



the catskill canister

Vol. XXXIV, No. 1

JANUARY - MARCH, 2001

HIKING THE ATHABASCA GLACIER

Picture a river of ice $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile wide, 1200 feet deep and riddled with thousands of 100-foot cavernous crevasses, and you will have an idea of the enormity of the Athabasca Glacier in the Canadian Rockies. On a sunny August day, these factors, coupled with temperatures in the 50-degree range and winds blowing at 20 mph, were the ingredients of a very exciting and interesting hike on the Athabasca Glacier. It covers an area greater than the city of Vancouver and feeds rivers that flow into three different oceans – the Arctic, Pacific and Atlantic. This phenomenon occurs in only one other known place in the world – Siberia.

Glaciers are an important geographical occurrence because they hold 75% of the world's fresh water supply. Many people in the world rely on the water preserved in glaciers and ice caps for drinking. With 45 feet of fresh snow per year turning to ice, people might think that their water supply was insured. However, for the past 130 years, our warming climate has shrunk two-thirds of the glacier's volume and more than half of its surface area. Since 1870 its length continues to shrink from 3 to 25 feet per year depending on the warmth of a particular year.

Equally impressive with the sheer size of the Athabasca Glacier is its complexity. As the glacial ice flows, it picks up fragments of rock along its way and pushes these rock fragments along with it. When the glacier front melts, this load of crushed rock or rubble is deposited and is called a moraine. There were lateral moraines on both sides of the glacier, as well as a terminal moraine which is the load of rubble deposited at the toe of the glacier when the ice surrounding it melted away. Thousands of crevasses also permeated the glacier. Some of these crevasses are 100 feet deep and are ever-changing. The changes in the crevasses occur when they open and close as the ice flows downslope. These crevasses were wide on the surface edge of the ice and narrowed noticeably as they hollowed their way downward. Anything trapped in the crevasses will eventually melt out at the toe of the glacier. Eventually is the key word here. As I peered into the crevasses, it became evident why a fallen climber would become trapped and almost certainly be doomed to die. Given the configurations of the crevasses, coupled with the frigid temperatures, the trapped climber would rapidly die from hypothermia. Since climbers are relatively compact people, when they fall, they usually become wedged in the narrowest part of the crevasse. All of these factors, plus the inability of rescue teams to visually pinpoint the trapped climber, make successful rescues of alive climbers the exception rather than the rule.

Another interesting feature of the glacier were the moulins or millwells which are meltwater streams swirling from the glacial surface. These millwells, which flow swiftly and take on the appearance of downward spiraling whirlpools, can carve extremely deep holes of 100 to 600 feet into the glacier. As I stood near the edge and stared at these millwells, I pictured how an unsuspecting and curious climber could be literally sucked into their depths. The rapidly flowing water was mesmerizing in its ice-blue color and seemingly never-ending forcefulness. Frequently, the sound of the flowing water was superseded by the sound of the ever-present wind blowing on the glacier. Again, the novice climber, if not constantly vigilant, would have no advance warning and could unsuspectingly meet his/her fate with no hope of being rescued.

During the descent, a geyser of water exploded suddenly within a few feet of where I was standing on the glacier. This occurrence was startling at first and served to remind me further of the

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THE CATSKILL CANISTER

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

Articles on hiking or travel experiences, essays or poetry, should be sent to Darielle Graham, 60 Barker St., #419, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.

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CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND: JANUARY 19-21, 2001

This event will be held at Schwarzenegger's Sunshine Valley House located on Spruceton Road in Westkill, New York. Hikes have been, and will be scheduled for members and aspirants (see p.4-5 of hiking schedule). Downhill skiing is available within a half hour's drive at Windham, Hunter Mountain, Belleayre and Cortina Ski Areas. Guests can also enjoy outside pavilions, Conan's Corner Bar and Lounge and a heated swimming pool. The hotel telephone number is 518-989-9794.

Rates: Double occupancy - \$70.00/night, which includes Friday night lodging, Saturday breakfast, trail lunch and dinner. Saturday night lodging and Sunday breakfast/trail lunch - \$53.00, totaling \$123.00, which includes sales tax and gratuity as well as a 10% discount. Saturday night dinner only - \$17.00, including tax and gratuity. Add \$10.00 per person for a single room. All rooms have a private bath, color television and telephone. Meals comprise a hearty breakfast, trail lunch and full dinner served family style. Before dinner, guests can enjoy free cheese and wine.

To reserve, send a deposit of \$30.00 to Arthur Zimmerman, 766 Neptune Boulevard, Long Beach, New York 11581; telephone 516-432-1205. Checks should be made payable to the **The Catskill 3500 Club, Inc.** Cancellation requires one week's notice.

VIEWING BALD EAGLES

If anybody would be interested in viewing bald eagles, contact Harry Rampe (#877) at 845-292-6736.

LUMINISM

The trees glisten
from rain water,
umber, amber, and sienna
made brilliant
like wet stones.
Up Black Dome,
down Thomas Cole peak
seeking all the hills and hollows.
A dell, a ridge that follows
a bed rock wall, a tree
where a tall bear scratched.
Even a porcupine appears
and a few white tail deer.
A storm drives the black flies away
and we stay to praise the view
of distant trails.

Kathryn Kurtz (#1,134)

glacier's complexity. Also during the descent, the lateral moraines appeared to be easier return routes. But they were deceiving because they were lined with crevasses that weren't easily discernible until the last minute. It was safer to continue to descend on the ice with crampons rather than foolishly remove the crampons and descend via these masses of rubble.

If you ever have the opportunity to hike a glacier, it is an experience you won't soon forget.

Irene A. Logan (#888)
59 Edwards Street, Apt. 2A
Roslyn Heights, NY 11577

3500 CLUB T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS FOR SALE

<p>Club t-shirts and sweatshirts are being offered for sale to members and aspirants. The t-shirt is available in sky blue with the club's three-color emblem; the sweatshirt is available in heathery ash grey, also with the club's emblem, plus a hood and hand-warmer pocket. Both are medium-weight 50/50.</p> <p>Send your order, along with a check, payable to The Catskill 3500 Club, Inc., to Dave Sutter, 575 Grove Street, #C-6, Clifton, NJ 07013. Checks will be deposited upon receipt; merchandise will be shipped June 1, 2001.</p>	<u>T-Shirt</u>	<u>Sweatshirt</u>	
	Med. ___ Lge. ___ X-Lge. ___	Med. ___ Lge. ___ X-Lge. ___	
Name: _____			
Address: _____			
		Apt. # _____	
City	State	Zip	County, if NY State
Cost - T-shirt:	NY State residents:		\$11.25
	All other states:		\$10.50
Cost - Sweatshirt:	NY State residents:		\$22.00
	All other states:		\$20.50

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING - APRIL 7, 2001

Reserve the date. The Annual Dinner Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2001 at the Hillside Manor in Kingston, New York. The information sheet and reservation form will be sent in a separate mailing in February. New members will be presented with their certificates at this event.

PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Timothy R. Stone (1,116) completed all 40 Southern Appalachian 6000-footers on Grassy Ridge on July 8, 2000 to become a certified member of South Beyond 6000... Irene A. Logan (#888) completed the Northeast 113 on Mt. Moosilauke on July 9, 2000... Kevin Lockett (#1,010) ran the Escarpment Trail Race (18.6 miles) on July 30, 2000, finishing in 4th place... Herbert Coles (#440) and June Fait (#392) finished the Northeast 111 on North Brother, Baxter State Park, Maine, on August 24, 2000... Arthur Zimmerman (#866) has been appointed Chairman of the Appalachian Mountain Club New York/New Jersey Region Ski Committee. A member of the Executive Board of the Catskill 3500 Club, Art holds a Masters Degree in Outdoor Recreation Management and has spent many years leading hiking and skiing trips.

If there is a special event in your life, or that of another member or aspirant (graduation, engagement, marriage, promotion), or a special achievement on or off the trail, please send the news to Ralph Ferrusi (see p. 2).

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: JANUARY - MARCH 2001**ASSUMED RISK**

January through March in the Catskills the wind chill on exposed ridges may reach 50 below zero. If you do not know what type of clothing will be adequate, telephone the hike leader in advance. If you cannot buy, rent, or borrow snowshoes, avoid the mountains in winter. Unless specified otherwise, full crampons should be carried. Properly dressed and equipped, and in proper physical condition, a hiker can enjoy the mountains in what many people consider the most beautiful season of the year.

Sat. Jan. 6 WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev: 3524 Order: 33

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

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader for details.

Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 845-687-7750 (between 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Jan. 7 KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

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

Meeting Place/Time: Trailhead at end of Platte Clove Road at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: John Swanson (#592), 732-613-1963; peakbagger@aol.com

Sat. Jan. 13 HALCOTT and N.E. Halcott

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3520', 3408' Order: 34, 47

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

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Jan. 8-12.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun., Jan. 14 WITTENBERG and CORNELL

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3120'
Elev.: 3780', 3860' Order: 14, 9

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

Meeting Place/Time: Woodland Valley campground off Route 28 at 8:15 A.M.

Leader: Ed Neveu (1,226), 518-233-0267 (any time before 9:00 P.M.; if not home, leave message on answering machine); enevu@nycap.rr.com

Sat., Jan. 20 RUSK

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

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

Meeting Place/Time: Call or e-mail leader to register between Jan. 15-18.

