



the catskill canister

January - March 2008

Volume 41, Number 1

Panther Mountain in Winter - a precautionary tale (with a happy ending of course)..

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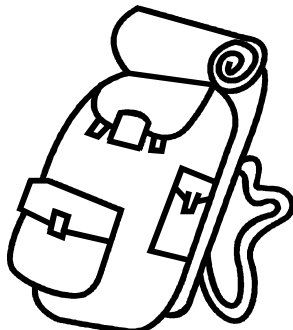
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: **SAVE THE DATE** :
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- ⇒ **Winter Weekend: Friday - Sunday, Jan 25 - 27, 2008 (p. 8)**
- ⇒ **Annual Dinner Saturday, April 12, 2008. (p. 3)**



It was around Christmas, sometime in the late 80's; I was to meet Bill Reimvis and we were to hike Panther together. Some of the older Club members might remember Bill; he was in his 80's at that time, and knew the Catskills like the palm of his hand. If you needed a hiking partner, Bill was ready unless he and his wife, Anna, had already made other plans. Or if you needed information for a bushwhack, you'd just call Bill. Bill was a strong, steady hiker which was good for me, because from past hikes, I knew our paces were similar. When I arrived at Bill's house on Oliverea Road at around 9:15, Bill was just waking up; I should have taken that as a not-so-good omen. He had to eat breakfast then shower (I'll never understand that, as I usually showered **after** the hike).

By the time we left for the trailhead, which was only a few minutes from his house, it was nearly noon which meant that under the best conditions we would return just after dark. The temperature was in the single digits and the day was cloudy. We were both dressed for the cold and had additional layers of clothing packed should they be needed, along with flashlights with fresh batteries which we wrapped warmly to keep them from dying. Bill decided, and I concurred, that we'd leave our snow shoes in the car, as he didn't feel the snow at the higher elevations would be too deep – a decision we would

later regret.

The hiking was fairly easy until we reached a point on the trail near Giant Ledges where the snow became deep and we began post-holing. At that point we realized that we had made a wrong choice at the trailhead. Because of Bill's advanced years, I had been breaking trail which was tiring, but not overly so – until the post-holing, which really sapped my strength. We reached Giant Ledges and stopped to rest, catch our breath and regroup. Should we continue on? Should we turn back and try again the next day? Since I only needed Panther and Balsam Mountains to complete my winter peaks, we decided to continue, although it was becoming clear that we would finish our hike well after dark.

As the sun receded behind the mountains, the temperature began dropping like a rock. We reached the summit of Panther, paused to savor the moment, and immediately began our descent. By the time we returned to the Giant Ledges, it was completely dark and, although I was dressed warmly, my breath had frozen solidly in my moustache. I was very cold and fatigue had set in. We stopped and ate a couple of candy bars and some trail mix which made me feel a bit better. However, the thought had crept into my mind that maybe I should just tell Bill to go on without me, that I was too tired, and

"if I froze on Giant Ledges, so be it."

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The President's Column

Volunteering

Did you know ... that the Catskill 3500 Club is an all-volunteer non-profit organization? We have no paid employees. Our annual dues cost about the same amount as dinner at a fast-food restaurant. So how do we do it? Through *volunteers*—people like YOU. Volunteers serve on the executive committee and club committees, do trail work, and lead hikes.

This last item, leading hikes, is really the heart of our Club. Volunteer leaders lead hikes to the 3500 foot peaks and other interesting destinations throughout the year, on almost every weekend day. Some hikes are even “sold out” (limited by group size), especially winter hikes to bushwhack peaks, weeks before they are scheduled. Why do we lead these hikes? Primarily to share our love of hiking and the Catskill peaks. We also enjoy helping new hikers, aspirants, and even list-seeking peakbaggers learn about Catskill hiking, bushwhacking, navigating, winter hiking, and choosing appropriate clothing and gear. Less experienced hikers often prefer to join group hikes to “learn the ropes” before setting out on their own. Teaching safe practices by example is an important part of leading hikes. Whatever the individual reason, the Club helps many people become better and safer hikers.

The club has an email list for leaders, 3500LEADERS@YAHOO.COM, which the Outings Chair, Manuel Peraza, uses to solicit leaders and make up the quarterly schedules. (this is the only use—no junk mail or other solicitations) Club members interested in learning more about joining the ranks of leaders should contact Manuel at 718-698-4422 or mapcolus1@ATT.net. By being admitted to the leader list, you are not obligated to lead a hike, but you will be notified that the quarterly schedule is being prepared and asked to lead a hike. It is a way that you, a 3500 Club *volunteer* and experienced hiker, can give back to the Club and help participants improve their hiking skills and knowledge.

The Catskill 3500 Club Executive Committee recently established leadership scholarships for members who are hike leaders, or wish to become hike leaders. Programs strengthening outdoor knowledge such as Wilderness First Aid, the ADK Winter Mountaineering School, or the AMC Outdoor Leadership Training programs are eligible for tuition reimbursement of up to \$150 upon successful completion. (Prior approval is required and the number of scholarships available per year is limited.) By accepting a scholarship, the member would be obligated to lead four hikes over the next two years. For more information, please contact Manuel Peraza at mapcolus1@ATT.net, or contact any executive committee member.

Joe Bogardus

[Speaking of volunteerism, please note our new Service Award announced on page 7 - ed.]



(Continued from page 1)

if I froze on Giant Ledges, so be it. But, though quite depressed, as I knew I wasn't that far gone (yet), I dismissed that foreboding thought, and on we went.

Although the temperature had fallen to fifteen below zero at this point, the night was clear and the moon rose brightly. We could see from trail marker to marker and never did have to use our flashlights to follow the trail. When we came to the deep snow again, we were able to use our previous post-holes, so the going wasn't all that bad. As we traveled along the ridge, near where the trail turns and begins descending more steeply, we saw a flashlight in the valley below – in what we thought was the parking area. We stopped to rest and watched as the flashlight (and the person behind it) moved toward the trailhead and stopped approximately at where we had signed in. Bill said that it was probably Pat Rudd, the ranger. We waved our flashlights so that she might know where we were and that we were OK, but apparently she never looked up.

We reached the turn and as we came to a clearing, I felt my contact lens slip. I yelled at Bill to stop, take out his flashlight and begin shining it around so that it might reflect off my lens. Neither of us moved for fear that we would step on it and bury it in the snow forever. After some five minutes of sweeping his light back and forth, we saw nothing resembling a contact lens. I was about to suggest that we just hike down, as I thought I could see well enough with one eye to finish the hike. (I should note here that without either lens my vision was something like 20/200 and it was all I could do to grope. Using just one lens I only lost depth perception.) No matter, as I reached up to brush my cheek guess what was hanging there: I reinserted the

errant contact lens and we continued down.

We made it back to the car and, without pausing for a rest, threw our packs in and quickly drove to Bill's house, where Pat was just picking up the phone to call out a search team. It seems that Anna became worried when it got dark and we hadn't returned, as Bill had told her we'd be back before dark. Furthermore, given that Bill had a bad back, she began to think the worst. She then called Pat, with whom she and Bill were good friends. It, indeed, was she whose flashlight we saw.

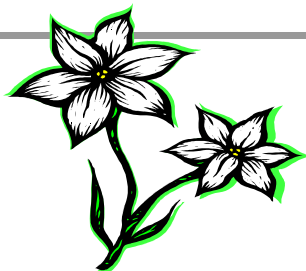
If all of this hadn't been enough for one day, when I got to my room at the inn it was almost as cold inside as it was outside. The inn keeper said the heater just couldn't stay ahead of the cold. He did offer me an extra blanket however. Perhaps that, the steamy shower, and the fact that I was exhausted and fell asleep as soon as my head hit the pillow, kept me warm that night. The following day was bright, sunny, and much warmer, which improved my spirits immensely, so I stopped by Bill's house to see if he wanted to climb Balsam Mountain with me. He laughed and said he'd pass. So off I went - with my snowshoes strapped onto my pack. As the snow got deeper I put them on and continued to the peak; about two thirds of the way down whom did I meet? Bill, who told me that it was such a nice day he decided he'd snowshoe up until he met me and we'd go back down together.

What a nice way to celebrate finishing my winter 3500's -- with the man who helped me through both my regular 3500's and my winter 3500's.

Submitted by Allen Maser #706 and edited by the Canister.

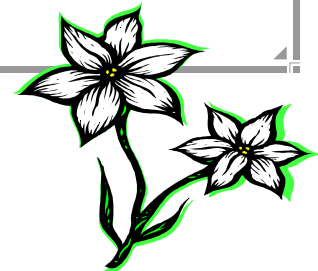
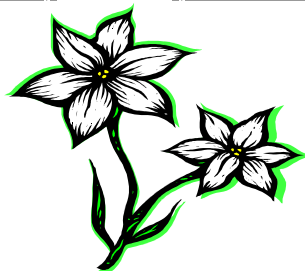
In Memoriam

Bill Jones #162, 57W, originally of Ridge-wood, NJ; Adirondack 46er; hiking buddy of Fred Schmelzer #140, with whom he climbed Katahdin when they were both close to eighty years of age.



In Memoriam

Thomas P. Logan, #1402, 503W, died on May 2, 2007 at the age of 39. His tally sheet entry for favorite peak said "I love 'em all". He lived life with great enthusiasm but for too short a time.



Hike Schedule January - March, 2008

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.**

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., Jan. 5 – LONE & ROCKY

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

A steady, moderately paced bushwhack. Dogs welcome.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader for details.

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

Sun., Jan. 6 – INDIAN HEAD & TWIN

Distance: 7mi. Ascent 2200', Elev. 3575', 3640'.

A moderately paced trail hike.

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., Jan. 12 – SLIDE

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

A moderately paced trail hike.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Jan. 7-10

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

Sun., Jan. 13 – HALCOTT

Distance: 5 miles; Ascent 1600', Elev. 3537'.

A slow to moderately paced bushwhack. Dogs welcome.

Meeting Place/ Time: 8:45 am. Parking area on State Rte. 42. Please call Leader to register between Jan 6-11; NCA 9:30 pm., Fri 6:30 pm.

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

Sat., Jan. 19 – EVERGREEN, RUSK & NE RUSK

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent 1500', Elev. 3680'.

A moderately paced but exacting bushwhack, with trail return.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader.

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

Sun., Jan. 20 – WESTKILL

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

A moderately paced trail hike.

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., Jan. 26 – BALSAM

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent 1700', Elev. 3600'.

A moderately paced trail hike to a required winter peak. Dogs welcome.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leaders to register.

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

Sun., Jan. 27 – BEARPEN & VLY

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

Relaxed to moderately paced bushwhacks.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leaders to register between Jan. 21-27; email preferred.

Leaders: David & Carol White #859, 860; ccswhite@juno.com; 315-853-6942. (after Jan. 24, cell 315-853-1070)

(Continued on page 5)

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

(Continued from page 4)

Sat., Feb. 2 – NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent 2500', Elev. 3610', 3540'.
A moderate bushwhack loop route from Westkill side.
Dogs welcome.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader for details.
Leader: Danielle Besso #1496; dbesso@stny.rr.com; 607-724-5523 (6-9pm).

Sun., Feb. 3 – PANTHER

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent 1830', Elev. 3720'.
A moderately paced trail hike.
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., Feb. 3 – KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent 1900', Elev. 3655'.
A moderately paced trail hike with a short bushwhack.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leaders to register.
Leaders: Tom & Laurie Rankin #1503, 1337;
trankin@hvc.rr.com; 845-926-6209.

