



the catskill canister

January - March, 2007

Volume 40, Number 1

When the Chips Are Down - a cautionary tale by Ken Krabbenhoft, #1338

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SAVE THE DATE
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It was four below on the morning of January 11, 2004, when we left the car at the end of Moon Haw Road. The sky was clear, the air was still, and the snow was fresh. My hiking pal Dan Saks (#758, winter #341) had climbed Friday and Balsam Cap many years earlier for his winter patch. If we reached them today, I would be within five peaks of mine.

We bare-booted to around 2200 ft. and views of the Ashokan Reservoir, putting on snowshoes shortly after. When we got to the base of Friday I mistakenly thought we should go right (NE), which brought us to steep rock faces that would have to be negotiated in deep snow – harder than the usual route from the col but more thrilling, especially with the bright sun on the untouched drifts, depths of air below us, and Cornell and Wittenberg close enough to touch.

By the time we reached the summit of Friday the sky had turned overcast. It was around noon when we plunged into the Balsam Cap thickets. At one point there was a glimpse of the summit ridge, uphill to the left, but when around 2pm we stormed a lightly-forested hill that we had assumed was Balsam Cap, it turned out that we were, indeed, on Rocky. I'd been there ten days earlier with Rocky Walberg, on a club hike!

Ihinking there wasn't enough time to retrace our steps and get out

in daylight, we made our next mistake. The direct route back to Moon Haw Road, in fact led straight over Balsam Cap, but we decided to go down on a compass reading east that angled back toward Moon Haw. We started breaking trail through thickets and moving down rock faces. We were cold, and the sun was already beginning to fade. Some of it was rough going. A branch cut a gash on

“We made out lights in the distance, thinking we were seeing Boiceville”

the bridge of my nose, and although I didn't feel a thing, Dan got a scare when he saw my face covered in blood. We both agreed on our

compass headings: we were headed east, and at some point we would start losing altitude.

At 4:30 we were still at 3,000 ft. on level ground that shelved gradually downhill with no prospect of sudden progress toward any road. We were going to have to bushwhack in the dark.

It was the moment one always dreads, the thing that always happens to the other guy. Would our wives ever forgive us? Should we tell anybody else? The wind had picked up but the temperature had actually risen to about plus 15 F. Dan had an emergency blanket, and if we shared it and kept moving, we probably wouldn't freeze to death, but it would be a long, cold, hungry, and thirsty night, and we would be all too aware of our wives' worry.

(Continued on page 3)

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The President's Column

On behalf of my colleagues on your Executive Board, please accept my very best wishes for the upcoming Holiday Season and a Happy New Year! Let this be a time of joy and happiness for you and those whom you hold dear. May the coming year bring us all peace and fulfillment [and good weather for climbing].

This time of year has always been especially magical to me. The winter snow transforms the landscape and cloaks the earth in a blanket of white. As a child, I always spent the holidays near the Catskills with my grandparents. While visiting family, my father and I would venture out onto the back roads of the Catskills, to return to the places he knew as a teenager growing up in Kingston in the 1930s.

Later, when I began winter mountaineering in the Catskills, that magic came back to me. The magnificent high places I had "discovered" while pursuing the 3500 Club membership patch were similarly transformed and became secret haunts. Somehow, the going was easier and the terrain more even. The experience of climbing Slide in the falling snow was a long moment of transforming calm that will always be with me.

Part of that experience was participating in the Club's annual Winter Weekend. At first, I just signed up for the Winter Weekend hikes and met the leader at the Alpine Inn. Later, I took the plunge and stayed over, and have done so almost every year since. That has always been an enjoyable experience, and one that I heartily recommend.

Lately, the Club has been very busy with conservation issues. At its heart, however, the Club is and has always been a very social organization. We are a group of people with a common love for the Catskills and an admitted mania for the High Peaks. The Club allows us to share that love and pursue our mania together. The Winter Weekend is perhaps the best opportunity the Club provides to pursue those aims.

So, I encourage you to let the Holiday Season extend a little further this year. Let it extend to, say, the weekend of January 26-28, 2007, which just happens to be the Club's Winter Weekend. This year's event will be at Hilltop Acres in the northern Catskills, and the necessary details will be found on page 8. The accommodations are clean and very comfortable. The cuisine is excellent, as you would expect for a group of committed hedonists, like the 3500 Club. Best of all, you can be part of one of the Club's most enjoyable activities and share the fellowship of like-minded mountaineers in pursuit of a common love and mania.

Hope to see you there. Be well and good climbing

Geoff Hoderath.



(Continued from page 1)

I was very glad I wasn't alone, and not just because I didn't have any emergency equipment. To have Dan there, to hear him say that at the worst we'd have an uncomfortable night and that our wives would be in touch and call the Ranger, helped my mind to turn this disaster into something approaching adventure.

We were still determined not to hunker down and spend the night on the mountain. This led to a third mistake: the decision to alternate going straight downhill with following our compass heading east. That way (we thought) we could make headway while there was still some light to see by (there was no moon). Reconstructing our actual route the next day, we found that our zigzag had not been bold enough. It was more like a wavering line that led us in effect SE, increasingly farther away from Moon Haw Road.

As night fell we were still good and lost. Without a light, I had to walk behind Dan and hope I remembered where to place my feet. At one point I stepped on one of Dan's poles and snapped it in two. Not the least of our difficulties was the need to make our way down a few treacherous rock faces. There's no doubt in my mind that it was by sheer luck that neither of us sprained or broke an ankle. At 7pm we hadn't lost any altitude to speak of; anxiety gave way to irritation. I actually became angry *at the mountain itself!* We made out lights in the distance, thinking we were seeing Boiceville, when in fact it was West Shokan, but they could have been the lights of Baghdad, for all we cared. That warm, technological sign of human habitation infused us with energy. We sped-up, descending what at the time we still hoped was the Maltby Hollow, while ahead of us rose what we

This led to a third mistake: the decision to alternate going straight downhill with following our compass heading east

thought was Samuels Point.

The sky cleared, and bright stars took the place of the town lights. We came to a brook with a path next to it and fresh footprints in the snow. They led to a logging road, then a dirt track, and finally a paved road. It was 8pm. What we had assumed was Samuels Point was in fact Hanover Mountain. We were in Mine Hollow, not Matlby Hollow; the road was Peekamoose, 2.5 miles from the car, but there was a house with the lights on and a car in the driveway. We took a moment to dump our gear and tuck in our shirts. I washed the blood off my face, and Dan gingerly knocked at the door. The couple and their son were surprised, but they invited us in and gave us something to drink. They let us call home, and drove us back to our car. As mountain hikers and hunters themselves, they understood what we'd been through, and I'm sure they knew how grateful we were for their kind assistance.

Dan and I have often shared a sense of accomplishment at the end of a hike; how much greater the relief that night after being lost! On the way home we laughed about how narrowly we had avoided spending the night on Rocky. We had the survivor's gratitude for having been spared along with an absurd touch of pride for having bushwhacked off a mountain in the dark. If we had found Balsam Cap instead of Rocky and retraced our steps to Buz Friedel's parking lot in daylight, it would have been just another successful hike. As it was, because Dan and I had found ourselves in a situation that tested our strength and our spirit that made us draw on our experience of the mountains and on the reservoir of our friendship, it was the most important of all the hikes we've ever done together, and certainly the most memorable.



Hike Schedule January — March, 2007

Assumed Risk: Hiking involves certain inherent risks and persons participating do so at their own risk. In cold weather hike participants should avoid cotton clothing, as it retains dampness and the resulting chill can result in hypothermia, **which can lead to death.** Instead, wear (and have available in your pack) garments of wool or fleece. Silk or polypropylene make the best base layers, as they tend to wick moisture away from the body. Hats, gloves, and a headlamp must be part of the standard winter kit. Ice and snow can come early and unexpectedly to these peaks. **Each hiker must bring snowshoes and full crampons to the trailhead;** the leader may advise that these do not have to be taken on the hike, but be aware that while there may be bare ground at the trailhead, there is often very significant ice and snow as the elevation increases, which could result in those improperly prepared being sent back. Anyone not properly equipped may be refused permission to participate, at the leader's absolute discretion. **Winter in the Catskills is not to be treated lightly.**

Please note that bad driving conditions **along the leader's route** could force cancellation of the hike. Current roadway conditions may be checked at www.travelinfony.com/wta/

Rating System: Please be advised that the hikes listed herein would most likely be rated more difficult by clubs who hike in non-mountainous terrains

As a matter of **courtesy to our volunteer hike leaders**, we ask that you let them know as early as possible if you have to cancel your attendance on a hike.

If you are a member of the Club, new or long-term, please **consider becoming a hike leader.** Just contact Ted Ripley-Duggan (erd@wilsey.net or 845 657-7057), and Ted will arrange to add you to the low-volume private Yahoo list through which hikes are coordinated. You will be contacted via this means when hikes are needed.



Sat. Jan. 6. SUGARLOAF

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent 2800' Elev. 3800'

A moderately paced trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader Mon. to Thur. week before the hike.

Leader: Peggy Wissler #1499; 914-260-7506

Sat. Jan 7. BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2800' Elev. 3623', 3694'

A moderately paced, but strenuous bushwhack to two of the more difficult peaks. Bad weather cancels; 8 AM start.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader.

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan #1389; erd@wilsey.net (e-mail preferred), 845-657-7057

Sat. Jan. 13. RUSK

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent 1,700' Elev. 3680'

A moderately paced bushwhack. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please register by 1/10/07 for details by email; reference Rusk Mt in subject line.

Leader: Alan Via #429; alan46r@nycap.rr.com

Sun. Jan. 14. KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1730' Elev. 3651'

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack.

Meeting Place/Time: Please call leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; hikeleader3500@yahoo.com; 718-463-5675 after 3pm (or 518-827-7327 Fri. & Sat.)

Sat. Jan. 20. TWIN

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1100' Elev. 3640'

A moderately paced trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register from Jan. 15 to Jan. 19.

Leader: Manuel A. Peraza #1373; mapcolus1@att.net; 718-698-4422 (7 - 9pm)

Especially in winter, it is imperative that hike participants stay with the group; when it comes to winter emergencies there is definitely safety in numbers.

Sun. January 21. GRAHAM & DOUBLETOP

Distance: 5.5 mi. Ascent: 2800' Elev. 3868', 3860'

A moderately paced, but strenuous bushwhack. Dogs on leash welcome. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register.

Leader: Danielle Besso #1496; dbesso@stny.rr.com; 607-724-5523 (6 - 9pm)

Sat. Jan. 27. PANTHER (and Giant Ledges)

Distance: 7.5 mi. Ascent: 1545' Elev. 3720'

A moderately paced trail hike to a required winter peak. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register.

Leader: Tom Rankin #1503; trankin@hvc.rr.com; 845-926-6209.

Sat. Jan. 27. NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elev. 3610', 3540'

A moderately paced, but strenuous bushwhack. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please call leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; hikeleader3500@yahoo.com; 718-463-5675 after 3pm (or 518-827-7327 Fri. & Sat.)

Sat. Jan. 28. SLIDE

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev. 4180'

A moderately paced trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please call leader to register.

Leader: Harry Rampe #877, 845-292-6736 (after 5 pm)

Sat. Feb. 3. PLATEAU

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700'; Elev. 3840'

A moderately paced trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Jan 29 and Feb 1.

Leader: Roman Benke #1216, 35er@myrealbox.com; 917-553-5575 (5 - 9pm)

Sun. Feb 4. FIR

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev. 3620'

A moderately paced bushwhack. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader between Jan 28 and Feb 2.

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; adirondacks@verizon.net; 718-377-2990 NCA 9pm, Fri 6pm

Sat. Feb. 10. BLACKHEAD

Distance: 4.5 mi. Ascent: 1740. Elev. 3940'

A moderately paced trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register from Feb. 5 to Feb. 9.

Leader: Manuel A. Peraza; #1373; mapcolus1@att.net; 718-698-4422 (7 - 9pm)

Sun. Feb. 11. HALCOTT

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1350' Elev. 3537'

A moderately paced bushwhack. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader between Feb. 4 and Feb 9.