Leader: Dave Sutter (#1,110), 973-778-0992; DSUTTR@aol.com

Sat., Jan. 20 WESTKILL

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

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

Meeting Place/Time: Flagpole at Jct. of Rtes. 42 & Cty. Rd. 6 (Spruceton Rd.) in Westkill at 8:45 A.M.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun., Jan. 21 **BLACKHEAD**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3940' Order: 5

An easy to moderately-paced trail hike to a required winter peak. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Former Maplecrest Post Office at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Jean André Laverdure (#1,299), 518-566-6613 (if answering machine, leave number for return call); jalz@hotmail.com

Sat., Jan. 27 **FIR and BIG INDIAN**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2150'
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19

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

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Jan. 22-26.

Leader: Henry Jenkins (#808), 845-883-2853; gaymooseman@yahoo.com

Sun., Jan. 28 **Giant Ledge and PANTHER**Distance: 7.5 mi. Ascent: 1545'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

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

Meeting Place/Time: Morra's Grocery, Cty. Rd. 47 and Rte. 28 at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Carol White (#860), 315-853-6942 (call between Jan. 22-25, 7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.)

Sat., Feb. 3 **HUNTER**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 4040' Order: 2

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

Meeting Place/Time: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 845-687-7750 (between 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sun., Feb. 4 **BALSAM LAKE (and possibly GRAHAM)**Distance: 7 (9) mi. Ascent: 1200' (700')
Elev.: 3720', (3868') Order: 17, (7)

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

Meeting Place/Time: Bridge over Dry Brook in Arkville at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (between 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sat., Feb. 10 **SUGARLOAF and PLATEAU**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2800'
Elev.: 3800', 3840' Order: 13, 12

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

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register or inquire AFTER Feb. 4.

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 (between 9:00 A.M.-9:00 P.M.); amc_leader@hotmail.com

Sun., Feb. 11 **BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

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

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Feb. 5-9.

Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (before 9:00 P.M.); johnbgraham@earthlink.net

Sat., Feb. 17 **SHERRILL and NORTH DOME**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev.: 3540', 3610' Order: 31, 26

Join us for another "kid-friendly" hike to climb Sherrill and, time permitting, North Dome. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Tim Watters (#268), 201-818-0156 (W)

Sat., Feb. 17 **BLACK DOME and THOMAS COLE**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3980', 3940' Order: 3, 4

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Feb. 12-15.

Leader: Donnabeth Stewart (#1,003), 212-722-2028 (Mon.-Thurs., between 8:00 P.M.-12:00 A.M.)

Sun., Feb. 18 **INDIAN HEAD and TWIN**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3573', 3640' Order: 30, 23

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

Meeting Place/Time: Trailhead at Prediger Road at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sat., Feb. 24 **GRAHAM**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3868' Order: 7

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

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Feb. 18-23.

Leader: Jean André Laverdure (#1,299), 518-566-6613 (if answering machine, leave number for return call); jalz@hotmail.com

Sun., Feb. 25 **HALCOTT**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3520' Order: 34

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

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Feb. 19-22.

Leader: David White (#859), 315-853-6942 (between 7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.)

Sat., Mar. 3 **DOUBLETOP**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1850'
Elev.: 3860' Order: 8

Join us for another "kid-friendly" hike - hopefully, the boys' last peak! Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Tim Watters (#268), 201-818-0156 (W)

Sat., Mar. 3 **BEARPEN and VLY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32

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

Meeting Place/Time: Call (evenings) or email (days) leader to register.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710; mfreifeld@zeiss.com

- Sun., Mar. 4 **SLIDE** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 4180 Order: 1
A relaxed-pace ascent to a required winter peak. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place/Time: Slide Mountain trailhead (on Cty. Rd. 47) at 9:30 A.M.
Leader: Dave Sutter (#1,110), 973-778-0992; DSUTTR@aol.com
- Sun., Mar. 4 **SOUTH WEST HUNTER and HUNTER** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1560'
Elev.: 4040', 3740' Order: 2, 15
A moderately-paced trail hike and bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Feb. 26-Mar. 2.
Leader: Ed Neveu (1,226), 518-233-0267 (any time before 9:00 P.M.; if not home, leave message on answering machine); enevu@nycap.rr.com
- Sat., Mar. 10 **BALSAM and EAGLE** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3600', 3600' Order: 28, 27
A moderately-paced trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Mar. 5-9
Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (before 9:00 P.M.)
- Sun., Mar. 11 **FIR** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3620 Order: 25
A moderately-paced trail hike and bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Mar. 5-8.
Leader: David White (#859), 315-853-6942 (between 7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.)
- Sat., Mar. 17 **TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11
A moderately-paced trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Mar. 12-15.
Leader: Donnabeth Stewart (#1,003), 212-722-2028 (Mon.-Thurs., between 8:00 P.M.-12:00 A.M.)
- Sun., Mar. 18 **LONE and ROCKY** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 35
A strenuous trail hike and bushwhack at a moderate to fast pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Feb. 14-18.
Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)
- Sat., Mar. 24 **WESTKILL** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6
A moderately-paced trail hike to an excellent viewpoint. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place/Time: Flagpole at Jct. of Rtes. 42 & Cty. Rd. 6 (Spruceton Rd.) in Westkill at 9:30 A.M.
Leader: Jean André Laverdure (#1,299), 518-566-6613 (if answering machine, leave number for return call); jalz@hotmail.com

NEW MEMBERS

No.	Name	Date Finished
1,302	James A. Taub	8/21/00
1,303	Pjilippe Asseily	8/22/99
1,304	Christopher J. Koebelin	8/19/00
1,305	Ed Gilroy	9/30/00
1,306	Susan Lehrer	10/9/00
1,307	Cristina Enriquez-Bocobo	3/19/99
1,308	Anthony P. Russo	10/7/00
1,309	Richard C. Moore	10/14/00
1,310	James E. Bryden	10/14/00
1,311	Laurel P. Andrew	10/14/00
1,312	Karl A. Lehmann	10/20/00
1,313	Janice B. Kasenchak	10/21/00
1,314	Lawrence S. Driever, Jr.	10/8/00
1,315	William P. VanSanders	10/28/00
1,316	James Basciani	10/31/00
1,317	Peter T. O'Neill	9/23/00

MEMBERS INVITED TO MEETINGS

The club's executive committee meetings are always open to members. The next meeting will be on Saturday, January 20, 2001 during the winter weekend at the Sunshine Valley House. If you are unable to attend but have concerns, please contact one of the officers (see p.2).

LEADERSHIP PATCH AWARDED

Congratulations to Dave Sutter (#1,110) who has been awarded the leadership patch. The club awards the leadership patch to members who have led six separate hikes scheduled in the *Canister*. At least one hike must be to a trailless peak, and at least one other must be led during the winter. Also, attendance at one club-scheduled trail maintenance hike is required.

SLIDE

The old jeep trail
to Slide Mountain
is pedestrian
even for a dog, but
the yellow blaze leading
to a deeper glade
was missing.
Where to turn?
A ridge along the edge,
the foot fall filled with snow
between walls of balsam,
fragrance falls, an essence
easing ascension.

Rock ledges before and after
open vertigo to valleys
deep in shadow.

The sun on the summit
and the soft, clumpy grass
are tacit
to a resting place
of dangerous satiety.

White and yellow mountain laurel
had laced a net
and lit the little
dappled coves of moss along
the Curtis Ormsbee trail
descent; diligent now,
the tiptoeing dog dissenting.

Kathryn Kurtz (#1,134)

VELOCITY

Because the speed of love can
knock the breath out of you
Because of static, you can't hear it coming
Because of snow, you can't recognize it
Because its words travel through the air
over water, to beat themselves
blue and black, against the mountains
which don't care
which echo back words
words in overlaying laps
words with understanding lost

Rita Montana

Reprinted with the author's permission from her book "Unravelling the Clew."



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Vol. XXXIV, No. 2

APRIL - JUNE, 2001

THREE DAYS TO PEEKAMOOSE

April 3, 1999 - Chris Adams and I are on top of Wittenberg watching another heartbreakingly beautiful Catskill morning unfold. Early light puts the landforms below us into high relief as we survey a sweep of ridges and sharply defined gorges. I describe my vision of some day trying to walk south from Phoenicia to the Rondout Creek's Gulph Hollow - the longest bushwhack in these mountains without crossing a trail - through the loneliest part of the biggest designated wilderness between the Adirondacks and the Smokies. From our vantage point we look down on part of the route. Chris is skeptical, emphasizing the challenge of spending days struggling over ridge-crests and deep canyons at right angles to their flow. The course would traverse miles of old growth forest, staying above the limits of earlier logging, but well below most of the mountain tops.

Three weeks pass. On the summits winter lingers among naked trees and under balsam fir and red spruce in deep snow drifts. Lower down, red maples in bud veil the ravines in russet as spring's lush tide climbs the mountains. Clear sight-lines, before leaves open, make this my favorite season to roam the high country, and now the lure of the longest bushwhack has become irresistible.

At a place where the Esopus' current carves a deep notch through the highlands, a shoulder of Romer Mountain forms the gap's southern bastion. Here, a friend drops me off and watches me disappear into the forest. If I'm on schedule, we will meet in three days at Gulph Hollow.