Sat., Feb. 9 – BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY

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

Sun., Feb. 10 – PLATEAU

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent 1700', Elev. 3840'.
A moderately but steady-paced trail hike.
Meeting Place/Time: Please call leader to register by 2/7.
Leader: Carol Nestor #1325; 914-683-3858, NCA 9 PM.

Sat., Feb. 16 – WINDHAM

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent 1800', Elev. 3524'.
A moderately paced trail hike.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Feb. 11-14.
Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; suzkna@msn.com; 718-435-4943 (after 7pm)

Sun., Feb. 17 – BLACKHEAD RANGE TRAVERSE (Thomas Cole, Black Dome, Black Head).

Distance: 7.5 mi. Ascent 2760', Elev. 3940', 3980', 3940'.
A moderately paced trail hike.
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., Feb. 23 – PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent 2850', Elev. 3843', 3847'.
A moderate to fast-paced trail hike.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Feb. 17-21.
Leader: Pavel Litvinov #1348;
pavellitvinov@hotmail.com; 914-231-6187 NCA 9pm.

Sun., Feb. 24 – ASHOKAN HIGH POINT

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent 2100', Elev. 3080'.
A moderate to fast-paced trail hike; unforgettable views.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Feb. 17-21.
Leader: Pavel Litvinov #1348;
pavellitvinov@hotmail.com; 914-231-6187 NCA 9pm

Sat., Mar. 1 – FIR & BIG INDIAN

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent 2400', Elev. 3620', 3700'.
A moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike. Dogs welcome.
Meeting Place/Time: Biscuit Bk trailhead 9AM. Contact leader to register.
Leader: Danielle Besso #1496; dbesso@stny.rr.com; 607-724-5523 (6-9pm)

Sun., Mar. 2 – SUGARLOAF

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent 1900', Elev. 3800'.
A moderately paced trail hike.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by Mar. 1.
Leader: Dawn Hamilton #1359;
DawnLH333@yahoo.com; 845-926-6208.

Sat., Mar. 8 – DOUBLETOP

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent 1860', Elev. 3860'.
A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack.
Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register from Mar. 3-7.
Leader: Manuel A. Peraza #1373; mapcolus1@att.net; 718-698-4422 (7-9 PM).

Sun., Mar. 9 – GRAHAM

Distance: 7 miles; Ascent 1360, Elev. 3868'.
A slow to moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Dogs welcome.
Meeting Place/Time: 8:45 am. parking area on Millbrook Rd. Please call leader to register between Mar. 2-7; NCA 9:30 p.m., Fri 6:30 p.m.
Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; Adirondacks@verizon.net; 718-377-2990.

(Continued on page 6)

In case of bad weather or bad driving conditions, most hikes will be canceled; if in doubt contact leader.

(Continued from page 5)

Sat., Mar. 15 – OLDERBARK MT.

Distance: 5 miles; Ascent 1800', Elev. 3440'
Catskill 100 Highest Peak. Moderately paced hike. All bushwhacking with no herd paths and some ledges and steep terrain along the way.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader by 3/11.

Leader: Alan Via #429; be46@nycap.rr.com

Sun., Mar. 16 – CORNELL & WITTENBERG

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent 2850', Elev. 3860', 3780'.

A moderately paced trail hike.

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., Mar. 22 – BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent 1900', Elev. 3720', 3868'.

A moderate to fast-paced trail hike and bushwhack.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between Mar. 17-20.

Leader: Pavel Litvinov #1348; pavellitvinov@hotmail.com; 914-231-6187 NCA 9pm;

Sun., Mar. 23 - SHERRILL

Distance: 5 miles; Ascent 2000', Elev. 3540'.

A moderately paced bushwhack. Dogs welcome.

Meeting Place/Time: 8:45am Forest Preserve Parking area on Rte 42. Please call leader to register between Mar. 17-21; NCA 9:30 pm; Fri 6:30 pm.

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

Sat., Mar. 29 – EAGLE

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent 2000', Elev. 3600'

A moderately paced trail hike.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register from Mar. 23-28 (email preferred).

Leader: Bob Ricketson #1361; bobrick@mhccable.com 518-943-5223 (7-9 PM).

Sun., Mar. 30 – SW HUNTER & HUNTER

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent 2300', Elev. 3740', 4040'.

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Dogs welcome.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leaders to register.

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

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



In Memoriam

Prominent conservationist, **Betty Lou Bailey #413, 143W**, has died at age 78. In addition to being a Catskill 3500 Club member, she was very active in the ADK and, in fact, received that club's Newhouse Conservation award, the highest honor bestowed by the ADK. She was an avid cyclist and was membership chair of the Mohawk-Hudson Cycling Club. Among numerous hiking, canoeing, and biking achievements, she was a Winter 35-er, an Adirondack 46R, and Northeast 111-er. Active until the end, she was listed among those who led the most trips for the Schenectady ADK chapter this past year.

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. Please remember to submit your reservations early for this popular event.

Scree

Trail Maintenance Report – Trails Chair, **Elie Bijou**, reports that we had several activities this past summer and fall, including two Table Mt. trail maintenance sessions, two Bouton Memorial Shelter maintenance sessions, and a litter pickup event on Rte. 214. The trail crew did a great job in clearing the trail from its intersection with the Phoenicia -East Branch trail to the summit of Peekamoose. Let's all thank **Elie**, Asst. Trails Chair **Donna Wamsley**, **Dave Clark**, **Manny Perez**, **Laurie** and **Tom Rankin**, **John Susko**, **Jean Taylor**, **Bill Sherry**, and his son **Ryan** for their efforts.

Belleayre Project Still in Question -- The state Department of Environmental Conservation is presiding over the environmental review of the latest proposal for the Belleayre Resort at Catskill Park. **Written comments will be accepted from Dec. 11 to Jan. 7.** Daniel T. Whitehead, an environmental analyst for the DEC, lists water quality, aesthetics, water supply, noise, transportation, and community character as the areas of "potential significant adverse impacts." Please contact Conservation Chair **Carol White** for further information, ccswhite@juno.com.

Catskill Watershed Access - The DEC has announced that 11,000 acres of New York City-owned land adjacent to the State Forest Preserve land in the Catskills will be open to hiking, hunting, fishing and trapping without the need for a city-issued permit. Accessing these watershed lands had previously required getting an easily obtainable permit from NYC, but now there is no longer the need to obtain this permit: the applicable DEC hunting, fishing and trapping licenses will be the only permits needed on these city lands. **No permit will be necessary for hiking.**

Ulster County Issues Open Space Plan - The plan, which will be instrumental in defining the tradeoffs between maintaining open space and permitting development in the county, can be viewed at www.co.ulster.ny.us/planning/ospace.shtml. Some think it is unfortunate that the plan does not discuss funding which, of course, is an essential requirement in order to actually implement the plan.

Dave Does Dues - Membership Chair, **Dave White**, will shortly be sending out yearly dues notices (\$10 cheap). **Please remit promptly** so that he doesn't have to go to the considerable bother and expense of a second mailing. Also Dave announces that he will be offering **winter decals** at \$1.50 each.

Our New Members

1712	Robert Massey	09/17/2007
1713	Charles Dempsey	09/29/2007
1714	Philip LoCicero	10/06/2007
1715	Mellonie Sanborn	10/21/2007
1716	Walter Brett	11/03/2007
1717	Liz Faulkner	11/03/2007
1718	George Senft	11/11/2007

New Service Awards - Save space on your pack for a new patch to be given to those who give significantly of themselves for the betterment of the Catskills and the Club. The Executive Board is recommending **adding the following to ARTICLE XIII-AWARDS of the by-laws:**

(D) A service award for members or aspirants who have earned seven points by participation in service activities to benefit the club and the Catskill Forest Preserve. The categories of service and assigned points shall be established by the Executive Committee and published in **The Canister** once a year.

(The three other current awards are: (1) for completing the peaks, (2) for completing the peaks in winter, and (3) for leading club hikes and doing trail maintenance).

Dean Does 'em All -- **Dean MacGeorge**, #1174, completed the Northeast 67 & 111 (4,000-footers) on Sep. 8, 2007. He says his next athletic quest will be reading all of Carol and Dave's books.



Some Etymology

Onteora: "A Land in the Sky" is from the native Americans.

Catskills: "Wildcat Creek" is from the Dutch [others opine "lacrosse", "fortifications", and more -ed.]



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

Wissler Whistles Through Dacks -- Catskill leader, Peggy Wissler, in a fall frenzy of peak bagging, finished the 46 Adirondack 4,000-footers on Oct 6, 2007.



Hiking the Appalachian Trail and The Inner Self – a personal reflection on the psychological impact of spending six months backpacking.

I had thought about doing the Appalachian Trail for many years, a thought which gradually intensified. I didn't verbalize it to other people at first, as I was still working through the idea. The more I hiked locally and the more I learned about the AT, the more it became a part of me. By 2000, I selected 2007, the year of my 50th birthday, for that non-trivial backpack. From then on the obsession grew. By 2006, people were really sick of hearing about it!

I started March 17, 2007 and finished six months later. When something is a part of you for so long, it is very difficult to let it go once it is over. There is no more planning, anticipating, waiting, wondering, hoping. There is no more first day, first tent site, first shelter, first hostel, first state, first trail magic, first wildlife sighting, first rainy day, first tough day, first snow fall. Even if you decide to do it again, it could never be the same. People told me finishing would be hard. That is an understatement. I thought I was too upbeat to be so down. You miss the trail and the people more than anyone could realize without they, themselves, having gone through a similar experience.

Before I went on the trail I had decided I would take up the saxophone when I got done. I have now had three lessons, and it is really helping me to focus on a new goal - although, I must admit I have been thinking quite a bit about hiking the Pacific Crest Trail.

I also didn't think spending six months on the AT would really change me. It did. The changes are subtle and may not be noticeable to many. It's mostly about "don't sweat the small stuff". I feel like little things don't bother me as much. I try to enjoy the small moments more. I feel calmer and more at ease. I have nothing to prove, only to be happy.

I was given a renewed faith in humanity from all of the wonderful people I met who were connected to the trail. It truly is the journey and not the destination. If you want it, make it a priority; it is worth every moment.

Submitted by M&M (aka Dawn Hamilton, #1359) and edited by the Canister.

Winter Weekend

The club's annual winter weekend is scheduled for **Jan 25-27, 2008**, once again at the Hilltop Acres Inn, Rice St., Jewett, NY 12444. Total cost of \$170 per person includes: 2 nights (Fri and Sat), 2 breakfasts (Sat and Sun), 2 bag lunches (Sat and Sun), 1 dinner (Sat). Optional Fri dinner \$15 + tip. Please send your \$60 deposit and/or inquiries to **Art Zimmerman**, 516-432-1205, artzim1@msn.com, 766 Neptune Blvd, Long Beach NY 11561. This is a great opportunity to bag a couple of winter peaks and socialize with fellow club members. After a day of winter hiking, there is nothing like being toasty warm in a winter retreat, away from the tribulations of one's everyday life.