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; adirondacks@verizon.net; 718-377-2990 NCA 9pm, Fri 6pm

Sat. Feb. 17. BALSAM MOUNTAIN Loop

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1600' Elev. 3600'

A moderately paced trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please call leader.

Leader: Harry Rampe #877, 845-292-6736 (after 5 pm)

Sun. Feb. 18. Blackhead Range: THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME, BLACKHEAD

Distance: 7.5 mi. Ascent: 2760' Elev. 3940', 3980', 3940'

A moderately paced, but strenuous trail hike.

Meeting Place/Time: Please call leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; hikeleader3500@yahoo.com; 718-463-5675 after 3pm (or 518-827-7327 Fri. & Sat.)

Sat. Feb. 24. NORTH DOME

Distance: 4.5 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev. 3610'

A moderately paced trail hike and (possibly strenuous) bushwhack. We will try to do it the "easy" way from Timberlake Camp if we get permission. If conditions allow and there is interest, we may spring for Mt Sherrill as well, which would add 2 miles in distance and 1000' of ascent to the hike.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Feb 18 and 23. May not be available Friday evening.

Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; gvp@ms.com; 201-694-8344

Sun. Feb. 25. PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2950' Elev. 3843', 3847'

A moderately paced trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Feb. 16 and 23

Leader: Pavel Litvinov #1348; pavellitvinov@hotmail.com; 914 231-6187

Sat. Mar. 3. INDIAN HEAD

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1670' Elev. 3573'

A moderately paced trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please call or email leader between Feb. 26-Mar. 2

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; adirondacks@verizon.net; 718-377-2990 NCA 9pm, Fri 6pm

Each hiker must bring snowshoes and full crampons to the trailhead.

Bad driving conditions most likely would force cancellation of the hike.

Sat. Mar. 3. LONE & ROCKY

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300' Elev. 3721', 3508'

A moderately paced, but strenuous bushwhack to these remote peaks. Participants must be capable of sustaining the pace for a full day. Expect an early start.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader by March 1.

Leader: Joe Bogardus #1399; jbbogardus@yahoo.com; 518-576-9739

Sun. Mar. 4. WESTKILL

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2400' Elev. 3880'

A moderately paced trail hike.

Meeting Place/Time: Please call leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; hikeleader3500@yahoo.com; 718-463-5675 after 3pm (or 518-827-7327 Fri. & Sat).

Sun. Mar. 4. BALSAM, EAGLE, BIG INDIAN AND FIR Traverse

Distance: 12.5 mi. Ascent: 2500'

A moderately paced, but strenuous trail hike and bushwhack. Bad weather cancels. Shuttle required.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader by March 2.

Leader: Ed Gilroy #1305; egilroy@comcast.net

Sat. Mar. 10. WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev. 3524'

A moderately paced trail hike. Bad weather cancels. Shuttle required.

Meeting Place/Time: Please call leader.

Leader: Harry Rampe #877, 845-292-6736 (after 5 pm)

Sun. Mar. 11. BIG INDIAN

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev. 3700'

A moderately paced trail hike and minimal bushwhack.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Mar 4 and 9. May not be available Friday evening.

Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; gvp@ms.com; 201-694-8344

Sat. Mar. 17. WITTENBERG, CORNELL, SLIDE Traverse

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elev. 3780', 3860', 4180'.

A moderately paced, but strenuous trail hike. Shuttle required.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register from March 8 to 15

Leader: Jerry Licht #1423; Jlicht61@aol.com; 518 869-9883

Sun. Mar. 18. SW HUNTER

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev. 3740'

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader from Mar. 12 to 16.

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; adirondacks@verizon.net; 718-377-2990 NCA 9pm, Fri 6pm

Sun. Mar. 18. PANTHER

Distance: 6 miles Ascent: 1830' Elev. 3720'

A moderately paced trail hike.

Meeting Place/Time: Please call leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; hikeleader3500@yahoo.com; 718-463-5675 after 3pm (or 518-827-7327 Fri. & Sat).

Sat. Mar. 24. HUNTER

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1940'. Elev. 4040'

A moderately paced trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader from March 10 to 19.

Leader: Manuel A. Peraza; #1373; mapcolus1@att.net; 718-698-4422 (7 - 9pm)

Sun. Mar. 25. SUGARLOAF

Distance: 3.5 mi. Ascent: 1600' Elev. 3800

A moderately paced, steep ascent trail hike. Ice is quite common on the west side of Sugarloaf. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader between Mar 18 and Mar 23. May not be available Friday evening.

Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; gvp@ms.com; 201-694-8344

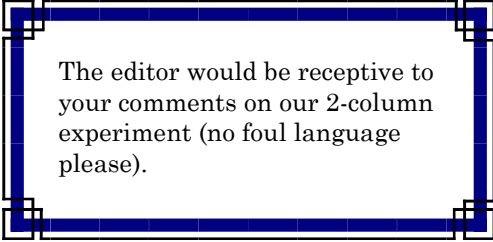
Sat. Mar. 31. VLY and BEARPEN

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

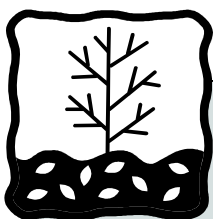
A moderately paced, but strenuous bushwhack and trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register.

Leader: Laurie Moore #1337; lau090@dmcom.net; 607-538-9484



The editor would be receptive to your comments on our 2-column experiment (no foul language please).



Those new to winter hiking in the mountains are advised that conditions such as deep snow can make what would be a moderate hike under dry conditions, extremely arduous.

Scree

Tell Them a Story. Dave and Carol White are compiling a companion volume to Catskill Mountain Quests, stories by 3500 Club members to be published by Black Dome Press. Submit your Adirondack hiking adventures/misadventures in all seasons via Word attachments/e-mails to ccswhite@juno.com or send to 28 Mulberry St., Clinton, NY 13323. Stories are typically two to four double-spaced pages, but can be more. Subjects are: lessons learned in the wild, getting lost, accidents/injuries, the joys and trials of bushwhacking, extreme weather and challenging terrain, long daytrips, animal stories, coping with the unexpected, humor, lyrical accounts of why we do this, appreciation of the natural world, reminiscences, friends/family on the trail and more. No submission deadline is set, but let Dave and Carol know if you are interested in submitting a tale.

For Peak Baggers Only. Mike Bromberg #479, reports that all one-hundred-thirty-six 13,800-footers in the contiguous states are cataloged on www.vulgarianramblers.org. Last summer, Mike managed to complete those peaks, and would like to hear from others who might be working on that list (email MABromberg@aol.com).



Club Dinner

The 3500 Club Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony will be held **Saturday, Apr 14, 2007** at the Hillside Manor in Kingston, NY (full details and a reservation form will be in the next issue of *the canister*). There is little need to advertise this event as it is always well attended by a raucous bunch of 3500 Club members, aspirants, family and friends. Our speaker this year will be Matt Merchant, Senior Wildlife Biologist, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, who will give a presentation on **bears in the Catskills**. In addition to the festivities, books and other goodies are available for your perusal and purchase. Not an event to be missed.

The New Members

Regular

1654	Donna Demczuk	09/04/06
1655	James J de Waal Malefyt	09/09/06
1656	Charles S Leounis	09/09/06
1657	Patrick Krisak	08/12/06
1658	Tim Sweeney	09/09/06
1659	Susan L White	09/27/06
1660	Jennifer Bennett	10/15/06
1661	Robert G Parlee	10/15/06
1662	Bill Vandermark	10/27/06
1663	Jennifer Reidy	08/11/06
1664	Lin Fagan	11/07/06
1665	Donna Ellis	11/05/06
1666	Norman Brandinger	11/05/06

The annual mailing of **dues notices and subscription renewals will be coming in the mail soon**. Please note that members (those with a number) should send checks, changes of address, and other inquiries to the Membership Chair, Dave White; while aspirants and other subscribers should send the same to the Aspirant Chair, Judy Weiner. As the Club does not wish to prematurely terminate subscriptions, if we do not receive a timely response, it is our policy to take the trouble to send out follow-up mailings to non-responders. Accordingly, please realize that early responses will save our volunteers much time, and that money used for follow-up mailings reduces the funds available to the Club for the protection of our wilderness. If circumstances make you decide not to renew, please inform us early rather than requiring us to waste mailings on follow-up.

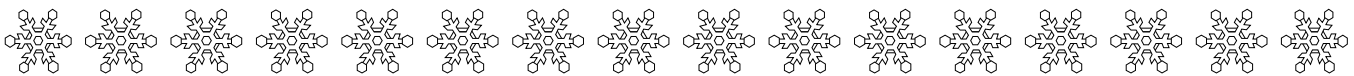
Climbing The Catskills: a Short 440-mile Drive from Quebec City

by

Audrey Jacques #1652 and member of the KEDS Backpacking Team

The idea of hiking all the Catskill peaks came to us in the fall of 2005. My two team-mates had already visited the area to hike Slide and Hunter, two 4000-footers that are part of the "Northeast 115" list. As I also needed to do those summits for my own list, we decided, as a group of five friends, to go back to the Catskill region for a few days of peakbagging between Christmas and the New Year's. It was the start of a nice adventure! We were quickly charmed

(Continued on page 8)



Winter Weekend



The club's annual winter weekend is scheduled for Jan 26-28, 2007, once again at Hilltop Acres in Jewett. This is a great opportunity to bag a couple of winter peaks and enjoy the comradery of fellow hikers. We arrive Friday evening, Jan. 26 and depart Sunday, Jan.28.



The price is \$160.00 per person, which covers accommodations, two breakfasts, two trail lunches, and one dinner. Friday evening dinner would be \$15. extra. We provide our own alcoholic beverages. To reserve please send a deposit of \$50 per person to:



Arthur Zimmerman
766 Neptune Boulevard
Long Beach, NY 11561



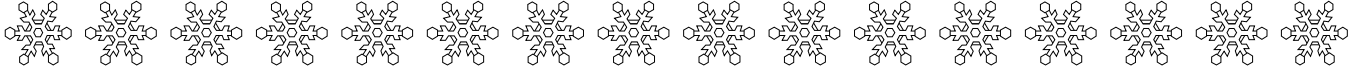
and reserve early as Hilltop Acres can only accommodate up to 20 people.



Last year, the rooms, food, company, and mountains all were excellent. We're looking forward to plenty of fun in the snow, followed by the special comforts of a good meal and the company of 3500-ers in a winter retreat distant from our everyday world.



Hilltop Acres is located at 156 Rice Street, Jewett, NY 12444, (518) 734-4580 (www.windham-area.com/hilltopacres.htm)



(Continued from page 7)

by the region, its vegetation and its climate. To us Canadians, it felt like we were already back to spring time, at the end of December !

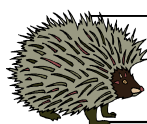
The summits that we did during that expedition included the four that are required in winter; we had in mind to complete the Catskill list in 2006, and in four or five trips if feasible. I have to say that located at around 450 km from Montreal and 700 km from Quebec City, the Catskills are a little ways from home ! However, we were really determined to accomplish this. Danny, our extraordinary planner, came up with some intense expedition plans. In some cases, to meet those plans it meant that we would have to hike in some pretty poor weather conditions, such as pouring rain, the "caterpillar season" or during the August heat wave. However I do not regret any of that !

In spite of all the adventures that we went through, we were able to complete the list in four trips. Counting on some holiday weekends and summer vacations, we did many summits each time; during our last visit, in the

summer, we in fact did fourteen peaks. So far from home, we wanted to succeed !

We are all very happy for discovering this region that we find so different from the ones further north. Some of us, in spite of the distance, have projects to go back to do the winter list. Another nice challenge !

Editors Note: In our last issue we included an item on the five Canadians who had just completed their membership peaks. Further investigation by our reportorial staff has revealed that these new 3500-ers were, indeed, but a contingent from KEDS, a group of ten friends that love to do summit lists together. KEDS was created in 1998 by four of the group: Karl, Etienne, Danny and Sylvain. For more about the group, and lots more about mountains in the northeast and other regions, take a peek at www.kedsbackpacking.ca.