The easy ascent of this first of eleven mountains is through an open forest of third growth hardwoods. As I near the top, Thoreau's "We need the tonic of wilderness" comes to mind. I imagine the beauty in the virgin forests ahead and my spirits soar. By late afternoon I'm at the saddle between Mount Pleasant and Cross Mountain. On my left, overhanging rocks trim the edge of the sheer drop into Traver Hollow. Off the other side of the ridge, beyond Cross Mountain Hollow, the towering citadel of Wittenberg rises: the first of the big mountains ahead. Almost fifteen hundred feet higher, these summits are in a different, colder world.

The sun sinks lower and the steadily increasing sound of wind in the trees becomes a roar. I snug up my shell's zipper and notice the grade ahead climb steeply over snow-covered ledges. Afraid of being caught by darkness in untenable terrain, I drop my pack and lay out my sleeping gear between the roots of a yellow birch. Later a bright moon appears and lights up the mountain. The wind rises and falls in violent pulses, each surge howling its approach, the sound swelling louder through bare branches. Warmly bundled in my down bag, I fall asleep with a smile.

Next morning I enter the domain of big trees which thrive in the lee of Wittenberg's east face. With the revealing mix of red and sugar maple, black cherry, yellow birch, beech and hemlock, the signatures of a Catskill first growth forest are all here: fallen hulks of ancient trees; mounds and depressions left by uprooted and long since rotted timber; an open understory and widely spaced, towering trunks of impressive girth (though in less sheltered places or at higher altitude, old growth can be surprisingly small).

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Peripatetic Porcupine

Ralph Ferrusi
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN WANTED

Cy Whitney is stepping down as membership chair after more than a decade of dedicated service. Judy Weiner will handle aspirant related workload, but we need a computer-literate, organized, enthusiastic individual to handle other membership connected activity, such as dues, correspondence, etc. Anyone interested in assuming these responsibilities should contact President Mike Doehring, 914-761-7225, clover7med@aol.com, or First Vice President Jerry Gervais, 315-685-2083, ggervais@tessy.com.

VISITORS WELCOMED

For those of you who may not know, Bill Riemvis is a long-standing member of the 3500 Club and a long-time resident of the Catskills. For many years, Bill's home on Oliverea Road was a year-round, central location for the dissemination of information about hiking in the Catskills and the meeting place for "unofficial" four-season hikes to the various 3500 footers. Bill was always ready, willing and able to go hiking any day of the week, any week of the year, and was particularly helpful in assisting aspirants in bagging a "needed" peak. I am sure Bill would enjoy hearing from any of you. If you would like to call or visit him or drop him a note, the particulars are as follows:

William A. Riemvis
Mountainside Residential Care Center
Route 28, P.O. Box 890, Dept. B
Margaretville, New York 12455
Telephone: 845-586-1800 (main)
845-586-1276 (direct dial)

Note: The facility is on the "south" side of Route 27 across from the shopping center turnoff. It is the second building and is located above and to the left of the Margaretville Hospital which is the first building you encounter.

CLUB EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES

The Catskill 3500 Club sends condolences to Albert P. Rosen (#110) whose wife, Shirley (#410), died on February 7, 2001 of metastasized brain cancer. We also wish Albert, currently recovering at Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, New Jersey, from a near fatal cardio-pulmonary collapse, a speedy return to health.

NEWS WANTED FOR PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

If there is a special event in your life, or that of another member or aspirant (graduation, engagement, marriage, promotion), or a special achievement on or off the trail, please let Ralph Ferrusi know (see masthead this page).

Straightforward navigation along mountain top ridges is now behind me. From here on I will be climbing and descending the rugged flanks and valleys radiating from the eight high peaks. Sidehilling a treacherous talus slope, I'm reminded of Catskill historian Alf Ever's admonishment from an old-timer that these mountains "begin where one finds two stones for every dirt." For twenty minutes I move cautiously across millions of tons of loose sandstone and shale, frost wedged from Wittenberg's steep crags a thousand feet above - all of it moving relentlessly downhill - a fraction of an inch farther with each freeze-thaw cycle.

The double pitched song of a fast-running mountain stream drifts up the slope as I descend the south side of Cornell's lofty east ridge. It first seems one voice, then gradually reveals itself as two distinct tones - a high, almost static-like white noise blending with a subtle, booming reverberation. Minutes later a pocket-size Shangri-La comes into view. Lively rivulets cascade into a mountain cover and form a diamond-clear fork of Wittenberg Brook. It is an enchanting place with sculptured boulders and a spring-fed pool. Tall hemlocks shade a low knoll where the valley abruptly falls away. I'll return and spend time here.

Crossing the next ridge, I change course toward the evergreen cloak of Friday Mountain's summit and continue to climb. Three hundred feet below the top, a level terrace perches above a rock face. I scramble onto it and squat at the cliff edge, gazing out over the valley. Lowering grey clouds race overhead. Far right, the brooding form of Balsam Cap materializes out of the mist. The view merges left, taking in wild spurs and valleys clear to the vast surface of the Ashokan Reservoir. As much as the rare setting demands it, the hour is early to make camp and I press on.

A third day of travel sees me through knee-deep snow in the Friday-Balsam Cap col and into the lonesome forests lying below the eastern heights of Rocky, Lone, Table and Peekamoose. Photographing a grove of giant sugar maples, I'm tempted to linger, but there are tough miles before my rendezvous and I push the pace.

Hours later I'm tired, yet reluctant to leave this land of ancient summits and tumbling water. Shafts of sunlight filter through the tracery of new leaves, and boulders of great dignity stand among ferns and carpets of trout lilies. Muted shades and varied textures distinguish the trunks of each tree species. On my right a rock ledge, its surface a patina of lichen. All of these gifts and the great forest's serenity compose a perfect master work. To paraphrase the writer Rick Bass: "This wild landscape becomes the widened boundaries of my life." Then, deep in the hemlock-lined ravine at the bottom of the last hill, a comforting sight: beside the narrow road that traces Rondout Creek, Phil's blue pick-up is waiting.

*Robert McElroy
36 Rabbit Run Road
Malvern, PA 19355*

Taking A Bearing

I take delicate steps	on short jutting blades
and rest	of branches
test my weight	that stab and snag.
upon a log	I long for silence
a pocket of hot rotting leaves	to cease the crashing pass
fragrant in the sun	the trodden crackling leaves
wedges slowly through	of heftier hikers.
the dense cage of balsam	To be alone on Lone Mountain
on Rocky mountain.	for a moment
The dead undergrowth	under my own bearing.
still catches light	

Kathryn Kurtz (#1,134)

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: APRIL - JUNE 2001**ASSUMED RISK**

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

Sun., Apr. 1 **HUNTER and SOUTHWEST HUNTER**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 4040', 3740' Order: 2, 15

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and/or crampons may be required.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between March 26-30.

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 (before 10:00 P.M.); amc_leader@hotmail.com

Sat., Apr. 7 **BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3720', 3868' Order: 17, 7

A steady-paced trail hike. Snowshoes and/or crampons may be required.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between April 2-5.

Leader: Nan Giblin (#1,328), 732-613-1963 (between 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Apr. 7 **FIR, BIG INDIAN, EAGLE and BALSAM**

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 3500'
Elev.: 3620', 3700', 3600', 3600'
Order: 25, 19, 27, 28

Significant bushwhack first half then all trail to end. Snowshoes and/or crampons may be required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions will cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register by April 5.

Leader: Tom Regan (#1,026), 516-822-3720 (before 10:00 P.M.)

Sun., Apr. 8 **PANTHER**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A strenuous climb including trail and off-trail hiking. Snowshoes and/or crampons may be required.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between April 2-5.

Leader: John Swanson (#592), 732-613-1963 (between 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sat., Apr. 14 **FIR**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1500'
Elev.: 3620' Order: 25

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Snowshoes and/or crampons may be required.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between April 9-11.

Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M.); wandatrails@aol.com

Sun., Apr. 15 **BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between April 9-12.

Leader: David White (#859), 315-853-6942 (between 7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.)

Sat., Apr. 21 **Acra Point, BLACKHEAD, THOMAS
COLE and BLACK DOME**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2800'
Elev.: 3940', 3940', 3980'
Order: 5, 4, 3

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels. Snowshoes and/or crampons may be required.

Meeting Place/Time: Former Maplecrest Post Office at 8:00 A.M. to set up shuttle.

Leader: Thomas F. Murasso (#1,135), 914-761-0243

Sun., Apr. 22 **HALCOTT**

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

A moderate bushwhack at a comfortable pace. Rain cancels. Snowshoes and/or crampons may be required.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between April 16-20.

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

Sat., Apr. 28 **TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE**
Trail-Clearing

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

A rewarding hike which will allow you to give something back to the mountains. Come ready to work and bring hand tools if you have them. If not, the club will provide them.

Meeting Place/Time: Trailhead at Denning at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Dan Case (#1,238), 845-778-1090; dancase@frontiernet.net

Sun., Apr. 29 **BLACKHEAD and WINDHAM**

Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 3700'
Elev.: 3940', 3524; Order: 5, 33

A steady-paced trail hike. Shuttle required.

Meeting Place/Time: Windham trailhead, Route 23, at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Stephen Fishman (#618), 845-331-1206 (Mon-Thurs. before 10:00 P.M.); eba55@aol.com

Sun., Apr. 29 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3740' Order: 15

A slow to moderately-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between April 23-26.

Leader: Rocky Walberg (#886), 845-876-1061 (between 5:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M.)

