  
Meeting Place: Rowena School, jnct. Rts. 23A & 32A, Palenville.  
Leader: Franklin Clark (#33), 10 S. Washington St., Athens, NY 12015  
518-945-1413

THE CATSKILL CANISTER

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WINTER 1981

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Mar. 6-8      ADIRONDACKS      Intermediate winter hiking.

Hike to Winter Camp on Johns Brook Friday evening. Major climb on Saturday; easier climb on Sunday. Central commissary. Permission of leader required. Limited space. \$10 deposit (refundable) and S. A. S. E. by Feb 27. Joint trip with Mid-Hudson ADK and Sierra Club.

Leader: Ronald Hahn (#253), 28 President's Place, Kingston, NY 12401. 914-331-6298

Mar. 7      BLACKHEAD      A required winter peak. Strenuous trail hike which may include Black Dome.

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1780' Elev.: 3940' Order: 5  
Meeting Place: General store and Postoffice in Maplecrest at 8:30  
Leader: Al Dieffenbach (#244), 42 Headley Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960  
Days: 201-540-5146      Evenings: 201-267-8091

Mar. 14      KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK      Huckleberry Point may be included if time and conditions permit.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3655' Order: 21  
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 8:30 a. m.  
Leader: Elizabeth Maury (#305), 253 Kinderkamack Rd., River Edge, NJ 07661. 201-343-5506

Mar. 15      Rusk      Moderate bushwack. Joint hike with L. I. Chapter ADK.

Distance: 3 mi. Ascent: 1680' Elev.: 3680' Order: 20  
Meeting Place: Big Scot parking lot in front of Ramada Inn, Kingston at 8:30, or Junction Rts 42 and Spruceton Road, Westkill, at 9:30 a. m.  
Leader: Larry Braun (#213), 79 Locust St., Floral Park, NY 11001 516-354-8507

Apr. 25      PALENVILLE OVERLOOK      (See Vol. XIV, No. 4, Page 4)

Meeting Time: 9:00 a. m.



# the catskill canister

Vol. XIV, No. 2

SPRING 1981

## SLIDE MOUNTAIN TEMPERATURES - III

In 1980 members of the Mohonk Trust staff again maintained a maximum-minimum thermometer on the summit of Slide Mountain (see Vol. XII, No. 2, and XIII, No. 1, for background). The thermometer was checked and reset five times during the year, the aim being to record the highs and lows of the passing seasons.

The highest reading was 86 degrees in July (vs. 81 in July 1978, and 82 in May 1979). The highest temperature during the calendar winter was 47, recorded in both January and March.

Unfortunately, the abundance of cold weather in late December and early January resulted in the probable loss of 1980's exact low. Based on the known relationship of Slide Mountain's temperatures to Mohonk Lake's, the low for the year is estimated to have been -23 on Christmas Day (vs. -13 in January 1978 and -24 in February 1979). Earlier in the year there were readings of -15 in February and -17 in March.

The actual low reading on the thermometer was -31, which probably occurred on January 4, 1981--a new record for this study.

--Bradley Snyder, The Mohonk Trust, New Paltz, NY 12561

## LETTERS

While camped deep in the woods between Mink Hollow (Westkill) and Diamond Notch, we heard an eerie, canine howling. Although very dog-like, the sounds were different from any dog call any of us (including a veterinarian) had ever heard. Later, we heard the animal again, farther off, howling a more ululating call. It was not a wildcat. The next day we found canine-type tracks in an area covered with white rabbit runs. The tracks seemed to be those of a dog-like animal of about 55 lbs. There may have been two sets, as one appeared to be smaller than the other. In the same area were tracks of deer, bobcat, mink, and smaller creatures. Can any of our readers tell us what made the tracks and noise? Feral dogs? Coyotes? Coydogs?

--David Mack, 140 Couty Rd., Tenafly, NJ 07670

In The New York Times, March 3, 1981, is an article, "Coyotes Arrive in the Northeast After an Evolutionary Trek Across the U.S." The eastern coyote subspecies evolved during the eastward migration over the last 80 years. It is about one-fourth larger than the western coyote, and may have inherited some genes from the Algonquin wolf. (The so-called hybrid coydog lacks the breeding vigor of pure coyote, wolf, and dog strains. Reports of coyotes have been received from

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observers in every state east of the Mississippi, including the metropolitan areas in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.

The Forest Ranger for the Westkill section states that coyotes are certainly there from time to time. Coyotes travel quite a bit.

--F.B.C.

The Club has many strong, capable hikers who, having accomplished all of the peaks and bushwhacks, feel quite independent in the woods. Thus, almost every Club hike I have been on ends up with several sub-groups, doing their own thing. I have just returned from leading a winter hike, and I wonder why I should want to lead another.