Porky says "The mountain gods smile on those who do not require additional reminders to renew their subscriptions."



the catskill canister

April — June, 2007

Volume 40, Number 2

A Lone and Rocky Destination for the Club's Patch

Inside

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SAVE THE DATE

- ⇒ Club Dinner: Apr 14
- ⇒ Litter Pickup: Apr 14
- ⇒ Trail Maintenance: Apr 28
- ⇒ Trail Maintenance: May 6



6-12-2006. Monday morning, up at 4am. Preparing for a drive to Denning to bag two wild peaks. This is Catskill backcountry: the far end of Denning Road, where it feels like a century ago, rustic but majestic, and the Neversink River runs wild by the road.

Bridge Out. Jeff Rider of DEC announces once again at the sign-in board that the log bridge over Deer Shanty Creek has been washed out.

Last fall I stood in the same spot with an overnighiter's backpack on, but it was the day after that tremendous rainstorm that tore out the county roadway in places and left me standing there scratching my head.

Today I was prepared for a day hike, and willing to take a chance at fording the creek. Luckily we discovered a new log had been cut and dropped in place. But the day was not without mishap; first we could not find the unmarked trail along the Neversink, so we walked on the river rocks and made our way as we could to a clearing that seemed to be near the brook shown on the map. I have never climbed with an experienced club member, since I always go out on Mondays; today I was with Dan Hardy, the monastery cook. So, being new at

this, we were just guessing with a map and compass and the lay of the land.

We thought we saw Friday Mountain, but was it really Balsam Cap? We found many streams crossing

"we were just guessing with a map and compass and the lay of the land"

our trail; is it only the big ones that appear as thin blue lines on the map? We felt we had guessed our way to the spot we wanted

between two brooks and so we took a compass bearing, walked uphill, then steeply, and then: Oops. We came to a view and saw a great summit ridge against the skyline, practically at right angles to our route. Feeling doomed, I looked at the map and decided we were on the flank of Balsam Cap.

We plucky lads traversed to Rocky (or so we thought) and scaled the summit through dense fir the size of beanpoles with wire brush attachments. Got poked in the eye by one and am still smarting from it. We hit the top, searched for the canister, but could not find it. Hmmmm. Finally, my long years of summit searching technique lead me to circle widely and question my assumptions. I finally discovered an uphill spot, climbed it and ... ah

(Continued on page 3)

The Catskill Canister

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The President's Column

As of this writing, another Catskill 3500 Club Winter Weekend is now a pleasant memory and part of the Club's lengthening history. The weather may have been chilly (read: "downright cold"), but the camaraderie among the participants made for a warm and pleasant experience indeed. Accordingly, we can now consider the New Year well and truly begun.

Among other things, we celebrated our Second Vice President, Jeff Glans, having completed his Winter 35. If he gets his paperwork to the Membership Chair in time, he may even receive his certificate at the upcoming Annual Meeting. The success of this year's Winter Weekend was thanks to Art Zimmerman, the event Chairman. For those of you who missed this year's installment, I encourage you to take advantage of next year's event.

Traditionally, the New Year is a time of change. In that light, your Executive Board has seen some recent changes. Our long-time Outings Chair, Ted Ripley-Duggan, has stepped down after four (personally, I think it was six) years of diligent and commendable service. His tenure saw the Club offer new and innovative programs and outings as part of its regular Hike Schedule. We are deeply in his debt.

That position has ably been filled by Manuel Peraza, whom many of you have gotten to know as the Club's Assistant Trail Maintenance Chair. Those of you who are the Club's regular hike leaders will come to know him even better in his new position. Of course, that means that the Executive Board will need a replacement for him as Assistant Maintenance Chair. Accordingly, I welcome anyone who would like to undertake that office to contact me.

With sincere regret, the Executive Board also received the First Vice President's resignation from that office. Margaret Freifeldt has served on the Board for four years, and we will miss her thoughtful consideration of the various issues that regularly come before us on the Club's behalf. In that regard, the Club's Nominating Committee will be entertaining nominees for the Board's elective offices. Dave White has graciously undertaken to chair that committee (in addition to his duties as Membership Chair). If you know of a Club member with a desire to serve, please contact him with that information.

As you can see, this year brings new opportunities to serve the Club. However, other opportunities to serve the Catskills are available. Our Representative to the New York/New Jersey Trails Conference, Richard Barr, reports that the Trail Conference has a number of openings available for individual trail and lean-to maintainers. That is a vitally important and rewarding role that individual Club members can fulfill. The sense of "giving back" to the mountains that give so much fulfillment cannot be overstated. If you might be interested in taking on such a role, please see "Service Opportunities" on page 7.

The next time I will have the opportunity to see many of you will be the Club's Annual Meeting at Hillside Manor in Kingston, New York [details on page 8]. 'Till then, good climbing.

Geoffrey Hoderath.

(Continued from page 1)

hah ! Lone Mountain, not Rocky. We had nearly climbed Rocky and bailed. Now we could not descend on the nice easy State Trail, if we wanted to bag the pair. Oh well, we got one at least.

But then I said, mostly to myself "I'm not coming back just to do all this again! I want it now. We're going for it." So we did the nasty thing and charged down the col and up the other side, one tree at a time; but at least it really was Rocky this time. Oh my, the final climb. What a peak ! Gad, the descent was awful. We were so tired and the road went ever on through wild streams. But we had found the trail along the Neversink, even though it sure submerged

itself in a couple of places.

My life as a monk in a Zen monastery feels so full sharing this wilderness with you all, and I have practically not even met you yet. Still it's a wonderful club.

Hello, y'all !

Submitted June 16, 2006 by Frank Fallon and edited by the *Canister*.

On Drinking Stream Water

Sometimes you have to pay for your fun.

On July 9th I was with a group of six hikers who started from the Denning trailhead for a scheduled hike to Rocky, Lone, and Table Mountains. The plan was to climb Rocky, Lone, and for those who needed it, climb Table and then come out via the blue trail back to the trailhead.

The day was very hot and humid, but bugs were few, and a slight breeze made for a nice hike. As most of us know either from experience or from conversations with others, this hike is long and somewhat strenuous. We all carried plenty of water but the canteen stops were very frequent.

On the descent into the col between Table and Lone a stream was flowing with abundant cool water. It had rained the night before and the stream was high for July. As one of us had a pump, we thought the addition of the cool water to our canteens would be refreshing, so pump we did and drink we did.

The next Tuesday I awoke to - but let me quote from the Merck Manual 16th edition under the section referring to Giardiasis

"INTERMITTENT NAUSEA, FLATULENCE, EPI-GASTRIC PAIN, ABDOMINAL CRAMPS, BULKY MALODOROUS STOOLS, AND DIARRHEA MAY OCCUR"

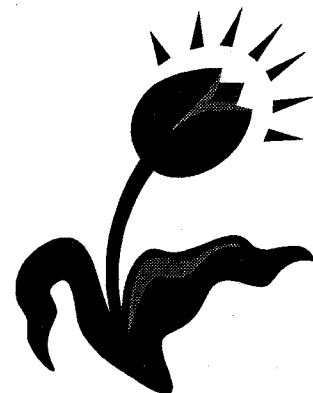
Documented water-borne epidemics involving sources

that range from remote mountain streams to poorly filtered community water systems may be the focus for this parasite."

I suffered for four days before seeing my doctor, who started me on a medication to kill the bug. How I got infected I do not know. I can only surmise that perhaps the filter in the pump was dirty or needed replacement. You can well appreciate my new found reluctance to rely on filtered water.

Submitted Oct 1, 1994 by Paul Deluca and edited by the *Canister*.

[Editor's Comments: As one who used to occasionally partake of unfiltered liquors direct from Catskill streams without ill effect, this article demonstrates that, despite W.S., the past is not necessarily prologue. Also, drinking stream water is probably most risky right after a rain, since feces would tend to have been washed into the streams.]



Hike Schedule April — June, 2007

Assumed Risk: Hiking involves certain inherent risks and persons participating do so at their own risk. In cool weather, hike participants should avoid cotton clothing, as it retains dampness and the resulting chill can result in hypothermia, **which can lead to disorientation and then to death.** Instead, wear (and have available in your pack) garments of wool or fleece. Silk or polypropylene make the best base layers, as they tend to wick moisture away from the body. Hats, gloves, and a headlamp must be part of the standard early spring kit. Ice and snow can still be found unexpectedly in these peaks. In early spring, if there is any doubt about the conditions that may be encountered, each hiker is strongly advised to **bring snowshoes and full crampons to the trailhead**; the leader may advise that these do not have to be taken on the hike, but be aware that while there may be bare ground at the trailhead, there is often very significant ice and snow as the elevation increases, which could result in those improperly prepared being sent back. Anyone not properly equipped may be refused permission to participate, at the leader's absolute discretion. Don't be seduced by buds on the trees at the trailhead, **early spring in the Catskills is not to be treated lightly.**

Please note that bad driving conditions **along the leader's route** could force cancellation of the hike. Current roadway conditions may be checked at www.travelinfony.com/wta/

Rating System: Please be advised that the hikes listed herein would most likely be rated more difficult by clubs who hike in non-mountainous terrains

As a matter of **courtesy to our volunteer hike leaders**, we ask that you let them know as early as possible if you have to cancel your attendance on a hike.

If you are a member of the Club, new or long-term, please **consider becoming a hike leader.** Just contact Manuel Peraza (mapcolus1@att.net; 718-698-4422 (7pm-9pm)), and Manny will arrange to add you to the low-volume private Yahoo list through which hikes are coordinated. You will be contacted via this means when hikes are needed.

Sat. Mar. 31. VLY and BEARPEN

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev. 3600', 3529'
A moderately paced, but strenuous bushwhack and trail hike.
Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register.
Leader: Laurie Moore #1337; lau090@dmcom.net; 607-538-9484

Sun. Apr. 1 BALSAM LAKE AND GRAHAM

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2040' Elev. 3723', 3868'
A moderately paced trail hike & bushwhack.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.
Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; hikerleader3500@yahoo.com; 718-463-5675 after 3pm (or 518-827-7327 Fri. & Sat).

Sat. Apr. 7 WITTENBERG, CORNELL & SLIDE

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elev. 3780', 3860', 4180'.
A moderately paced but strenuous trail hike. Shuttle required.
Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register April 2 - 5.
Leader: Pavel Litvinov #1348; pavellitvinov@hotmail.com;; 914-231-6187

Sun. Apr. 8 FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2800' Elev. 3694, 3623'.
A moderately paced bushwhack to two of the more difficult peaks. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register.
Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan #1389; erd@wilsey.net (email preferred); 845-657-7057

Sat. Apr. 14 SPRING LITTER PICKUP

Meet at 10am at the Notch Lake parking area. Please bring work gloves and wear bright red-orange-yellow clothing. Safety gear will be provided by the club for this event.
Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; adirondacks@verizon.net; 718-377-2990 (NCA 9pm)

Sun. Apr. 15 PANTHER

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev. 3720'.
A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register April 9 -14.
Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; suzkna@msn.com; 718-435-4943 after 7pm

Sat. Apr. 21 DOUBLETOP

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1860' Elev. 3862'
A moderately paced trail hike & bushwhack. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader for information.
Leader: Harry Rampe #877; 845-292-6736 after 5pm.

Sun. Apr. 22 SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU

Distance: 9 to 10mi. Ascent: 3100' Elev. 3800', 3840'
A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels. Will have four route options for this hike, including possible traverse depending upon group consensus.
Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register April 16 - 20.
Leader: Michael "Mick" Dunn #1272; MDunn@wyeth.com; 978-247-1933 (10am-7pm)

It is imperative that hike participants do not race ahead of the group, as this could create serious problems of safety and navigation.

Sat. Apr. 28 PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

An opportunity to give back to your Club and to climb two High Peaks. Please bring work gloves and tools: a saw, lopper, hand clipper, hoe or ditch tools if you have them; otherwise, the Club will provide tools.