Sat., May 5 **BEARPEN and VLY**

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

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between April 30-May 4.

Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (between 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sun., May 6 **WITTENBERG and CORNELL**

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

A moderately-paced trail hike. Bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 845-687-7750 (no calls after Thurs., May 3)

Sat., May 12 **TABLE, PEEKAMOOSE, LONE, ROCKY**
BALSAM CAP, FRIDAY, CORNELL,
WITTENBERG and SLIDE

Distance: 16 mi. Ascent: 5000'+
Elev.: 3847', 3843', 3721', 3508', 3623',
3694', 3860', 3780', 4180'
Order: 10, 11, 16, 35, 24, 20, 9, 14, 1

An extremely difficult and strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a steady pace. Early start, out late!
Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between May 7-10.

Leader: Bob Novick (#1,086), 201-385-3161 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M. only)

Sat., May 12 **RUSK**

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

A moderately-paced bushwhack.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between May 7-11.

Leader: Jean André Laverdure (#1,299), 518-566-6613 (if answering machine, leave number for return call); jalz@hotmail.com

Sun., May 13 **PEEKAMOOSE and TABLE**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2850'
Elev.: 3843', 3847' Order: 11, 10

A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between May 7-10.

Leader: Carol White (#860), 315-853-6942 (between 7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.)

Sat., May 19 **SHERRILL and NORTH DOME**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev.: 3540', 3610' Order: 31, 26

A moderate bushwhack. Rain cancels.

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

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun., May 20 **WESTKILL**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

A moderately paced end-to-end traverse of ridge, east to west. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Flagpole at Jct. of Rtes. 42 & Cty. Rd. 6 (Spruceton Rd.) in Westkill at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Michael (Mick) Dunn (#1,272), 603-595-2678, X2 (before 8:30 P.M.); mdunn@genetics.com

Sat., May 26 **BIG INDIAN**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3700' Order: 19

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between May 21-23.

Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M.); wandatrails@aol.com

Sun., May 27 **EAGLE, BALSAM and Haynes**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3600', 3600' Order: 27, 28

A moderate trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Highmount Post Office on Rte. 28 at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Richard Barr (#604), 212-877-2694 (until the afternoon of May 25); richardedbarr@aol.com

Sat., June 2 **LONE and ROCKY**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 17, 35

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

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between May 28-June 1.

Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (by 9:00 P.M.); johnbgraham@earthlink.net

Sun., June 3 **FIR and BIG INDIAN**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between May 28-June 1.

Leader: Michael (Mick) Dunn (#1,272), 603-595-2678, X2 (before 8:30 P.M.); mdunn@genetics.com

Sat., June 9 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3724' Order: 33

A moderate trail hike at an easy pace. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between June 4-8.

Leader: Judy Weiner (#1,287), 201-840-7078; jmw755@aol.com

Sun., June 10 **SLIDE, CORNELL and WITTENBERG**Distance: 10 mi.
Elev.: 4180', 3860', 3780' Order: 1, 8, 14

An easy to moderately-paced trail hike. Shuttle required. Heavy rain or steady rain with poor driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Woodland Valley Campground NO LATER THAN 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Ed Neveu (#1,226), 518-233-0267; enevu@nycap.rr.com

Sat., June 16 **BLACK DOME and BLACKHEAD**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2400'
Elev.: 3980', 3940' Order: 3, 4

A moderate bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register by June 15.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (before 9:00 P.M.); lump63@hotmail.com

Sun., June 17 **PLATEAU and SUGARLOAF**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2800'
Elev.: 3840', 3800' Order: 12, 13

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

Meeting Place/Time: New parking area on Dale Road at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Marty Cohen (#728), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M.; no calls Saturday night).

Sat., June 23 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3950' Order: 5

A moderately-paced hike.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between June 18-22.

Leader: Jean-André Laverdure (#1,299), 518-566-6613 (if answering machine, leave number for return call); jalz@hotmail.com

Sun., June 24 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER, HUNTER
and RUSK**

Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3740', 4040', 3680' Order: 15, 2, 21

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate to fast pace.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between June 18-22.

Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 845-278-2770; nyestreet@aol.com

Sat., June 30 **BIG INDIAN and EAGLE**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3700', 3600' Order: 19, 27

A moderately-paced trail hike with short bushwhacks to the peaks. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Corner of Rte. 28 and Dry Brook Road in Arkville at 8:45 A.M.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

SHELTER BUILDERS THANKED

During 2000, the Catskill 3500 Club partially funded - and helped construct - a new hikers' shelter on Balsam Lake Mountain. In September, the shelter was dedicated to the memory of Elinore Leavitt (#2). Thanks to all who actively participated in the successful completion of this worthwhile project: Forester Jeff Rider of the DEC who did an amazing amount of work, helped at times by Ranger Charlie Plat, and club members Larry Allen, Mike Doehring, Bernard Japy, Roy Messaros, Edward Neveu, George Perkinson, Ike Siskind, Kevin Wagner and Art Zimmerman. Your assistance was critical to the successful completion of the shelter and is greatly appreciated. I look forward to working with you on our next project.

George Sheedy, Project Coordinator

Birches on the Esopus

Silver birches stand out in a crowd
their thin trunks dappled
with black patches
scars from wars with the wind
that ripped branches, bark away
winter after winter.
They glimmer along water's banks
as the sun plays
hide and seek with the clouds
then they swing left
march up the ridge
disappear among pine and oak.

Rita Montana

Reprinted with the author's permission from her book *Unravelling the Clew*.

<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>			<u>NEW WINTER MEMBERS</u>		
<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,318	Bill McGill	11/11/00	451	Ralph Ryndak	12/29/00
1,319	Margaret Douglas	11/12/00	452	Andrew Moroz	1/13/01
1,320	Pauline S. Nevin	11/18/00	453	Carl D. Rosenthal	1/20/01
1,321	Cody Smith	3/13/99	454	Alvin W. Buechele	1/26/01
1,322	George Murray	11/25/00	455	Susan Puretz	1/29/01
1,323	Roger L. Wall	12/15/00	456	Dean Macgeorge	2/4/01
1,324	John L. Kolp	12/23/00			
1,325	Carol A. Nestor	12/23/00			
1,326	Suzanne Knabe	12/25/00			
1,327	Sidney S. Borthwick	12/28/00			
1,328	Nan Giblin	12/30/00			
1,329	Mark D. Olson	10/21/00			
1,330	Suzanne B. Olson	10/21/00			
1,331	Dominique J. Thongs	12/23/00			
1,332	Barbara L. Geistfeld	1/7/01			
1,333	Donna Wamsley	1/10/01			
			<u>NEW LIFE MEMBERS</u>		
			Robert A. Delia, Jr.	Ralph Ferrusi	
			Louis N. Fitzpatrick	Holly Hawkes	
			Ralph Johns	Michelle Lane	
			Scott Lane	Paul M. Levine	
			Andrew Moroz	Edward Neveu	
			Hank Starr	Donald R. Sweet	
			Judith M. Weiner	Roy H. Williams	

CURRENT BYLAWS AVAILABLE

At the 1993 annual dinner meeting an extensive revision of the bylaws was approved by the membership. In attempting to prepare a copy for distribution at this year's meeting, several mistakes were discovered. The executive committee has approved changes to the bylaws to be presented at this year's annual meeting for approval of the membership. The changes are "housekeeping" in nature - correcting misspellings, mistakes in numbering, etc. The only change of substance is deleting the chairperson of the audit committee from the executive committee. The executive committee feels that if the role of the audit committee is to oversee the executive committee, then there is a conflict of interest if the chair of the audit committee is also on the executive committee. Copies of the current bylaws and suggested changes will be available at the annual dinner meeting for viewing before the vote. If you would like a copy ahead of time, please contact the president, Mike Doehring, by mail (7 Cloverdale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10603) or email (clover7med@aol.com).

When Spring came,
 Leaves grew with a green fresh
 feeling,
 And the warmth of the sun
 Was beginning to be felt,
 And the animals of the Earth
 Awoke, breathing the fresh new
 smell,
 Of life all over again.

It's like the wind,
 Gently blowing,
 Making love to everything
 Before it moves on
 Yet returning.



the catskill canister

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JULY - SEPTEMBER, 2001

LOST HIKER FOUND DEAD

On Monday, May 14, 2001, Shriram Biyani, aged 48, of Fishkill, New York, was found after an eight-day search at the bottom of a 30-50 foot cliff about a third of a mile due east of the summit of Friday mountain at an elevation of 3,400 feet.

The club wishes to express its appreciation and thanks to the following individuals who volunteered their time and services at short notice to assist the DEC in the search:

Margaret Freifeld, David Galvin and his daughter, Nan Giblin, Ed Goldstein, John Graham, (who also assembled the volunteers), Henry Jenkins, Allan Kapitzke, Alex Lantino, Jim Malumphy, Tom Murasso, Ed Neveu, Bob Novick, John Nye, Al O'Connor, Harry Rampe, Ralph Ryndak, Mike Selender, Brian Sullivan, John Swanson and Rocky Walberg.

Last seen on April 29th looking at his map before heading into the woods, Mr. Biyani did not tell anyone about his plans to bushwhack Friday. He was not confirmed missing until May 8th. Although such events are, thankfully, very rare, this tragedy should serve to remind hikers who wish to climb alone, especially to the trailless peaks, to either (1) leave a note on the dashboard of their car indicating their name, arrival time, planned route and destination, anticipated time out, and the name of an emergency contact, or (2) leave a hiking itinerary with family, friends and/or co-workers. Whilst risk cannot be eliminated altogether, climbers are urged to take these precautions.