"I like trees because they seem more resigned to the way they have to live than other things do." -- Willa Cather



the catskill canister

April - June 2008

Volume 41, Number 2

A Circumnavigation of Slide Mountain *- something to do on a lazy Sunday afternoon.*

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..... • SAVE THE DATE

- ⇒ *Annual Dinner Sat, Apr 12 (p. 8)*
- ⇒ *Trail Maintenance Sun, May 4 (p. 5)*
- ⇒ *Litter Pickup Sat, Apr 12 (p. 4)*

Dues and Renewals - Judy and Dave are grateful for the prompt response to their renewal letters and the generous contributions already received. If you have not yet renewed, doing so now will prevent a lot of expensive and time consuming follow-up. If you no longer wish to receive the *Canister*, please tell us and save the club the expense of extra mailings.

The great question comes after finishing the Catskill 3500 peaks, then again in winter: what next? My girlfriend had suggested having sex on each summit, but we broke up before getting started on that quest. My older hiking buddy, Paul Levine, scaled down to 3400-foot peaks, then 3300-foot peaks. Now he's ambling towards the Catskills 100. Another friend, Roger Wall, went south to take up rock climbing in the Shawangunks, a sport I tried twice before accepting that I was about as agile on rock as lichen.

"Across the valley stood Slide's northern spur, a ridgeline more than a mile long rising to 3,640 feet."

Then Roger came back with an idea: "Let's circumnavigate Slide Mountain". Rather than conquering Slide by marching to the top, we'd embrace its wildness by bushwhacking its girth. As Roger later wrote about our trip: "I like to think that when Magellan, the most famous circumnavigator, sailed around the world, he proved more than the earth wasn't flat. Perhaps he gave us another way, more intimate and indirect, of experiencing landscape". I was intrigued. Besides, people have had crazier ideas - like hiking the peaks in their bare feet.

We proceeded up the jeep trail to a reasonable elevation, at which point Roger set his altimeter. Climbing Slide by this jeep trail is one of the high peak's easiest climbs, however along the contour line we chose, Slide looked a lot bigger. Measured by

string, the contour line was eight miles long. It made a disfigured starfish shape with short and long spur legs bending westwards plus the fat saddle east to Cornell. What worried us was the northeastern bowl where contour lines nearly merged into solid brown steepness. The trail up from the Cornell saddle had a log ladder in one spot where rock slabs became small cliffs. To get caught bushwhacking on a slope like that would be a nightmare.

The jeep trail gave us a gentle start on the western flank of the mountain. Turning left into the beech forest, we soon passed an old fire ring, evidence people had heeded the warning sign not to camp above 3500 feet between March 21 and December 21. Beyond that lay open woods without paths. We'd chosen a sunny day in mid-April before the trees unfurled their green curtains and hid the views. Waxy green trout lily leaf blades stood sprouted through the brown leaf mat, but not yet their yellow flowers. By staying at our chosen elevation we skirted below the summit spruce fir forest where bushwhacking would be fierce. Still, we had to wrestle with hobblebushes where we couldn't find animal paths. Across the valley stood Slide's northern spur, a ridgeline more than a mile long rising to 3,640 feet. At first Roger mistook its point

(Continued on page 3)

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Nominal dates for receiving the Canister are:
Feb 15, Jun 15, Sep 15 and Dec 15.

The President's Column

Wilderness First Aid training—who needs it ?

WE ALL DO. In the previous President's Column, I mentioned that the Club Executive Committee had recently established a leadership scholarship program to encourage outdoor skills training for members who are hike leaders, or who wish to become hike leaders. Of particular interest to the EC was training in Wilderness First Aid (WFA). Most of you have taken first aid training sometime in your life from the American Red Cross, Scouting, or other organizations. A few years ago the Club offered WFA courses in the Catskills. So if you have had some basic first aid training and always carry a first aid kit in your pack, why should you consider WFA ? The answer is: **it's a lot different !**

Here is a description of how to deal with medical emergencies when miles from help and dialing 911 is not an option." "how to deal with medical emergencies when miles from help and dialing 911 is not an option." WFA from the Adirondack Mountain intense two-day workdents how to deal with when they are miles intense 911 is not an op-

tion. Through hands-

on scenarios and lectures, students will learn to assess patients, become certified in wilderness first aid, adult CPR, and anaphylaxis training. Class time will be spent both inside and out, rain, shine, or snow, (*just like in real life!*), so please be prepared for unpredictable Adirondack [Catskill] weather."

For more information on what WFA is all about, please go to www.wildmed.com (Wilderness Medical Associates, Inc., who conduct courses for the ADK) or do your own web search. Here are some 2008 dates and locations for 2-day WFA training in the NY/NJ area:

March 14-16, AMC Mohican Outdoor Center, NJ

March 29-30, ADK Adirondack Loj, Lake Placid, NY

April 19-20, Cornell Outdoor Education Center, Ithaca, NY

November 15-16, ADK Adirondack Loj, Lake Placid, NY

Remember that the Club's funding for this program is limited, so if you are interested in taking advantage of the Club's tuition reimbursement offer, please contact Manuel Peraza, Outings Chair, at mapcolus1@att.net or 718-698-4422.

Joe Bogardus



Observations

*There in the green
shines what?*

a cellophane?

a reflector light?

a silver coin?

Oh, my love, we would share, if you return.

by Paul Levine

(Continued from page 1)

for a separate mountain until we saw the land bridge to Slide. I, myself, was amazed to discover such a high peak I hadn't known about until now. On the map it didn't even have a name. Without Slide stealing all the glory, it would have been the Catskill's 24th tallest summit.

Had we been purists, Roger and I would have followed our contour around this spur rather than shortcutting over the top, however our urge to bag this "point" overcame our purism. We hiked up through a meadow of brown ferns flattened by winter and entered among fir trees. The moment of truth approached: the drop-off into the Northeastern bowl. To our relief, we looked down into a forested hillside, steep but anchored with grand white birches. Were they old-growth trees? How many people had stood here before? We felt like explorers. Traversing slowly and safely, we crossed jumbled rocks. That so many were so loose surprised me. Thousands of years after the last ice age this slope still hadn't settled into place. Yet the stones that scraped and slid under my feet held delicate moss carpets with miniature fern leaves, pool table velvet, and pin cushions so soft I could sink my finger an inch. Roger had been right about circumnavigation. On an ordinary hike I never would have found myself playing with moss.

We came to three small brooks cascading down the mountainside, mossy green staircases with steps and pools on an otherwise brown slope. "Red-faced and sweating, I splashed water on my face and neck," Roger wrote. "Will filled his empty water bottle from the rushing water, then threw caution to the wind and drank the unfiltered water from the source. I felt like we were in an emerald paradise".

By lunchtime, we had reached the Cornell saddle. The trail looked like a superhighway after our steep crossing. But we avoided the temptation to trail over the top. On the southeastern flank we entered a beech forest on an

easy slope, now facing into the sun for a long, hot Catskill afternoon. At last we made a hard right turn into the upper valley of Deer Shanty Brook. Before thinking better, we pushed into dense firs. Unlike spindly summit conifers under which you duck and bash your way through a thousand twiggy branches, these were large trees slapping us around with branch boughs. What had we done to deserve this? We bullied our way through to the brook and an open forest on the other side, which Roger celebrated by filling his hat with water and dousing his head. I filled my fourth canteenful for the day and decided this was one of the best Catskills hikes I'd ever taken.

The final traverse across a small valley back to the jeep trail looked close on the map, but took forever on foot. Roger's knees ached; I dragged. My blue shirt back, Roger said, had white clouds from sweat. At last we stepped across stones bordering the jeep trail onto well-worn ground right back, amazingly, to the starting point of our bushwhack.

At 5:30 we reached the parking lot, where we'd started at seven that morning. We soaked our feet in the cold stream and knew we'd done something special. Roger wrote, "Moving slowly around the mountain, pushing against fir boughs, touching rock, hearing the rush of brooks let us share the deep secrets of the landscape together". In the trail register I checked us out. Three others had signed in that day. But under destination only Roger had written "Circumnavigation". Who knew if anyone had done it before? Who knew if anyone would do it again?

Submitted by **Will Nixon #1070**, and edited by **the Canister**.

Conservation Activists Needed - The Executive Board was given an informative presentation on the history and status of the Belleayre project by **Tom Alworth** of the Catskill Center, **Neil Woodworth**, Executive Director of the ADK, and **Eric Goldstein**, legal counsel of the National Resources Defense Council. The Board's feeling seemed to be that while we were indeed grateful that the Eastern 1240 acres of the planned project had been preserved from development, there was considerable concern about the plans for the still too large development of the Western section, some of it at 3,000', and reached by steep

slopes and, even more ominously, the huge expansion planned for the Belleayre Ski facility. The club's Conservation Chair, **Carol White**, will be tracking the permit process as it unfolds, but it is clear there will be a great need for conservation volunteers to write letters to officials and attend hearings on this project which threatens to dramatically change the face of a pristine area of the Catskills. If you would like to join the 3500 club's **Persistent Porcupines**, to be notified when such action is needed please send Carol an email at ccswhite@juno.com.

Hike Schedule April - June, 2008

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.** 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.**

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

Cancellations: Please be aware that, in the case of bad weather or bad driving conditions, some hikes may 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. Apr. 5 – SW HUNTER

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elev. 3740'.

Moderately paced trail and bushwhack. Behaved dogs welcome. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader.

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; Adirondacks@verizon.net (preferred); 518-523-6434 (to 9pm, Fri 6pm).

Sun. Apr. 6 – TABLE & PEEKAMOOSSE

Distance: 10mi. Ascent: 3000', Elev. 3843', 3847'.

An easy to moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register from Mar 31-Apr 4.

Leader: Michael "Mick" Dunn #1272; mdunn@wyeth.com; 978-247-1939 (10am-8pm).

Sat. Apr. 12 – CATSKILL 3500 CLUB LITTER PICK-UP

This is a chance to do something in return for your Club.

Meeting Place/Time: Notch Lake parking area on Route 214 (2 miles South from Route 23A) at 10am.

Please bring work gloves. Plastic trash bags and safety gear will be provided. Rain date, Sat. April 19.

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; Adirondacks@verizon.net (preferred); 518-523-6434 (to 9pm, Fri 6pm).

Sun. Apr. 13 – LONE & ROCKY

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

A steady moderately paced bushwhack. Dogs welcome. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader prior to hike day.

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

Sat. Apr. 19 – INDIAN HEAD

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 1573', Elev. 3735'.

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between April 14-18.

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

Sun. Apr. 20 – EAGLE, HAYNES & BALSAM

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600', Elev. 3600', 3420', 3600'.

A moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register from April 25-30.

Leader: Matt Corsaro #1571; mattcorsaro@yahoo.com; 845-256-9839 after 7pm on weeknights or anytime on weekends.

(Continued on page 5)

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

(Continued from page 4)

Sat. Apr. 26 – HUNTER

Distance: 5mi. Ascent: 2200', Elev. 4040'

A moderately paced trail hike. This will be a fairly easy hike going up the Becker Hollow Trail. Heavy precipitation cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by Apr 25.

Leader: Dawn Hamilton #1359,

DawnLH333@yahoo.com; 845-926-6208.

Sun. Apr. 27 – NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

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

A moderately paced bushwhack from the Sherrill side; car shuttle necessary. Behaved dogs welcome. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register.

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; Adirondacks@verizon.net (preferred); 518-523-6434 (to 9pm, Fri 6pm).

Sat. May 3 – NORTH LAKE CIRCULAR

Distance: 9 mi.

No peaks to bag, but many beautiful views. A moderately paced trail hike with stops for viewing wildflowers.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by May 1.