Meeting Place/Time: Peekamoose trailhead on Peekamoose Rd. at 9:30am

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; adirondacks@verizon.net; 718-377-2990 (NCA 9pm)

Sun. Apr. 29 BIG INDIAN & DOUBLETOP

Distance: 12.5mi. Ascent: 3000'. Elev. 3700', 3680'

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

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register April 23 - 27.

Leader: Michael "Mick" Dunn #1272; MDunn@wyeth.com ; 978-247-1933 (10am-7pm)

Sat. May 5 BLACK HEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2640'. Elev. 3940', 3980', 3940'

A steady paced trail hike. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register by May 3,

Leader: Carol Nestor #1325; 914-683-3858 (NCA 9pm).

Sun. May 6 TABLE:**TRAIL AND LEAN-TO MAINTENANCE**

Another opportunity for trail work. Please bring work gloves and tools: a saw, lopper, hand clipper, hoe or ditch tools if you have them; otherwise, the Club will provide tools.

Meeting Place/Time: Denning trailhead at 9:30am

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; adirondacks@verizon.net; 718-377-2990 (NCA 9pm)

Sat. May 12 EAGLE & BALSAM

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1700'. Elev. 3600', 3600'

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader for information.

Leader: Harry Rampe #877; 845-292-6736 after 5pm

Sun. May 13 RUSK

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1600. Elev. 3640'

A moderately paced bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register.

Leader: Tom Rankin #1503; trankin@hvc.rr.com; 845-926-6209

Sat. May 19 FRICK POND, HODGE POND TRAILS, S.W. CATSKILLS.

Distance: 9 miles. Elevs. Ranging from 2,200' to, 2,800'

A moderately paced trail hike in this rarely-visited area west of Mongaup Pond in northern Sullivan County. Heavy or steady rain cancels. Joint with AMC.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader by May 17 and if you want to carpool from NYC area.

Leader: Richard Barr, #604, richardedbarr@aol.com, 212-877-2694.

Sun. May 20 WEST KILL

Distance: 5.6 mi. Ascent: 1700'. Elev. 3880'

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register May 14-18.

Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; suzkna@msn.com; 718-435-4943 after 7pm

Sat. May 26 NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2500' Elev. 3610', 3540'.

A moderately paced bushwhack from Spruceton Rd. Dogs welcome (on leash). Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader prior to hike day.

Leader: Danielle Besso #1496; dbesso@stny.rr.com; 607-724-5523 (6pm-9pm);

Sun. May 27 SOUTHWEST HUNTER & HUNTER

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2200' Elev. 3740', 4040'

A moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; hikeleader3500@yahoo.com; 718-463-5675 after 3pm (or 518-827-7327 Fri & Sat.)

Sat. June 2 HALCOTT

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev. 3537'.

A moderately paced bushwhack. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register May 27 - June 1.

Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; gvp@ms.com; 201-694-8344; (May not be available Friday evening before hike)

Sun. June 3 FIR

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1740' Elev. 3940'.

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register May 28 - June 2.

Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; suzkna@msn.com; 718-435-4943 after 7pm;

Sat. June 9 SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 4000' Elev. 4180', 3860', 3780'.

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader for information.

Leader: Harry Rampe 845-292-6736 after 5pm

Sun. June 10 SOUTHWEST HUNTER

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev. 3740'.

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

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register.

Leader: Dan Saks; #758; Mrd6705@aol.com; 845-687-4337 (6pm-9pm);

Sat. June 16 THOMAS COLE & BLACKHEAD

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 1600' Elev. 3940', 3980'.

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register June 11 - 15.

Leader: Manuel A. Peraza #1373; mapcolus1@att.net; 718-698-4422 (7pm-9pm)

Each hiker must bring snowshoes and full crampons to the trailhead.

Bad driving conditions most likely would force cancellation of the hike.

Sun. June 17 TWIN

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev. 3640'

A moderately paced trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register by June 16.

Leader: George Preoteasa; #1478; gvp@ms.com; 201-694-8344
(May not be available Saturday evening before hike).

Sat. June 23 LONE & ROCKY

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300' Elev. 3321', 3508'.

A moderate but steady-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader.

Leader: Danielle Besso #1496; dbesso@stny.rr.com; 607-724-5523 (6pm-9pm);

Sun. June 24 INDIAN HEAD

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1670' Elev. 3573'.

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register June 18 - 23.

Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; suzkn@msn.com; 718-435-4943 after 7pm

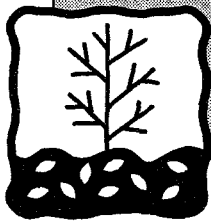
Sat. June 30 WINDHAM High Peak

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev. 3700'

A moderately paced trail hike. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register the week before the hike.

Leader: Bob Ricketson #1361; bobrick@mhccable.com; 518-943-5223;



Those new to early spring hiking in the mountains are advised that conditions such as deep snow can make what would be a moderate hike under dry conditions, extremely arduous.

Ah come, come quickly, spring!
come and lift us towards our culmination, we myriads;
we who have never flowered, like patient cactuses.
Come and lift us to our end, to blossom, bring us to our
summer
we who are winter-weary in the winter of the of the world.
Come making the chaffinch nests hollow and cosy,
come and soften the willow buds till they are puffed and
furred,
then blow them over with gold.
Coma and cajole the gawky colt's-foot flowers.

Come quickly, and vindicate us.
against too much death.
Come quickly, and stir the rotten globe of the world from
within,
burst it with germination, with world anew.
Come now, to us, your adherents, who cannot flower from
the ice.
All the world gleams with the lilies of death the Unconquer-
able,
but come, give us our turn.
Enough of the virgins and lilies, of passionate, suffocating
perfume of corruption,

no more narcissus perfume, lily harlots, the blades of sensa-
tion
piercing the flesh to blossom of death.
Have done, have done with this shuddering, delicious busi-
ness
of thrilling ruin in the flesh, of pungent passion, of rare,
death-edged ecstasy.
Give us our turn, give us a chance, let our hour strike,
O soon, soon!
Let the darkness turn violet with rich dawn.
Let the darkness be warmed, warmed through to a ruddy
violet,
incipient purpling towards summer in the world of the heart
of man.

Are the violets already here!
Show me! I tremble so much to hear it, that even now
on the threshold of spring, I fear I shall die.
Show me the violets that are out.

- D.H. Lawrence



Another Club Author. January's Catskill Mountain Region Guide has published an article on astronomy by Tom Rankin, #1503.



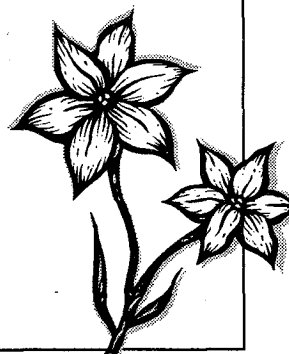
Scree

Rescues in Bear Mountain. As those who regularly peruse the internet for hiking-related information are aware, this past month has provided an ample supply of rescues: one on Mt. Hood, one in the Adirondacks, and two in Bear Mountain; yes like in Harriman State Park, NY ! Both of the Bear Mt. rescues involved hikers who survived most of the night out in cold temperatures, and involved the use of helicopters for SAR but, unlike the other rescues mentioned, involved no significant injuries. The Bear Mt. rescues differed from the others also, in that the hikers were ill-equipped novices, whereas the Hood and Adirondacks rescues involved well equipped, experienced hikers and climbers. If I might, I would conjecture that the Bear Mt. victims were unaware of the risks associated with their hikes, while the experienced victims were so aware. Conclusions ?

Bellaire Resort Update. Midhudsonnews.com reported that a spokesman for the Catskill Preservation Coalition said that the 11-group organization was "gratified" by the issues ruling handed down by Deputy Commissioner Carl Johnson of the state Department of Environmental Conservation concerning the proposed Belleayre mega-resort. The ruling upheld the CPC on six significant issues it had raised about the proposed development, agreeing that the issues were "substantive and significant" and required "further inquiry" on behalf of the public and the environment. The six issues are: water supply, aquatic habitat, stormwater, visual impacts for users of the forest preserve, including nighttime lighting, noise impacts for users of the forest preserve, and smaller-scale alternatives to the proposed mega-resort.

New DEC Officials Appointed. According a to NY state government press release of Jan 25, **Alexander B. "Pete" Grannis** is being nominated to serve as Commissioner of the DEC. Mr. Grannis was first elected to the Assembly in 1974 where he still sits. Besides having played a key role in the enactment of a wide range of environmental legislation, he has an impressive environmental resume'. **Judith Enck** will be appointed as Deputy Secretary for the Environment. For the past eight years, Ms. Enck has served as a policy advisor to Attorney General Eliot Spitzer. She was also the Executive Director of the Environmental Advocates of New York, a non-profit government watchdog organization dedicated to enforcing laws that protect natural resources and safeguard public health.

Service Opportunities. Buoyed by having eleven members show up for recent trail maintenance activities, Trails Chair, Elie Bijou, has listed three dates for spring trail maintenance and litter pickup: Apr. 14, 28, and May 6 (see the schedule). Elie also advises that **there are seven leanto's needing adopters**; if you would like to know more about the responsibilities of a leanto maintainer, please contact him at adirondacks@verizon.net. Finally, **there are ten trail segments looking for adopters**; if you would like to see the list, please send an email to c3500c@verizon.net.



Our New Members

Regular

1667	Barry Leibowitz	12/10/06
1668	William Chriswell	12/24/06
1669	Judy Jimenez	12/24/06
1670	Mike DiFabio	12/24/06
1671	Jason Finlay	12/17/06
1672	Nick Gretzinger	12/26/06
1673	Cynthia Gretzinger	12/26/06
1674	Dennis Yerry	12/28/06
1675	Jay Summerson	12/31/06
1676	Tim Sylvester	01/04/07
1677	Robert Wagner	01/06/07
1678	Kendra Pratt	01/07/07
1679	Gregory Morrison	01/11/07
1680	Donald E. Sutherland	10/14/06
1681	Mary G. Burns	01/20/07

Winter

650	John Chapman	(1602)	12/23/06
651	George Dudar	(1635)	12/30/06
652	Henry Lamont	(1425)	12/30/06
653	Cynthia Gretzinger	(1673)	12/23/06
654	Nick Gretzinger	(1672)	12/23/06

The Gauntlet Has Been Thrown Down. On May 20, 2006 Blaine Hoekstra #1641 along with six companions hiked the Devils Path from Prediger Rd. to Spruceton Rd.; the first finishing in 8hrs. 11min and the last in 12hrs. 20min.



The modest Rose puts forth a thorn,
 The humble sheep a threat'ning horn:
 While the Lily white shall in love delight,
 Nor a thorn nor a threat stain her beauty bright.
 - William Blake

In Memoriam

Anna Parker #1470, always a strong hiker, talented organist, and congenial person.



the catskill canister

July—September 2007

Volume 40, Number 3

Forty Miles in a Day

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SAVE THE DATE

- ⇒ Trail Maintenance: **Sat., Aug. 11** (see the *Hike Schedule*)
- ⇒ Litter Pickup: **Sat., Sep. 15** (see the *Hike Schedule*).



Hiking forty miles in a single day is a concept few hikers entertain. Our typical ten mile hikes often are challenging enough, so how does one obtain the mind set to hike forty miles in one day? The answer is: "with a lot of enthusiasm and perseverance" - which is exactly what we had when Ada Busso, George Form and myself participated in the Mountain Club of Maryland's forty-mile, bi-annual hike across Maryland on the Appalachian Trail in May of 1993.

This hike begins in Penmar, PA, at the Pennsylvania Maryland border, follows the ridge of South Mountain, the site of several Civil War battles, and extends south to the Potomac River. Most of the route is fairly level and runs along the Appalachian Trail, the only significant climbs being a 900-foot steep ascent up High Rock which is done in pre-dawn darkness, and a 700-foot climb to Lamb's Knoll at the 24-mile mark, which is the make-or-break point for some. Several other minor climbs are encountered along the way until the AT drops dramatically into the Potomac River Gorge, just five miles from Harpers Ferry. The last leg of the trip, which for me seemed like an eternity, was along the "flat as a pancake" C & O Canal towpath which parallels the Potomac River. Harper's Ferry is entered by climbing up an old railroad bridge at which the trek concludes.