If a hiker chooses to join a Club hike, it seems to me that he or she accepts a responsibility to stay with the group. I recognize that there are those who prefer a faster pace, and those who like a slower pace. Why not divide the group at the trailhead? A qualified second leader, equipped with compass, maps, and the general plan in mind, could take those who wish to do more or less than the announced hike, or who wish to go faster or slower than the scheduled leader. If the second group were also independent with respect to cars, there would be two separate hikes, with no need for coordination between them.

Since the Club, by design, gets together principally on hikes, it is important that everyone, including the leader, have an enjoyable time. Otherwise, potential hike leaders will be asking, "Do I want to take the responsibility of leading a hike?"

--(Name withheld by request)

I have happy memories of many hikes I have led, including the first group hike over the new Escarpment Trail from North Point, via Stoppel and Blackhead, to Big Hollow. Half of those on the hike were charter members and more experienced than I, but we had no problems. Ten years from now, I am sure you will be able to look back and remember with similar pleasure the hikes you will have led. It just needs a little tightening up of the leadership, and a little more courtesy on the part of the hikers.

One hike I remember with great pleasure had a mix of strong hikers, average hikers, and beginners. The leader was #1, and we went up Plateau from the Stony Clove in April on bare rocks. On top there was two feet of snow, and one group stopped at the first lookout, ate a leisurely lunch, and returned slowly to the cars. At the leanto, the rest of us had lunch, and those without snowshoes (including #2 and #3) turned back. Four of us were left to go over Olderbark. It was three hikes in one, and everyone was happy (except #3, who bemoan-

ed imprecatorily having left his snowshoes in the car).

Every leader has a different style, but here are some practices that have worked well for me.

1. I always start leading myself in order to establish recognition and authority. Any time I cannot see the sweeper (usually someone with a bright-colored jacket or cap or pack), we stop and wait until he or she is within sight.

2. On a compass bushwhack, I ask each person to take a turn leading with the compass. On a snowshoe hike, I ask each person to take a turn breaking trail. But I stay in second place, keep my eyes open for the sweeper, and tell the person ahead when he or she should slow down, stop, or let someone else take a turn at leading. Once we had twenty on a snowshoe hike to High Point from the West Shokan side. Half of them were from Red Hook High School, and two girls were reluctant to break trail. "You can do twenty steps," I said, and they did. It was amazing how far the line moved in 20 times 20 steps. No one got tired, yet the line never stopped.

3. On all winter hikes, and on trailless hikes at any season, I ask each one to accept responsibility for the person behind. Thus, if the last person were to have trouble, the whole line should stop automatically.

--F. B. C.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

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#351	Douglas Sluiter 2/16/81 Tunis Lake, Andes, NY 13731	914-676-4479
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#353	Joseph DeFay 2/21/81 11781 DiMarco Dr., Philadelphia, PA 19154	215-632-7471
#354	Hilary Brougher 3/1/81	
#355	Michael Brougher 3/1/81 R. D. 3, Box 269, New Paltz, NY 12561	914-658-9207
#356	Helen Braun 2/28/81 79 Locust St., Floral Park, NY 11001	516-354-8507
#357	Steve Mackey 3/7/81 8 Jean Ave., Loudonville, NY 12211	518-453-1629



- #358 Peter W. Kelly 3/14/81 914-758-8210  
56 Sawkill Rd., Red Hook, NY 12571
- #359 Philip B. Heald 3/15/81 617-829-5447  
1665 N. Main St., Jefferson, MA 01522
- #360 Joan Dean 3/15/81 201-762-0396  
12 Crowell Pl., Maplewood, NJ 07040
- #361 James P. Tschinkel 3/21/81 518-634-7331  
Hyland Road, East Durham, NY 12423

