
The Catskill Canister
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View from North Dome ledges. Photo by Deb Osterhoudt #3079 W1365

In this issue:

- [President's Column](#)
- [Trail Mix: News and Notes from the Club](#)
- [Stewardship Committee Update](#)
- [Reflecting on the Trailhead Steward Program](#)
- [Historical Profile: Bramley Mountain](#)
- [Why Snowshoes?](#)
- [Winter Hiking with Babies](#)
- [Winter Hiking with Dogs](#)
- [Friendship in Now Forbidden Lands](#)
- [Marina the Catskill Cat](#)
- [IN MEMORIAM](#)
- [Hike Schedule](#)
- [New Member Lists](#)
- [Editor's Notes](#)





Ashokan High Point from Samsonville Rd. Photo by Steve Aaron #3199

Trail Spice

The President's Column by Maria Bedo-Calhoun

Winter Wonderland

There are strange and mysterious sounds
When the winds of winter blow,
The long nights are crystal clear and cold,
And the fields and meadows are covered with snow.
The stars are frosty against the sky,
And the wind's whistle is shrill,
As the snow blows against the house
And drifts against the hill.

Yet, I like to see during the winter
A white carpet on the ground,
To plod aimlessly in the deep snow,
where deer tracks abound.
I like to feel the stillness
Of a crisp winter's night,
Watching a full moon rise over the horizon,
Exposing a winter wonderland beautiful and bright.

Joseph T. Renaldi

It is the changing of the seasons here in the mountains. Every year I approach this time in the Catskills a bit wistful about the shortening days but excited and hopeful for plenty of snow and the views that come with the falling of the leaves. If you have not done much hiking during winter, I encourage you to get out and try as it really is a wonderful time to be in the woods. The sights can be so different with vistas that are hidden the rest of the year and there is nothing quite like

rime or snow glistening on the trees after a snowfall. Last year was a stellar year for winter adventures so let us hope that 2022 brings us the same snowfalls and conditions.

If you are new to winter hiking, check out this [webinar](#) that Tom and Laurie Rankin (former Club Board Members) did last year on Winter Preparedness. It is very informative and a review of what to think about when heading out during the season. With the supply chain issues, also think about purchasing snowshoes and traction devices now as I know last year snowshoes did run out of stock early. Also, while the social gathering part of our usual winter weekend in January will not be happening because we want to remain cautious about indoor get togethers a little longer, we will again be offering a winter weekend of hiking where aspirants can work on their four winter climbs with experienced leaders. You can find more details later in the hiking [schedule](#).

As far as other Club initiatives, we are happy to report that the Table Lean-to was replaced in November. Two years ago, the 3500 Club collaborated with the Bruderhof Community and the DEC to replace the structure. Your member dues helped to pay for the materials and the Bruderhof built the lean-to. While the structure was complete at that time, the pandemic forced the halting of helicopter flights, but now things have moved forward and the lean-to parts were dropped in and the structure was erected. It is wonderful to see projects like this occurring again.

While there are plenty of other initiatives and volunteer efforts going on by so many club members, I especially want to thank everyone involved with our inaugural *Adopt a Trailhead* program that ran from Memorial Day to Columbus Day. Board Members Lourdes Sonera (Trailhead Maintenance Chair) and Colleen Hardcastle (assistant to the Trailhead Maintenance Chair) did so much work behind the scenes in getting the program going and organized it all summer. An energetic group of volunteers turned out to cover the Club table each weekend at Slide and provide valuable advice and share trail magic with hikers and it was wonderful to see such involvement by club members and friends.

Stewardship is one of the biggest ways to affect trail use and impact and to gently teach people how to be good friends of the mountains. As a Club, we are continuing to find ways to share our love for hiking with each other but also to give back to the mountains and this is one great example of that mission. Additionally, the Board is extremely touched by the increase of life memberships and generous donations from long-time or new members and aspirants. In 2020 we received \$7,200 in life memberships and extra donations and in 2021 that doubled to over \$18,800! That support is so meaningful! Thank you all, whether you are a continuing member, a life member or an aspirant. Your contributions allow us to continue in our mission to do good work for these Catskill Mountains that we all love.



Blackheads from Acra Point. Photo by Tim Luby #3268



Trail Mix: News and Notes from the Club



Dues for calendar year 2022 will be due on January 1st. Those of you who receive the emailed quarterly link from us also get a dues reminder. Members and Aspirants who joined after the middle of the year may renew at a half-year rate to get back to “calendar-year renewal.” Contact [David White](#) or [Jake Haisley](#) to confirm your status. Forms and rates are on the [membership page](#) of the Club website. You may now use PayPal at the [Club site](#) or renew by mail and/or order additional member items using [this form](#). Please make checks payable to the Catskill 3500 Club.

As a reminder, good standing is required to maintain voting rights and privileges of membership (e.g., *The Canister* subscription, ability to buy patches). An active member is one who has completed their requirements for membership and who has paid the prescribed dues for the current year or who is a life member (life membership can be obtained for a one-time fee of \$200). Please note that the initial fee only covers the registration and the first year of membership. Delinquent members may regain good standing by payment of one year’s delinquent dues.

By renewing your membership (or becoming a life member), you help us support our mission of being the stewards of the Catskills and help us give back to the mountains. We appreciate your continued support!

By: Dave White, Membership Chair and Jake Haisley, Aspirants Chair



Save the date for Winter Weekend



The 2022 Winter Weekend is scheduled to take place over the weekend of January 22-23. With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing, and uncertainty surrounding the near future, we have decided that having our normal social gathering during the Winter Weekend will not be possible. There will be a hike schedule available, so be sure to check out the hike schedule in *The Canister* or on our [website](#) to see what Marv Freedman (Outings Chair) and the dedicated Club volunteer hike leaders have scheduled. There will be something for everyone, both for experienced cold-weather explorers or those new to spending winter time in the mountains.

Hike on and stay safe!

By: Bill Chriswell, Winter Weekend Chair



The Club Extends Appreciation to Departing Board Member



The Club Board is saying goodbye to New York-New Jersey Trail Conference Representative Matt Smith and thank him deeply for his service over the past two years. Matt has been doing double duty by working not only with the Club, but also as a trail supervisor in the Catskills for the TC. He was finding that he did not have the time to do both, day jobs being what they are, and trail maintenance and reconstruction are very dear to his heart. He is going to put all of his energy into that and hopes to build a group of roving trail crew members in the spring. The initial recruitment for the program is currently underway and stay tuned for more program details (to be included in the Spring issue of *The Canister*)! We wish Matt the best in this endeavor and thank him for his service.





The Club Welcomes a New Board Member



The Officers of the Catskill 3500 Club want to extend a very warm welcome to Dick Vincent, who joins the Board as the New York New Jersey Trail Conference Representative.

Dick Vincent, #3055, was introduced to the Catskills by a fellow runner, the late Barry Hopkins in the mid 1970s. In 1977 Dick founded the Escarpment Trail Run (which he still directs), which led him to explore many of the mountain trails on foot. He loved hiking them as much as running the trails, sharing the mountain experience with other runners and hikers. Although he had traversed all of the trailed mountains many times, his motive wasn't to bag peaks but to just enjoy them. It wasn't until a few years ago when he was hiking with friends that were finishing their 3500s that Dick decided to knock off the few he hadn't done. Dick has been a trail maintainer for two sections of the Escarpment Trail for 18 years.



Dick enjoys meeting people along the trail and swapping stories of the day. If you cross paths with Dick, please say hello.



Save the date for 2022 Annual Dinner



We will again meet at the Ashokan Center in the Catskills next summer Saturday July 9, 2022. Stay tuned for updates. Expect some changes from last year with an improved experience up at the main lodge with outdoor options as well.

By: Mike Doehring, Annual Dinner Chair



Ongoing Generosity



A fine reminder of why we do all our important work:

The Catskill 3500 Club donated \$1,000 to the [Student Conservation Association](#) in 2021. The Founding President of the Student Conservation Association, Liz Putnam, wrote: "It's clear from your support that you share my love of the natural world. The difference you and SCA are making is remarkable, and important. Please know how much all of us at SCA value your partnership. Together, we are energizing the next generation of conservation leaders and building a better future for our national parks, public lands, and urban greenspaces. I believe that it is the responsibility of those of us here today to preserve the earth for generations to come. This guiding principle is what led me to start the Student Conservation Association in 1957, and it still leads SCA's work today."

By: Carol White, Conservation Chair



Merchandise Update



Winter merchandise is in!

We have orange performance t-shirts in long sleeves and also orange, charcoal and safety green beanies. Navy long sleeve t-shirts are in, as well as pullover and front-zip sweatshirts! The order form can be found on the Club's website under [Merchandise](#) or you can [email us](#).