The club offers its condolences to Mr. Biyani's family.

CY WHITNEY STEPS DOWN AS MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Cyrus B. Whitney (Cy to all who know him) is stepping down as Membership Chairman of the Catskill 3500 Club after having held this position for over ten years. Previously, Cy was Second Vice President, First Vice President and then President of the club. Though the position of Membership Chairman demanded time, effort and organization, Cy accomplished the task with unwavering grace. In particular, he enjoyed working with members and aspirants – answering their questions and corresponding with them – and made a point of promoting communication. Handing new members their certificates at the club's annual dinners, Cy's welcoming handshake and ability to converse easily always made people feel comfortable. And his witty sense of humor never failed to bring smiles to the faces of the audience watching the presentations. His genial personality and inherent warmth have won him the enduring friendship and love of many people who have had the good fortune to meet and know him. The connection Cy forged with the club and its members will remain forever.

Taking over Cy's duties will be David White (#859) and Judith M. Weiner (#1,287). The club extends a welcome to Dave and Judy and is pleased to have them on board.

THE CATSKILL CANISTER**President**

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

Articles on hiking or travel experiences, essays or poetry, should be sent to Darielle Graham, 60 Barker St., #419, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.

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WEDDING BAND LOST

If anyone found a wedding band in Slide Mountain's West Branch Road parking lot or on Slide Mountain last October, please call Bob Hatch at 845-658-9513. He can identify the inside inscription to any who call.

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

It's a sweltering hot day confined in my car on a freeway, a congested artery in a Friday afternoon rush hour in downtown Houston, Texas. My mind cannot help but wander to a special place called the Catskill Mountains. Not the highest certainly, but for an avid hiker they give an invigorating lift to the mind, body and spirit. As did the hike up Ashokan High Point on a crisp fall day along Kanape Brook that could babble you to a sweet slumber; then on to the top where Slide Mountain with its brilliant coat of colors stood dominant over its peers.

Or the time my wife and I, one October night, stayed in the Mink Hollow leanto nestled between Plateau and Sugarloaf mountains. From 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. we were serenaded to a sound resembling a medicine ball bouncing underneath the leanto floor, the drumming resonating through our foam pads. With the eerie bump bump bump and the full moon playing hide and seek as clouds wisped by on that windy night, I thought the spirits were out to bid homage for All Hallows Eve. I found out later that a ruffled grouse was beating its wings seeking companionship.

I remember Graham Mountain in the middle of winter, a blustery, snow-squalling day when all of a sudden the sun peeked through and lit the snowflakes as though they were shining stars cascading to the ground in an effortless dance. And being camped on top of North Point during a windy spring night when nature made its call for appeasement. I did my bidding only to come back and find my mobile home within a couple of feet from being launched over an 80-100 foot ledge.

I can't forget coming off the back side of Hunter on a day so sweltering I felt I was breathing through a steamed towel. Or happening upon a brook and submerging my feet in cool water that erased heat and aches before a refreshing breeze randomly appeared, signaling the onslaught of a storm. For the moment, the euphoria has no equal.

A sudden horn honks me back to reality. Sadly I continue my frustrating ride home, hoping some day that my reality will be the peacefulness of the Catskills.

Pete Ricci (#475)

BEATING THE ODDS ON CRESTONE NEEDLE

In early July of '96 I'm camped above timberline alongside Upper Colony Lake at the foot of Crestone Needle. In the Colorado Sangre de Cristos, northeast of Great Sand Dunes National Monument, the 14,000-foot Crestones lift impressive crests. They have been called "rugged, isolated and unforgiving" and compared in their grandeur to Wyoming's Grand Tetons. I'm here waiting for Gary Tenny, my climbing partner, to arrive. As the initial ascent of a mountaineering tour of the west that will embrace serious fun and take us all the way to Canada, we will climb Crestone Needle's Ellington Arete. This classic route traces a vertical line up the thousand-foot northeast headwall. I'm a few days early and spend my time on non-technical ascents of nearby 14,000 footers.

Each day, by early afternoon, dark clouds assemble and before long, fierce hail and lightning rake the area. On the first day, a storm surprises me as I place my tent poles. The weather's violence chases me inside the unerected tent, where the painful blows of falling hailstones force me underneath my foam pad. Conditions on the Needle's summit must be fearsome.

When Gary shows up, on his first trip to Colorado, I alert him to the Rockies' special hazards: loose rock and afternoon lightning storms. Because of weather concerns, we will start climbing the next day before dawn, to be over the top and on our descent by early afternoon.

In the dark, by headlamp, we approach the climb and work our way upward over a series of easy ledge systems. Fortunately, the Ellington Arete is stable rock with solid holds. Five-hundred feet above the lake, increasing exposure forces us to rope up. After the first few pitches, we're dismayed to see that the absence of rappel anchor opportunities forecloses any possibility of retreat. On a hard, high-angle, multi-pitch ascent, down climbing isn't an option - it's too slow and dangerous and the belaying system doesn't protect the last (highest) person very well. The only way down is over the summit. As Gary starts his lead, two unroped climbers ascend past us. We shake our heads. The holds are thin and the exposure lethal.

By 11:00 a.m. with the mountain top not yet in sight, I measure our vertical progress using 14,000-foot Humboldt Peak, east of us, as a gauge. We are falling behind schedule. With increasing anxiety, I look at my watch, over to Humboldt, and then to the lowering clouds. Occasionally, a rock, dislodged by the climbers above, sails past, safely to our right, but with velocity sufficient to produce a startling hum. We pull onto a ledge below the crux pitch at 1:30 p.m., discouraged to see that we have overtaken the other party. We will have to wait.

Years ago, when I was an adrenalin junky climbing at the Shawangunks, the day wasn't considered a success unless you felt enough fear, at least once, to wish you were somewhere else. Now, with lightning imminent in the clouds scudding across the summit, I passionately want to be elsewhere.

The other climbers, Chris Gebhart and Matt Robertson from Littleton, Colorado, invite us to clip into their belay anchors. Chris is leading the crux, an overhanging vertical crack. In climber's jargon, he is "sewing it up," placing many protection points close together. (Higher on the Needle, the rock affords such opportunity.) But his gradual pace is unnerving in this possibly deadly race with the storm.

Shared jeopardy bonds us and we hurry to finish the last two pitches as a team. On the summit we are met by a swirling cloud of mist, hurled vertically up the opposite site by gale winds. "Let's get the hell off of this," I yell, unlacing my rock shoes and pulling on boots to move quickly down the descent route. To lose altitude fast, we drop into a couloir that plunges down the Needle's west flank. Three long rappels followed by steep, exposed scrambling, allow an escape from the chute. A traverse south along the back of the massif brings us to a notch. Here we recross the main crest (actually the continental divide) and hike down over several miles of talus and scree, relieved to be able to find our camp, barely visible in the dark, among a maze of giant boulders.

The storm holds off until we are inside the tent, then lashes out in fury. Assuming our quota of miracle escapes is probably exhausted, we agree we've had enough of the Crestones. By the next afternoon we are rolling west, in high spirits and lusting for the fine granite and friendlier weather of the High Sierra.

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

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: JULY - SEPTEMBER 2001

ASSUMED RISK

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

Sun., July 1 **BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between June 25-29.
Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 845-687-7750

Sat., July 7 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between July 2-5.
Leader: Bob Novick (#1,086), 201-385-3161 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. only)

Sun. July 8 **TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev. 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11

A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email (email preferred) leader to register.
Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M.); wandatrails@aol.com

Sat., July 14 **SLIDE** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1

A moderately-paced trail hike.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email (email preferred) leader to register.
Leader: Roman Benke (#1,216), 718-357-2562 (until 9:00 P.M.); doodah-man@att.net

Sun., July 15 **BALSAM** Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3600' Order: 28

An easy-paced loop trail hike up Mine Hollow and down Rider Hollow. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register.
Leader: Mick Dunn (#1,272), 603-595-2678, x2 (11:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.); mdunn@genetics.com

Sat., July 21 **WINDHAM, BLACKHEAD,** Distance: 16 mi. Ascent: 4,000'
BLACK DOME and THOMAS COLE Elev.: 3524', 3940', 3980', 3940'
Order: 34, 5, 3, 4

A strenuous trail hike at a steady pace. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between July 16-20.
Leader: Nan Giblin (#1,328), 732-613-1963 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M. only)

Sun., July 22 **SHERRILL and NORTH DOME**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev.: 3540', 3610' Order: 31, 26

A slow to moderately-paced bushwhack.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between July 16-20.

Leader: Rocky Walberg (#886), 845-876-1061 (5:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M.)

Sat., July 28 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

A strenuous trail hike, and informal trail, to overlook at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Restaurant at Creekside, Tannersville at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Dave White (#859), 315-853-6942 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sun., July 29 **GRAHAM and DOUBLETOP**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2360'
Elev.: 3868, 3860' Order: 7, 8

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

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between July 23-27.

Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 845-278-2770 (H); 914-967-8540 (W); nyestreet@aol.com

Sat., Aug. 4 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3524' Order: 34

A moderately-paced trail hike.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between July 30-August 3.