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

On the day this column was conceived, a dignified charter member locked his keys in the trunk, and had to get a mechanic to come from Tannersville to open it. It was too good a story to keep quiet, but we could not bring ourselves to publish his name. We hit on the device of using his number, which was no secret, but seemed less blatant. There were only 35 members; everyone had a roster; the numbers saved space, amused our readers, and were continued. Now that our circulation is over 400, it has been brought to our attention that many readers do not know whom we are talking about. In the future, therefore, we shall use names. Watch out for our quills! \* \* \* \* We have long contended that the woods are safer than the home, since safety is less a matter of hazards than of attention. Our editor once broke a bone in his foot because he was running (instead of walking) down two steps in his own backyard. A crack between two uneven flagstones was concealed by crabgrass, but he knew it was there, and it was repaired the next day. Last year that intrepid hiker, William A. Riemvis, #171, was kept off the trails for several months as the result of falling down the icy steps of his backporch. And now our Dutchess County cousin reports that the renowned octagenarian, Frederick C. Lowy, #99, has made his first ascent in a hospital, where two pins were put in the elbow he broke when he slipped on some snow-covered ice while carrying forewood in his backyard. \* \* \* \* Richard A. Hudson, #101, finished both the ADK 46R and 111 Club on Couchsacharaga last June. \* \* \* \* In Vol. I, No. 3, we reported that "Bill Leavitt flew from N. Y. 23A to 23 in seven hours, touching down at South Mt., North Mt., Stoppel Point, Blackhead, Acra Point, Burnt Knob, and Windham High Peak on the way, 22 miles and 5950' ascent." Vol. III, No. 2 carried an article, XLVI IN IX, an account of Father Ray Donahue and Norman Greig's "nine glorious days, representing some 165 miles of travel, over 60,000 feet of ascent, and exactly 46 high peaks (Adirondacks) climbed." In recent years we have heard of an annual run over the Escarpment Trail. The latest report is that Marshall R. Childs, #348, and Damon G. Douglas, #349, ran the summer peaks from Peekamoose to Windham in 4 days, 10 hours, and 24 minutes. They ran or walked for 70 of the 106 hours, covering 135 miles and 39,000 feet of ascent. The elapsed time for the four winter peaks was under 24 hours. Chacun à son gout! \* \* \* \* Richard C. Davis, #234, William A. Riemvis, #171, Friedel Schunk, #248, and Samuel D. Steen, #92, have been seen on all of the 100 highest CATSKILLS. \* \* \* \* Larry Seavers, #302, is working for the N.Y. Division for Youth in their Wilderness Survival Program, "Higher Horizons."

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

- May 3 (Sun.) CORNELL & WITTENBERG CLEAN-UP This is an opportunity for members and aspirants to help remove litter in this heavily used area. The date is in conjunction with the NY-NJ Trail Conference annual Spring Clean-up Day.  
Distance: 7-9 mi. Ascent: 2700' Elev.: 3780', 3865' Order: 14, 9  
Meeting Place: Parking area near trailhead in Woodland Valley, 8:00 am.  
Leader: Al Dieffenbach (#244), 42 Headley Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960  
Days: 201-540-5146 Eves: 201-267-8091
- May 9 SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG Moderately strenuous trail hike.  
Distance: 8-9 mi. Ascent: 3600 Elev.: 3780, 3860, 4180 Order: 14, 9, 1  
Meeting Place: Parking lot behind drug store in Phoenicia at 9:00 am.  
Leaders: Cathy & George Michael (#274, 273), R. D. 1, Box 103A, Red Hook, NY 12571  
914-758-6942
- May 16 NORTH DOME & SHERRILL Moderate bushwhack.  
Distance: 7-8 mi. Ascent: 2400 Elev.: 3618, 3540 Order: 25, 30  
Meeting Place: Big Scot parking lot in Kingston in front of Ramada Inn at 8:00 a.m. or 8:30 in parking lot behind drug store in Phoenicia.  
Leader: James Hoyt (#308), R. 5, Box 76, Kingston, NY 12401  
914-331-5565
- June 6 INDIAN HEAD & TWIN Moderate hike on the Devil's Path.  
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2300 Elev.: 3573, 3640 Order: 29, 22  
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 8:30 a.m.  
Leaders: Kathryn & Richard Griffin (#292, 293), 7440 Timberwall Rd. Saugerties, NY 12477  
914-246-9483
- June 20 VLY & BEARPEN Moderate bushwhack to two peaks not recently scheduled.  
Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1500 Elev.: 3529, 3600 Order: 31, 28  
Meeting Place: Big Scot parking lot in Kingston in front of Ramada Inn at 8:30 a.m. or Jnct. Rts. 28 & 42 at 9:00 a.m.  
Leader: N. Jansen Fowler (#250), 21 John St., UPO Box 457, Kingston, NY 12401  
914-331-3010