Please contact us for size availability before ordering. We accept check or PayPal.

Please note that while orders placed at press time WILL NOT arrive in time for Christmas, there are still three months of winter left!



By: Margaret McGrath and Terri Baker, Merchandise Coordinators



Trail Maintenance and Adopt-a-Highway Events Recap



PEEKAMOOSE-TABLE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers for all of their hard work!

The Catskill 3500 Club hosted our Fall Trail Maintenance event on Sunday, October 17, 2021. The crew removed six downed trees, cleared water bars, inspected the springs and lean-to along Club's section of the Long Path (Peekamoose - Table Trail). Our utmost gratitude to our trail maintenance volunteers for the significant impact they have made on the trails:

Denning Crew (lead by Lourdes Sonera):
David Lemmo, Edgardo Butler, Johnny Witter, Michael Bongar, Roger Green and Jeffrey Huth.

Peekamoose Crew (lead by Colleen Hardcastle):
Matthew McBride, Bryan Burnham and Daniel Heim



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

A huge thank you to our Adopt A Highway volunteers for dressing up on Halloween morning in their road safety costumes!

Thanks go out to Jie Sun, Bruce Hartlebem, Ellen Dwyer, Judith Estok, John Estok, Bryan Burnham, David Lemmo, Al Davis, Charlie Lutomski, Colleen Hardcastle and Lourdes Sonera.

Thank you for cleaning our section of Route 214 by Devil's Tombstone Campground. Your dedication and hard work is greatly appreciated.



If anyone is interested in joining the volunteer list to stay up to date with the future trail maintenance and road clean-up opportunities, please contact [Lourdes Sonera](#).

By: Lourdes Sonera, Trail Maintenance Chair



Catskill Mountain Search and Rescue Update



It's been a busy few months for the Catskill Mountain Search and Rescue (CMSAR) Team. Training, as always, is a high priority for us. In September, team members spent an intensive two-day training with the nationally accredited New Jersey Search and Rescue Mountain Rescue Team, learning aspects of high angle rescue, setting up riggings and learning to rappel down a cliff. We had beautiful weather and an enthusiastic group. More training with their group is planned.

In November, about half of our members tested for their SAR Tech II certification through the National Association of Search and Rescue organization (NASAR). Members were tested on navigation skills both in daylight and at night, using compass and map, tracking skills, clue detection and the ability to build a fire and shelter. It was another intensive drill.

DEC Rangers requested CMSAR for two September rescues. Both were to standby in case manpower was needed to carry out injured hikers. In both cases, CMSAR members responded and were released after successful helicopter evacuations. In addition, we had requests to help search for an overdue hunter in Tupper Lake, which was cancelled when the person was located.

The Catskill 3500 Club donated monies to both the Big Indian and Margaretville Fire Departments. I was honored to be able to present the checks to both departments and to give a short presentation on CMSAR. Thanks to Jim Bouton for his help in this, as both departments will utilize the donations for SAR-type equipment.

By: Annmarie Spiciarich, CMSAR Chair



Catskill 3500 Adopt a Trailhead Program Inaugural Season Recap



The Catskill 3500 Trailhead Steward Program successfully served visitors to Slide during its inaugural season. Thanks to our dedicated and passionate volunteers, we engaged with 2,201 visitors, enhancing their hiking experience. Forty-four stewards served this season, making a significant impact. Stewards educated visitors on [Leave No Trace Principles](#), especially the importance of preparedness and hiking safe. Our incredible stewards donated 1,027 hours (603 hours at trailhead) of their time, and all reported having a positive experience.

Stewards were skilled at interacting with visitors and assessing their level of preparedness. Stewards provided water, first aid kit, and trail and map guidance to hikers. The Slide trailhead is very popular among backpackers. Stewards connected with backpackers who inquired about trail and weather conditions, and shared daily conditions with other hikers and backpackers. On three occasions, we assisted hikers in distress.

The stewards established a productive collaboration with New York New-Jersey Trail Conference Summit Stewards, and New York Department of Environmental Conservation personnel, by sharing observations and relevant information.

Some of the consistent findings were around the Leave No Trace Principles: insufficient water, little or no map knowledge, lack of planning, including underestimating the effects of elevation gain and improper footwear. The stewards also answered many questions related to the area.

The goal for 2022 is to expand the program to include the Woodland Valley Trailhead. It is never too early to sign up and reserve your dates for 2022. [Click here](#) to learn more.

By: Lourdes Sonera, Trail Maintenance Chair

2021 Stewards

Chris Adams #2710
 Maria Bedo-Calhoun #1851
 Michael Bongar #994
 Jim Bouton #1539
 Serena Brochu
 Bryan Burnham #3455
 Lindsey Clark
 Richard Cole #3752
 Jennifer Conrad Seekamp
 Kim Daley
 Al Davis #2192
 Colin DeVries #3382
 Joe Felter #3560
 Marcy Felter #3492
 Joe Ferri #2223
 Marv Freedman #2242
 Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368
 Colleen Hardcastle #2990
 Nancy Hilsenbeck #3185
 Cal Johnson #941
 Michele Kaminsky #2804
 Sharon Klein #3364
 Liz Lesar #1192
 Larry Leslie #208
 Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond #2814
 Jim Malumphy #890
 Julie McGuire #3500
 Deborah Padilla
 Laurie Rankin #1337
 Elizabeth Raum
 Scott Roser #3026
 Stash Rusin #2829
 Matt Smith #889
 Francine Snyder #3567
 Lourdes Sonera #2525
 Lynda Travaglione-Recchia
 Brooke Trout
 Alan Via #429
 Dick Vincent #3055
 Renata Zieba #3661
 Mr Zotov
 Natalia Zotova



Our deepest gratitude to all our amazing stewards!



View from Jon Robb Lean-To. Photo by Angelo Persichilli Jr. #2510

Catskill 3500 Club Stewardship Committee Update

Text by: Jim Bouton #1808 W1079, *Canisters Chair* and *Stewardship Committee Chair*

On the first day of summer in 2014, I went for a hike “around the block,” Slide, Cornell, The Wittenberg, through Woodland Valley and finishing back at the Slide trailhead on County Route 47. I didn’t encounter any other hikers that day, but I did count 33 illegal campsites and fire rings between the junction of the Curtis-Ormsbee Trail and the summit area of The Wittenberg. The summit of Slide was a mess of old and new fire burns, campsites, garbage, including beer cans, a burnt sleeping bag and toilet paper. The lower branches on the trees were broken off, creating large open spaces, herd paths leading to campsites, trees cut, slashed, and large areas trampled down below the organic material. The col over to Cornell, even with the legal campsites, was no better; garbage left in the fire rings and many illegal spots with burns below the organic level. The Wittenberg also had a large fire burn on the summit, with lots of cutting and garbage left everywhere.



It is important to note that the areas above 3500’, and most of the col on this hike, are considered boreal forest, an entirely different ecosystem than the forest below 3500’. Organic matter has slowly been building since the Last Glacier Period; the organic soils are thin and easily burnt away or worn thin. The trees, plants and wildlife are different, the weather more severe. It’s a fragile zone that took thousands of years to form. Therefore, camping is not allowed above 3500’, except in winter, and fires are never permitted. Currently, there is an example of this type of damage on the summit of Indian Head, with the organic soils burned away to bare rock and the trees and plant life all dead.

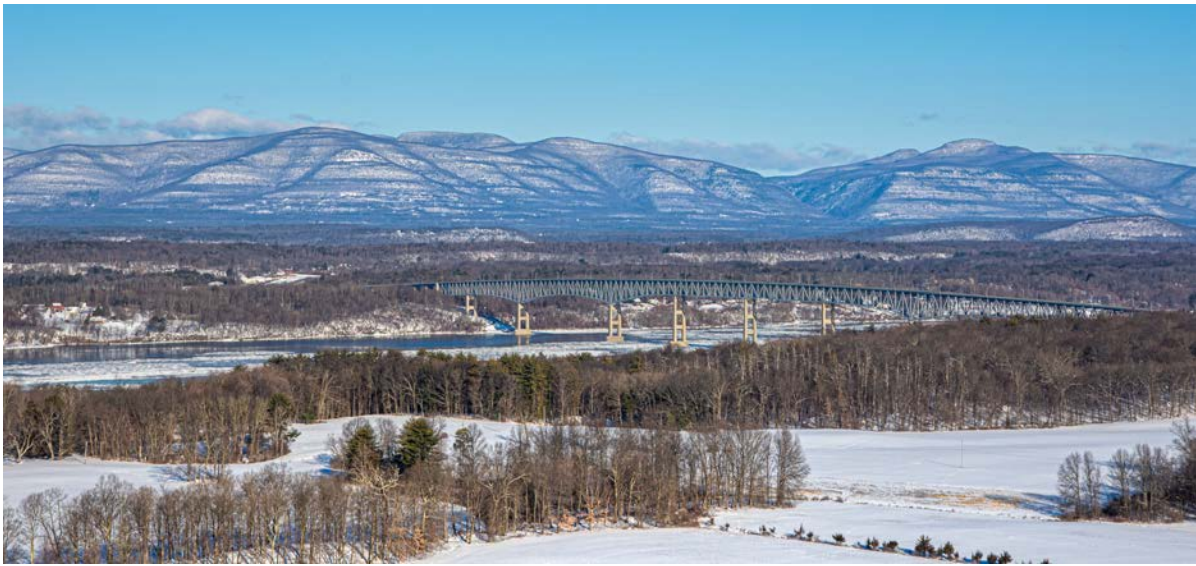
I had met and talked with summit stewards in the Adirondacks when hiking there, and on this day, I started thinking we should have similar stewards in the Catskills. At the time, we only had fire tower stewards at the fire towers - excellent