Leader: Jean André Laverdure (#1,299), 518-566-6613 (if answering machine, leave number for return call); jalz@hotmail.com

Sun., Aug. 5 **BEARPEN and VLY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 33

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between July 30-August 3.

Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (until 9:00 P.M.); johnbgraham@earthlink.net

Sat., Aug. 11 **DOUBLETOP**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3860' Order: 8

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

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between August 6-10.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun., Aug. 12 **WITTENBERG**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3780' Order: 14

A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email (email preferred) leader to register.

Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M.); wandatrails@aol.com

Sat., Aug. 18 **BALSAM LAKE MOUNTAIN and
Millbrook Ridge**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3723' Order: 16

A moderately-paced trail hike.

Meeting Place/Time: Alder Lake parking area at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Howard Dash (#458), 845-255-3409 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sun., Aug. 19 **LONE, ROCKY (and possibly
TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE)**Distance: 10 (13) mi. Ascent: 2100' (2900')
Elev.: 3721', 3508' (3847', 3843')
Order: 17, 35 (10, 11)

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

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between August 6-17.

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 (NCA 10:00 P.M.); amc_leader@hotmail.com

Sat., Aug. 25 **Olderbark**Distance: 3.5 mi. Ascent: 1500'
Elev.: 3440'

An easy-paced bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register.

Leader: Mick Dunn (#1,272), 603-595-2678, x2 (11:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.); mdunn@genetics.com

Sun., Aug. 26 **WESTKILL**Distance: 7.7 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

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

Meeting Place/Time: Flagpole at Jct. of Rtes. 42 and Cty. Rd. 6 (Spruceton Rd.) in Westkill at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Carol White (#860), 315-853-6942 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sat., Sept. 1 **HALCOTT and N.E. Halcott**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3537' Order: 32

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between August 27-31.

Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sat., Sept. 8 **PLATEAU and SUGARLOAF**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2800'
Elev.: 3840', 3800' Order: 12, 13

A moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Warms Restaurant in Tannersville at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 845-278-2770 (H); 914-967-8540 (W); nyestreet@aol.com

Sun., Sept. 9 **FRIDAY and BALSAM CAP**Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3694', 3623' Order: 20, 24

A long, fast-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between September 3-7.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sat., Sept. 15 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

A moderate trail hike with short bushwhack at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Parking area on Plattekill Road at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710 (8:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.)

Sun., Sept. 16 **FIR and BIG INDIAN**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between September 10-13.

Leader: Stephen Fishman (#618), 845-331-1206 (Mon-Thurs. before 10:00 P.M.); eba55@aol.com

Sat., Sept. 22 **FIR, BIG INDIAN and EAGLE**Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3620', 3700', 3600' Order: 25, 19, 27

A fast-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between September 17-20.

Leader: John Swanson (#592), 732-613-1963 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M. only; no calls after Thurs. night)

Sun., Sept. 23 **INDIAN HEAD and TWIN**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3753', 3640' Order: 30, 23

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

Meeting Place/Time: Trailhead at Prediger Road at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Pavel Litvinov (#1,348), 914-631-4861 (Mon-Thurs., NCA 9:00 P.M.);
pavellitvinov@hotmail.com

Sat., Sept. 29 **BEARPEN, VLY, N.E. Halcott and HALCOTT**

Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 4000'
Elev.: 3600', 3529', 3537'
Order: 29, 33, 32

A strenuous, all-weather bushwhack at a brisk pace.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between September 24-27.

Leader: Anthony Amaral, Jr. (#612), 212-874-9242; aamaraljr@mindspring.com
(For changes, check club website.)

Sat., Sept. 29 **RUSK**

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between September 24-28.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (before 8:00 P.M.)

Sun. Sept. 30 **HUNTER and SOUTHWEST HUNTER**

Distance: 9.5 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 4040', 3740' Order: 2, 15

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

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between September 24-28.

Leader: Dave White (#859), 315-853-6942 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

LEADERSHIP PATCH AWARDED

Congratulations to Jim Chambers (#1,097) who has been awarded the leadership patch. The club awards the leadership patch to members who have led six separate hikes scheduled in the *Canister*. At least one hike must be to a trailless peak, and at least one other must be led during the winter. Also, attendance at at least one club-scheduled trail maintenance hike is required.

PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Kevin Lockett (#1,010) and Mary Griffin (#1,050) were married on November 30, 2000; the wedding took place on Fork Ridge on Panther Mountain • On November 11, 2000, John MacPherson (#27), Dan Machell (#37), Dana Helsley (#38), Jim Ross (#40), Dave Hoffman (#42) and Linda Dapcic (#53) met for a Red Hook (High School) Mountaineers "reunion hike" up South West Hunter; conflicts prevented Norm Greig (#39) and Katrina van Tassel (#167) from participating • Sue Eilers (#337) finished the NE 770 (3000-foot peaks in New England, New York and Pennsylvania) on November 4, 2000 on Monadnock, New Hampshire; only two other people have ever done this! She also finished the Winter 111 on Katahdin, Maine, on March 12, 2001 • On March 15-16, 2001, Elizabeth Heald (#305) hiked down to Phantom Ranch from the North Rim of the Grand Canyon and hiked back up the following day - at 74 years of age! • Kevin Lockett (#1,010) hiked all 35 peaks the winter of 2000-2001, the sixth winter in a row Kevin has done this • In the calendar year 2000, Sid Borthwick (#1,327), despite having a full-time job, climbed all 35 peaks, plus the four winter peaks, and also climbed the Adirondack 46 in a 15-week period • Martin Cohen (#728) and Wanda Davenport (#523) viewed the granite towers of Paine in Chilean Patagonia during a March 2001 trip south of the Equator • Friedel Schunk (#248) completed the Arctic Circle cross-country ski race (100 miles with 10,000 feet elevation), billed as the hardest in the world and held for the fifth time approximately forty miles north of the Arctic Circle near Sismiut on Greenland's west coast; Friedel placed 85th out of 103 starters and 3rd of 4 in his age group (60+). Fourteen nations participated, including the current champions from Canada and Greenland.

If there is a special event in your life or that of another member (graduation, engagement, marriage, promotion) or a special achievement on or off the trail that you would like to appear in the Peripatetic Porcupine column, please send the news to Ralph Ferrusi, 34 Kim Lane, Stormville, NY 12582.

NEW MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,334	Jadwiga Rosenthal	1/20/01
1,335	Edward S. Slattery	1/14/01
1,336	Gary R. Gundlach	1/28/01
1,337	Laurie Moore	2/19/01
1,338	Kenneth Krabbenhoff	2/24/01
1,339	Isabelle Daverne	3/3/01
1,340	Any Hsu	3/3/01
1,341	Joyce Vernon	2/1/01
1,342	Matthew Watters	3/1/01
1,343	Colin Watters	3/1/01
1,344	Steven R. Hatfield	3/1/01
1,345	David W. Morrison	3/17/01
1,346	Abner Berzon	3/17/01
1,347	Kevin E. Roosa	3/16/01
1,348	Pavel Litvinov	3/18/01
1,349	Dea Key	3/20/01
1,350	Mark L. Cooper	4/10/01
1,351	Kenneth Hubert	4/12/01
1,352	Alfred O'Connor	4/14/01
1,353	Bruce Deitz	3/3/96

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Diane Bamford
Allen Maser

NEW WINTER MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
457	Jadwiga Rosenthal	1/20/01
458	William Drapkin	2/10/01
459	Nancy Donohue	2/11/01
460	Connie L. Sciutto	2/13/01
461	David M. Galvin	2/13/01
462	Frank A. Seravallo	2/21/01
463	Nan Giblin	2/24/01
464	Robert J. Saturn	2/24/01
465	Philip M. Bifulco	2/24/01
466	Ann M. McMahon	2/24/01
467	Richard W. Hughes	3/3/01
468	Roy H. Williams	3/3/01
469	Philip P. Fountain	3/2/01
470	Louis N. Fitzpatrick	3/4/01
471	Kenneth A. Paulson	3/4/01
472	Larry Larsen	3/4/01
473	Donna Wamsley	3/7/01
474	Patricia Johnston	3/11/01
475	Sidney S. Borthwick	3/11/01
476	Joan McNulty	2/4/01
477	Frank J. Traver	3/15/01
478	Diane P. Grunthal	3/17/01
479	Diane Bamford	3/18/01
480	Philip Corwin	3/18/01
481	Christopher J. Koebelin	2/18/01
482	Tom Farre	3/18/01
483	Michael Zollo	3/18/01
484	Roman J. Benke	3/18/01
485	Pavel Litvinov	3/2/01
486	George Solovay	3/4/01
487	Kay Cynamon	3/17/01

FIVE NOCTURNES**II. WERE I IN TROUBLE**

Where I could think of no thoroughfare,
 Away on the mountain up far too high,
 A blinding headlight shifted glare
 And began to bounce down a granite stair,
 Like a star fresh fallen out of the sky.
 And I away in my opposite wood
 Am touched by that unintimate light
 And made feel less alone than I rightly should,
 For traveler there could do me no good
 Were I in trouble with night tonight.