331	J. Rudd Hubbell 3/22/80 Kelly Corners, NY 12445	914-586-4777
332	John R. Gyula 4/19/80 148 Pine St., Kingston, NY 12401	914-338-6274
333	Robert M. Gowling 5/6/80 328 Pine St., Wyckoff, NJ 07481	201-891-3610
334	John E. VanHook 5/20/80 Siena College, Loudonville, NY 12211	518-783-2300
335	Harvey Gurien 5/25/80 180 Walnut St., Montclair, NJ 07042	201-746-5294
336	Tony Badalato 3/22/80 40 Wilkie Ave., Kingston, NY 12401	914-338-0421
337	Sue Eilers 6/28/80 307 Anita Lane, Mamaroneck, NY 10543	914-698-7219
338	Ikuko Dohnomae 8/15/80 15 Overlook Dr., Woodstock Gardens, Woodstock, NY 12498	914-679-2683
339	James T. Amrod 8/31/80 R. D. 1, Box 104, Red Hook, NY 12571	914-758-6144
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358	Peter W. Kelly 3/14/81 56 Sawkill Rd., Red Hook, NY 12571	914-758-8210
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38	Dana Helsley 5543 Trastevere Rd., Clay, NY 13041	315-699-8823
61	Missy McDonald 22 Royce St., Apt. 1, Rutland, VT 05701	802-775-2515
67	Katrina Barteld P. O. Box 125, Germantown, NY 12526	518-828-1313
83	Donald McGregor 110 Fairfield St., Fayetteville, NY 13066	315-637-3987
87	Diana Harrington Muck 410 Worth St., Ithaca, NY 14850	607-277-0034
139	Brian Whitney 18 Mallony St., Danbury, CT 06810	203-744-3570
144	Michael Doehring 7 Cloverdale Ave., White Plains, NY 10603	914-761-7225
156	Anthony J. Esser P. O. Box 194, Colts Neck, NJ 07722	201-431-2094
171	William A. Riemvis Box 55, Olivera, NY 12462	914-254-4403
172	Ralph Johns Box 284, Denville, NJ 07834	201-625-1648
187	David Mattsen 371 Rt. 32 South, New Paltz, NY 12561	914-255-7644
200	John Leyden 65-69 162 St., Flushing, NY 11365	212-969-7964
219	Gary Zelner 446 Staples St., Farmingdale, NY 11735	516-752-8153
220	Paul D. Siegfried 50 Fleetwood Ave., Mt. Vernon, NY 10552	914-664-2524
239	Joseph H. Whitaker, III Rt. 1, Box 248, Paris, KY 40361	606-987-6045
260	Sandy Stash Morgan Apt., Golden Colo. 80401	303-279-8041
261	John B. F. Woods, III East Main & Hoyt, P.O. Box 116, Port Ewen, NY 12466	914-338-1804
269	William Mishler 27 Irwin Place, Bloomfield, NJ 07003	201-893-9073
276	Anmarie Spiciarich P. O. Box 4754, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601	914-471-8087
278	Robert Forrest Rm. 4A220, A.T.T. Long Lines, Bedminster, NJ 07921	
280	Gail Arends 5708 Williamsburg Way, Durham, NC 27713	919-544-2153



# the catskill canister

Vol. XIV, No. 3

S U M M E R 1 9 8 1

## EAGLE - BIG INDIAN - FIR

Alpine Inn at Oliverea in the CATSKILLS is a delightful place to stay. Located in the southern tier of the High Peaks, it provides easy access to many climbing and skiing opportunities. Eric and Edna Griesser are the second generation owners, and provide very fine lodging and superb meals. In October 1972 the Westchester Trails Association (WTA), of which I was President at the time, spent a weekend there.

On Friday evening, I spent a long time carefully plotting the compass course for the three-mountain climb of Eagle, Big Indian, and Fir. At the time there was no apparent need to take this measure, other than that it is always a good idea to know the proper compass directions when bushwhacking in the mountains.

On Saturday the temperature was moderate, but as we started we noticed that the peaks were shrouded in clouds. "Oh well, it should clear before long, and be bright and shiny by the time we reach the summits." Down across the road out front and up the easy long ridge to the top of Eagle, all went fine except that about half way up we picked up mist and fog, and now depended on the compass. Still, we continued up and up, although we could not see much beyond the ghost-like trees. This presented no real problem. It was necessary that we stay together, so those up front slowed to a convenient pace.

By the time we arrived on top of Eagle, it became apparent the weather would not change much and we could expect a day of compass bushwhack in the fog and rain. From Eagle to Big Indian we were on the trail, which was easily followed. After crossing the false summit and bushwhacking on to the real summit, sure enough, there was the canister; we hit it right on the nose. After a short lunch stop, off we went once more.

Up to this point it had been quite simple, but from here to Fir it's not that easy. The col between Big Indian and Fir is unbelievably short and narrow. Compass bearings were necessary, along with the fact that one must remember to stay high and keep to the left. What luck! There it was, only about 50 feet wide and not much longer. If you missed that col you could surely be in trouble, and could easily wind up deep down and off the mountain.

The climb from there to the main ridge on Fir was not too long. We made a sharp right turn on the ridge, and after a number of short climbs we reached the canister. Again, right on the nose! I was feeling better, and the inner butterflies were settling down.

After a short rest and finishing what was left of lunch and the

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Elinore G. Leavitt, Assoc. Editor, 246 Joslen Blvd., Hudson, NY 12534

usual congratulations all around, we started back along the ridge to return to the Inn and hot showers and dry clothes. If done correctly one would come down into the backyard of the Inn. In haste to get down and out of the fog as soon as possible, however, I followed the first likely looking woodroad, without consulting the compass, because we were descending now. How can you go wrong going down? We should have stayed with the compass, as we came out on the Slide Mountain road too soon. The only comfort was that we were down and out of the fog, but we had about a mile of travel along the macadam road.