programs run by volunteers, educating hikers and offering information. There were no other groups. Rangers were stretched thin and the Assistant Forest Ranger (AFR) program almost nonexistent. At the next Catskill 3500 Club Board meeting I brought up the question of why we couldn't do this ourselves. At about this time the "Herd Path Committee," of which I was the chair, evolved into the Stewardship Committee, and I was given the go-ahead to investigate. It soon became apparent we couldn't run this ourselves; we were a "social club" and didn't have the financial resources to fund insurance, training, gear and a program director. I reached out to the [Adirondack Mountain Club](#), who ran the summit steward program in the Adirondacks. They thought it a great idea, gave lots of advice, offered free training but declined to run it due to logistics. They suggested we find a more local group to work with. In the meantime, I kept up pressure on the board. There were lots of interesting pro and con discussions. The Board at this time was addressing the increased usage of the peaks and the formation of herd paths. We were encouraging map and compass skills, [Leave No Trace principles](#), how to [Hike Safe](#), insisting our hike leaders keep group sizes to legal limits and recommended numbers and be trained in Wilderness First Aid. We were slowly evolving from a social hiking club into a socially and environmentally responsible hiking community. I was hoping to have some sort of a program in place by the start of the 2015 summer season, but it was not looking like this would happen.

In the late winter, early spring of 2015, Catskill 3500 Club 1st VP Heather Rolland set up a meeting with myself and Jeff Senterman, who was then the Catskill Director of the [New York-New Jersey Trail Conference](#) (TC). He thought the TC would be interested in some sort of a partnership. It was agreed the TC would handle the logistics and day-to-day running of the program, if the Catskill 3500 Club would supply the "seed" money to get this program underway. We needed to come up with \$5000 dollars. After much more discussion, the board voted to do this. Summit stewards appeared on Slide and Giant Ledge/Panther only a week after Memorial Day, which had been our goal for a start. That first year, these stewards had joint training from the TC and to some degree, the [NYSDEC](#).

The Catskill 3500 Club supplied the "seed" money for several more years. As the program has become more successful, help came in from other organizations. The [Catskill Mountain Club](#), the [Hunter Foundation](#), [Rock and Snow](#), [REI](#), as well as others have all contributed at times. The DEC assisted with more and more training and finally, in 2021, helped fund the program. 2021 was the first year the Catskill 3500 Club did not contribute; our goal of "seeding" this project realized after 6 years. Since that first season, when the stewards interacted with 1600 hikers on Slide, the summits have been growing back, they are cleaner and more natural looking. Instances of illegal camping and fires are down. There is less garbage, thousands of hikers have been educated, advised and in cases helped. Garbage has been carried out and illegal campsites and fire pits brushed over by these stewards. Unfortunately, the program only runs from Memorial Day to Columbus Day, on weekends and holidays. So there is a gap in coverage. The Summit Steward program was started before the big increase in hikers which occurred during COVID19. Without the steward's presence during this time, the impact most likely would have been much greater and many more hikers would have required assistance or even rescue. And the stewardship program has spread to other peaks, trails and areas. There are now several paid and volunteer steward programs: stewards at the Blue Hole and Kaaterskill Falls, and a Ridge Runner who covers the Devil's Path. These are sponsored by the [Catskill Center](#). The Blackhead Range and North Point along the Escarpment Trail are also covered by the TC. The Ashokan Rail Trail has stewards sponsored by the [Woodstock Land Conservancy](#). The NYDEC has increased the AFR program. The oldest group, the Fire Tower Stewards, is active and seeing thousands of visitors. Because of changes in NYDEC volunteer policies, the Catskill 3500 Club is now partnering with the NYSDEC and began its volunteer trail head steward program at Slide Mountain parking area last Memorial Day. It has been highly successful and the Club has been asked to consider adding another trail head.

Stewards, whether paid or volunteer, have a positive impact. They all have the same goal, education – which is the key. The summits are cleaner, and growing back, the damage that was being done has lessened and, in many cases, reversing. Hikers educated at the summits and trailheads tend to get into fewer mishaps requiring a ranger response, freeing them up for other duties. The "seed" money the Catskill 3500 Club has spent has grown into many branches. The Catskill 3500 Club is always looking for volunteers for its programs including the Trailhead Stewards, trail maintenance, litter pick ups and hike leaders. We know that education works and that face to face, boots on the ground interaction is the best and most direct way to do this.



Great Northern Catskills from Ferncliff Fire Tower. Photo by Steve Aaron #3199

Reflecting on the Catskill 3500 Club Trailhead Steward Program

Text by: Bryan Burnham #3455 W1373

I was sitting under a popup canopy at the Slide Mountain trailhead on a surprisingly cool July morning, with two other trailhead stewards, when we heard singing from across the Neversink. As we turned to investigate, a trio of backpackers emerged from the trail, with – to our bewilderment – tea kettles clanging against their overstuffed packs! I thought to myself (somewhat arrogantly): "they must not be part of the ultralight backpacking community."

The trio dropped their packs near their car, and walked to the information table we set up for the Catskill 3500 Club's Trailhead Steward Program. The backpackers informed us the temperature at the summit was cool, visibility was low due to clouds, the trail muddy from overnight rain, and the spring on the east side of the mountain was running. From us, the group learned about the Catskill 3500 Club requirements, places to camp and hike nearby, and we provided information about Leave No Trace and recommended alternate equipment (somewhat lighter) and packing tips. Importantly, they left us smiling and singing.



By all metrics, the Catskill 3500 Club's Trailhead Steward ("Adopt a Trailhead") Program was a resounding success! As noted above in Lourdes's update, from Memorial Day through Indigenous Peoples' / Columbus Day weekend, 44 stewards donated 1,027 volunteer hours at the Slide Mountain Trailhead, recording 2,201 hikers and 154 dogs (sadly, no cats). Hikers came from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Maryland, Florida, Wyoming, Massachusetts, Ohio, Montana, and the Carolinas among other states. Some days were slow due to cool and rainy weather, while more ideal weather days were busy, with more than 125 hikers passing through the trailhead on each day of Labor Day weekend.

Though the statistics are impressive – enough so that the program is expected to expand to Woodland Valley in 2022 – the metrics gloss over the interactions and experiences of the stewards and the hikers, the education we provided, and the reasons why the stewards donated their time.

The stewards who volunteered at the Slide trailhead are passionate about the outdoors, safe and responsible hiking, and encouraging others to follow Leave No Trace principles to leave the outdoors as we found them. We enjoy hiking for the beauty and solitude offered by the forests and mountain peaks, for the exercise on a five-plus mile trek, and for the comradery and friendship when we meet hikers on trails. Above all, we want to give back to the mountains that we love and enjoy, which is why we decided to spend some days over our summers (often nice days and really wanting to hike

ourselves) meeting and educating others so they too can learn to enjoy and respect the beauty of the outdoors.

We learned a variety of things through our interactions with hikers. Many visitors were looking for views or other naturally beautiful features and were novice hikers who did not properly plan. One family was even looking for "the waterfall," so we directed them to Kaaterskill Falls. Many underestimated the elevation gain from hiking the tallest mountain in the Catskills—though only a few returned before summiting. Some backpackers did not know the camping rules and some who were doing the Slide-Cornell-Wittenberg (Burroughs) loop were unaware of the easement near the Winnisook Club. Some brought little or no water, some wore improper footwear, others did not have rain gear, and many had little to no map knowledge.