Robert Frost



the catskill canister

Vol. XXXV, No. 4

OCTOBER - DECEMBER, 2001

OFF THE BEATEN PATH: WYOMING HIKING

When I first told friends I intended to hike Wyoming, they assumed Yellowstone or the Tetons. And why not? Back east, much of Wyoming seems obscure, full of cattle and sheep, and somehow synonymous with the general idea of the west. Ironically, a closer look reveals a plethora of names from the eastern half of the U.S., including Dayton, Buffalo, Atlantic City, Evanston and Saratoga. The last named in southern Wyoming features thermal baths and was purposefully named after Saratoga Springs. Even the name Wyoming, Mecheweaming, has its roots in the east, being the Iroquois word for "on the great plain." On the other hand, I can think of no local name that resonates quite like Big Horn Mountains, the Tongue and Encampment Rivers, Beartooth Pass, Bucking Mule Falls, the Snowy Range, the Sierra Madres and Wind River Canyon. These and other evocatively-named places give Wyoming its essential character and make it both a hiker's paradise and compelling travel destination.

Entering Wyoming from Salt Lake City, I drove to Lander on the eastern side of the Wind River Range, home of the highest mountains in the state, topped off by 13,804' Gannett Peak. Next morning, in nearby Sinks Canyon State Park, I hiked to Popo Agie Falls. (During the 1700s and 1800s the Crow Nation controlled northern Wyoming and much of southern Montana; Popo Agie, in their language, refers to stream, arising from rock.) At 1.5 miles from the trailhead and an elevation of 7,500 feet, I reached the easily-accessible falls and proceeded farther up Middle Fork Trail, keeping a sharp lookout for bear, supposedly ubiquitous in the area. Next day I ventured deeper into the Wind Rivers beginning at Worthen Meadow Reservoir on Stough Creek Lakes Trail. Rock-hopping across an inlet to Roaring Fork Lake, I noticed a cowboy coaxing his horse through belly-high water. On the way up to a 10,550' pass with a view of Wind River Peak, I met numerous backpackers, even a group packing in with llamas.

South of Lander, where the old Mormon and Oregon Trails bifurcate, I visited two once-thriving mining towns, Atlantic City and South Pass, the latter a major attraction because of historic restoration. A posse of Wyatt Earp lookalikes galloped by in a simulated old west vacation adventure and for a moment I was transported back to 1875. Returning to the present, I set off on a six-mile trek along a creek filled with cottonwood trees, past old copper mining shafts and, finally, across meadows and low hills that comprise a section of the Continental Divide Trail which runs from the New Mexico/Mexico border to the Montana/Canada border.

In northern Wyoming, outside Lovell, I entered the rugged Pryor Mountains. Named after a member of Lewis and Clark's party, who discovered them nearly 200 years ago, the range extends north into Montana and rises 7,000' at the crest. Wild horses, bighorn sheep and abandoned cattle ranches are prevalent. One ranch, owned by the fiercely-independent Carolyn Lockhart, a Wyoming-born, eastern-educated writer, exerted a nostalgic hold on me as if I'd been there before. Though the Pryors lack formal hiking trails, the hiker can follow rock cairns east to the rim of Big Horn Canyon, as well as old wagon roads and streams farther west into the mountains.

Cont'd on Page 3

THE CATSKILL CANISTER

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

Articles on hiking or travel experiences, essays or poetry, should be sent to Darielle Graham, 60 Barker St., #419, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.

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IN MEMORIAM

It is with much sadness and regret that we announce the death last June of Nelson Shultis' wife, Frances Shultis. The Shultises were honorary club members who, for many years, allowed climbers to access Balsam Cap and Friday across their property on Moonhaw Road. The club sends its condolences to Nelson Shultis.

HIKERS' ALERT

Parking is no longer allowed at the roadside for Platte Clove Preserve on County road 16 (Platte Clove Road). So for hikes to Indian Head, Echo Lake or Overlook Mountain via Platte Clove Road, hikers must now park at the new DEC lot up the dirt road to Kaaterskill High Peak.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

Cy Whitney's responsibilities as membership chairman have been taken over by Judy Weiner and Dave White. Hikers wishing to become aspirants should send \$5.00 for a subscription to the *Canister* and a tally sheet to Judy Weiner at 755 Anderson Avenue, Apt. 4J, Cliffside Park, NK 07010. To become members, aspirants who have completed all their peaks should send \$5.00 and their completed tally sheets to Dave White at 28 Mulberry Street, Clinton, NY 13323.

CAMERA LOST

If anyone lost a camera on the trail to Windham High Peak, he or she should contact Jonathan and Adele Wagman at 845-338-7537.

PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Irene Logan (#888, #331W) became member #378 of the Northeast 111 on Moosilauke on July 9, 2000. Irene is also a life member of the 3500 Club • On May 18, 2001, Herbert Coles (#440) and June Fait (#397) finished a 20-year section hike of the Appalachian Trail (AT) in Damascus, Virginia • On June 23, 2001, Don Rain (#246) completed a 24½ section hike of the AT. Evelyn (#514) and Gerhard (#515) Salinger also completed the AT at the same time • Ralph Ryndak (#1,186, #451W) finished the Adirondack 46 on Iroquois on August 9, 2001 • Kathy (#1,102, #413W) and Ralph (#122, #34W) Ferrusi climbed Mont Jacques Cartier on the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec on August 24, 2001; and over 20 years after becoming a 111-er, Ralph became a 115-er, the 111 plus McNaughton, Galehead, Bond Cliff and Mont Jacques Cartier.

If there is a special event in your life or that of another member (graduation, engagement, marriage) or a special achievement on or off the trail that you would like to appear in the Peripatetic Porcupine column, please send the news to Ralph Ferrusi, 34 Kim Lane, Stormville, NY 12582; email: rferrusi@us.ibm.com.

Correction: Katrina van Tassel's membership number was mistated in last issue's Peripatetic Porcupine column. It is #67, not #167.

Separated from the Pryor Range by the Big Horn River, the Big Horn Mountains dominate the landscape of north-central Wyoming. On their eastern edge in Dayton, near the city of Sheridan, the Tongue River beckons hikers and fishermen. Tongue River Canyon features a multitude of beguiling rock formations, none more so than the "Needle." After several miles of steep climbing up the canyon, I emerged into acres and acres of faintly-trailed open meadow, the winter feeding range of a large elk herd. But neither here nor anywhere else in Wyoming did I see elk; deer and antelope everywhere, even a moose and her calf down by South Pass. Sadly, no elk.

On the northern Big Horn plateau, I took two hikes. An "American Scenic Trail" led to a view of Bucking Mule Falls, a 600' outpouring from a mountain high above Devil's Canyon. With a second car strategically placed, I could have hiked nine extra miles to Porcupine Falls. The second hike took me up Medicine Mountain to a sacred Native American site known as the "Medicine Wheel" where small stones dating back an unknown number of centuries have been laid out in the shape of a 28-spoke wheel representing the lunar calendar. Today, Arapaho, Shoshone, Cheyenne and hundreds of other tribes perform ceremonies and make ritual offerings at this site.

Toward the end of my trip, anxious to bag a peak, I head south to the Snowy Range, lying west of Laramie and just north of the Colorado border. Geologically, these mountains are piled on top of the Medicine Bow Mountains. Reflecting this startling accretion, the highest point in the Snowy Range is named Medicine Bow Peak. So I made its 12,013' summit my goal. It lent itself to a spectacular circular hike - the 10,400' trailhead was adjacent to one of many glacial lakes. The first three arduous air-sucking miles culminate in a limestone-strewn peak with magnificent 360° views. Two miles down, past a string of glacial lakes, brought me back to the starting point. That this is one of the most beautiful day hikes in the U.S. is not a claim made capriciously; think of the Franconia Notch loop hike in New Hampshire embracing Mts. Lafayette and Lincoln via Falling Waters and Bridle Path trails. Obviously, above tree line on Medicine Bow Peak was the ideal way to end my first extended Wyoming vacation.

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

From garden to garden, ridge to ridge,
I drifted enchanted . . .
gazing afar over domes and peaks, lakes and woods,
and the billowy glaciated fields . . .
In the midst of such beauty, pierced with its rays,
one's body is all one tingling palate.
Who wouldn't be a mountaineer!

John Muir

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2001**ASSUMED RISK**

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

Sat., Oct. 6 **Echo Lake, Plattekill Mountain
and Overlook**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3100', 3140'

A moderate trail hike with short bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between Oct 1-5.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (before 8:00 P.M.)

Sun., Oct. 7 **EAGLE, BALSAM (and Haynes)**

Distance: 9 mil. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3600', 3600' (3420'); Order: 27, 28

A moderate trail hike from Rider Hollow. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Highmount Post Office on Route 28 at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Richard Barr (#604), 212-877-2684 (until afternoon of Oct. 5); richardedbarr@aol.com

Sat., Oct. 13 **PEEKAMOOSE and TABLE:
Trail Maintenance**

Give back to the woods and possibly bag one or both mountains. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Bull Run trailhead at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Dan Case (#1,238), 845-778-1090; dancase@frontiernet.net

Sun., Oct. 14 **PLATEAU**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3840' Order: 12

A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 845-687-7741 (call before Oct. 11, by 9:00 P.M.)

Sat., Oct. 20 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK
and Round Top**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3100'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

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

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between Oct. 15-18

Leader: Bob Novick (#1,086), 201-385-3161 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M. only)

Sun., Oct. 21 **RUSK**

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

A bushwhack at an easy pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between Oct. 15-18.

Leader: Dave White (#859), 315-853-6942 (8:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.)