As we crossed the parking lot at the Inn, Joe let out a shout. His jeep was gone. "What's that down there?" Sure enough, Joe's jeep. It seems he had left it parked in gear without the brake on. His wife needed some articles while we were gone, had grabbed the gear shift for support, and accidentally moved it into neutral. As the jeep was facing downhill, it slowly started to move. She jumped clear in fright and sustained only minor scratches. The jeep scraped one car en route, and slowly gathering momentum, crossed the field and came to rest among the trees at the bank along the brook. There being no real damage, Joe was able to drive it back to the parking lot, but this time he was careful to put on the brake.

Really a day full of fun and all sorts of problems, but we had one more still to come. There had been a power failure at the Inn and the result was NO HOT WATER. One of our bright thoughts all day had been that the hot showers awaiting would surely feel good. Oh well, to Plan II: make do with a sort of mop and pat operation with doubtful results.

Despite all, we had a grand challenging day. Also, I surely was relieved upon our safe return, even though a bit off target at the end. Careful planning insured a successful day under trying, cold, wet and foggy conditions. It is always so relaxing to return to luxurious comfort and good food.

--Walter L. Gregory, Valhalla, NY

1981 OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

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

WILDERNESS RANGER PROGRAM

The Wilderness Ranger Program of the Department of Environmental Conservation is now in its fourth year of operation. The areas currently being patrolled in the CATSKILLS are: Big Indian-Beaverkill, Slide-Panther, Northdome-Westkill, and Plateau-Indian Head.

The rangers are mainly concerned with protection of the resource, and the safety of the users. Their principal duties include the administration of first aid, search and rescue, minor trail maintenance, forest fire suppression, and enforcement of Department rules and regulations.

LETTERS

Still looking for someone to come to the Western Carolina area to hike. Our address is still P. O. Box 1017, Brevard, NC 28712 (704-885-2496), but maybe someone would want to find us, and we are Inc. with John Fuller in the Real Estate office at 35 E. Main St. We live in the Glen Cannon Country Club area. Come on down!

--Alice and Clarence Beehler (#25)

Sorry the dues are late. We had an enjoyable eight months in England, walking the moors and dales.

--Don and Lee Trow (#151, 152)

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

#362	Danielle G. Klebanoff 3/29/81 444 Central Park West, New York, NY 10025	212-749-4944
#363	Danielle R. Bernstein 5/23/81 10 Poets Lane, Metuchen, NJ 08840	201-494-1888
#364	Nancy Wolff 5/25/81 125 Gates Ave., #14, Montclair, NJ 07042	201-746-7415
#365	Thomas Gardner 5/25/81	
#366	Denise Gardner 5/25/81	
#367	Eric Gardner 5/25/81 R. D. 3, Box 71, Rhinebeck, NY 12572	914-876-2862
#368	Alfred Tatyrek 1/19/80 27 Orchard Rd., Maplewood, NJ 07040	201-763-2303
#369	Marland E. Whiteman 6/20/81 82 Drummer Lane, West Redding, CT 06896	203-938-9493
#370	Allen Scholl 6/21/81 174 Grand Blvd., Massapequa Park, NY 11762	516-541-8163
#371	Dr. Patrick A. Davis 6/21/81 218 Christopher St., Montclair, NJ 07042	201-746-3230

WINTER MEMBERS

Five more members have qualified for the winter patch during the past year: David Mack, Wilson G. Hoyt, James C. Hoyt, Charles Huhtanen, and Philip B. Heald.

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

We have seen three persons on all of the CATSKILLS with a dog: C. W. Spangenberg, #3, C. Peter Fish, #12, and Fred Jordan, #245. Until Fred came along, we had thought there was a connection between the use of a first initial and walking with a dog. Since we heard him call the dog, "Cricket," we are convinced that it has something to do with the "C." Cricket is a nine-pound Pomeranian, six years old, and finished on Fir 5/10/81. We believe Fred holds the record for doing the CATSKILLS with the littlest dog.

LONG PATH PROJECT

Intermittent Hike from George Washington Bridge to Lake Placid. (Joint with North Jersey Chapter ADK.) Once a month--one or two days --12 months a year. First hike, G. W. Bridge to State Line Rest Stop on Palisades Interstate Pkwy. Date and extent of each hike to be determined at previous month's hike. For information call or write Fred Schmelzer (#140), R. D. 1, Box 433A, Pine Bush, NY 12566. Phone: 914-361-3629



CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Sept. 12 BALSAM CAP & ROCKY Strenuous bushwhack.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elev.: 3623', 3508' Order: 23, 34  
 Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville, at 8:00 a.m.  
 Leaders: Erik & Roman Hrycun (#347 & 314), 6 Lister Dr., Hyde Park, NY 12538  
 914-229-7558

Sept. 19 EAGLE Moderate trail hike.