About forty people participated in this hiking marathon with, believe it or not, thirty-six of us finishing all

forty miles! Most hikers finished in thirteen to sixteen hours, with a few ultra-marathon runners coming in some hours sooner. The age of the participants ranged from teenagers to senior citizens, with most of the participants coming from the surrounding areas; George, Ada, and I were the only representatives from New York State.

"The trek begins in the clammy, pre-dawn chill"

The Mountain Club of Maryland provides full support throughout the hike, including a hot breakfast,

picnic lunch, and snacks at various check points along the trail; accordingly the hiker need carry little more than a quart of water and some rain gear. Participants gather at the Penmar, PA firehouse on Friday night toting their sleeping bags and blankets in preparation for sleeping on the floor. After a rather fitful night's rest due to a combination of excitement and discomfort, we are awakened at 4am to dress and mouth down a pastry, juice and coffee. The trek begins in the clammy, pre-dawn chill as the nervous participants switch on their headlamps and begin to follow the white blazes of the AT southward - one step at a time. The beginning is rather rough and slow going as the hikers shake off their sleep and stumble over rocks, boulders, and branches making their way up the trail in darkness. The beginning of this trek is a site to behold: the dozens of headlamp beams and the lights of a distant town shining way down in the valley. Coming up

(Continued on page 3)

The Catskill Canister

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The President's Column

This is my first column since becoming President of the 3500 Club at the Annual Meeting on April 14. Jean Taylor was elected Second Vice President. The other members of the Executive Committee stayed on board, so the club is fortunate to have such an experienced group of people in its leadership. I look forward to serving the club and I hope I can count on you, the members, for help and support. Working together, we can take the club to new heights—even though the mountains will stay the same! Please do not hesitate to send me an email (at the address in the column to the left) if you have ideas or suggestions.

As reported by Membership Chair, David White, at the meeting, we had 68 new 35ers and 19 new winter 35ers. The total number of 35ers now stands at 1702 and winter 35ers at 668. It was surprising that the generally light snowfall this winter did not result in a larger than usual number of winter finishers. I must admit that after I got started in Catskill winter hiking (as part of the required winter peaks), winter has now become my favorite hiking season. So if you wonder why we require those four winter climbs, just ask!

There is one safety issue that I want to bring to your attention. In mid-April the Catskills were hit with a heavy ice and snow accumulation resulting in a large number of blown down trees, particularly at higher elevations. Several trails were impassable and closed by NYS DEC. Signs will be posted at affected trailheads alerting hikers to the hazardous conditions and trail closures. DEC anticipates reopening the trails by Memorial Day weekend, but please be careful if you encounter a still-closed trail. For the latest information, check the DEC website, www.dec.ny.gov/, or contact Senior Forester Frank Parks at DEC's Stamford Office by calling 607-652-3698.

I look forward to seeing and meeting many of you on the trails. The club's hike schedule provides great opportunities for friendship, outdoor recreation, and learning.

In closing, on behalf of the club I would like to thank Geoffrey Hoderath, past president, for his leadership and service during his tenure as president.

Joe Bogardus



Reminder

Dues and subscription renewals for 2007 are now past due; don't risk the wrath of the infernal porcupine - pay up now!

(Continued from page 1)

High Rock the sky begins to brighten ever so gradually so that before its summit, two miles into the hike, the headlamps are switched off. Climbing High Rock we are panting and sweating a lot in the humidity. It is going to be a very warm day, which does not bode well for us, considering the distance we will attempt to cover.

I am refreshed after a brief stop; the biggest climb of the day is behind me and since I am carrying very little, I feel great as I cruise along through the fragrant spring woods that is full of bird song, occasionally getting glimpses of the picturesque farming country on both sides of the ridge. By eight o'clock I am eating breakfast with eight miles done; this is as much as I often hike in a whole day and here it is only early morning. Inspiring. After breakfast with a renewed burst of energy I continue on my way; I am wearing just a tee shirt, shorts, and running shoes, having given up my warmer clothing at the breakfast checkpoint.

"Fatigue and muscle soreness had finally taken their toll"

By mid-morning I reach an eight-mile section of the AT that is closed due to major blowdowns as a result of the blizzard of '93 that had struck in March. We are forced off the ridge and onto a parallel road that leads south past quiet woodlands and fields, and some houses with an occasional barking dog. My leg muscles begin to tire, especially around the back of the knees, so I take up occasional jogging for a mile or two which, surprisingly, helps.

By this time, the group had spread out so that we are pretty much hiking on our own. We might occasionally pass someone or hike with somebody for a short distance but now it is an individual effort. It is a combination of our physical ability and our mental willpower. After crossing I-70 it is just another four miles to lunch at the 21-mile mark. So far, I am doing fine as I reach the check points nearly two hours before the required drop out times.

After a half hour's stop for lunch, I pass the twenty-two mile mark which is quite a thrill as it breaks my old personal distance record and I am still feeling good. As

the afternoon wears on, the heat of the day increases to rather uncomfortable levels with the sun beating down through the still bare foliage; but the distance ahead is declining mile by mile. Soon it is 12, 10, and then only 7 miles to go, although I am beginning to tire seriously. Then with just 6 miles to go, at the Weverton Cliffs above the Potomac River Gorge I lose the trail! I had followed a side trail for a couple of hundred yards ending at the cliffs' edge. There I stop to rest, and to stare at the breathtaking view of the swollen Potomac River raging beneath me in its annual spring runoff. After resting a few moments, lo and behold I hear a voice calling out. It turns out to be Ada Busso who I had not seen since early this morning. Apparently Ada, who was about a half hour ahead of me, had made the same mistake I did. We are both happy to see each other and shortly after we manage to backtrack and pickup the main trail again.

The last five miles, along the canal tow-path, are particularly tough for me. Fatigue and muscle soreness had finally taken their toll as I move each belabored step one in front of the other towards the finish line. Looking up river towards a distant bridge I am agonized by the realization that the one I need to cross to reach the finish is the third bridge further up the river. Thankfully Ada's good humor pulls me along. After coming so far, I am determined to finish, no matter the pain.

And so I do ! With dusk beginning to settle over Harper's Ferry I walk proudly across the old iron railroad bridge to the congratulations and handshakes of my comrades.

Editor's Note: This article is an edited version of an unsigned manuscript unearthed from the *Canister's* archives (buried deep in Halcott Mt.). If anyone knows who the original author might be, please so inform the editor, so credit can be acknowledged in the next issue..

Magic 2

by Paul Levine

Let us presume
there was no magic.
The gazebo is there and
the flowers still blooming
The tree mushrooms
and the hidden lake
all as we left them remain in place.



Hike Schedule July — September, 2007

Assumed Risk: Hiking involves certain inherent risks and persons participating do so at their own risk. In cool weather, hike participants should avoid cotton clothing, as it retains dampness and the resulting chill can result in hypothermia, **which can lead to death.** In summer participants should have available in their pack garments of wool or fleece and a headlamp, should one have to unexpectedly spend the night in the mountains. Anyone not properly equipped may be refused permission to participate, at the leader's absolute discretion.

On the Rating System: Please be advised that the hikes listed herein would most likely be rated more difficult by clubs who hike in non-mountainous terrains.

Sat. June 30 WINDHAM High Peak

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev. 3700'

A moderately paced trail hike. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register the week before the hike.

Leader: Bob Ricketson #1361; bobrick@mhccable.com; 518-943-5223;

Sun., July 1 – WESTKILL

Distance: 6.5mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev. 3880'

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader by Fri., June 29 to register.

Leader: Wanda Davenport #523; wandatrails@verizon.net; 201-670-8383. NCA 9pm.

Sat., July 7 – KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1900'. Elev. 3655'

A moderately paced trail hike with short bushwhack. Thunderstorms cancel.

Meeting Place/ Time: Please contact leader.

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; adirondacks@verizon.net; 518-873-2119 NCA 9pm.

Sun., July 8 – SUGARLOAF AND PLATEAU

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2800'. Elev. 3808', 3840'

Moderately paced but strenuous trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by July 6. (e-mail preferred)

Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; gvp@ms.com; 201-694-8344

Sat, July 14 – FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP

Distance: 7mi. Ascent: 2200', Elev. 3694', 3623'.

A moderately paced bushwhack, possibly ascending via the Friday slide.

Meeting Place/ Time: Please contact leader for details.

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan #1389; erd@wilsey.net; 845-656-7057.

Sun., July 15 – BLACK HEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE

Distance: 7.7 mi. Ascent: 2800', Elev. 3940', 3980', 3940'.

A moderately paced, but strenuous trail hike. All weather hike (except lightning).

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register from July 10-13. (e-mail preferred)

Leader: Joe Bogardus #1399; joe.adks@gmail.com; 518-576-9739.

Sat., July 21 – LONE & ROCKY

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300', Elev.3721' 3508'

A moderate but steady-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please call leader to register.

Leader: Harry Rampe #877; 845-292-6736 after 5pm.

Sun., July 22 – Shingle Gully & Verkeerdeerkill Falls in the Shawangunks

Distance: Aprox.12 mi. Ascent: 1000'

A moderately paced but strenuous off-trail hike to an unusual area with deep slot canyons, and wild ice caves, which require scrambling skills. Shuttle required. Inclement weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: e-mail leader by July 12, as this hike is subject to the availability of a Nature Conserv. permit.

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan #1389; erd@wilsey.net; 845-657-7057, (e-mail preferred).

Sun., July 29 – BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM

Distance: 10mi. Ascent: 2040', Elev. 3723' 3868'

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please call leader to register between July 23-28.

Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; suzkna@msn.com; 718-435-4943 after 7pm.

Sat., Aug. 4 – EAGLE & BIG INDIAN

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2150', Elev. 3600' & 3700'

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack from Seager.

Dogs on leash welcome. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register.

Leader: Danielle Besso #1496; dbesso@stny.rr.com; 607-724-5523 (6 to 9pm).

Sun., Aug. 5 – HALCOTT

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev. 3537'.

A moderately paced bushwhack. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register.

Leader: Tom Rankin #1503; trankin@hvc.rr.com; 845-926-6209.

Sat., Aug. 11 – PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE TRAIL & BOUTON MEMORIAL LEAN-TO MAINTENANCE

Meet members of your board and talk with them about issues while doing trail maintenance. Please bring work gloves and tools: a saw, lopper, hand clipper, and/or hoe, if you have them; otherwise, the Club will provide tools.

Meeting Place/Time: Peekamoose trailhead at 9:15am

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; adirondacks@verizon.net; 518-873-2119.

Sun., Aug. 12 – WITTENBERG, CORNELL & SLIDE
Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elev. 3780', 3860', 4180'
 A moderately paced, but strenuous trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Aug. 6-11.
Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; suzkna@msn.com;
 718-435-4943 after 7pm.

Sat., Aug. 18 – PANTHER
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev. 3720'.
 A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Please call leader for information.
Leader: Harry Rampe #877; 845-292-6736 after 5pm.

Sun., Aug. 19 – INDIAN HEAD & TWIN
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2400', Elev. 3573', 3640'.
 A moderately paced trail hike. Bad weather cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leaders to register between Aug. 14-17.
Leaders: David and Carol White #859 & 860;
ccswhite@juno.com; 315-853-1070.

Sat., Aug. 25 – RUSK
Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev. 3680'
 A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Please call or e-mail leader to register between Aug. 19-23.
Leader: Jim Malumphy #890; lump63@hotmail.com;
 860-355-5573; Please NCA 8pm.

Sun., Aug. 26 – BEARPEN & VLY
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev. 3600', 3529'.
 A moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register.
Leader: Susan Poretz #1208; poretzs@newpaltz.edu;
 845-246-1823.

Sat., Sep. 1 – HUNTER
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1940', Elev. 4040'.
 A moderately paced trail hike. Bad weather cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Aug. 27-31.
Leader: Manuel A. Peraza #1373; mapcolus1@att.net;
 718-698-4422 (7 – 9pm).