While none of this should be surprising as more and more people have taken up hiking, the stewards became more than "just" a resource for water, ponchos, dog poop bags, allowing visitors to photograph our maps, and information on LNT principles and DEC regulations. Instead, we were there to encourage a first-time solo hiker starting their trek, and there to congratulate and ask about their experience upon their return. We were there to suggest hikers follow the Curtis-Ormsbee Trail on their descent to stay in the balsam forest for longer, or follow the trail past the summit to the spring for amazing views of the Burroughs Range. We were there to greet visitors hiking their first Catskills peak, and we met hikers who were visiting the Catskills only to "bag" Slide and Hunter as they worked towards the NE111. We shared hiking stories, suggested routes, and tips with other hikers and with other stewards—making us want to hike even more! We offered our spots in the parking lot to backpackers who would be out for a few nights so they didn't have to park on the road, and we played with dogs whose owners were getting their gear in order or changing after returning from a backpacking trip.

In other words, we were there to give the awesome ruggedness of the Catskills a face and a personal touch that we and so many visitors will remember. Because ultimately, it is the people – the hikers and volunteers – that create the experiences and memories of a land so vast.

Bryan obtained his PhD at SUNY Albany and is a Professor of Cognitive Science at the University of Scranton. Born in Central New York, Bryan has enjoyed the outdoors since he was a Boy Scout while hiking around his hometown, the Adirondacks, and the Catskills. After moving to Pennsylvania, Bryan began hiking the state parks and is fond of the Delaware Water Gap. Though a lifelong hiker, he was never into recording hikes or "peak-bagging" until the COVID-19 pandemic cancelled his other activities and he decided it would be an interesting challenge. He became 3500 Club Member in December 2020 and a Winter 35'er in March 2021 and is considering working on the grid. Bryan values volunteer service and decided to give back to the activities and mountains he enjoys, so he began volunteering for the 3500 Club. He stewarded at the Slide Mountain trailhead, assisted with Peekamoose-Table trail maintenance and the Route 214 cleanup, and is looking forward to more opportunities, especially if the steward program continues at Woodland Valley in 2022! Bryan can be reached by [email](#).



A December view from Drybrook Ridge. Photo by river luna.

Historical Profile: Bramley Mountain

Text by: John Sasso #2034

As of this writing, the [Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower](#) are working hard to raise the funds necessary to restore the fire tower on Bramley Mountain. The tower was closed at the end of 1970 by the DEC, who in turn sold it to Delhi dairy farmer, Pete Clark. Since then, the disassembled, 80-foot, steel tower has been safely in the hands of the Clark family. The Clarks have pledged to lease the tower to the Town of Delhi for \$1 for 99 years if it is returned to the summit of Bramley. Once the tower is restored, Bramley Mountain will surely draw more visitors than it does now.



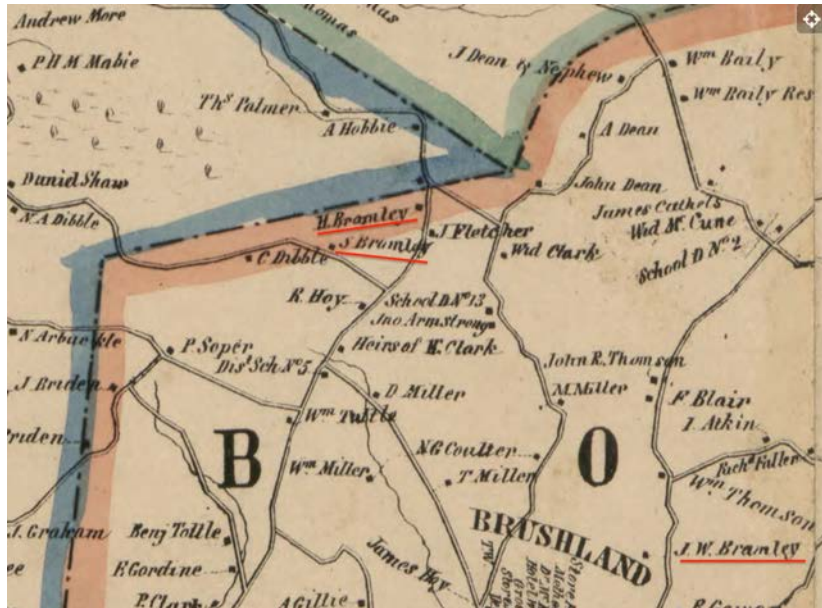
With the drive to resurrect Bramley's fire tower, *The Canister's* editor asked me to write an article on the history connected with this 2,817-foot peak. What has been written about Bramley's history has been limited to its use in fire observation (which I will touch upon). The prime source for this history is Martin Podskoch's book *Fire Towers of the Catskills*.^[1] In this historical profile, I will delve into other aspects of the peak's history outside of fire observation.



View of Mount Pisgah toward the southeast from a lookout off Bramley Mountain

A History of the Name

A clue to the origin of Bramley Mountain's name exists in the 1856 *Map of Delaware Co., New York*, by Jay Gould. On what appears to be the southern slope of the mountain are two residences denoted: "H. Bramley" and "S. Bramley." Examination of census record and newspaper archives revealed the former to be Henry Bramley (1782-1870), and the latter to be his son, Sylvanus Bramley (1811-1865). Other variations for the spelling of the surname I have found are Bramlee, Brambley, and Bramblee.



A portion of the 1856 Map of Delaware Co., New York, showing the residences of "H. Bramley" and "S. Bramley," which would be on the southern slope of Bramley Mountain. The former is Henry Bramley, and the latter is his son, Sylvanus Bramley. (Source: [Library of Congress](#))

The Bramley family of Delaware has its roots in William Bramley (1747-1839), a veteran of the Revolutionary War.^[ii] As a boy, he emigrated from England to Colonial America prior to the Revolution. He first settled in Schoharie County, then, a few years after his marriage to Gertrude Kidney, he moved to Delaware County. William died in Andes in 1839 at the age of around 91, and is interred in the Andes Cemetery.



Memorial stone to Revolutionary War veteran and early resident of Delaware County, William Bramblee (Bramley) in the Andes Cemetery.

Of William's seven children, his fourth eldest, Henry, was born in Schoharie County in 1782. He married Elizabeth "Betsey" Wright, who bore him 12 children. The couple settled in Bovina sometime after 1818, where Henry built a farm on a slope of Bramley Mountain (specifically, on Lot 27 of Janet Montgomery's Tract, in the Hardenburgh Patent). Henry's third eldest, Sylvanus, lived with Henry until 1838, before purchasing a farm from his father, which Sylvanus lived on until 1857, before moving to Andes.^[iii] By the time the 1850 census was taken, four of Henry's sons owned land in Bovina: 200 acres by Sylvanus, 150 acres by John, and 70 acres by William; Henry himself owned 200 acres.

Henry's youngest son, Stephen Girard (or just Girard), was born in Bovina in 1838. Stephen was recorded in census records as a member of his parents' household until his father passed away in 1870, whereupon he took over the family

farm. Stephen came to be known throughout the county for raising fine horses and Alderney cattle^[iv] (a breed of dairy cattle which originated from the British Channel Island of Alderney), and was reported as the “well known proprietor” of Bramley Mountain.^[v]

The earliest mention of “Bramley Mountain” I could find is in the July 2, 1873 edition of the Delaware Gazette, in regard to a picnic by a party of young people on the summit.^[vi] Stephen allowed the public to visit the summit for picnics and sight-seeing. It is likely that the popularity of the summit as a destination for tourists, brought about by Stephen’s generosity, induced the peak’s name. In August 1882, Stephen had a road built from his farm to the summit.^[vii] With the road in place by the summer of 1883, it was reported that the summit was being visited daily by up to 150 people.^[viii] Stephen planned to build on the summit an observatory and shelter for visitors at some point after 1883.^[ix] The shelter would include refreshments, ice water, and possibly amusements – if there were demands for such. It is unclear whether Stephen followed through on his plans and, if so, what form the observatory and shelter took.

Stephen moved to the city of Albany sometime before 1920 to live with his son, Edwin. He passed away on February 20, 1928. It is interesting to note that Bramley Mountain was briefly referred to as Hobbie Mountain. I encountered this in the May 13, 1885 edition of the Delaware Gazette, in which an article notes Stephen’s residence on “Hobbie mountain.”^[x] “Hobbie” is in apparent reference to Ebenezer Hobbie (also spelled Hobby), who owned land on the southeast side of Bramley Mountain as early as 1823. Henry Bramley’s land in Lot 27 was bounded on the north by Hobbie’s 100-acre parcel, which also would have been near (if not included) the summit. Given that Stephen G. Bramley permitted the public access to the summit, it is unclear when he acquired the land on the summit (on or before 1873).

The Bluestone Quarry by the Quarry Trail

About 0.8 miles up the blue-marked Quarry Trail, you will arrive at an open area with scattered pieces of bluestone of all sizes to your left and right. Walk a little further, and you will come to a fork in the trail. Taking the short, uphill path to your left will bring you to the remnants of a bluestone quarry.