Distance: 6-8 mi. Ascent: 2300' Elev.: 3605' Order: 26  
 Meeting Place: Parking lot behind drug store in Phoenicia, at 8:30 a.m.  
 Leader: Robert Gowling (#333), 328 Pine St., Wyckoff, NJ 07481  
 201-891-3610

Sept. 26 DOUBLETOP Moderately strenuous bushwhack.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev.: 3870' Order: 8  
 Meeting Place: Parking lot behind drug store in Phoenicia at 8:00 a.m.  
 Leader: Bleecker Staats (#272), Echo Valley Rd., Red Hook, NY 12571  
 914-758-6304

Oct. 3 OVERLOOK Slow-paced family hike. Bring the younguns;  
 bring Grandpa & Grandma; all are invited.

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1400' Elev.: 3140'  
 Meeting Place: Big Scot parking lot in front of Ramada Inn in Kingston  
 at 9:00 a.m.  
 Leader: Jim Stone (#299), 7 W. Chestnut St., Rhinebeck, NY 12572  
 914-876-7676

Oct. 17 NORTH DOME & SHERRILL Strenuous bushwhack.

Distance: 5-7 mi. Ascent: 2600' Elev.: 3540', 3610' Order: 25, 30  
 Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken at 8:00 a.m.  
 Leader: Arthur Church (#319), Charlotte Dr., LaGrangeville, NY 12540  
 914-223-3684

Oct. 24 THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME, BLACKHEAD Strenuous trail hike  
 with many viewpoints.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2700' Elev.: 3945, 3990, 3940' Order: 4, 3, 5  
 Meeting Place: General Store & Post Office in Maplecrest at 8:30 a.m.  
 Leader: Wm. T. Barnett (#341), 2 Highfield Lane, Colts Neck, NJ 07722  
 201-946-4276

Oct. 31 ADIRONDACK HIGH PEAKS Ranger's walk, 12-15 miles of  
 central high peaks in the Adiron-  
 dacks, including at least one major peak. Start from either Garden  
 parking lot at Keene Valley or ADK Loj. Destination may be at dis-  
 cretion of group, if priorities of patrol are not important. Call  
 for details, including equipment.

Leader: C. Peter Fish (#12), Box 43, Hulls Falls Rd., Keene, NY  
 518-576-4796 12942



# the catskill canister

Vol. XIV, No. 4

A U T U M N 1 9 8 1

## CARRAUNTOOHIL

When I packed for a recent extended vacation, I included my hiking boots. As the weeks and the countries went by, I thought I had made a mistake taking them. Whenever I did get near mountains, it would rain. Then on an auto tour of Kerry and Cork counties in surprisingly sunny Ireland the opportunity was suddenly present. As I walked through the beautiful gardens of an old lake-front estate in Killarney, my eyes were drawn towards the mountains across the lake to the west. My Irish hosts and my family humored me and agreed we could at least stay at a foot-of-the-mountain hostel.

After settling in, we all walked up a hill to "take the view" before dinner. I couldn't believe my eyes. I found myself looking south into a valley with high mountains on both sides. At the far end, just behind a huge headwall, stood an even taller peak whose cone was stuck into the only cloud in the entire sky. I knew I had to get up on that mountain.

To the east was a ridge starting from behind me and terminating at the headwall. On the west were two summits forming what appeared to be two giant steps leading to a jagged knife edge bent around to meet the prominent peak. I would go up the west route and return along the ridge on the east, I thought as I planned a fanciful day hike. I hungered to know more about the mountain and a route safe even if bad weather should catch me on an exposed place. Irish weather can change instantly. I have seen a calm, clear, sunny day reduced to howling wind, driving rain, and low clouds in an hour's time.

My Irish host, however, had not a hunger but a thirst. He had been successful in locating a pub only five miles away where we could "have a pint" before closing time. We were joined by another guest of the hostel who had no car and was "dying of tirst." (For some reason the Irish cannot say "th." Therefore, they "tink" and have a "tirst." The latter condition seems to be incurable no matter how diligently they treat it.) This parched fellow, Gearoid by name, turned out to be a climber, and, more important, familiar with the peak behind the headwall. "The peak is Carrauntoohil, and at 3414' Ireland's highest mountain," he said. Gearoid assured me the route I selected would serve me well so long as I didn't get caught up on the knife edge in high wind and rain. Furthermore, he supplied me with a contour map. If the weather held, I would go.