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

Sun. May 4 – PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Meet members of your board and talk to 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 8:45am.

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; Adirondacks@verizon.net (preferred); 518-523-6434 (to 9pm, Fri 6pm).

Sat. May 10 – KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

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

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between May 2-9.

Leader: Jim Malumphy #890, lump63@hotmail.com; 203-206-0586; NCA 8pm.

Sun. May 11 – FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2700', Elev. 3694', 3623'

A moderately paced bushwhack.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register

Leader: Joe Bogardus #1299; joe.adks@gmail.com; 518-576-9739.

Sat. May. 17 – TWIN & SUGARLOAF

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2600', Elev. 3640', 3800'

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between May 12-16.

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

Sun. May. 18 – HALCOTT

Distance: 3mi. Ascent: 1200', Elev. 3520'

An easy paced bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register from May 12-16.

Leader: Michael "Mick" Dunn #1272; mdunn@wyeth.com; 978-247-1939 (10am-8pm).

Sat. May 24 – DOUBLETOP

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

A steady moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Dogs welcome. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader prior to hike day.

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

Sun. May 25 – WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

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

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

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. May 31 – BEARPEN & VLY

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

Relaxed to moderately paced bushwhacks. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leaders to register (email preferred).

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

Sat. May 31 – EAST GRAY & NARROW NOTCH

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elev. 2980', 3220'

Moderately paced bushwhacks to 2 Catskill100 peaks. Some woods road travel but expect some prickier bushes.

Rain cancels.

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

Leader: Alan Via #429; be46@nycap.rr.com; 518-475-9692.

(Continued on page 6)

In case of bad weather or bad driving conditions, hikes may be canceled; if in doubt contact leader.

*(Continued from page 5)***Sun. June 1 - PANTHER and GIANT LEDGE Traverse**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2800', Elev. 3720

A one-way moderately paced but strenuous trail hike (provided a shuttle can be arranged). Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by May 30 (email preferred).Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; gvp@ms.com; 201-694-8344.**Sat. June 7 - SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG Traverse**Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2230', Elev. 4180', 3860', 3780'.

A moderately paced trail hike with great views.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by June 5.Leader: Carol Nestor #1325; 914-683-3858. NCA 9 pm.**Sun. June 8 - WESTKILL & WEST WESTKILL (St. Anne's Peak).**Distance: 8mi. Ascent: 2400', Elev. 3880'.

A moderately paced trail hike. Car shuttle required.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leaders to register.Leaders: Tom and Laurie Rankin #'s 1503, 1337; trankin@hvc.rr.com; 845-926-6209.**Sat. June 14 - MILL BROOK RIDGE & WOODPECKER RIDGE**Distance: 7mi. Ascent: 2000', Elev. 3480', 3460'.

A moderately paced bushwhack to two of the higher Catskill 100 peaks. Maybe an entire bushwhack or climb via Balsam Lake summit. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader by June 10. (email preferred).Leader: Alan Via #429; be46@nycap.rr.com; 518-475-9692.**Sun. June 15 - THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME & BLACKHEAD**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2750', Elev. 3940', 3980', 3940'.

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

Meeting Place /Time: Please contact leader to register between Mon. June 9 and Fri. June 13. (email preferred).Leader: Wanda Davenport #523;wandatrails@verizon.net; 201-670-8383 NCA 9 PM.**Sat. June 21 - BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2040', Elev. 3723', 3868'.

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between June 16 - 20.Leader: Suzanne Knabe #326; suzkna@msn.com; 718-435-4943 after 7pm.**Sun. June 22 - RUSK**Distance: 3 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev. 3680'

An easy paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register from June 16-20.Leader: Michael "Mick" Dunn #1272; mdunn@wyeth.com; 978-247-1939 (10am-8pm).**Sat. June 28 - FIR & BIG INDIAN**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2400', Elev. 3620', 3700'.

A moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader by June 26Leader: Ed Gilroy #1305, egilroy@comcast.net.**Sun. June 29 - PLATEAU**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2200'. Elev. 3840'.

An easy paced trail hike that can be done as an out-and-back or a traverse depending upon the consensus of the group. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register from June 23-27.Leader: Michael "Mick" Dunn #1272; mdunn@wyeth.com; 978-247-1939 (10am-8pm).

Keeping Us Posted – Jonathan Clement (#68, #17w) and his wife **Barbara Hawn** are both retired from their former careers but keep busy during much of the year with their market garden business, Cirrus Gardens. They sell most of their naturally grown vegetables, berries and cut flowers at the Troy Waterfront Farmers' Market that they helped organize. Jonathan works part time during the winter for a local renewable energy company that installed a 5.28 kWh solar PV system for them this past summer. Heather is in her sixth year teaching second grade at her elementary school alma mater. Colin, who came as an infant to at least one winter weekend in the early '90s, is a high school junior.

Belleayre In The News - The New York Times reported that more than 250 people slogged through a freezing downpour on a mid-December night to comment on the latest proposal to build a luxury resort and spa around the state-owned Belleayre Mountain Ski Center in Ulster County, where the meeting was held.

Although the deal announced in September was hailed as a blueprint for the kind of environmentally sensitive development that Mr. Spitzer promised to bring to New York, most of the people in the crowd - joined by the Sierra Club and local environmental groups - staunchly oppose the resort, saying it still is far too big.

Scree

Club Founders Honored. The Executive Board has voted to name our new Service Award, announced last issue, in honor of the Club's founders: Gunter Hauptman, Nancy Locke, Dan Smiley, Bill Spangenberg, and Brad Whiting.

Land Acquired for Protection. The Nature Conservancy has announced its acquisition of 590 acres in the hamlets of Lost Clove Valley and Balsam Mountain.

Trail Maintenance. Chair, **Elie Bijou**, reports that there were two trail maintenance trips, which resulted in the clearing of the Peekamoose-Table Trail from end-to-end and maintenance of the Bouton shelter on Table Mountain. However, attendance has waned a bit – **let's all pitch in!**

Casinos Quashed in Sullivan County. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne denied permission to 11 Indian tribes around the country to acquire more land in order to build casinos, since the casinos would be hundreds (and in two cases more than a thousand) miles from tribal reservations and thus of little benefit to tribal residents.

Collector's Item Offered at the Dinner. Autographed copies of *Catskill Peak Experiences: Tales of Endurance, Survival, Exploration and Adventure from the Catskill 3500 Club* will be available at our annual dinner at a discount. An anthology of hiking stories by members of the Catskill 3500 Club, published by Black Dome Press and edited by **Carol White**, the book includes a chapter on the club's early history. Proceeds will be donated to the Club.

Errata. The wording of the proposed bylaw change for the Founders Service Award should have read in part "and published in the Canister periodically" instead of "and published in the Canister once a year."

Our New Members

1719	James R. Dean	12/01/07
1720	John Hartford	01/13/08
1721	Marcia Larsen	01/13/08
1722	Robert Gregory	01/03/08
1723	James M. Kerlin	11/26/06
1724	Chris O'Bara	01/28/07
1725	James Reggio	01/12/08

New Winter Members

669w	John Susko	1241r	12/22/07
670w	Dean Mojon	1697r	01/05/08
671w	Donald Satterly	1614r	03/18/07
672w	Mark Epstein	1569r	01/22/08
673w	Jeff Stephens	1522r	01/26/08

New Life Members

0306	Hugh Neil Zimmerman
1364	Maria Daisy Vargas
1373	Manuel Peraza
1498	Richard Andreassen
Aspirant	Ray Lin
Aspirant	Jacob Billig

Founders Service Award Point System

(Seven points are needed to receive the award.)

One-point Events

- 3500 Club Trail Maintenance Event participation.
- 3500 Club Litter Pickup Event participation.
- Catskill Trail Crew participation via established club relationship.
- Maintaining a Catskill Leanto via established club relationship
- Maintaining a trail section via established club relationship.
- Completion of a Wilderness First Aid Course.

Half-point Events

- Staffing a Catskill Fire Tower for 2 days via established club relationship.
- Participating on the 3500 Club Board or on a club Committee.
- Staffing a booth or participating in a Club special event.

Doesn't Know When to Quit – Wilma Cipolla, #1555, completed

the Northeast 111 (4000-footers) on Aug. 25, 2007 at the age of 76. A few days previously she had finished the New England 4000-footers. She began her quest in 1970 & became an Adirondack 46er in 1995



Catskill Wild Forests:

Cherry Ridge; Willowemoc; Dry Brook Ridge; Big Indian; Slide Mountain; Balsam Lake Mountain; Sundown; Shandaken; West Kill Mountain; Halcott Mountain; Hunter Mountain; Phoenicia; Colgate Lake; Blue Stone; Overlook Mountain; Indian Head; Blackhead Range; Windham High Peak; Kaaterskill.



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

Members and aspirants are cordially invited to attend the
FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
Saturday, April 12, 2008

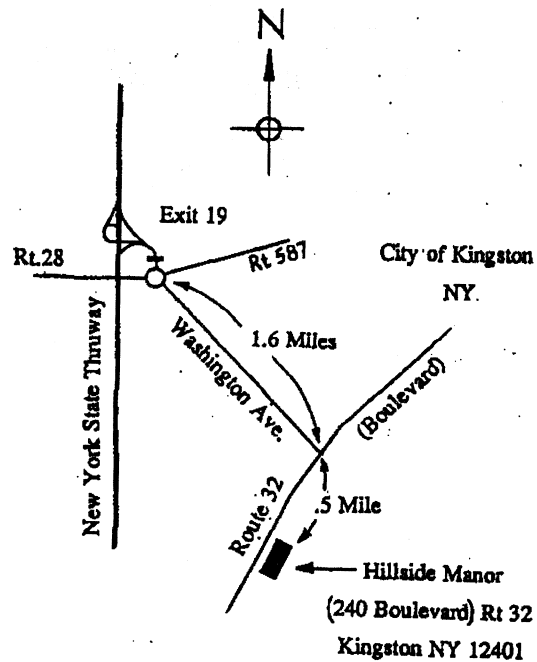
Location: Hillside Manor
 Route 32 (240 Boulevard)
 Kingston, New York 12401
 (845) 331-4386

Social Hour: 4:00 P.M. — 5:30 P.M.
 Cash bar, hors d'oeuvres served

Dinner: 5:45 p.m.

Program: "Catskill Forests and Climate Change"
 presented by Dr. William Schuster,
 Executive Director of Black Rock Forest.

Tariff: \$32.00 per person.
 Name-card reserved seating for everyone.
 Round tables seat 10.



Reservations must be received by March 31, 2008

Please detach and mail to:

Michael Doehring
 7 Cloverdale Avenue
 White Plains, NY 10603

Reservations \$32.00 per person.
 Amount of Check: \$ _____
 Check payable to "Catskill 3500 Club, Inc."

Questions: Clover7med@aol.com (preferred)
 or (914) 761-7225

Please Circle Choice of Entrée

Name: _____ Prime Ribs Chicken Française Mixed Veg. Lasagna

Name: _____ Prime Ribs Chicken Française Mixed Veg. Lasagna

If you intend to sit with a large group, print the names of the people you would like seated at your table, and please verify that the people listed will actually attend and wish to sit with you

Reservations must be received by March 31, 2008



the catskill canister

July - September 2008

Volume 41, Number 3

A Way to Start the Day
- the Neversink Reservoir as a personal gym

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SAVE THE DATE

⇒ **Trail Maintenance Sun., Sep. 28,**
see the Hike Schedule for details -
and come on out!