It is unclear when this quarry was opened, how long it remained in “operation,” and the extent of its use. Neither the New York State Museum’s 1903 nor 1989 studies on bluestone mines^{[xi],[xii]} in the State make note of a commercial mine in the vicinity of Bramley Mountain. Thus, the quarry may have been used for personal or local purposes.

According to Rick Roberts of nearby Hamden, “In the late 1960’s the quarry in question was operated by my grandfather, Flobert (Phil) Warren of Delhi. The quarry may have existed prior to my grandfather’s using it but he usually prospected and opened his own operations. I remember going with him to the quarry many days during my summer vacation from school. I was around 13 or 14 and began working with him in a quarry when I was 15. The landscape around the quarry at the time was mostly an open unused cow pasture with very old remains of a farm, house and perhaps a barn, but just foundations. He ran the quarry for only a few years and moved on to another.”^[xiii]

As you hike along the Quarry Trail, you will readily see many stone walls which are scattered across the landscape. Some of these walls are quite extensive. As farmlands did exist on the slopes of Bramley Mountain during the Nineteenth Century, the walls likely served several purposes, such as the delineation of property boundaries and enclosing pastures for cattle and sheep. Some of the stone used for the walls likely came from this quarry, if not others off the mountain.



One of numerous stone walls which line the landscape by the Quarry Trail.



Remnants of a bluestone quarry, just off the Quarry Trail. A similar mound of bluestone, covered in moss and brush, exists about 50 feet away from this and is visible from the trail.

Use in Land Surveys

The earliest reported measurement of the elevation of Bramley Mountain was in 1883, when the peak's elevation was given as 2,850 feet.^[xiv] Bramley was among several "prominent peaks" in Delaware County which were surveyed, including Utsayantha Mountain and Mount Pisgah. It does not appear the famous surveyor of the Catskill Mountains, Arnold Guyot, made the measurements.

In 1900, four parties engaged in a triangulation survey of the State, under the supervision of Sam S. Gannett. The triangulation stations established on Bramley and Utsayantha Mountains were leveraged for this effort.^[xv] A Mr. McNair established these stations. The 1901 bulletin from the U.S.G.S. reported that the triangulation station on Bramley is on a high, bare ridge on land owned by Stephen G. Bramley. The station mark is an unstamped, bronze triangulation tablet cemented in solid rock.



Reference marker #2 from the 1942 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey on the summit of Bramley (the arrow points to the triangulation station marker).

The Fire Tower on Bramley Mountain and the Effort to Restore It

In 1946, the Conservation Department increased its focus on getting its Forest Fire Control branch back up to standards. In the southeastern section of the state, a few gaps were identified in the protection of state lands. This gap was filled by the erection of the 80-foot Aermotor LS40 fire tower atop Bramley Mountain in 1950. The fire observer on Bramley worked with those on Utsayantha, Rock Rift, and Balsam Lake Mountains to triangulate the location of "smokes."^[xvi]

A three-room observer's cabin was built on the summit by Ranger Lester Rosa and Utsayantha fire observer Jim Davies. The State built a road to the summit, and local electric and telephone companies strung their lines to the tower and cabin. The fire tower on Bramley was operational for fire observation starting in the spring of 1951. The second observer, Bovina resident Therese "Que" Aitken, stood watch in 1952. Aitken was one of the few female fire observers in New York State.

Laurie Rankin, director of the New York State Chapter of the [Forest Fire Lookout Association](#) (FFLA), says that during the 20 years the tower was in operation, it may have provided a boost to efforts to promote fire prevention among schools and the general public. Not surprisingly, the mountain became a popular destination for outdoor recreation.^[xvii]

In the fall of 1970, the tower was decommissioned, as fire observation was handled through aerial surveillance. Local farmer Pete Clark purchased the tower for \$50 from the DEC in 1972, and carefully dismantled the structure (an effort which took four days). The stairs and cab were placed in one of Pete's barns, and the steel beams were placed near his machine shed. Pete color-coded each piece of the tower with paint, and made sketches of the tower, so it could be reassembled.

In 1997, an effort to resurrect Bramley's fire tower in its original place was undertaken with the formation of the Bramley Mountain Fire Tower Club. According to Marty Podskoch, the president of the club and author of the book *Fire Towers of the Catskills*, Pete Clark was willing to donate the tower to the club in the event they could raise the funds necessary to purchase the 50 acres of summit land from John Terra, the landowner at the time. Mr. Terra owned almost 1,000 acres of land on Bramley Mountain.^[xviii]

The Bramley Mountain Fire Tower Club held raffles and other fund-raising efforts to raise money to buy the 50-acre site, along with the observer's cabin and the right-of-way, all of which had a price tag of \$50,000. By the summer of 1998, the club secured \$1,300 in donations from local businesses.^[xix] Unfortunately, the negotiations between the club and Terra to purchase the summit land failed. According to Rankin, the funds raised were donated toward the restoration of the Utsayantha fire tower, located 13.6 miles northeast of Bramley.

At some point, the New York State Department of Environmental Protection acquired much of the Bramley Mountain land (including the summit). The [Catskill Mountain Club](#) then worked with the DEP to design and build a hiking trail on Bramley Mountain, with the trailhead off Glen Bernie Road in Delhi.

As of this writing, the Friends of Bradley Mountain Fire Tower have raised at least \$53,000 toward their goal of about \$200,000 needed to restore the tower, including a \$500 donation from the Catskill 3500 Club. For more information on the Friends of Bradley Mountain Fire Tower and their efforts, see their [website](#).



Bramley Mountain fire tower and observer's cabin, from 1974. (Credit: Bob Eckler)

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Photo credits: all photos, unless credited otherwise, are by John Sasso, except for the quarry remnants and reference marker #2 photos, which are by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond.

John Sasso (#2034) is an Adirondack historian, and avid hiker and bushwhacker, from Colonie, N.Y. Contact the author at jsassojr@gmail.com. For those interested in the history and folklore of the Adirondacks, join John's Facebook group [History and Legends of the Adirondacks](#).

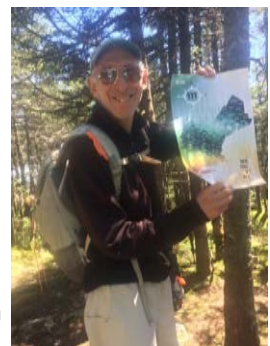


Colgate Lake to Dutcher's Notch. Photo by Dick Vincent #3055

Why Snowshoes?

Text by: Ira Orenstein #415 W776

Snowshoes have been around for thousands of years and for many were a means of survival. They provided a way for hunters and trappers to move through deep snow. Early snowshoes were made from wood and rawhide (think of those tennis racquet-like adornments hanging on the walls of rustic restaurants and inns). Snowshoes helped keep the user afloat by spreading his/her weight over a broad surface area. If you lived in regions of the United States that tended to be more open and where the snow was lighter and fluffier, chances are the snowshoes would be rather large. In areas that tended to be forested and that had heavier snow, as for example the Catskills, a more nimble, smaller footprint might have been preferred. Today we are more likely to associate snowshoe usage with recreational activity. In recent decades there have been material and design changes that make for a lighter package, facilitate attachment to one's boots, increase durability and improve traction on icy patches.



In recent years there has been considerable on-line (and sometimes on-trail) dialog associated with hiker frustration regarding people who fail to use snowshoes when the snow is deep. The problem centers around the issue of "post holing" which occurs when someone walking on a trail breaks through the snow surface thus creating a deep footprint. As the season progresses the freeze/thaw/freeze cycle solidifies the resulting irregularly surfaced trail (now the equivalent of a potholed road), making travel slow and potentially hazardous (i.e., ankle or knee injury). In New York's Adirondack High Peaks, where carrying snowshoes or skis is required when ground snow accumulation reaches eight inches, trail conditions generally continue to improve as the season progresses. There is an expression that a trail is "set" once a group has broken through with snowshoes. While it is certainly often laborious to be the first to "break

trail" the usage of snowshoes usually facilitates that process and the lead group can feel accomplished knowing that it made the trail more user-friendly for those in the hiking community who follow. A set trail can be in such good condition that travel may be far easier than on bare ground where roots, rocks and other irregularities can exist.

There are potential inherent obstacles to the purchase and usage of snowshoes, including the need to create greater awareness of their value. The occasional winter hiker may not see the investment (a new pair can range from \$140 to more than \$300) as being a priority. Placing "tennis racquets" on one's feet may seem like a clumsy way to move along a trail, let alone how to carry them when they are off the feet. For those who have not experienced the usage of snowshoes on a regular basis I would like to offer that when wearing snowshoes, I am essentially unaware of any additional weight (the only exception would be in very wet snow). Typically, snowshoes are designed with a pivot that permits the back of the shoe to gently drag along the ground and shed snow as the user shuffles along. If the snow is deep and the trail is not set, the user is clearly in for a workout, albeit one which is far more efficient than bare booting and punching through to one's knees on each step. If, on the other hand the trail is already set, the user cruises along nicely (again, often at a faster rate than when there is no snow cover) and the snowshoes provide very stable platforms that help to neutralize any surface irregularities on the snow. It is this characteristically stable platform and associated "comfortable ride" that generally makes me often don snowshoes even when the ground cover isn't very deep. When deciding when to wear snowshoes, I ask myself "will I leave footprints in the snow of greater than two to three inches?" If the answer is "yes," the snowshoes typically go on.