Sat., Oct. 27 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A moderate bushwhack at a steady pace.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register before Oct. 26

Leader: Tom Regan (#1,026), 516-822-3720 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun., Oct. 28 **SLIDE, CORNELL and WITTENBERG**

Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 3500'
Elev.: 4180', 3860', 3780' Order: 1, 9, 14

A strenuous hike at a moderate to fast pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Pavel Litvinov (#1,348), 914-631-4861 (no calls after 9:00 P.M.); pavellitvinov@hotmail.com

Sat., Nov. 3 **DOUBLETOP**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3860' Order: 8

A relaxed pace bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email (email preferred) leader to register between Oct, 29-Nov. 2.

Leader: Dave Sutter (#1,110), 973-778-0992; dsuttr@aol.com

Sun., Nov. 4 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER, HUNTER**
(and possibly RUSK)Distance: 8 (10) mi. Ascent: 1560' (+1000')
Elev.: 3740', 4040', (3680') Order: 15,2,(21)

A strenuous bushwhack at a brisk pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between Oct. 29-Nov. 2.

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 (no calls after 10:00 P.M.); amc_leader@hotmail.com

Sat., Nov. 10 **BEARPEN and VLY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32

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

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between Nov. 5-9.

Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sun., Nov. 11 **LONE and ROCKY**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 35

A strenuous bushwhack at an easy to moderate pace.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between Nov. 5-9.

Leader: Robert Walberg (#886), 845-876-1061 (5:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M.)

Sat., Nov. 17 **BIG INDIAN and FIR**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3700', 3620' Order: 19, 25

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between Nov. 12-16.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun., Nov. 18 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK**
and Burnt KnobDistance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3524' Order: 34

A moderately-paced trail hike. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Old Post Office at junction of Co. Rd. 40 and Co. Rd. 56 (Big Hollow Rd.) in
Maplecrest at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Carol White (#860), 315-853-6942 (8:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.)

NOV. 19 - DEC. 14: HUNTING SEASON (FIREARMS) IN THE CATSKILLS.
NO HIKES SCHEDULED IN THE CATSKILLS.

December through April in the Catskills, the windchill on exposed ridges may reach 50 below zero. If you do not know what type of clothing will be adequate, telephone the hike leader in advance. If you cannot buy, rent, or borrow snowshoes, avoid the mountains in winter. Unless specified otherwise, full crampons should be carried. Properly dressed and equipped, and in proper physical condition, a hiker can enjoy the mountains in what many people consider the most beautiful season of the year.

Wed., Dec. 13 **SUGARLOAF**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3800' Order: 13

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

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader for details.

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 (no calls after 10:00 P.M.); amc_leader@hotmail.com

Sat., Dec. 15 **HALCOTT**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3520' Order: 34

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

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between Dec. 10-14

Leader: Robert Walberg (#886), 845-876-1061 (5:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M.)

Sun., Dec. 16 **Mt. Tremper**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2044'
Elev.: 2740'

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

Meeting Place & Time: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 845-687-7741 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sat., Dec. 22 **BALSAM (and possibly EAGLE)**Distance: 5 (7) mi. Ascent: 1900' (2200')
Elev.: 3600' (3600) Order: 28 (27)

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

Meeting Place & Time: McKenley Hollow trailhead (off Co. Rte. 47) at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710; m.freifeld@att.net

Sun., Dec. 23 **FRIDAY and BALSAM CAP**Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3694', 3623' Order: 20, 24

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

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between Dec. 17-21.

Leader: John Graham (#428), 914-241-2240 (before 9:00 P.M.); johnbgraham@earthlink.net

Wed., Dec. 26 **Giant Ledge and PANTHER**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1545'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A moderate to fast-paced trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader for details.

Leader: Nan Giblin (#1,328), 718-896-6829 (7:00-9:00 P.M.)

Sat., Dec. 29 **BLACKHEAD**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3940' Order: 5

A moderately-paced trail hike to a required winter peak. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader for details.

Leader: Jean André Laverdure (#1,299), 518-562-0857 (if answering machine, leave number); jalz@hotmail.com

Sun., Dec. 30 **BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3720', 3868' Order: 17, 7

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

Meeting Place & Time: Dry Brook Ridge parking lot at 8:45 A.M.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

AUTUMN IN THE CATSKILLS

The crumple of leaves beneath my feet and cool mentholated air filling my nostrils with each breath I take reminds me why autumn is my favorite time in the woods. Part way up the mountain I can look back through the opening of trees across the valley towards Panther Mountain and gauge how far I am on the formerly Wittenberg-Cornell Slide Trail, now known as the Burroughs Range Trail.

The trail is covered with a carpet of brightly-colored leaves with fingers of arthritic roots stretched out across the trail as if to grasp the remaining days of summer. As I scramble up ledges, the gentle wispy breeze soon accelerates to a roar, and trees sway in an hypnotic dance of a haunting tune. My breath no longer mingles in the air, but is swept away by cold currents. Out upon open ledges I look through crisp, clear air towards the reservoir laid out below like a pane of glass with jagged edges offering no reflection on this windy day. Dramatic clouds with hues of gray, shaped like figurines, parade in the sky.

Onward through the causeway to Cornell Mountain where a couple of good handholds and moves short of gymnastic help me get by the ledge and onto the summit. Looking back at Wittenburg, I see the definite profile of the southeast face plunge down into the hollow. The long stroll through the Cornell-Slide col is accompanied by the sound of branches interacting, that crescendoes as the wind funnels through the col. A day like today is good for peace, but not for quiet serenity. Finally, the base of Slide Mountain, where I look up and see ledge upon ledge that form the battlements of the mountain, and wonder where I go from here. As I ascend, the trail bobs and weaves through weaknesses and cracks in its wall. Months ago I would be struggling with heat and humidity that would tap a robust hiker of strength. But with cool air that seems to caress and invigorate, a lackadaisical stroll is all that is needed to come upon the pipe spring just below the summit. A spring that, no matter what time of the year, retains its magical aura and provides water for the parched.

On the summit, expansive views provide feasts for the eyes. I scan down to the undulating field of colors dropping into dark abysses of the valley, then seek out far horizons and clouds giving way to hues of blue. The wind is dying and the air seems to be at peace with itself. There is no other place in this world I would rather be but here. On the back of Slide, the trail brings me down gently. I look over the east side upon the ridge that forms the backbone of the Giant Ledge-Panther massif; Giant Ledge will be this evening's campsite.

Leaving the spruce, pines and ferns, I enter hardwood forest, carefully make my way down on leaves laid to rest that cover rocks waiting patiently for the unsuspecting hiker to make a false move. Luckily, I move on to Giant Ledge without incident. Camp set up, I relax after dinner taking in the sunset. Woodpecker jack hammers a distance away, chipmunks gather their winter supply. Woods can be so quiet and yet so alive. Sunset signals the end of another day; once bright rays tempered to a soft yellow glow reflect a fiery inferno through thin layers of wispy clouds.

Next day looks overcast and I pack up and start the long and gentle descent to Woodland Valley. In spite of being overcast, the vivid colors shout brilliance, the reds, yellows and oranges competing for attention. Even the bark from trees stands out. Every now and then I look to my right up to the top of Slide to see its crown of firs peek through as though the mountain is saying *until next time*.

Pete Ricci (#475)

NEW MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
1354	Stephen J. Barlow	5/5/01
1355	Frederick C. Bloom	3/18/01
1356	Gary S. Adams	6/3/01
1357	Philip Vernon	5/12/01
1358	David A. Kocian	6/2/01
1359	Dawn L. Hamilton	6/24/01
1360	Patricia M. Desbiens	7/14/01
1361	Robert E. Ricketson	5/26/01
1362	Madelyn Liberati	7/21/01

WINTER

*Snow, a nurse's dress in the morning,
Ice, zircons glistening on cold rock,
Sky, azure gaze between the tree tops,
Air, crisp, craved by lungs,
Wind, not twittering a leaf.*

*Snow, dirty clumps of frozen annoyance,
Ice, lurking treacherously under snow,
Sky, thick charcoal mixed miasmas,
Air, a scalpel to the skull,
Wind, a blustery bully.*

Martin Cohen (#728)

FRIDAY IN WINTER

Ralph and Kathy Ferrusi and I are greeted to a bitterly cold but bright sunny day as we leave the comfort zone of the Honda. Friday awaits in her splendor, freshly fallen snow just beckoning us to weave our tracks through her maze.

As we ascend, our deeper breathing indicates that things are about to change; the gradual sloping landscape gives way to abrupt upheavals of rocky ledges and steep terrain.

Like gargoyles protecting a castle, the thickening shrubs, deep snow and impenetrable ledges battle to impede our progress. As we clamber onward, the struggles maintain the core warmth in our bodies, but drain energies at the same time.

Our spirits become cautiously elated when we see blue sky start to overtake the above horizon. But like many times before, a haystack of rock and trees suddenly crops up in front of us to indicate that more work is needed. We go on to one false summit after another, riding this emotional roller coaster of joy and deprivation until we can't go any higher. And just when we think our claim to the prize is in hand, the canister sinisterly eludes us.

We search like stalking zombies, seeking every tree that may be the elusive high spot holding the canister. Finally, the search ends and we register our names for accomplishment, looking at one another, fatigue and scratch marks on our battle-worn faces. A certain comradery envelops us in understanding the effort and joy in doing a winter peak. "Well, I guess it's on to Balsam Cap."

Pete Ricci (#475)