Last year the Club contributed \$3500 (a significant amount for us) to fund trail maintenance and other efforts by the ADK to protect our interests - which reminds us that dues were due by the annual dinner. Have you sent in yours ?

Having read many Catskill Canisters over the years, I have enjoyed articles about places I have been and sights that I have seen, through the eyes of someone else. I thought I would write about a hike that is five minutes from my house in Neversink, that takes two hours and ten minutes give or take, depending on the route you do, that stimulates the senses, provides an awesome workout every day, and allows hiking to be a daily part of my life (except when it rains, our excuse for a rest day). This hike starts at the end of Shields Road off Route 55, which runs right through Neversink. My hiking buddy Harold Weisberg #754 and I have been doing this hike pretty much every day for the last twenty years. It offers us a different adventure every time we do it and it allows us to hike with our dogs and give them a great workout.

"We take a few minutes to let ourselves take in this view that never gets tiresome"

other if we can't make it, but this rarely happens. Initially the trail is very wide because it used to be a road that went directly to the surrounding farms, until this area was flooded in order to create the reservoir. We walk at a brisk pace to get out heart rates up, enjoying the most magnificent scenery as we hike past beaver dams, stands of scotch pines, and experience wildlife in the flesh. We have encountered many black bears with their cubs. These encounters always are quite thrilling and a bit nerve racking but the dogs have learned to stay quiet and not, I repeat not, give chase. Coyotes are another critter that are abundant in the area. Many the early morning we have been tracked by a pack, always keeping their distance, but making a terrible annoying racket. They are very territorial and truly believe that they are the only ones who should be hiking in this area. We see eagles all the time, and as we get down to the water's edge, beavers, ducks, fish, deer, and many birds local to the area. It is truly Disney on Parade. We take a few minutes to let ourselves take in this view that never gets tiresome; it changes every day with the rising and falling of the water. If the res-

(Continued on page 3)

Let me give you a verbal tour of our Neversink Reservoir workout. As we meet every day at 6:30 am, earlier in the summer months, many mornings it is dark when we start, making getting out of bed a challenge. After driving to the reservoir, we jump out of our cars and walk to the end of the road to get to the trail. Harold and I always call each

The Catskill Canister

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The Catskill Canister is published four times yearly by the Catskill 3500 Club, Inc. for \$10.00 a year. Articles of less than 1100 words on hiking, essays, or poetry should be sent to wm169@verizon.net.

All material contained herein is copyrighted by the authors or by the Catskill Canister.

Nominal dates for receiving the Canister are:
Feb 15, Jun 15, Sep 15 and Dec 15.

The President's Column

The higher terrain in the Catskills made it through Winter 2007-08 without a lot of snowfall or trail damage, in contrast to last year when the surprise mid-April storm destroyed and damaged many trees. This doesn't mean there isn't trail work to do, so please volunteer for a club trail work hike listed in the current Outings Schedule. We should also thank the Adirondack Mountain Club for sponsoring, and recognizing our members who participated in, National Trails Day on June 7 with trail projects in seven Catskill areas.

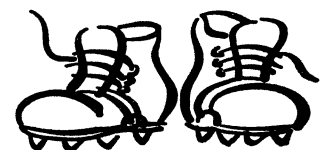
On the environmental front, the NYSDEC issued the long-awaited revised draft of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan in April. The Conservation Committee, led by chair Carol White, prepared a formal comment letter to the DEC. Some highlights:

- We praised the formation of the Windham Blackhead Range Wilderness Area, comprising thirteen mountains over 3000 feet in elevation and the headwaters of the Batavia Kill and East Kill.
- We accepted plans for "primitive bicycle corridors" but strongly supported the prohibition of bicycles in Wilderness Areas.
- We expressed concern regarding conflicts of both hiking and biking use of certain heavily-used foot trails and new bicycle corridors.

We advised the DEC to educate the general public about what "Wilderness" and "Wild Forest" designations mean and where these are located, perhaps through information boards and signs against biking in Wilderness areas, as well as positive signage in Wild Forest areas.

Overall, the Club felt that with a properly managed program and guidelines, the recreational pursuits of both hikers and bikers can coexist in the Catskill Forest Preserve, but strongly emphasized that Wilderness Areas must be fully preserved and protected. Members wanting a copy of the letter can write to me by email at the address shown in the box to the left.

Joe Bogardus



(Continued from page 1)

ervoir is full, then the traverse along the edge to the beginning of our bushwhack can be very difficult, as the banks are very steep and slippery. If the water is low, then beautiful rock formations are visible, but it makes the traverse a nail-biter. I admit to slipping and falling into the water once. Harold thought I had been attacked by a bear when he heard a huge splash. Reacting quickly, I had the presence of mind to protect my face from the rocks, with my hands - as we all know, there are inherent risks involved in the sport we love.

Then, up we go to start our thirty-minute bushwhack to meet the trail. This bushwhack was created by Harold and no one else except he and I have appeared to use it (although, possibly hunters have discovered our path since it is now a worn trail after all these years). The hike up is relentlessly steep, and serves as our aerobics for the day. I am a runner, but I know of nothing better than hiking up a steep hill to get you in shape. On the way up, we cross a gorgeous creek that empties into the reservoir and allows the dogs to drink, get wet, and splash about. Then up again for the second hill, and then a third. The power lines that run through the watershed area are just about at the end

Spangenberg Now Has to Lug Book up Mountains. The recent annual dinner saw the launch of "Catskill Peak Experiences", which contains a chapter entitled "Birth of a Hiking Club" that notes our founding members, four of whom attended the dinner. Not attending was C.W. "Bill" Spangenberg #3. However, he was the recipient of the first copy delivered by the book's editor, Carol White. Bill is now 102 and still gets out for a walk. He informed us that his wife Kay #4 passed away last August at the age of 101. Thank you, Bill, for your part in founding the club.

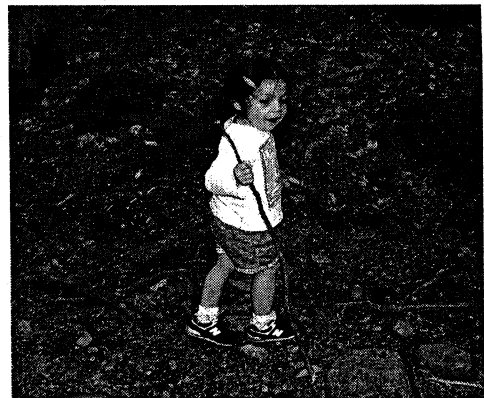
Book sales netted the club \$250. The club will have no difficulty finding a good way to use it for the benefit of the hiking community.

of the ascent and offer a magnificent view of the surrounding area. We walk through an arboreal boulevard - a beautiful sanctuary that is created by trees and blueberry bushes on either side. Once back on the trail, we walk quickly, deciding the route we'll use to return to our cars. We have discovered many different ways of doing this, so we have lots of options. We are generally back at the car by 8:35am unless something has happened, like one of the dogs being quilled by a porcupine. Out of four dogs, there is only one who refuses to get the point that quills are not meant for noshing.

We jump back into our cars, go home, take showers, and then are ready for the day. I wouldn't know what to do without this hike. It has become the thing I do to wake up, get my head straight, and commune with nature. I hope you all have something as wonderful to do to start the day. (Oh yes, we do this in the winter with snowshoes and crampons but not on a daily basis).

Submitted by Stephanie Paradise #753, and edited by the Canister.

Hikers Hardier. Membership Chair, Dave White, reports that this year the number of new winter members (23) was more than half the number of new regular members (44), a record percentage. Is this a result of global warming?



Definition: Flashlight - a tubular metal container kept in a pack to store dead batteries

Hike Schedule July - September, 2008

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.

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

Cancellations: Please be aware that, in the case of bad weather or bad driving conditions, some hikes may 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., July 5 – NO HIKE SCHEDULED.

Sun., July 6 – RUSK

Distance: 3 mi. Ascent: 1600'; Elev. 3680'.

Easy paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader before July 3 to register.

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

Sat., July 12 – NO HIKE SCHEDULED

Sun., July 13 – FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP

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

Moderately paced, but strenuous bushwhack to two of the more difficult peaks. Please bring extra water and food; the ridge is dry. Thunderstorms cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register.

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; Adirondacks@verizon.net (preferred); 518-523-6434.

Sat., July 19 – SHERRILL & NORTH DOME

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

Moderately paced bushwhack starting from Rt. 42; through hike. Car shuttle required.. All weather hike (except lightning).

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register before July 18.

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

Sun., July 20 – TWIN & INDIAN HEAD

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2500'; Elev. 3640', 3573'.

Moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between July 14-18.

Leader: Matt Corsaro #1571; mattcorsaro@yahoo.com; 845-256-9839 after 7 pm.

Sat., July 26 – CORNELL via SLIDE

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2900'; Elev. 3860', 4180'.

Moderately paced but strenuous trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between July 21-25. (email preferred).

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

Sun., July 27 – BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM

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

Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register between July 21-25th.

Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; suzkna@msn.com; 917-679-5547 after 7pm.

Sat., Aug. 2 – SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 3100'; Elev. 3808', 3840'.

Moderately paced but strenuous trail hike on steep trails. Car shuttle required.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leaders to register by Aug 1. (email preferred).

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

(Continued on page 5)

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

(Continued from page 4)

Sun., Aug. 3 – KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

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

Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register from July 28 - Aug. 1..

Leader: Joseph Polcha; ipolcha@aol.com; 914-245-4717.

Sat., Aug. 9 – BREAKNECK RIDGE (and possibly Sugarloaf Mt.).

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2200'

Moderately paced trail hike and rock scrambling. Very exposed sections. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register from Aug. 4 - 8.

Leader: Manuel A Peraza #1373; mapcolus1@att.net; 718-698-4422.

Sun., Aug. 10 – NO HIKE SCHEDULED.

Sat., Aug. 16 – HALCOTT

Distance: 3 mi. Ascent: 1200'; Elev. 3520'.

Easy bushwhack.. Compass usage training offered. Dogs welcome. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register.

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

Sun., Aug. 17 – PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE

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

Moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register, between Aug.11-15th.

Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; suzkna@msn.com; 917-679-5547 after 7pm.

Sat., Aug. 23 – HUNTER Loop from Spruceton

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2000'; Elev. 4040'.

Moderately paced but strenuous trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by Aug. 22. (email preferred).

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

Sun., Aug. 24 – WESTKILL

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

Moderately paced trail hike. Car shuttle required or bring your own bicycle (BYOB) for bike shuttle.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leaders to register during the week prior to the hike.

Leaders: Walter Brett & Liz Faulkner #'s 1716, 1717; lawzil@mhccable.com; 845-373-7164.

**Sat., Aug. 30 – BLACKHEAD RANGE TRAVERSE
Thomas Cole, Black Dome, and Blackhead.**

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

Strenuous trail hike at a relaxed to moderate pace. Car shuttle required.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leaders no later than Thurs., Aug. 7th.

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

Sun., Aug. 31 – BEARPEN & VLY

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2035'; Elev. 3600', 3529'.

Moderately paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register for time and meeting place.

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

Sat. Sep. 6 – BALSAM, EAGLE, BIG INDIAN & FIR

Distance: 15 mi. Ascent: 3820'

A long trail and bushwhack hike to 4 peaks at a moderate pace will necessitate an early start (8:30 am). Bring plenty of water. Car shuttle required..