Sun., Sep. 2 – WINDHAM HIGH PEAK
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev. 3524'
 A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels. (if it is clear we can see Albany)
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register,
Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; hikeleader3500@yahoo.com;
 718-463-5675 (after 3pm) or 518-827-7327 Fri, & Sat.

Sat., Sep. 8 – THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME, BLACKHAD, & WINDHAM
Distance: 15 mi. Ascent: 3300'. Elev. 3940', 3980', 3940', 3524'.
 A moderate to fast-paced, strenuous trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Sep. 4-7.
Leader: Pavel Litvinov #1348; pavellitvinov@hotmail.com;
 914-231-6187; NCA 9:30pm.

Sun., Sep. 9 – NORTH DOME & SHERRILL
Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2500', Elev. 3610', 3540'.
 A moderately paced bushwhack. Bad weather cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leaders to register between Sep. 4 - 7.
Leaders: David & Carol White #859 & 860;
ccswhite@juno.com; 315-853-1070

Sat., Sep. 15 – CATSKILL 3500 CLUB LITTER PICK-UP
 This is a chance to do something in return for your Club. Meet at Notch Lake parking area on Route 214 (2 miles South from Rte 23A) at 10am. Please bring work gloves. Plastic trash bags and safety gear will be provided.
Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; adirondacks@verizon.net;
 518-523-6434.

Sun., Sept. 16 – BALSAM & HAYNES
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2450', Elev. 3600', 3420'
 A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader by Fri., Sept. 14 to register.
Leader: Wanda Davenport #523; wandatrails@verizon.net;
 201-670-8383 NCA 9pm..

Sat., SEP. 22 – FIR & BIG INDIAN
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2400', Elev. 3620', 3700'.
 A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Please call leader for information.
Leader: Harry Rampe #877; 845-292-6736 after 5pm

Sun., Sep. 23 – SW HUNTER
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elev. 3740'
 A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Bad weather cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by Sep. 21 (e-mail preferred)
Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; gvp@ms.com;
 201-694-8344

Sat., Sep. 29 – FRICK POND, HODGE POND TRAILS, SOUTHWEST CATSKILLS
Distance: 9 mi.; Elev. Ranging from 2200' to 2800'
 A moderately paced trail hike in this rarely visited area west of Mongaup Pond in northern Sullivan County. Heavy or steady rain cancels. Joint with AMC.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader by Sep. 27, and also by that date if you wish to carpool from NYC area..
Leader: Richard Barr #604; richardedbarr@aol.com;
 212-877-2694

Sun., Sep. 30 – DOUBLETOP
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev. 3860'
 A moderately paced bushwhack. Bad weather cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by Sep. 28 (e-mail preferred).
Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; gvp@ms.com;
 201-694-8344

It is imperative that hike participants do not race ahead of the group, as this could create serious problems of safety and navigation.

My Three Broken Ankles

Actually, they were other peoples' ankles that were broken, but I happened to be on or near the hikes when they occurred. I'll discuss them in chronological order since each occurrence added to my knowledge of how to prepare for, and how to react in such situations. All the incidents occurred in Harriman State Park on AMC hikes.

The First Incident happened on a hike with a large number of hikers led by an experienced leader. The woman right in front of me slipped on a one-foot step-down on otherwise level ground, and complained that her ankle was in great pain. She was examined by a physician, who happened to be on the hike and who applied a chemical ice pack. Some of the hikers urged the leader to get on with the hike, which he did. The injured woman put her arms around the shoulders of two of us and we acted like her crutches in negotiating less than a mile of flat terrain to the road. Her friend walked on the road to retrieve his car, and then drove her to the local hospital, where the break was diagnosed.

Lessons Learned:

Hikers, like other human beings, may sometimes deny the seriousness of a problem so they can keep on doing what they like to do. **Remedy:** the leader needs to resist the pressure exerted by impatient hikers and exercise firm control of the situation.

Hikers should consider taking Wilderness First Aid training and carry the equipment to effect such training. On later reflection it is my opinion, the ankle should have been immobilized, a litter built, and the victim littered out.

The Second Incident occurred when the hike leader rolled a rock coming down the Cornell Trail (also known at that time as the "Break Your Ankle Trail") and, yes, broke her ankle. She also was examined by a physician who happened to be on the hike and who recommended treating the ankle as though it was broken. A few of the hikers questioned the diagnosis and urged that the hike continue. However, in this case, a hiker experienced in Wilderness First Aid (and supported by some other experienced hikers) ignored such urging. They built a litter, using equipment such as a saw and ropes carried by the experienced WFA-er and other hikers, and after agreeing on the route and road destination to which the litter would be carried, a few of the group headed to the nearest ranger station to arrange help that would meet the litter team at the trailhead.

Lessons Learned:

Since the injured party was the leader there were a few minutes where the lack of leadership led to confusion. This was overcome by a firm assumption of leadership by some of the more experienced hikers. **Remedy:** leaders should consider appointing a co-leader ahead of time to avoid confusion should they become incapacitated.

Hikers should consider taking Wilderness First Aid training (see first incident, above).

Even though there were a number of strong, young men on the littering team, and the victim was quite light, the littering team noted the difficulty of bearing the litter

less than a mile (downhill).

The Third Incident occurred on a hike which my wife and I came across in Harriman. A man was down with an obviously broken ankle on the Blue Disk Trail (near its intersection with the RD and Victory trails). The leader had immobilized the ankle with a "cast" well constructed of pads and duct tape (another example of hikers carrying proper safety equipment), and had sent two people to Tuxedo to summon help. Having had the benefit of previous experience, I suggested building a litter which we did. We then set out with the victim towards Tuxedo, expecting help to arrive from that direction, per the message carried by the people who went for help. Eventually the park rangers found us; they reprimanded us for moving the victim, since they said they could have gotten a truck to the injury site. They then helped us continue the littering operation since we were past the halfway point to Tuxedo. It took three hours to litter the more-than-200-pound victim only 1.2 miles.

Lessons Learned

Littering is a very strenuous and difficult activity – consider that a 200-pound litter toted by eight people requires each to carry 25 pounds in one hand, with their arms hanging down. Even with rotation, this means you can only carry the litter about 50 yards between rest stops (at each of which you put the litter down thereby jostling the victim's broken bone).

Proper communication could be a lifesaver. In places such as Harriman a cell phone would be extremely useful since (1) it could be used to communicate in real time with the rangers, rather than via messengers (the rangers ignored the information provided by the messengers that our party would be heading toward Tuxedo via the RD) and (2) it would probably work. [editors note: this incident occurred before cell phones were all that popular.] Hindsight is better than foresight. Had we known the rangers could get a truck to the injury site, we would have stayed put. When I asked the head ranger if their truck could meet us at a gas line road on the way to Tuxedo, he said, "No, that road is impassable." How then, can one be sure which roads are passable and which are not? After three hours of littering, the victim was already experiencing loss of feeling in his foot; waiting for help could have added hours more to the delay.

Reprise

You just never know when Wilderness First Aid training and safety equipment will come in handy - even if it does increase your pack weight.

Editor's Note: This article, written by the editor, was first published in the Fall, 2002 issue of Trails and Waves, the newsletter of the NY-NJ Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Scree

Trail Maintainer Information Sought. As we are trying to update our records, if you maintain a trail in the Catskills for the NY/NJ Trail Conference, would you please so notify our Trails Chair, Elie Bijou.

An article on the Minisink Battle written by Larry Swayne, #1622 has been published in the spring issue of Kaatskill Life (currently available in area stores). This battle on July 22, 1779 was the bloodiest engagement (relative to the number of participants) and the only conflict fought along the Upper Delaware River during the Revolutionary War. A raiding party led by Mohawk war chieftain Joseph Brant routed a pursuing group of local militia party slaughtering 46 patriots while suffering only a handful of casualties.

Chris Olney, formerly of The Catskill Center, has accepted a position with the DEC's main office in Albany. His job will be to help the DEC to further develop and implement its conservation easement program at the state level.

Bears and coyotes - extensive information on how to avoid dangerous encounters with them can be found on the DEC website, www.dec.ny.gov/animals/263.html.

DEC's new Region 3 director, William Janeway - biographical information on him may be found at dec.ny.gov/press/33832.html.

NYC's Catskill water supply is still so clean that it does not need to be filtered for another decade or longer - so states a federal environmental study. As a condition for the extension for the Catskill filtration exemption, the city has agreed to set aside \$300 million over the next 10 years to acquire land upstate to restrain development that causes runoff and pollution.

For the Patch-minded - New York State DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis marked National Trails Day by announcing the upcoming availability of a **new Trails Supporter Patch**. Proceeds from the sale of the patch will help protect and enhance the state's public trail network and promote outdoor recreational activity.

Our New Members



Regular

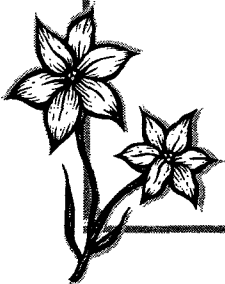
1682	Lauren Sartori	01/28/07
1683	Louise M. Perkins	01/26/07
1684	Stephanie Satterly	02/03/07
1685	John Birdsall	01/21/07
1686	Charles W. Koburger III	02/11/07
1687	Peter F. Johantgen	03/04/07
1688	John F. Klebes	03/04/07
1689	Ian Marchant	03/04/07
1690	Will J. Roden Jr.	03/16/07
1691	Mary Ann Cascarino	03/16/07
1692	Aileen Genett	12/31/06
1693	Sharon Getman	03/18/07
1694	Nicole Versandi	03/18/07
1695	Ryan E. Lovett	03/22/07
1696	Panxi Xu	03/24/07
1697	Dean Mojon	02/25/07
1698	Kimberly Tatarsky	03/10/07
1699	William L. Maurer Jr	03/31/07
1700	Moonray Schepart	04/06/07
1701	Rachael Shenyo	04/06/07
1702	David Shwide	04/14/07

Winter

655	Jeffrey H. Glans	0793	01/27/07
656	Judy Brandow	1597	02/11/07
657	Juanita Wilsey	1518	03/05/07
658	Katherin Marton	1632	03/04/07
659	Anthony DeFeo	1530	03/11/07
660	Karen Rose	1491	03/10/07
661	Vincent T. Polywoda	1449	02/24/07
662	Aileen Genett	1692	12/31/06
663	Jennifer Reidy	1663	03/18/07
664	Moira Colangelo	1585	03/19/07
665	Patrick Colangelo	1586	03/19/07
666	Cindy Kuhn	1629	03/19/07
667	Roman Laba	1607	03/20/07
668	F. William Walker	0453	03/20/07

In Memoriam

Vincent W. Griska #114 (55W), March 5, 2006. He was 87 years old. Vincent finished his peaks in a quick round, mostly in 1971, and completed his winter round in 1975. His tally sheet indicates "inspection tours" and replacing canisters and registers. .



New Life Member

0951 Gerald J. Flattmann



the catskill canister

October - December 2007

Volume 40, Number 4

THE ICE MITES - *Hiking Panther Mountain via Giant Ledge*

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No matter how many times you walk a trail you will always be awarded a unique and everlasting experience. Larry Allen (#1277) and Kevin Wagner (#1283), learn this with each excursion.

Our first hike to Panther Mountain was February of 1998, on a cold and cloudy day. As we reached the top of the Giant Ledges, we also reached the base of the clouds. That was a unique experience: hiking in the fog.

The following December, we planned an overnight on the Giant Ledges and to climb Panther.

On this day, the Giant Ledges offer exceptional views. Here we stand where the cliff drops precipitously down to the tree tops. The view almost induces vertigo. The clean, crisp air and the clear, blue sky combine to give us views at their best. The ice in the trees sparkles. We set up camp near the edge of the cliff, fix a dinner of canned beef stew with biscuits and hot coffee. After dinner, we explore, and as the sun drops below the horizon, so does the temperature. The ice-glazed Giant Ledges glimmer from the waxing moon as we walk back to camp. It's completely dark at 5 PM. Our excitement of winter camping wanes, there is little to do. Clean up around camp, hang

our food from a tree limb, and sit on the ledge watching lights flicker miles away. Firewood is scarce and what is available is coated with snow and ice. Shredded paper, waxed cardboard, and a teepee of twigs gives us smoke to breath and watery eyes. Every overnighter needs a camp fire.