So, you've made the decision to buy snowshoes. With all the choices out there, selecting the proper shoe may seem a bit overwhelming. Of course, there are many seasoned users who will offer varying opinions regarding style, brand and size. Additionally, snow can vary in density and depth on any given day and no one snowshoe will perform equally well in all conditions. With that said, and for an initial purchase, I offer the suggestion that a good all-around snowshoe for the Catskills should be durable in order to handle the occasional exposure to rocks and roots. It should have plenty of traction capable of handling some icy patches. It should be agile enough to negotiate the typical obstacles and sharp turns one may face in the Catskill forest, and therefore should not be too large and heavy. With experience, the user will dial in decisions for future purchases based on his/her own preferences. Common snowshoe brands seen on Catskill trails include MSR, Tubbs, Atlas, and a variety of others.

Once a purchase has been made, the user needs to decide whether to bring them along on any given winter day. One caveat is to not make that decision solely based on observations at the trailhead as they may bear no resemblance to conditions up high. Various on-line trail postings can be very helpful in this regard. Very deep snow and drifting can be found at higher elevations that can conceivably immobilize, exhaust, or induce hypothermia upon the unprepared hiker. The user may begin the hike with light traction like Microspikes and therefore needs to configure a strategy for carrying snowshoes on his/her pack. This can usually be accomplished with lashing straps and/or shock cord. It is also important to appreciate that even the most aggressive snowshoes will not always provide the needed level of ice traction. Hence, the requirement that snowshoes and crampons be brought to the trailhead for all Catskill 3500 Club winter hikes.

So, if you haven't already done so, consider adding snowshoes to your winter equipment arsenal and creating...Happy Trails!

Ira Orenstein is a member of the Catskill 3500 Club (#415 W777), The Adirondack Forty Sixers, The New Hampshire Four Thousand Footers, New England 4000 Footers and the Northeast 111. Ira currently leads hikes for the 3500 Club and previously served the Club as a merchandise coordinator, along with his wife, Karen Bloom (#1733 W777). He and his family enjoy spending time together in the outdoors. He can be reached via [email](#).

Editor's note: Due to supply issues, snowshoes may be tough to locate at the moment, as it was last year. However, many independently owned and local businesses may still have snowshoes in stock, so give them a call. Also, I want to highlight that many local shops also offer snowshoes for rent, so consider that option, if unable to secure your own pair this season. Some of the local stores that offer mountaineering snowshoes for rent are [Rock and Snow](#), [Morgan Outdoors](#) and many [Eastern Mountain Sports](#) locations. Tim Luby's popular snowshoe-sharing program is back; and this year Tim is partnering with Slide Mountain Motel - check out [Catskills Trail Conditions](#) on Facebook for more info.



Lots of snow calls for snowshoes! Side by side comparison of winter vs. summer on Slide. Photos by Amy Bateman

Winter Hiking with Babies

Text by: Ali Kralick #3347 W1357

Yes, you can take your baby hiking in the winter! All over the world, plenty of families do this safely with prior planning and preparation.

Layers

As everyone tells us now in Germany, "there is no bad weather, just bad clothing." Just like adults, babies need layering systems to protect them from the cold and from overheating. Babies up to 6 months can hike safely snuggled into a front carrier, getting extra benefit from their adult's heat. Babies 6 months and up can ride in a more sturdy backpack carrier, but remember, they can get chillier riding back there because they aren't moving, so keep that in mind when planning their layers.



When riding in her front carrier, our daughter stayed cozy in a merino wool footed onesie as a base layer, a fleece zip-up footed onesie as a mid-layer, and a down footed waterproof snowsuit as her outer layer. She wore wool socks on her feet and hands, fleece-lined waterproof gloves on her hands, and a fleece hat that fastened under her chin. We also carried a poncho that would completely cover her in the carrier in case of unforecasted precipitation.

As she got older and transitioned to the backpack carrier, during our winter adventures, she wore the same merino wool footed onesie as her base layer, but switched to a hi-pile fleece midlayer, and for the top layer, either a waterproof rain suit when temperatures are 40+ or her waterproof Columbia snowsuit when it was below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. We added BOGS boots on her feet and a balaclava to wear around her neck and pull up over her nose if need be. Our backpack carrier (Osprey Poco Premium) also has an easy-to-use sun-shade and rain cover that employ if there is any wind at all. The combination does a good job of blocking the wind and keeping a little warm pocket around her head. We also had ski goggles ready for her in the pack, but we never encountered conditions that warranted them.

Choosing the Adventure

This is always about your own comfort level, but I err on the side of caution for winter hiking. Our daughter still goes on mountain adventures with us in the winter, but we choose safer trails, shorter outings, and near perfect weather conditions: little to no wind, no precipitation in the forecast, and bright sun if temperatures approach freezing.

I would always recommend starting on flatter, less challenging terrain as you gain confidence in your proprioception and equipment while carrying a child, but especially on a more slippery winter surface. Consider your traction footwear if you are hiking on packed down snow, ice, and inclines. I always err on the side of aggressive traction when carrying my little: Black Diamond Contact crampons for icy conditions, Hillsound Trail Crampons for packed down snow turned ice, and Tubbs Flex VRT snowshoes for snow accumulations over eight inches. Use apps that report on trail conditions to be as prepared as possible (Hike Intel), and check the Mountain Forecast website regularly for weather trends and forecasts at elevation.

Extra Gear and Additional Considerations.

In addition to our extra winter layers, we carry a tent, ensuring we have a way to get the little one out of the elements if worst case scenarios present themselves while in the backcountry. We also bring a sleeping pad and poncho to keep the baby off the ground and out of the wind for diaper changes. For breastfeeding moms, there are layering options for minimal exposure. Make sure to warm any food or snacks in your pockets before offering it to your little one for snack breaks. Finally, take them out of the carrier or pack regularly to let them move and get the blood flowing.



Ali Kralick (#3347 W1357 (SSW); ADK 46r #13222) is a lawyer and Army veteran currently living in Southern Germany. Her daughter, Abigail ("Summit Baby"), was carried to the summit of all the New York "high peaks" between two and nineteen months of age (including the four Catskill 3500 winter requirements, 19 additional Catskill high peaks in winter, and four Adirondack high peaks in winter). Though Abigail is summiting mountains on her own now at just under 2, Ali has continued to carry her throughout the German, Austrian, French, and Swiss Alps. Their family is now ticking off European Country high points and plans a Tour Du Mont Blanc bid for next summer. Follow their adventures and tips for hiking and backpacking with little ones on [Instagram](#).

Photo credits: Ali's photo is by Jonathan Kralick (#3348 W1349); family photo is by Josh Wiley.



Spooky woods on Windham High Peak. Photo by Tom Rankin #1503 W627

Winter Hiking with Dogs: Safety Tips and Tricks

Text by: Diana Richards

Once upon a time, six years ago, I adopted my first dog. I'm an avid hiker and I was lucky enough to find the best trail buddy a girl could dream of. She's a 50 pound mutt and loves the colder weather, so winter hiking is naturally one of her favorite activities.

I'm sure you know that being well prepared is essential for your safety with winter hiking conditions changing moment to moment, but are you prepared for the safety of your loyal four-legged trail buddy as well? I've learned a lot through my hiking experiences, research, and simply by talking to many other helpful dog owners.

Here are a few tips that I've learned along the way to help keep you and your dog safe while enjoying the snowy serenity of those winter hikes:



Consider the Type of Dog You Have

Your dog is special and unique, and of course you know them best. Not all dogs enjoy hiking in cold conditions and many of them are not physically capable of safely being outside in cold weather. Be sure to do research about your dog's breed, age, and any health conditions before you take them on a snowy adventure in the mountains. Generally, young puppies and elderly doggos should not join on winter hikes, and short haired dogs like pugs should sit them out as well. I'm sure their shivering sad puppy eyes have already given you that hint!

Keep Your Trail Buddy Warm

Winter temps can vary with elevation and wind, so be sure to check the weather of your particular mountain before you go. Mountain weather is also known for changing conditions very quickly, especially during the winter months. Along with your own extra layers, be sure to carry extra layers for your dog as well. I carry an insulated waterproof jacket to throw on my dog as the temps get chillier. I also know that my dog can't handle long hikes when the temperature is lower than 15 degrees Fahrenheit.