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register via email during the week prior to the hike.

Leader: Ed Gilroy #1305; egilroy@gmail.com .

**Sun., Sep. 7 – ROCKY, LONE & PEEKAMOOSE
(possibly Balsam Cap or Table)**

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 3500'; Elev. 3508', 3721', 3843'.

Approach will be from the Kanape Brook/Breath Hill area, with a long ridgeline ascent and some intense bushwhacking; descent will be on trail. This is a lengthy, arduous hike best done in fair weather. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please email leader to register (preferred), or call.

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

Sat., Sep. 13 – PANTHER TRAVERSE

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2800'; Elev. 3720'.

Moderately paced trail hike. Car shuttle required. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by Sep.11.

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

Sun., Sep. 14 – DOUBLETOP

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1860'; Elev. 3862'.

Steady moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register from Sep. 8 – 12.

Leader: Manuel A Peraza #1373; mapcolus1@att.net; 718-698-4422.

(Continued on page 6)

In case of bad weather or bad driving conditions, hikes may be canceled; if in doubt contact leader.

*(Continued from page 5)***Sat., Sep. 20 – SOUTHWEST HUNTER (possibly Hunter)**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'; Elev. 3740'.

Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place / Time: Please contact leader to register by Sep. 18.Leader: Carol Nestor #1325; 914-683-3858; NCA 9 pm.**Sun., Sep. 21 – WITTENBERG**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2400'; Elev. 3780'.

Moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels. Small parking fee.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by Sep. 19.Leader: Wanda Davenport #523;wandatrails@verizon.net; 201-670-8383; NCA 9 pm.**Sat., Sep. 27 – WINDHAM HIGH PEAK & Burnt Knob.**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1700'; Elev. 3524'.

A one-way, moderately paced but strenuous trail hike (provided a shuttle could be arranged). Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by Sep. 26. (email preferred).Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; gvp@ms.com; 201-694-8344.**Sun., Sep. 28 – PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE Trail Maintenance.**

Trail and Lean-to maintenance on Table Mtn. Novice thru experienced maintainers welcome. Join members of your board and speak your mind about club issues. 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: Denning trailhead at 8:45am.Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; Adirondacks@verizon.net (preferred); 518-523-6434.**Everything Happens in Threes
... or ... Beware of Halcott**

On a Friday night in early October I drove up to the Catskills anticipating a Saturday solo bushwhack climb of Halcott Mountain. After grabbing some supper at a Kingston Mall restaurant, I decided to take in a movie before heading out to camp near the Route 42 parking area favored by Halcott bushwhackers. Inside the theater I found a wallet on the floor, so after the movie was over I tried to locate the owner, alas in vain. I then turned in the wallet to the manager who informed me that the person who had lost the wallet had called to inquire about it, and that the management would return it to him. Feeling good about being of service, I headed out to my camp.

Saturday, I got an early start up Halcott Mountain from the Route 42 parking area, but after a half hour I noticed that I had lost my green fanny pack with my compass and car keys inside. I envisioned spending the day scouring the woods for my fanny pack. First, I backtracked to the car to make sure I didn't drop it in the parking area, but it didn't turn up there, nor along the way. Although it seemed a futile exercise, I then backtracked up the mountain, trying to remember some landmarks I had possibly seen earlier. Being my weekend for finding things: amazingly, there it was! – reposing on the ground next to a tree.

Overjoyed at my good fortune, I continued up the mountain, musing over the old saying "*Everything happens in threes*" and mentally starting formulating statistical theories. I posited that the "threes" would not necessarily always be from the same class of items. In other words,

since the two lost items were inanimate, the third lost item would then likely be something alive. (Other variations of this example: being that as one item was lost on Friday, two items would be lost on Saturday; or two items were lost by men, so the next item would be lost by a woman; or one item was lost inside a building, so two items would be lost in the woods; etc.) Thus I predicted that I would probably find a lost dog or cat, or even a lost kid or hiker. [Searching the literature, I could find no trace of the statistical laws to which Al refers. – ed.]

On I climbed. Since this was the sixth time I had climbed this mountain I felt confident enough to find the summit without using my compass. After a while, the mountain started to level off and, noticing some herd paths, I knew I was near the top. When I spotted the red canister on the summit, I felt victorious. There was a cool breeze on top so I didn't want to stay long. After signing the register and taking some pictures, I headed down, supposedly heading the way I had come up. Again, I felt I didn't need to use my compass. Big mistake.

Keeping the sun over my right shoulder, I felt I was heading east down the mountain and also veering a little north. On I trudged, figuring I was getting close to Route 42. Soon I came to a jeep trail and figured that I was way south of the parking area, so all I had to do was follow this trail out to Route 42, then head up the road to my car. The jeep trail however terminated at a red barn belonging to a man named Adam. Adam was mowing his lawn as I walked up to him and asked him for directions to Route 42. This Staten Island native, out at his summer home, shocked me with his reply: Route 42 was on the

(Continued on page 8)

Scree

Catskill Unit Management Plan. Although, by the time you read this, the comment period may have passed, you may still want to view the UMP at: www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43013.html, and you will find ADK's detailed review of the UMP at: www.adk.org/issues/Catskill_Plan_Alert.htm

Alworth moving on. Tom Alworth has left the Catskill Center to become Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Catskill Interpretive Center funded. The Kingston Freeman reports that the state's new budget will include \$1 million for the Catskill Interpretive Center, a visitors' center that first was planned 20 years ago for a 62-acre site off state Route 28 in Mount Tremper.

Mercury Ruling A Major Victory for Adirondacks and Catskills. The ADK has announced that a federal appeals court struck down the Bush administration's plan to regulate power plant mercury emissions through a cap and trade system. This victory clears the way for enforcement of Clean Air Act provisions that will require utilities to install air pollution control devices to remove mercury from their power plant emissions, Neil Woodworth said. Those devices will also eliminate the pollutants that cause acid rain.

State Buys Land to Conserve. The state is adding 330 acres on Overlook Mountain in Woodstock to the land that is protected from development in the Catskill Forest Preserve.

Belleayre Doings

As part of our ongoing attempts to limit the size and impact of the proposed Belleayre resort on the natural areas of the Catskill Park, the Club has issued a letter to New York Governor Paterson expressing our concerns

The DEC has released an **environmental report** which outlines what needs to be included in the project's upcoming environmental impact statements; for the details on this and more see www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6061.html.

The DEC announced that it has **eliminated some of the newly proposed ski trails** planned for the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center.

Our New Members

1726	James Druiett	1/12/2008
1727	Patricia Stange	1/9/2008
1728	Michael Siudy	1/27/2008
1729	Glenn A. Dobbs	11/6/2006
1730	Donald Dobbs	11/6/2006
1731	Peter A Bauerle	2/24/2008
1732	Jason Ferris	2/23/2008
1733	Karen Bloom	2/19/2008
1734	Fiona Thompson	3/2/2008
1735	Albert J. Thompson, V	3/2/2008
1736	Alan E. Crocker	3/21/2008
1737	Rick Day	3/7/2008
1738	Michal Bowen	3/14/2008
1739	Nancy Lentner	3/14/2008
1740	Karen Cole	3/15/2008
1741	W. Randolph Franklin	7/8/2007
1742	Philip M. Cook	12/8/2007
1743	Susan Blakeney	3/22/2008
1744	Jill Geraci Aberle	3/17/2001
1745	Joanne R. Hihn	4/5/2008
1746	Richard Hihn	4/5/2008

New Winter Members

674w	Ken Metzner	1543	1/31/2008
675w	Yoshiko Takeshita	1365	2/3/2008
676w	Andrew Seirup	1636	2/24/2008
677w	Ronald Brink	1604	2/23/2008
678w	Rick Balboni	1608	1/28/2008
679w	Lorinda Paul	1521	3/7/2008
680w	Mark Hudson	1548	3/9/2008
681w	Mary G. Burns	1681	3/11/2008
682w	David Weeks	1460	3/7/2008
683w	Marsha Kramer	1513	3/2/2008
684w	Alan E. Crocker	1736	3/9/2008
685w	Mellonie Sanborn	1715	3/16/2008
686w	Jack Sexton	1437	3/15/2008
687w	Peter Johantgen	1687	2/24/2008
688w	Tim Sweeney	1658	2/23/2008
689w	Ian Marchant	1689	3/15/2008
690w	Tim Sylvester	1676	3/15/2008
691w	Moonray Schepart	1700	3/16/2008

(New Life Members are listed on page 8).

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Canisters Chair	Open		
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Assistant to the Trail Maint. Chair	Donna Wamsley	845 246-8616	
Annual Dinner Chair	Mike Doehring	914-761-7225	clover7med@aol.com
Assistant to the Dinner Chair	Manuel Peraza	718-698-4422	mapcolus1@att.net
Winter Weekend	Art Zimmerman	516-432-1205	artzim1@msn.com
Peripatetic Porcupine	Ralph Ferrusi	845-227-6217	rjferrusi@frontiernet.net
The Canister Editor	Marty Cohen	201-670-8383	wm169@verizon.net

(Continued from page 6)

other side of the mountain. I must have been hiking north and veering west, ending up on the outskirts of Halcott village. Adam told me that I was miles by road from my car. I would have to go back over the mountain, which I really didn't feel like doing. He then offered to take me back to the parking area. We piled into his car and headed down back roads toward Route 28 near Fleischmanns. On the way, he said he had helped about twenty people who had gotten lost on Halcott, and that the state was going to put up trail signs to the summit. The last hikers he had helped were a couple; the woman was seven months pregnant and was crying when they arrived at Adam's place. I promised Adam that I would use my compass next time.

We finally reached Route 42 and shortly after, the parking area and my car. I offered to give Adam money for gas but he refused, and only accepted my most sincere and grateful thanks. I truly believe this kindhearted man is destined for sainthood for aiding all those lost climbers.

After Adam drove off, I leaned against my car with my vitamin drink and relaxed while counting my blessings. Then I thought about my earlier prediction about the live item getting lost. My prediction turned out to be true. I let

out a loud belly laugh as I realized that the lost item, the third thing having been lost, was me. (Two days later this hiker turned 70 years old.)

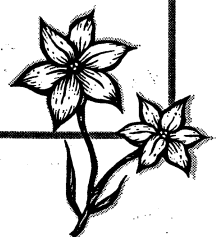
Submitted by AI Welenofsky #949, and edited by the Canister.

New Life Members

- | | |
|------|----------------|
| 0692 | Parker Barnum |
| 1337 | Laurie Rankin |
| 1683 | Louise Perkins |

In Memoriam

Thomas R. Wood, aspirant, April 8, 2008, the much loved fifty year old son of Richard G. Wood. He had climbed all the Catskill peaks save four. He loved the outdoors, including sail surfing at the Outer Banks, and was member 3397 of the Adirondack 46ers..





the catskill canister

October - December 2008

Volume 41, Number 4

Three Days at Beaver Meadow
Letting nature refresh the spirit.

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-
- SAVE THE DATE**
-
- ⇒ **Hudson River Ramble:** Sep. 13,14,20,21,27, and 28 (see page 7).
 - ⇒ **Lark in the Park:** Oct 4 - 13 (see page 7).
 - ⇒ **Nature Hike and Poetry Salon:** Sunday, October 12 (see page 7).
 - ⇒ **Winter Weekend:** Jan 30 - Feb1 (see page 8)
 - ⇒ **Annual Dinner:** Saturday, April 4, 2009
-

We needed a vacation no matter how short, and when an early June week came along with a few consecutive days free, my ward Richie and I took the opportunity to get away.