"we reach the sign at 3500 feet, at which elevation Panther is a land of ice."

For three hours, we busy ourselves dodging smoke as we try to keep a small flickering fire burning on a sheet

of ice; fun comes in funny flavors. About 9 PM, we burn out, along with the fire and crawl into our tent. It is like leaving a freezer and entering an ice box. We try in vain to keep warm. We are lying on ice with the outside temperature in the single digits.

We're awake by 4 AM stirring and wanting to get out of the ice box and back into the freezer. At 6 AM, we enjoy a breakfast of steamed sausage links and instant coffee. "If you don't like it, take it when you hike." Canned beef stew, steamed sausage, and instant coffee are almost enjoyable while camping, but most any other time, they are just barely palatable. Just after breakfast comes the sun, a beautiful sight. It brings glorious warmth. We watch the dawn sitting on the ledge as the sun rises over Wittenburg. We don crampons, pack a

(Continued on page 3)

.....

SAVE THE DATE

⇒ *Winter Weekend: Fri - Mon, Jan 25 - 27, 2008 (p. 8)*

⇒ *Annual Dinner Saturday, April 12, 2008. (p. 3)*

⇒ *Trail Maintenance Sun. Oct. 14 (p. 4)*

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The Catskill Canister

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The President's Column

It is amazing to me how fast the summer of 2007 went by ! When the season started, DEC and other groups were still working on cleaning up the downed trees resulting from the April snowstorm. In several areas, trails were closed and the destruction was extensive. We owe a great "thank you" to the trail crews, rangers, trail maintainers, and volunteers who put the trails back in such excellent shape. As summers go, it seemed that we had more than the usual number of "chance of showers and thunderstorms" days, but there were still nice summer days for hiking in the Catskills.

Most of you know that the club is formally responsible for maintenance of the Table and Peekamoose mountain trails. Please note in the outings schedule Sunday, October 14 and join the group working on maintaining the Table mountain trail and the Bouton lean-to area. No experience necessary and tools are provided ! In addition to getting some exercise on a beautiful fall day (hopefully), you will enjoy meeting and working with a great group of people. I hope you take this opportunity to support the club and "give back to the mountains".

Coming soon—a new 3500 club web site. Club member and web site designer Scott Larson generously volunteered his services to help design and develop a new web site. Thanks, Scott ! He is being assisted by Ted Ripley-Duggan and Tom Rankin, and the project is being overseen by Treasurer Ed Gilroy and myself. Stay tuned for the big launch, to be announced on the 3500club Yahoo Group list !

I want to remind you of an important safety issue for fall hiking. The regular deer hunting season is November 17 to December 9, and the bear hunting season is November 19 to December 9. The club does not sponsor outings in the Catskills during this time, but please see the schedule for some other outings available outside the Park. If you do choose to hike during this time, avoid areas where hunters are likely to be active and always wear bright (preferably blaze orange) clothing.

Outings Chair Manuel Peraza and our volunteer leaders have put together a great schedule of hikes to the 3500 foot peaks as well as some other interesting destinations. I urge you to get out and enjoy the Catskills in the beautiful fall season and early winter. Remember to check the weather forecast, dress appropriately, and bring necessary contingency and safety items, including caps, gloves, and rain gear.

Joe Bogardus



(Continued from page 1)

lunch and drinks, and head for Panther. As we start climbing, we gauge our progress by looking back at the Giant Ledges. Two hours from when we left, we reach the sign at 3500 feet at which elevation Panther is a land of ice. The trees, each branch and every needle is covered with rime, looking like hard tack candies. Limbs and trees bend under the weight of the ice. The balsam needles are united in a rippled coat of ice. The trail is narrow and low. The top of Panther is a wonderland of nature's ice sculptures; this view from the summit is rare and beautiful.

On our way back to the Giant Ledges, we stop for lunch on the south face of Panther. Just off the trail, we find another beautiful vista: the scope of the Giant Ledges rising out of the col. We dub this spot, at a sheer drop of 200 feet into the beginning of Dougherty Clove, "ATriple-A Ledge". It is here on our ATriple-A Ledge that we see for the first time the "Ice Mites". We stand just below the cloud cover and look out into the valley and the world below where we see the most amazing of creatures dancing in the air. Ice Mites are those minute particles of ice and crystalized vapor that float upwards in the air. The sunwarmed air deeper in the clove rises up through the clove, bringing the ice mites swarming and dancing

upward towards us. It is the most incredible sight. The Ice Mites seem to be migrating by the millions; alive as they swarm all around and above us. Reflecting in the sunlight, they cluster and swarm across Dougherty Clove in front of the cloud shadow. It seems to us that we could reach out and touch them, but in reality, the Ice Mites disappear and melt just before reaching our fingertips. The Ice Mites are the frosting of our hike, the icing on the cake. We leave Panther, the Giant Ledges, and the Ice Mites to tomorrow's travelers.

It is our hope that the Ice Mites are just as alive for you as they were for us. The Catskills offer more than trails and peaks; they offer adventure, fun, and new experiences on every hike. At the right time, there is the elusive Ice Mite dance every winter for those who are daring enough to venture out on the coldest days.

This article was submitted by **Larry Allen (#1277)** and **Kevin Wagner (#1283)**, and edited by **the Canister**.

It is to be included in Catskill Mountain Quests, compiled by **Carol and David White** (#s 860 and 859, respectively) to be published by Black Dome Press in 2008.

In the Market for New Hiking Boots. The 35x12 grid was completed June 16 on Kaaterskill High Peak by **Ralph Ryndak (#1186)**. Ralph says he gained some valuable knowledge of the Catskills and memories for a lifetime."



The Catskill Park comprises 1,089 square miles (697,000 acres), with 425 square miles to be "forever kept as wild forestlands."



Cat Tales are supplied by Larry Allen, #1277, who is always happy to receive information about the Catskills at lea6141@gmail.com

The Club's **Annual Dinner** will be held **Saturday, April 12, 2008** at the Hillside Manor in Kingston, NY (per usual). The **guest speaker will be Dr. William Schuster**, the Executive Director of Black Rock Forest and noted lecturer, who will address the audience on the subject of Catskill Forests and Climate Change. Additional details and the dinner reservation form will appear in the Apr - Jun, 2008 issue which you should receive by Feb 15.



Hike Schedule October — December, 2007

Assumed Risk: Hiking involves certain inherent risks and persons participating do so at their own risk. In cold weather hike participants should avoid cotton clothing, as it retains dampness and the resulting chill can result in hypothermia, **which can lead to death.** Instead, wear (and have available in your pack) garments of wool or fleece. Silk or polypropylene make the best base layers, as they tend to wick moisture away from the body. Hats, gloves and a headlamp must be part of the standard fall kit. Ice and snow can come early and unexpectedly to these peaks; if there is any doubt about the conditions that may be encountered, each hiker is strongly advised **to bring snowshoes and full crampons to the trailhead;** the leader may advise that these do not have to be taken on the hike, but be aware that while there may be bare ground at the trailhead, there is often very significant ice and snow as the elevation increases, which could result in those improperly prepared being sent back. Anyone not properly equipped may be refused permission to participate, at the leader's absolute discretion. **Fall in the Catskills is not to be treated lightly.**

Rating System: Please be advised that the hikes listed herein would most likely be rated more difficult by clubs who hike in non-mountainous terrains

Cancelations: Please be aware that, in the case of bad weather or bad driving conditions, most hikes will be canceled; if you are uncertain, please contact the leader before leaving for the hike. As a matter of **courtesy to our volunteer hike leaders**, we ask that you let them know as early as possible if you have to cancel your attendance on a hike.

Private Property: All Catskill 3500 Club hikes respect "No Trespassing" signs and the owners' wishes in such regards; leaders shall obtain permission to cross private property when so required.

Volunteer to Lead: If you are a member of the Club please **consider becoming a hike leader.** Just contact Manuel Peraza (mapcolus1@att.net; 718-698-4422 (7pm-9pm)), and Manny will arrange to add you to the low-volume private Yahoo list through which hikes are coordinated. You will be contacted via this means when hikes are needed.

Sat. Oct. 6 – LONE & ROCKY

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300', Elev. 3721', 3508'

A steady, moderately paced bushwhack.

Meeting Place/Time: Please call leader to register.

Leader: Harry Rampe #877; 845-292-6736 after 5pm

Sun. Oct. 7 – Blackhead Range Traverse: THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME, BLACKHEAD

Distance: 7.5 mi. Ascent: 2760'. Elev. 3940', 3980' 3940'

A moderately paced trail through-hike; shuttle required.

Meeting place/ Time: Please contact leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert #1351;

hikeleader3500@yahoo.com; 718-463-5675 after 3pm or 518-827-7327 Fri. & Sat

Sun. Oct. 7 – WESTKILL

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev. 3880'.

A steady, moderately paced trail hike.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader by Fri., Oct. 5 to register.

Leader: Irene Logan #888; 845-753-5651 NCA after 9pm

Sat. Oct. 13 – PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2950'. Elev. 3843', 3847'.

A moderately paced trail hike.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Oct. 8-12.

Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; suzkna@msn.com; 718-435-4943 after 7pm

Sun. Oct. 14 – TABLE Trail and Bouton Lean-to Maintenance.

Trail and Lean-to maintenance on Table Mt. Novices thru experienced maintainers welcome. Please bring work gloves and any tools (loppers, shovel, hoe, saw) that you may have; otherwise, tools will be provided.

Meeting Place/Time: Meet at Denning trailhead at 9:15 AM.

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; Adirondacks@verizon.net; 718-377-2990 NCA 9 PM.

Sat. Oct. 20 – WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev. 3700'.

A moderately paced trail hike. Dogs welcome.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register.

Leaders: Tom & Laurie Rankin #'s 1503, 1337; trankin@hvc.rr.com; 845-926-6209.

Sun. Oct. 21 – FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2900' Elev. 3694'. 3623'

A moderately paced bushwhack.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register from Oct.13 to Oct.20.

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; Adirondacks@verizon.net; 718-377-2990 after 5:00pm.

Sat. Oct. 27 – BALSAM & EAGLE

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2700', Elev. 3600', 3600'

A steady paced trail hike and bushwhack. A short shuttle is required..

Meeting Place/Time: Please call leader to register.

Leader: Harry Rampe #877; 845-292-6736 after 5pm.

Sun. Oct. 28 – KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1700'. Elev. 3655'

A moderately paced but strenuous trail hike and bushwhack.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader by Oct. 26 (email preferred).

Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; gvp@ms.com; 201-694-8344.

Sat. Nov. 3 – DOUBLETOP

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1860' Elev. 3860'

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register from Nov. 29–Dec.2.

Leader: Manuel A. Peraza #1373; mapcolus1@att.net; 718-698-4422 (7-9 PM).

Sun. Nov. 4 – BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2040' Elev. 3723', 3868'

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Oct. 29-Nov. 3.

Leader: Suzanne Kanabe #1326; suzkna@msn.com; 718-435-4943 after 7pm.

Sat. Nov. 10 – EAST & WEST WILDCATS

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2300'

This is a hike to two trailless peaks south of Peekamoose Rd. that are among the 100 highest in the Catskills. Considerable blowdowns may be encountered. Complete details and other cautionary information will be provided to registrants. Shuttle required.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register before Nov. 7.

Leader: Alan Via #429; alan46r@nycap.rr.com

Sat. Nov. 10 – WITTENBERG & CORNELL

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3100' Elev. 3780' 3860'

A moderately paced trail hike.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader before Nov..8 to register. NCA 9 pm.

Leader: Carol Nestor #1325; 914-683-3858.

Sun. Nov. 11 – PLATEAU via LONG PATH

Distance: 7.8 mi. Ascent: 1650' Elev. 3840'.

A moderately paced trail hike. A short shuttle is required.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leaders between Nov.5-9.

Leaders: David & Carol White #'s 859, 860; ccswhite@juno.com; 315-853-6942.