There is a soft rain as I look out in the morning, but by 9:30 it seems to be clearing. I decide to go and start off for Knockbrinnea, the 2782-foot summit that was nearest me on the right as I surveyed Carrauntoohil the day before. This is a 2500-foot ascent through sheep pastures and scattered scree slopes. I take lunch on the summit of Beenkeragh, the 3314' second step to Carrauntoohil.

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Even at this elevation I have to look several minutes for a place clear of sheep droppings so I can sit to eat my lunch. From here I can see down to the Dingle Peninsula where "Love Story" was filmed.

The clear day I have been enjoying since 11 o'clock has suddenly turned to fog and drizzle. I can't even see the ridge which, at 3200', is the final step to Carrauntoohil. Gearoid's warning is vivid as I move toward where the knife edge should be. I first go down a couple hundred feet, leaving the summit of Beenkeragh, then up a hundred feet on to the knife edge. Although I can see only fifty feet ahead, I can see very well down. Eagles Nest is 700 feet almost directly below me on my left. On the right, the jagged rockwall plunges straight down 1000 feet. I'm glad a knife edge only looks more difficult than it actually is to negotiate.

Even so, I find it a bit disconcerting not being able to see where I want to go, but able to see all too clearly where a fall could take me. I deal with this by heightening my awareness of the awesome rugged beauty of the terrible rock walls falling away from me on both sides and especially the Eagles Nest, the suspended pool caught in a huge cup of rock 1500 feet above the valley floor, and the series of cascades in the stream that continually drains it and fills Lough Gouragh 2200 feet below me. My insignificance is once more reconfirmed.

And then, almost suddenly, I am descending the end of the ridge and hiking up along a cliff with the drop now only on the left. The air is still very calm. I pass snow fields on this north-facing side, always bearing left towards the snow. Then, Carrauntoohil! The huge steel cross that seemed so tiny when seen from Knockbrinnea when the sky was clear is a welcome sight.

On the summit, in the cloud, I am a bit disoriented. I find it difficult to believe my compass readings. But I force myself to trust the instrument and set off for Caher, a 3200-foot peak a mile away at the end of a mild knife edge. This ridge falls off straight down on the south. Now under the cloud I get another great view of Dingle Peninsula. The climb down the headwall is anticlimatic. It seems to melt into the long hike down the valley and past countless sheep to the hostel.

When I put my boots in the car the next day, I made sure I found a nice comfortable place for them. After all, they had provided me with the most memorable day of the entire vacation.

--Larry Braun, Floral Park, NY

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our Adirondack cousin reports that the register on MacNaughton shows the names of Jim Schaller (#194) 8/19/81, and Franklin Clark (#33) 9/25/81. The Allen register was signed on 9/25/81 by Sam Steen (#92) and Charles Churchill (#329), Churchill finishing both the ADK 46R and the 111 Club.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

#372	Angie Mahdavian 6/26/81 R. D. 4, Box 218C, Kingston, NY 12401	914-338-6263
#373	James A. Ross 6/20/81 423 Newbridge Rd., New Milford, NJ 07646	
#374	Mary P. Crump 7/18/81	
#375	William E. Crump 7/18/81 435 S. First St., Lindenhurst, NY 11757	516-884-0543
#376	Peter Henner 8/2/81 92 Chestnut St., Albany, NY 12210	518-436-4891
#377	Dr. Clifford Harvey 8/15/81 112 Bellevue Ave., Upper Montclair, NJ 07043	201-746-0786
#378	Keith D. Ryder 9/14/81 13922 Pepperrell Dr., Tampa, Fla. 33624	813-961-8812
#379	Howard K. Skarka 9/26/81 P. O. Box 374, Marlboro, NY 12542	914-236-7553

1982 CATSKILL 3500 CLUB ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Our banquet committee has completed a study with the following objectives:

- a) Encourage an increase in attendance (above our average 140) with this message to members and guests.
- b) A reduction of approximately 15% in the price from last year by changing the banquet facility and not reducing the standards of a roast beef dinner.
- c) Selection of a banquet facility with a more personal and less commercial type atmosphere, and
- d) with a reputation for fine quality dining, and available for the last Saturday in March.
- e) A distance map survey of the 50 different towns that our members and guests travel from to attend, indicates that the area from Newburgh to New Paltz would be more centrally located.
- f) Provide name card seating for groups wanting to share same table - round tables seat 8.

As a result of this study and visits to eight suitable, conveniently located banquet facilities, the 1982 Catskill 3500 Club annual dinner meeting will be held at Hedges Restaurant, Route 9W, West Park, NY on Saturday, March 27, 1982. Invitation mailing with final details in January 1982.

We sincerely hope you will plan to support your club's annual social event.