Our goal was to park at Quaker Clearing, hike that end of the Neversink-Hardenburgh trail and bushwhack into the Gulf of Mexico Brook basin. Looking at the maps showed that the state owns some land there and though the parcel is a mile deep, it is only a few hundred feet wide, so staying on state land was going to be difficult. As our Monday kickoff date approached we watched the weather reports and were promised heavy rain and thunderstorms for Tuesday afternoon into Wednesday. My three-season backpacking tent is long gone, used until it shredded — literally. Richie's is a one-man and the only other tent we have around was a light-weight two-man Sprawl**Mart* special that works well for good weather but that I wouldn't trust in rain. This meant that our original plans were going to have to be curtailed a bit. About a year back we had spent a few days with some friends camping at Alder Lake. Virtually anyone, even those with physical handicaps, can reach the lake and the 1.4-mile walk around it is a nice afternoon diversion. While there, one of our friends had taken a hike to the leanto on the Mill Brook Ridge trail and said it was pretty nice so we thought we'd shoot for that instead.

Monday found us pulling into the lot at Alder Lake just at noon. We had our packs on and were on our way in under 15 minutes. I've been to Alder Lake so many times I know the place intimately but it's beauty never fails to amaze me, and the view across the lake from the lawn is always stunning, regardless of the weather or time of year. Five minutes in, as we walked through the elderberries

"I have rarely been in a place with so much bird life"

we saw the first of several piles of bear scat. Ten minutes later we were walking through a tunnel of wild azalea in full, aromatic bloom. Ten minutes more and we were at the Mill Brook Ridge trailhead.

Arriving at the leanto an hour later, we found it empty so we set up our tent inside, being careful to leave half the space free of our gear should someone happen by. No one did. We walked a few hundred yards up the trail to collect two nights worth of firewood, brought that back and got the fire pit cleaned out and ready for use should the night become cool. We left one stack piled neatly inside the leanto to stay dry for the next night or for the next people who might come along.

I have rarely been in a place with so much bird life. The meadow attracts the birds who like open spaces and wetlands such as the red-winged blackbirds which flew threateningly near us each time we'd venture too

(Continued on page 3)

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Nominal dates for receiving the Canister are: Feb 15, Jun 15, Sep 15, and Dec 15.

The President's Column

Well, it was a great Catskill summer hiking season if you like "chance of showers and thunderstorms" and a prodigious crop of stinging nettles. Despite these challenges, we had a good turnout of hikers and sent out groups to all the 3500 foot peaks. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our hike leaders for their service. As I said in a previous Canister column, leading hikes and helping people learn about Catskill hiking is the heart of the Club. We have a great group of leaders, but to keep that heart going, we need members to volunteer as new leaders. Please give back a little to the Club and get the satisfaction of helping new or inexperienced hikers learn about hiking and the beautiful Catskills. For more information and to get on our leader email list, contact Outings Chair Manuel Peraza at 718-698-4422 or mapcolus1@att.net.

I bet you have wondered how you can always find a log book in the canisters on untrailed peaks (or maybe you wondered more about where the canister was...). The answer is that the club has a Canister Maintenance Chair. For the last 6-plus years, Scott Lane made sure the books were there and the canisters were in good shape, but now Scott is moving out of the area. Thanks so much, Scott, for your years of service and we wish you the best of luck in your new home. Jim Bouton has volunteered to replace Scott as canister maintainer; Jim has a knowledge of the Catskills like few others, but he will need your help in making sure the canisters and books are in good shape. Please contact him (jbouton@catskill.net) if you notice a problem such as missing canister (are you sure you found the right tree?), full, damaged, or missing log books or, perhaps, porky damage.

Lastly, fall weather means the arrival of hunting seasons, when we must share the Catskills with hunters who have waited all year to hunt for deer and black bear. This year the regular season is November 17 - December 7. During this time the club does not conduct hikes in the Catskills. Please note that in addition to the regular season (gun hunting), archery and muzzle-loading seasons are also held. If you do hike during these periods, please wear blaze orange clothing and avoid areas popular with hunters. For more information see the DEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/10003.html>

See you on the trails,

Joe Bogardus



(Continued from page 1)

close to their nests; and the woodcocks who "beep" rapidly while they fly, silencing as they drop to the ground like a rock, only to be heard again with their characteristic "pzeet" to let females know they're about, ready, and raring to go. The meadow also attracts the edge species like hummingbirds, one of which visited the leanto attracted by a bright red wrapper from a granola bar; and the bright orange and black orioles who build nests that hang from high tree limbs. Up the mountain-side where the forest thickens, and amid ancient cherry and maple trees, you can hear the woodland birds: owls, thrushes, woodpeckers, and the like identified by their calls; and the deep drumming of ruffed grouse. Moving our attention to the stream that meanders through the meadow, we watched tiny fish darting about.

That night we watched the International Space Station cross the sky at 10:30pm, a "star" that moves so slowly and shines so brightly it would be impossible to miss. Not to be outdone, the natural world offered meteors which left a trail of gold in their wake. As the night darkened the rich fabric of the Milky Way became more and more apparent, giving the sky a three-dimensional, velveteen depth.

We spent the next day doing nothing. We were without agenda and loving every minute of it. We aimlessly wandered and explored, climbed to the top of Mill Brook Ridge, and then came back to lie in the early afternoon sun in a dry portion of the meadow. I had my iPod with me and listened to the Rachmaninoff 3rd Piano Concerto, a complex work so inspired, so beautiful from its opening notes to its final chord, and so wondrous in all its glory that it matched quite perfectly the wild nature of this place. I stood in the meadow, amid the grasses and insects and birdlife, in contemplation of an altered sky of a hue only nature could create.

As advertised, the weather changed on Tuesday afternoon and we watched the sky for hours as the weather moved in: high clouds from the west, then lower clouds under them from the southwest. We watched two hawks and an eagle casually ride thermals higher and higher until they were but specks in the sky. The cloud decks thickened over the course of the afternoon and just before dark the first drops of rain began to fall. It rained lightly all night creating a lulling drum on the leanto roof and delivering a wet, cool, foggy morning, the kind that makes a forest look ancient, mysterious and even more wondrous.

Leaving on Wednesday morning was not a pleasurable experience; we wanted to stay, but time was pressing and we were having some trouble with our stove. We had enough food both for us and our dog, but uncooked raman noodles are not a gourmet's delight !

By the time we got back to the car our legs were soaked to the knees from the wet grasses and brush alongside the trail, the low hills that surround Alder Lake were blanketed in mist and fog, and the wild azalea even more fragrant than two days earlier. Signing out in the logbook we noted that ten people had come to visit the lake over the previous 72 hours and not one of them had ventured beyond. Knowing we had spent that time amid thousands of acres of wild, old forest and had had it all to ourselves, made this mini-vacation even more treasured.

Submitted by Jeff Green, Putnam environmentalist (PlanPutnam.org) and edited by the Canister.

Cairns in the Catskills. The largest "cairn" must be Dibbles Quarry. I once counted over 60 seats before I lost track. Does anyone know how many seats, benches, thrones, chairs and stools there are at Dibble's Quarry ? Nah, no one does, because someone is building a new one now.

There are also cairns on the Halcott Mountain trail. Just after you climb the bank and head up the first 100 feet you will start to see little cairns here...there... and everywhere. (Ha, Halcott doesn't have a trail).

Up the Devil's Path trail toward Devils Acre lean-to from the intersection of Diamond Notch is a small three footer.

Are the pillars at the beginning of Becker Hollow Trail considered cairns ? Nope, they don't count nor do stone walls. My rules.

There are other cairns I've seen and heard of in the Catskills.....hum, but where?



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



Hike Schedule October — December, 2008

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. 4 – KATTERSKILL High Peak

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

Moderately paced hike along a marked but unmaintained trail. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register Mon.– Thu. before the hike.

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

Sun., Oct. 5 – BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM

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

Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register Sep.29 – Oct3.

Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; suzkna@msn.com; 917-679-5547 after 7pm.

Sat., Oct. 11 – TWIN

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev. 3640'

Moderately paced, steep trail hike. Heavy or steady rain cancels. Joint with AMC.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader not later than Oct.9; leader will assist with NYC carpooling.

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

Sun., Oct. 12 – BLACKHEAD RANGE TRAVERSE Thomas Cole, Black Dome and Blackhead.

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

Moderately paced trail, through hike (shuttle required).

Contact leader to register.

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

Sun., Oct. 12 – WITTENBERG

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2400', Elev. 3780'

Moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader Oct. 8-10 to register,

Leader: Irene Logan #888; 845-753-5651, 7-9pm only.

Sat., Oct. 18 – WESTKILL

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2400', Elev. 3880.

Moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

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

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

Sun., Oct. 19 – SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3100', Elev. 3808', 3840'

Moderately paced but strenuous trail hike on steep trails. Car shuttle required.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leaders to register before Oct 18.

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

Sat., Oct. 25 – PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000', Elev. 3843', 3847'

Moderately paced but strenuous trail hike. If there is interest, we can make this a one-way (shuttle) hike. The shuttle is about 20 miles. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by Oct. 23 (email 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.

Sun., Oct. 26 – LONE & ROCKY

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

A steady, moderately paced bushwhack. Dogs welcome. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register by Oct. 24.

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

Sat., Nov. 1 – RUSK

Distance: 3mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev. 3680'

Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register Mon.-Thu. before the hike.

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

Standard Time Returns November 2 — heed this or show up for the hike an hour early !**Sun., Nov. 2 – BURROUGHS RANGE TRAVERSE Slide, Cornell and Wittenberg**

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2230', Elev. 4180', 3860', 3780' Moderately paced trail hike. Car shuttle required.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leaders to register before Nov 1.

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

Sat., Nov. 8 – EAGLE, possibly Haynes.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elev. 3600', 3420'

Moderately paced but strenuous trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by Nov. 6 (email preferred).

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

Sun., Nov. 9 – DOUBLETOP

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent 1860', Elev. 3862'

Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

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

Leaders: Walter Brett and Liz Faulkner #'s 1716, 1717 lawzil@mhicable.com; 845-373-7164.

Sat., Nov. 15 – HUNTING SEASON STARTS – no hikes in the Catskills.**Sat. Nov. 15 – MILLBROOK MT (Minnewaska)**

Distance: 5.5 mi. Ascent: 600', Elev. 1500'

An easy trail hike Rain cancels. Parking & trail fees required.

Meeting Place/ Time: Please contact leader to register Nov. 10-14;

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

Sun., Nov. 16 – NO HIKE SCHEDULED**Sat., Nov. 22 – NO HIKE SCHEDULED****Sun., Nov. 23 – NO HIKE SCHEDULED****Sat., Nov. 29 – MINNEWASKA CREVASSE**

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 500'

A short trail hike and bushwhack to some incredible scrambling leading us deep into the crevasse. The hike can be extended after the crevasse exploration. Bad weather or snow on the ground cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register by Nov. 27 (email preferred).

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

Sun., Nov. 30 – BREAKNECK RIDGE, possibly Sugarloaf Mt.

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2200'

Moderately paced trail hike and rock scrambling. Very exposed sections. Rain cancels.

Meeting place/Time: Contact leader to register Nov. 24 –28;

Leader: Manuel A Peraza #1373; mapcolus1@att.net; 718-698-4422, after 7pm.