Protect the Paws

Not all paws are equal. Some dogs that are new to hiking or fairly young may have softer paws that are sensitive to icy conditions, and some dogs may have hairier paws that can get clumps of snow caught between them. I use Musher's Secret Paw Wax to help protect my dog's paws from icy conditions and even when salt is on the sidewalk in my neighborhood. I also put on booties in snowy conditions to help protect her paws from forming ice balls between her toes. I use the *Pawz* brand dog booties because I found that those are the only ones that will stay on her feet, but there are many kinds out there that may fit your pup better.

Pack Extra First Aid and Be Ready to Carry Them Out

Are you prepared to carry your dog out if they can no longer walk? My dog has had numerous injuries on our hiking adventures, from cutting her paw to splitting a nail. Luckily, they happened early on our hikes, so we were able to wrap it up and turn around. Be sure you have something or someone to assist carrying your dog if you need to.

Many people will carry a small first aid kit for themselves, but there are a few special things you should have for your dog as well. Depending on your dog, you may choose to add certain specific items to your kit. In addition to my human first aid kit, here are a few suggestions that I carry for my dog:

- Musher's Wax
- Extra hand warmers and an emergency blanket
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Benadryl
- Tick key and tweezers
- Bandages for paws
- Styptic powder for bleeding nail injuries
- Some vet prescribed meds (confer with your vet first)
- A card with your dog's info, vet info, appropriate doses for any meds, etc.
- An extra leash

I personally still struggle with what else I may need to have in case of an emergency on a high peak. I listen to a great podcast called, "[The Dogs Way Podcast](#)." There are tons of episodes about dog training, but my personal favorite was the one about your dog's first aid kit. I recommend to explore other episodes as well for lots of great doggo info.

When in Doubt, Turn Back

Pay close attention to your dog and how they are acting, and turn around if you are at all concerned about any off behavior. Are they lifting their paws a lot? Do they seem more tired than usual? Hypothermia symptoms can start slow but progress very quickly. Here are some symptoms to look out for, but I never hesitate to turn back if my dog is showing any discomfort or unusual behavior:

- Shivering
- Acting lethargic or weak
- Trouble breathing
- Dilated pupils (the black inner circle of the eye appears larger)
- Blue or pale gums or inner eyelids

Remember...

Dogs are loyal and loving beings, and they all have very different needs and behaviors. Most dogs will follow you until they can't physically move anymore, and many won't even show their pain. Remember, know before you go and always be prepared. Stay safe and happy trails to all you human and pup friends!

Diana is an avid hiker and landscape photographer based in the Hudson Valley, NY. She hikes all over the Catskills, the Hudson Valley, and the Adirondacks with her loyal trail buddy, her rescue dog named Roxy. Diana has always had a

passion for environmental conservation, and she enjoys sharing her love and respect for the outdoors with others. She's volunteered with various nonprofits, such as Gear Forward, to help provide equitable access to the outdoors for underserved youth, as well as assisted the New York- New Jersey Trail Conference with cleaning up and building trails. She's been a devoted educator for 15 years, and more recently became the Education Lead for The Fungi Foundation to help launch a free mycological curriculum. You can follow her adventures with Roxy through the Catskills and beyond on her [Instagram](#). Diana can be reached by [email](#).



View from the fire tower on Balsam Lake Mountain. Photo by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond #2814 W1222

Friendship in Now Forbidden Lands

Text and photos by: Chris Adams #2710

The Catskill Mountains have forged a lot of friendships and deepened many more. When permission to access Doubletop and Graham Mountains was revoked, memories of a day of both forging and deepening friendship came rushing back to me. On January 17, 2016, I climbed those two mountains with Tim Luby (# 3268) and Bryan Grossbauer.

Bryan is a longtime friend of mine and an all-around great guy who is always up for an adventure. For all the great times that he and I had shared up until that day, even though we are both hikers, we had never hiked together. I was excited that we would finally get to spend a beautiful, snow-covered day in the Catskills together. His positive attitude and generally cheery disposition make easy days glide by and hard days a little less grueling.

At that point in time, Tim and I were acquaintances. We had initially met in the front yard



of Mama's Boy Café in Phoenicia (now home of Catskill Outfitters). My mix-n-mingle Midwestern wife made a habit of befriending people in that yard, which served as a *de facto* Phoenicia town square. I'm more of a dog guy than a people person. I was happy when she befriended the couple with the cute black puppy named Muppet, who I can proudly say is now my good buddy. It turns out that Tim and his wife-to-be Jess were opening an outfitter in Phoenicia called The Storehouse. After a few stop-n-chats in their store, Tim and I maintained a pleasant exchange of messages online, mostly about hiking.

My first attempt at hiking with Tim involved a dreaded last-minute cancellation on my part. I really hate to do it, but maybe it wasn't such a bad idea on that particular day. My heat pipes—not water pipes—in Phoenicia froze overnight.

After some more back and forth, Tim and I settled on hiking to Doubletop and Graham. Tim called and obtained permission from the caretaker and did most of the preliminary planning. I explained to Tim that my buddy Bryan was in town, but he was more than game to join us.

Bryan and I loaded into my car to swing by The Storehouse to pick up Tim and Muppet and we were off. Conversation flowed like a mountain brook, from music to you'll find this funny, to shared recreational pursuits, and even that dreaded eggshell topic, politics. It was immediately clear that we hit it off and would be having good company for the day's pursuits.

It was a beautiful wintery wonderland on the walk-in along Dry Brook from the Seager trailhead. Once we hit Flatiron Brook, after a minute to take in the beauty of the falls and the hole beneath it, we headed up the spur toward Doubletop. The ascent was fairly straightforward. There were some tracks in the snow ahead of us, but we kept to our own bearing. We easily found the canister and then we set about on the wild goose chase in which many before and after us have partaken—finding the viewpoints denoted by the two stars on the NY-NJ Trail Conference map. We searched this way and that through a forest of trees whose trunks were blanketed sideways by the snow. Limbs drooped due to the weight of the snow they carried. It was perfect weather for wearing a hoodie. We never found the viewpoints, but it was beautiful searching for them.



L to R: Muppet at the Doubletop canister; The walk in along the Dry Brook; "Where are those views?"

After realizing that the viewpoints would elude us that day, we decided to begin the wild and woolly portion of the day's events. Dropping down into the col between Doubletop and Graham, the feeling of being "out there" away from it all sank in as the powdery snow depth grew and the wintry gray solidified itself in the sky. That powdery snow would play a role on our descent from Doubletop. First, Tim, who was handling chief navigation duties, had the knot on his compass lanyard come untied. Somewhere, he dropped his compass into the white powder. That powder must've been magic, because that compass completely disappeared. Thankfully, I had a compass...and a backup just in case. With the snow being such a presence on our descent, I thought that rather than trying to stay upright with traction, why not try some butt sliding. Boy, that was fun until something reached up out of the snow and grabbed ahold of my taint. I was sure that my hand would return red when I slipped it down there to investigate. Thankfully, it all was somehow intact!

We hit the col and began strategizing the best route to take to best navigate the rock ledges that made up the Graham side. The compass kept saying we needed to urge our path to our right, but closer to straight up felt right to me. It was

one of those times where “the compass was wrong...” After some gymnastics, some feats of strength, and at least one lifting overhead of dog haunches, we start approaching elevation. Funny enough, we kept having to go toward what was our right during our climb. That compass was right—and I was wrong—again!

Two things were clear once we got up on the ridgeline: We busted some tail getting up there and, wow, it was really feeling cold. After a little more traveling in the direction that the compass had earlier told us to go, we came out to the site of the old television repeater tower that sits atop Graham Mountain. We stopped, rested, and refueled. Despite the chill, Tim wisely swapped out a dry shirt for a sweat-soaked one after that strenuous climb.

After yet another ice ball removal from Muppet’s paws, we were on our way. We took the old woods road that most folks used to access Graham Mountain from the Dry Brook Ridge Trail. Once we hit the top of the spur that leads to just past Drury Hollow, we rode that down the mountain. The snow and ground conditions were much easier than our time in between Doubletop and Graham, but with the exhaustion of the day settling in, it was almost as challenging. As daylight began to dim, seeing my car in the Seager trailhead was a sight for sore eyes—and legs and feet.



L to R: Bryan, quickly refueling; Views from Graham; Tim, adjusting wardrobe

Today, I know Tim on the same level that I knew Bryan on that day. Our kids and dogs have played together many times. Conversations flow like the Esopus when the portal is cranked wide open. Our wives enjoy one another’s company and they even let us hang out with them sometimes. After that day, Tim, Muppet, and I have enjoyed countless hours in the woods, on trail and off. We might not make it back to Doubletop and Graham Mountains, but at least we got there. And it was glorious.