Sat. Nov. 17 HUNTING SEASON STARTS

Hikes in non-hunting areas only.

Sun. Nov. 18 – Mohonk Preserve: BONTICOU CRAG & TABLE ROCKS

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1000'.

A moderately paced trail hike and exquisite rock scramble. Preserve parking fee: \$ 9.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by Nov.16. (email preferred).

Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; gvp@ms.com; 201-694-8344.

Sat. Nov. 24 – Hudson Highlands: BREAKNECK RIDGE & SUGARLOAF

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2500'

A moderately paced trail hike and rock scramble south and east of the Catskills. Very exposed and difficult trail sections.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Nov.19-23.

Leader: Manuel A. Peraza #1373; mapcolus1@att.net; 718-698-4422 (7 to 9pm).

Sun. Dec. 9 HUNTING SEASON ENDS

Back to the Catskills !

Sat. Dec. 15 – HUNTER MT.

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2040' Elev. 4040'.

A moderately paced trail hike.

Meeting place/ Time: Please contact leader before Dec.14 to register.

Leader: Jean Taylor #1440; jtaylor@cims.nyu.edu

Sun. Dec. 16 – NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2500'. Elev. 3610', 3540'

A moderate bushwhack loop route from the Westkill side. Dogs on leash welcome.

Meeting place/ Time; Please contact leader to register.

Leader: Danielle Besso #1496; dbesso@stny.rr.com; 607-724-5523.

Sun. Dec. 16 – FIR & BIG INDIAN

Distance: 9mi. Ascent: 2400' Elev. 3620', 3700'

A moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike. Bushwhack-capable, canine companions are welcome.

Bring map and compass as participants will be doing the route-finding !

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register.

Leader: Ed Gilroy #1305; egilroy@comcast.net; 908-419-2543.

(Continued on page 6)

It is imperative that hike participants do not race ahead of the group, as this could create serious problems of safety and navigation.

Sat. Dec. 22 – RUSK

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev. 3680'.

A moderately paced bushwhack.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Dec. 11-21 NCA 9 pm, Fri.6 pm.

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; Adirondacks@verizon.net; 718-377-2990.

Sun. Dec. 23 – PANTHER & GIANT LEDGE

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2200' Elev. 3720'

A moderately paced trail hike with a short bushwhack.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Dec.14-Dec. 21.

Leader: Alan Via #429; alan46r@nycap.rr.com.

Sat. Dec. 29 – BALSAM

Distance: 5.5 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev.3600'.

A moderately paced trail hike to a required winter peak.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by Dec.25. (email preferred).

Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; gvp@ms.com; 201-694-8344.

Sun. Dec. 30 – TWIN & INDIAN HEAD

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2600'. Elev. 3640', 3573'

A moderately paced trail hike.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by Dec. 27.

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan #1389; erd@wilsey.net; 845-657-7057

A Hard Way to Harpers Ferry

by Bob McElroy, # 797

[Editor's Note: It seems that our article [Forty Miles in One Day](#) (the Canister, Jul-Sep2007), triggered several responses from club members who have endured the HAM, the vaunted Hike Across Maryland. Although we much prefer to publish stories about the Catskills, we couldn't pass up a fine, well written story from Bob McElroy. We hope you will agree with us in our decision to include this excerpt from Bob's submittal.]

It was late spring of this year when I found myself setting forth on what appeared. to be a fool's errand. After all, at age 80, fifteen years older than any of the other contestants, what are my chances of finishing a challenge that had soundly defeated me two years earlier ? Ahead of me lay 41 miles of rocky and mountainous Appalachian Trail which I had to finish by dark; if I were unable to maintain the required fast pace I would be yanked at one of the nine checkpoints.

I managed to keep in the pack by carrying power-gel in packets allowing me to cruise through checkpoints faster by skipping the food and only refilling water. Instead of following conventional wisdom and pacing myself, I pushed to my maximum walking speed. I am never very fast but, having always enjoyed good endurance, was hoping that would see me through to West Virginia. In 2005, exhausted, I dropped out between checkpoints 6 and 7. This day, thanks to harder training I was a half hour ahead of 05's time but, though I wasn't feeling spent, my legs and balance were paying

"at age 80...what are my chances of finishing [such] a challenge..."

a price. As I approached Lamb's Knoll (checkpoint 7) at 26 miles, I stumbled and fell, sheepishly apologizing to the group behind me, as I got up. I moved uphill for less than a hundred feet before falling again. A woman asked: "Are you with this hike ?" It was inconceivable to her that anyone so bungling could have made it this far. Unnoticed in the crowd at the checkpoint, I slipped ahead of them. As they overtook me a half mile farther down the trail I was amused to hear an astounded. "There he is again !"

By now my legs were wasted and the rocks were becoming a problem. I hadn't carried poles as they get in the way when I'm trying to move fast, but at this point I needed them badly. The customary near-end-of-event grumbling had started: "Why do I have to endure this kind of character building at this point in my life ?" and the standard "I'm way to old for this nonsense, what am I doing here ?" I suffered onward for several more hours until, finally, checkpoint 9 at Weverton

was in sight. From there the trail follows the level, smooth C&O Canal Path for what every HAM finisher I know agrees is the longest three and a half miles on Earth. Regardless, you know you've made it now. Absent the rocks and grades, I was able to switch to my four-mile-an-hour-plus race walking technique - heading for the barn.

The next goal was to be a hard left up a circular stair onto the second upstream bridge crossing the Potomac . I began getting unnerved; it was almost dark and the first bridge seemed miles behind. I was convinced I had somehow missed the second bridge and was just pushing farther into the unknown. What to do ? I was probably making a bad situation worse by continuing on but, on the small chance the bridge was still ahead,

(Continued on page 8)

Scree

Mystery Author Uncovered. It has been revealed that **Lanny Wexler, #593**, was responsible for the article **Forty Miles in a Day**, which we published in the last issue. Lanny was surprised to see his article in the Canister “after all these years” [we don’t want people to forget the pain of such endeavors. -ed.]. Lanny’s authorship was not hidden from **Marilyn Varley, #328**, **Martha McDermott, #1424**, and **Jerry Licht, #1423**, the last of whom was inspired by Lanny to commit the same insanity (see a Porky below).

Rampe Leads 100th Club Hike. On July 21 Harry Rampe, #877, led a hike to Rocky and Lone, not of great significance in itself, except that it was the 100th club hike that Harry has led, the first being Westkill back on August 6, 1994. Harry says “it has been a pleasure to wander in the woods with many different folks from all walks of life”, and he expressed his enjoyment of listening to thirteen years of stories being told and re-told, in some cases, many times. [Does anyone out there claim to have led more than one-hundred 3500 Club hikes ? - ed.]

Canisters. **Scott Lane**, Canister Chair reports that all canisters were checked this spring, and are in place and in good repair, replete with books and pencils.

Community Service. **Elie Bijou**, Trail Maintenance Chair, reports that attendance at our trail and lean-to maintenance, and roadside litter pick-up, events seems to be on the increase at this time. Thanks to all who participate !

Belleayre Resort Approved. Gov. Eliot Spitzer announced an agreement to allow an upstate entrepreneur to build a resort with **two hotels, a golf course and 259 residences**. The developer has agreed to restrict all construction to 620 acres on the western side of his land and to sell most of the eastern portion, more than **1,200 acres of pristine forest, to the Trust for Public Land**, a national nonprofit organization, for about \$14 million. The trust would then sell the land back to the state, and it would become protected forest preserve. The developer, Dean Gitter, said he was confident that he could break ground next fall and open the hotels in late 2010. [It’s not all that bad, these hotels will probably provide overnight lodgings up to the standard of elegance suitable for hikers such as us. - ed.]

They Keep On Coming. As of July 10, 2007 the Club had 296 registered aspirants, which is typical for the time of year, says **Judy Weiner**, Subscriptions and Aspirant Chair.

Financially Speaking. While a formal treasurer’s report will be made available to all members at the annual dinner meeting, club treasurer, **Ed Gilroy**, is pleased to report that the club’s financial situation remains healthy.

Our New Members

1703	Richard C. Roller	03/17/07
1704	Brett Gruberg	04/21/07
1705	Denise M. Mongillo	05/06/07
1706	David Livingstone	10/15/06
1707	Deborah Livingstone	05/12/07
1708	Peter Spielvogel	05/22/07
1709	Rob Tooker	06/02/07
1710	Janice Miller	05/12/07
1711	Scott G. Englert	04/01/07

... And Regarding Our 6 Million Acre Big Sister in the Northland

The New York Times reports that the last big piece of privately owned timberland in the Adirondacks, a 161,000-acre wilderness of hardwood forests, has been sold for \$110 million to the Nature Conservancy. This move is intended to protect 80 mountain peaks, 70 crystal-clear lakes and ponds, undammed rivers, white water gorges and secluded bogs land from future development.

The transaction is also significant because it includes a working forest agreement to allow selective cutting of timber to continue for 20 years, providing trees to the Finch Paper mill in Glens Falls and helping preserve 850 jobs at the mill, which has been a fixture in the region for more than a century.

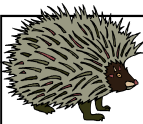
Wexler Blamed Again. Inspired by Lanny Wexler, this past May, **Jerry Licht, #1423**, **Rick Taylor, #841**, and **Peter McGinnis, #1034** completed the 40 mile hike across Maryland (HAM). They said that they found the hike to be relatively easy, although they admit that “an hour after we finished we could barely walk” [Their forte was hiking, not logic. -ed.] They plan to repeat their feat again in the next HAM (2009).



(Continued from page 6)

I couldn't turn back. Damn! Then, suddenly, there it was ! In the gloom atop the stairs a young woman waited. "Bob ?" she asked. It was Patti Smith, the fetching HAM manager whom I knew from the '01, '03, and '05 events. She walked with me across the river to the cheers and bell ringing that welcome each finisher.

Predictably, after a few day's recovery, I was already fantasizing my '09 return. With harder training and hiking poles, you can believe I'll be going for a personal best.



While we're on the subject of annual long distance hiking feats the longest, of which we are aware, is the Brandywine 100 Kilometer which wanders down the Brandywine Creek Valley in Pennsylvania and Delaware (wilmingtontrailclub.org). We are told that this year's finishers took from 6:16 to over 13 hours to complete (presumably the 6:16 finisher was an ultra-marathon runner).

Hikers Arise !

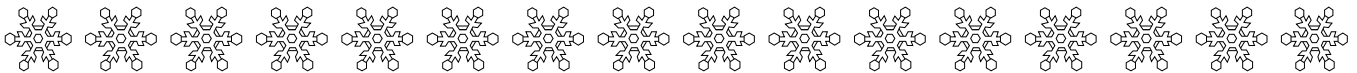
Apple pies, cherry pies,
pizza pies,
Sun's in your eyes.
Here's the why's.

Summer: humid and hot,
Fall is not.
When it autumns,
Roust your chums.

Ventilate your gear,
Dispel the fetid smell
of last season,
Summer's aroma d'ammonia,

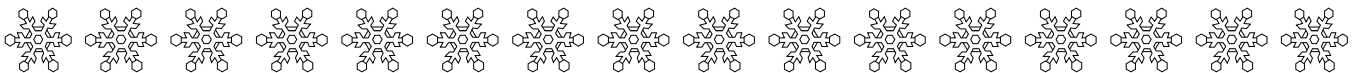
Move your pot,
Reduce it,
why not ?
Hikers arise,
come to Camelot.

Anonymous 728



Winter Weekend

The club's annual winter weekend is scheduled for **Jan 25-27, 2008**, once again at the Hilltop Acres Inn in Jewett. (registration particulars will be in the next issue of *the canister*, which you should receive by Dec 15). This is a great opportunity to bag a couple of winter peaks or to have other fun in the snow, and commune with fellow outdoorspeople. After a day of winter hiking, it is a special pleasure to enjoy dinner and then to hang out in the lounge with other members of our 3500 Club family, recanting the adventures of that day and others past. There is nothing like being toasty warm in a winter retreat, an infinity away from one's everyday life.



Reminder

The Canister craves articles of up to 1100 words on the Catskills.