Sat., Dec. 6 – NO HIKE SCHEDULED**Sun. Dec. 7 – HUNTING SEASON ENDS – back to the Catskills.****Sat., Dec. 13 – HALCOTT**

Distance: 3 mi. Ascent: 1200', Elev.3520'.

Moderately paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register Dec. 8-11.

Leader: Joseph Polcha; jpolcha@aol.com; 914-245-4717.

Sun., Dec. 14 – INDIAN HEAD

Distance:7 mi. Ascent: 1573'; Elev.3573'

Moderately paced but strenuous trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register Dec. 8-12.

Leader: Suzanne Knabe#1326; suzkna@msn.com; 718-435-3092

Sat., Dec. 20 – FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP

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

Moderately paced bushwhack. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register Dec. 15–19.

Leader: Manuel A Peraza # 1373; mapcolus1@att.net; 718-698-4422.

Coleader: Robert Forrest #278.

Sun., Dec. 21 – BIG INDIAN & FIR

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

Moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike. Dogs welcome. Bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register Dec. 15-19.

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

Sun., Dec. 28 – VLY & BEARPEN

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2035', Elev. 3600', 3529'

Moderately paced bushwhack. Heavy precipitation cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leaders to register.

Leaders: Tom and Laurie Rankin #'s 1503, 1337; trankin@hvc.rr.com; 845-926-2182 (e-mail preferred)

Sat., Dec. 27 – HUNTER & SW HUNTER


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

Moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike. Dogs welcome. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register by Dec. 15

Leader: Robert Forrest #278; robertforrest@embarqmail.com; 908-953-7665 (e-mail preferred).

Porky says "If you carry a little saw in your pack, it can be quite useful in trimming blowdowns, thus enabling hikers to get by without creating herd paths around such obstacles — and is also useful for making a stretcher should the need arise".



How I Lost My Fear of Black Bears

My story begins on a lovely spring morning in late May, 1999. I had completed the last three peaks of my 3500 list the week before and I was looking forward to my next adventure. A couple of months earlier I had made a reservation to camp at the Roaring Brook campground in Baxter State Park, Maine on June 30. I had set my sites on Mt Katahdin, but I knew that Roaring Brook was not the preferred set off point for Katahdin (it's several miles further away than from where most people start), so I thought I should do some "training" to make sure I could move fast enough to get to the top and back before I got too wet or tired. There are dangerous thunderstorms there every day that time of year, and I would be hiking alone.

"She came directly in my direction at a run".

I had planned to take a fast paced hike up Peekamoose that morning from Rt. 47, then over Table to the Neversink and back, and I allotted a specific amount of time to do it. The trip began well enough. It was early enough that there was still a cool, moist smell to the air, and I was feeling really good.

Some time later, I was moving at a good pace and thinking about nothing in particular as I crested a small rise about two thirds of the way up, where I was startled by some sounds to my left. I looked just in time to see one large and three small rumps about twenty yards away moving quickly into the brush. I was not particularly concerned at that point; I had

gotten used to seeing bears on my early morning hikes, but I was thrilled to see the three cubs — until one of them scampered up a tree...

I had frozen in place when I first saw the bears and I stayed that way as I watched this little black ball make his way up the tree. I remember being amazed at how small he was and how quickly he climbed. But I knew this was not a good development, given my close proximity, so I began to step slowly backwards. All of a sudden I heard the unmistakable sound of a large animal moving through the woods and then momma bear came crashing out of the bushes !

I still marvel at how quickly, and yet how slowly, things unfolded from that point. The bear didn't hesitate when she broke through the bushes. She came directly in my direction at a run. I say in my direction because even though she was coming straight at me I didn't think she was actually "after" me. I knew she had just lost one of her own and she was simply running back to where she had last seen it. Nevertheless, I clearly remember thinking to myself, "This is it, I'm being attacked by a bear !" Instinctively, I raised both of my arms, a hiking pole in each, and yelled, "No bear !! No bear !!" just twice.

Almost on cue, the cub began to scurry back down the tree. The mother heard this, turned abruptly (she had run past the tree towards me) collected her cub, and disappeared into the woods.

(Continued on page 8)

Scree

Trail Maintainers Needed. While the 3500 Club is well represented with Catskill trail maintainers, the NY/NJ Trail Conference has indicated that more maintainers are still needed. Accordingly, if you would like to enjoy the pride of ownership in maintaining a Catskill trail, you are encouraged to contact Pete Senterman, cpsenterman@optonline.net

Leadership and Service Award applications Now Online. The Club is pleased to announce that the Leadership and Service Award applications are now posted on the Club's website. <http://www.catskill-3500-club.org/volunteer.htm> ; so now applying for either award is just a click away.

New Protected Land in the Catskills. The Nature Conservancy has announced their purchase of Lost Clove Valley, a 590-acre parcel on Balsam Mountain. Consisting of steeply sloping forestland thick with hemlock, red oak, spruce, and balsam fir, this land provides vital habitat for migratory birds like the wood thrush, and large roaming animals such as bobcat and black bear. The summit of Balsam Mountain contains a rare spruce and balsam fir plant community that can only be found at elevations over 3,500 feet in the Catskill Mountain Region. Eventually, the Nature Conservancy hopes to transfer this property to New York State. For a map of this area see www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/newyork/files/catskills_lost_clove.pdf

The Catskill Center has announced that Lisa Rainwater will be their new executive director.

A Little Diversion. The last of this year's Overlook Mountain Nature Lecture Series will be held Sunday, October 12th at 10am and feature a "Nature Hike and Poetry Salon". For details call: 845-679-5853 or email will@willnixon.com

Rambling Along. The annual Hudson River Ramble will take place the last three weekends in September, and features over 200 events, including five hikes being led by board members Carol and Dave White. For full information see www.hudsonrivervalley.com/ramble.

The Catskills Park, that is. The annual "Lark in the Park" will happen Saturday, October 4th – Monday, October 13th featuring a variety of guided hikes, walks, paddles, biking tours, workshops, lectures, and fly-fishing events, as well as exhibits / festivals. For full information contact the Catskill Center via pmanning@catskillcenter.org (preferred), or 845-586-2611.

Belleayre Doings

The Tannersville News reports that the planned Belleayre Resort has fallen months behind the developer's timetable, with the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement being "not close to completion", though the developer a year ago had expressed hope that the environmental review of the proposal would be completed by the end of this summer, and that the project's groundbreaking would be held by the end of the year.

Our New Members

1747 Peter Herrig	04/12/08
1748 George J Chiu	04/25/08
1749 Mary S MacDonald	04/30/08
1750 Mary Wellington	05/21/08
1751 Robert W. Pavelka	05/21/08
1752 Betty Dykstra	07/01/08
1753 Hassan J Basagic IV	06/23/08

New Life Member

1061 James W. Donaghy

What to Do When They Won't Let You Back Into the U.S. June Fait (#392) and Herbert Coles (#440) just hiked El Camino de Santiago from St Jean Pied de Port in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, a distance of 500 miles. This trail is an ancient pilgrimage route and has been in use for over 1,000 years.



Dog First to Achieve Feat. Bookah (that's Hakoob spelled backwards) claims to be the first being to complete the Catskill 100 Highest. Bookah completed the quest on Stoppel Point on August 31st, with about two dozen humans in attendance. Bookah's accomplishment was duly inscribed for posterity by the keeper of the 100-Highest records, Alan Via (#429) who, incidentally, was Bookah's hiking companion in this venture, and the first biped noted to have completed both the Adirondack (in 2006) and the Catskill 100 Highest.



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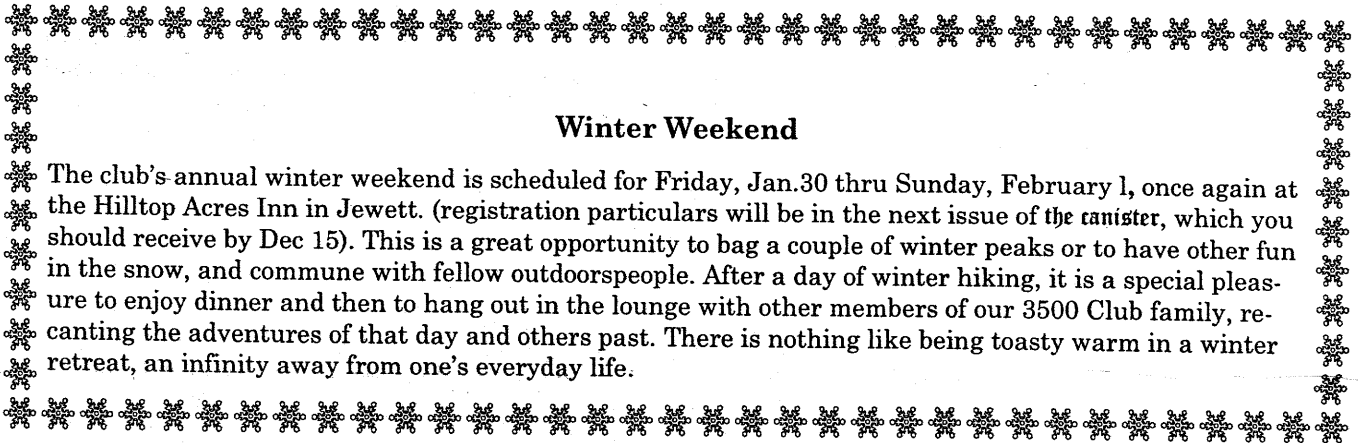
I stood with my arms above my head for a few moments longer, then lowered them and began to move once again back up the trail. I walked a couple of hundred yards further, turned to look back, then stopped to collect myself. Despite my pounding heart I was strangely calm after this encounter, but rather than continue up the trail, I decided to break for a really early lunch and figure out what to do next. I went over everything that had just transpired and felt pretty good about how I reacted, and I realized how fortunate I was to have had such an intimate encounter. Nonetheless, I began to calculate what time of day it would be when I got back to this point if I were to continue with my original plan. I looked at my watch and figured it would be late enough in the day that it was conceivable that the mom and cubs might be back out and foraging. I tried to reason that the chances of me encountering them again were pretty remote, and even if we did meet up, the chances are they would do what they were trying to do in the first place: avoid me. But it didn't work. I decided instead to turn around, go home, and cut the grass!

I learned several days later of a report in the local paper of a mother bear with three cubs that was killed by a homeowner as she was trying to break through her front door. I knew that was "my" bear, and I felt an odd sense of ownership; I was very sorry to hear about it.

Since I always hike alone, and I almost always get on the trail very early, I have always been conscious of, and somewhat worried about bears. But this encounter convinced me that my instinctive reactions are sound, so I no longer worry.

All the same, when I hike in early spring now I sport one of those little bells on my pack... just in case!

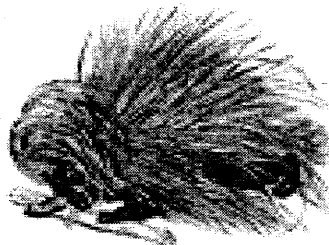
Submitted by Chris Bosco #1294 and edited by the Canister.



Winter Weekend

The club's annual winter weekend is scheduled for Friday, Jan.30 thru Sunday, February 1, 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.

Porky says "You don't have to wait for a club-sponsored trail maintenance date, just take a friend or two and a pair of loppers and clear some brush from a trail you love."



Reminder

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