--Roy Messaros, Banquet chairman

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Nov. 7      BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY      Strenuous bushwhack. Joint hike with Long Island Chapter ADK.  
 Distance: 5-6 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 18  
 Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville at 7:30 a.m.  
 Leader: Larry Braun (#213), 79 Locust St., Floral Park, NY 11001  
 516-354-8507

Nov. 14      WITTENBERG      Strenuous bushwhack from Traver Hollow over Samuel's Point.  
 Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3100' Elev.: 3780' Order: 14  
 Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville at 8:30 a.m.  
 Leader: Sam Steen (#92), 6 DuBois St., Kingston, NY 12401  
 914-331-1010

Nov. 16 - Dec. 8      DEER SEASON (firearms) in CATSKILLS  
 No scheduled hikes.

Dec. 12      LONE      Moderate bushwhack.  
 Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 3721' Order: 16  
 Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken at 8:30 or Denning at 9:15 a.m.  
 Leader: Patrick Kimball (#350), Sycamore Terrace, Mahopac, NY 10541  
 914-628-0584

Dec. 13      ASHOKAN HIGH POINT & MOMBACCUS      Moderate to strenuous trail hike.  
 (Sun.)  
 Distance: 6-8 mi. Ascent: 2700'  
 Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville at 8:00 a.m.  
 Leader: Joan Dean (#360), 12 Crowell Pl., Maplewood, NJ 07040  
 201-762-0396

Jan. 10      HALCOTT      Moderate bushwhack.  
 (Sun.)  
 Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 3520' Order: 33  
 Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 42 & 28 in Shandaken at 8:30 a.m.  
 Leader: H. Neil Zimmerman (#306), 10 N. 65th St., New York, NY 10023  
 days: 212-644-1620      eve: 212-873-5209

Jan. 16      GIANT LEDGE SKI TOUR      Moderate ski tour to the Giant Ledge lean-to.  
 Distance: 4-5 mi.  
 Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken at 9:00 a.m.  
 Leader: Deborah F. Glynn (#159), Traver Rd., Pleasant Valley, NY 12569  
 914-635-8756

Jan. 22-24      CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND AT ALPINE INN

Jan. 23      BALSAM      Moderate trail hike.  
 Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2600' Elev.: 3600' Order: 27  
 Meeting Place: Alpine Inn parking lot in Oliveria at 8:30 a.m.  
 Leader: Kip Patnode (#324), 266 N. Main St., Spring Valley, NY 10977  
 914-356-4090

Feb. 19-22      ADIRONDACK LOJ WEEKEND AT HEART LAKE

CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND

January 22, 23, 24, 1982 - The Alpine Inn, Oliverea, NY 12462  
 South of Rt. 28 at Big Indian, NY. Tel.: 914-254-5026.

Reservations: \$10.00 per person must arrive by Jan. 11. Make check payable to Walter L. Gregory, registrar, and mail to Walter L. Gregory, 8 Wall Ave., Valhalla, NY 10595. Tel.: 914-949-7567.

All rooms have twin beds. Rates are based on double occupancy, Please specify preference of roommate, if any. Room assignments will be in the order of receipt of reservations. Edelweiss has 4 rooms with private bath & 8 rooms with semi-private. des Alps & Ski Hut have private bath in all rooms. Extra dinner Fri. p.m. - \$10.00 plus tax & gratuity. Extra dinner Sat. p.m. or Sun. - \$12.00 plus tax & grat. \$2.00 will be added for Saturday evening "Happy Hour".

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

	<u>1 night</u>	<u>2 nights</u>	
des Alps	46.00_____	70.50_____	<u>1 extra day special-</u> <u>includes breakfast &amp;</u> <u>dinner - \$30.00</u>
Ski Hut	41.50_____	62.00_____	
Edelweiss-priv.	39.25_____	57.75_____	Thursday_____
Edelweiss-semi.	37.00_____	53.50_____	Monday_____
\$_____ deposit enclosed for_____ persons. Roommate_____			

\_\_\_\_\_Friday evening dinner. \_\_\_\_\_Sunday afternoon dinner.  
 Please notify registrar if you plan Saturday dinner only.  
 Signed\_\_\_\_\_Address\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

ADIRONDACK LOJ WEEKEND

Feb. 19-22, 1982. Reservations must be in by January 15, 1982.  
 Bunk with breakfast & dinner- \$24.25 plus tax & 15% service. ADK members may deduct 10%. Send check for \$10.00 each to Mrs. Wm. H. Leavitt, 246 Joslen Bl., Hudson, NY 12534 (payable to Catskill 3500 Clu

\$\_\_\_\_\_ check enclosed, for\_\_\_\_\_men &/or\_\_\_\_\_women.  
 Arriving\_\_\_\_\_Leaving\_\_\_\_\_First meal\_\_\_\_\_

Signed\_\_\_\_\_Address\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_