Chris Adams, is a lifelong outdoor enthusiast who lives in Hastings-on-Hudson and Phoenicia, NY, with his wife, son, daughter, cat, and his main hiking and backpacking partner, Rosie the silver standard poodle. Chris is currently serving on the Board as an assistant to the Membership Chair. He can be reached via [email](#).



Blackhead from Arizona. Photo Kathy Marryat #3768

Marina the Catskill Cat

Text and photos by: Allison Muller

This is a story about Marina, the Catskill hiking cat. On June 23, 2019 my boyfriend and I picked up a little kitten that my aunt found in her barn. We named her Marina. We are avid hikers, kayakers, and outdoor enthusiasts and we wondered if our new kitten could be brought into our world of adventure. I started looking into the idea and learned that a community of adventure cats existed. We bought a tiny harness and got to work. When you put a harness on a cat, most freak out or flop over. Marina was no exception. We'd put it on her and start playing with her favorite feather. The play distracted her and she slowly learned that she could still move with the contraption on. We started with a few minutes of practice each day and increased the duration as she got more comfortable. Soon she was sleeping and going about her day with a harness on. Next we added the leash, while still inside and let her lead with little to no tug.

The first time we took Marina outside, her eyes lit up and she forgot all about the leash. She played with the leaves and bugs, ran around and even climbed up a tree. We bought a Cat Backpack and started regularly taking her to local, quiet trails. When she saw us grab her harness, she'd run over eagerly awaiting an adventure. She'd sit in her backpack, waiting. Her first big hike was Breakneck Ridge in Cold Spring, NY when she was 6 months old. She did surprisingly well following us and staying on trail. We spent the next year hiking mountains in the Hudson Valley area with her (Beacon, Storm King, Anthony's Nose, Taurus, Schunemunk, Gertrude's Nose and Bonticou Crag). We learned her habits, established routines and built up her and our comfort and trust. Marina continued to show a love for hiking.



One year later in November of 2020, Marina took her first trip to the Catskills to hike Bearpen and Vly. The trip was a success. Since then she has hiked Windham, West Kill, Balsam, Hunter, Southwest Hunter, Rusk and Sherrill. We carry her for sections of the hike but she prefers to walk herself and can hike up to about three miles. She does best when the trails are narrow and well established and no one is around. If she sees a person or a dog, her instinct is to lay low and hide. If we see an off-leash dog, we pick her up and she climbs in her backpack. When people notice her, we almost always get a reaction. Something that has become so normal for us is very often something many people never knew was possible. We enjoy bringing a smile to people on the trail and opening up their perspective on what cats are able to do.



In addition to hiking, Marina participates in several water activities, including kayaking, paddleboarding and sailing. She enjoys camping, car rides and visiting new places. Unbeknownst to many, there are cats all over the world enjoying these experiences. We do it because Marina consistently shows us signs that she loves every part of it. She's calm in the car, follows us on trails and rubs against our legs. She is happiest when she's outside. Rather than letting her roam as an outdoor cat, she is safer on her leash and harness, always being supervised by us. Exposing her to a harness has elevated the types of experiences she can have and involving her in our hobbies has created an incredible bond between us.

While Marina is a natural adventurer, of course not all cats will enjoy these activities. Marina has a brother, Blaze. When he was young, we harnessed and leashed trained him in the same way. He seemed to be on the same path, yet his reactions differed. Instead of following us, he only followed Marina. If a stranger walked by, his instinct was to run instead of lay low. In the car, he often got sick. In the backpack, he meowed. We started to get the feeling he wasn't enjoying himself. When we got the harness out, he ran away and he wouldn't willingly go in the backpack. To respect Blaze's comfort, he now very rarely comes out with us. He prefers to lounge at home, cuddle and eat. Blaze taught us that personality is an important factor when it comes to having an adventure cat.

If you're thinking about trying this with your cat, it is certainly worth exploring. Keep in mind that walking with a cat will never be the same as walking with a dog. It involves extra patience and understanding. Bringing Marina along on our hikes brings new challenges and risks, but so do many activities we all enjoy. The reward and enjoyment makes it all worth it. At any level of intensity, taking your cat outdoors in a safe way can enhance both you and your cats' lives.

We plan to continue including Marina in our journey to become members of the Catskill 3500 Club. I imagine she'd be the first cat to visit all the 3500 summits. She has limitations as far as hiking distance and temperature go, so we cannot always bring her, but when conditions are right, she'll be there. Please stop us on the trails if you see us! If you would like to reach out for advice or follow our adventures, we have [YouTube](#), [TikTok](#) and [Instagram](#).

Cat parents of Marina and Blaze are Allison Muller and Christopher Peri from Montgomery, NY. Allison and Christopher are both Catskill 3500 Club aspirants, having completed 21 peaks and the four required winters. Marina has visited nine of the summits. Additionally, they have hiked seven of the 4000-foot White Mountains in NH (Marina visited one, Mount Jackson) and two of the Adirondack High Peaks (without Marina). Allison and Christopher enjoy activities of all seasons — sailing on the Hudson River, mountain biking, kayaking, camping and skiing.



Sunrise on Hunter. Photo by Michael Kucinski #3210

IN MEMORIAM

Paul M. Levine, #1180 W524 passed away on September 2, 2021, from complications of COVID-19, at 87 years old. Paul had been a resident of Ridgefield Conn., but was living in Florida since 2019, where one of his daughters is mayor of Miami-Dade County. Paul was a longtime hiker, as was on display at his Zoom memorial when his adult children recounted tales of hikes in their teens and earlier. He was a Life Member of the Catskill 3500 Club. Paul had contributed poems to *The Canister*.

Norman J. Smith, #199 W71, from Middletown, NY, passed away on February 16, 2019, at the age of 90. Norm was an Adirondack 46er (#1652W) and New England 111-er (#102), and he hiked the Western 15,000 Footers, 50 State Highpoints, and a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail with his wife Kip. You can read all about his international hiking pursuits in his 60s in the article "All 50 over 60" that kicks off the April-June 1993 of *The Canister*.



View of Eastern Devil's Path from Friday. Photo by Siu Samantha Yuen #2894 W1311

Rambles and Brambles
Hike Schedule
January - March 2022

Familiarize yourself with the seven [Leave No Trace](#) Principles for all your hikes:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare;
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces;
3. Dispose of Waste Properly;
4. Leave What You Find;
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts;
6. Respect Wildlife;
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

The Catskill 3500 Club's hiking credo includes three basic principles:

1. Follow the rules
2. Use your map and compass
3. Know your limitations.

The Club also promotes the adherence to the [hikeSafe](#) hiker responsibility code. [hikeSafe](#) encourages hikers to be prepared:

- with knowledge and gear
- to leave your plans
- to stay together
- to turn back for emergencies
- to share the hiker responsibility code with others.

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.

Club hikes may be canceled at the hike leader's discretion if dangerous weather conditions exist. When in doubt (heavy rain, high winds, or other serious weather conditions), please contact your hike leader.

Group Size: All Club hikes are limited to 12 participants including the leaders. The DEC limits group size to 12 in the Wilderness Areas. Accordingly, all Club hikes allow no more than 12 participants.

The hikes listed here and on the [online events calendar](#) are official Catskill 3500 Club hikes. Any other advertised hikes to the 3500 peaks are private hikes and, while they can count for membership to the Club, the Club is not affiliated with those hikes.

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. See Club's website the [Catskill 3500 Club Hiking & Private Property guide](#).

Blaze Orange Alert: The hunting season is here! Refer to this [DEC link](#) for the summary of hunting seasons. Wear orange, avoid white and remember the same for your four-legged hiking companions!

Winter Parking: Not all parking areas are open in winter and, of those that are, not all are plowed in a timely manner. Always have a shovel in your car and consult this [list](#) for winter parking guidelines.



Overlook at nighttime. Photo by Jon Gordon #2816 W1252

The calendar of the current hike schedule can also be found on the [Club site](#).

Club hiking schedule is subject to change.

Sat. Jan. 1 - BALSAM

Distance: 5+ mi. Ascent 1600', Elev: 3607'

Moderate pace. Beginners welcome.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sat. Jan. 1 - PANTHER

Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev: 3724'

Moderate pace. Winter instruction. Beginners welcome.

Registration Period: Dec. 14 - 27

Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262

russell.buildingscience@gmail.com 518-370-3600

Sun. Jan. 2 – WEST KILL

Distance 6.8 mi. Ascent 1900', Elev 3898'

Relaxed-moderate pace.

Registration period: Dec. 26 - 31

Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312

catskill35r@gmail.com



Mon. Jan. 3 - BLACKHEAD

Distance: 5.2 mi. Ascent 1720', Elev: 3940'
Moderate pace.
Registration Period: Dec. 25 - Jan. 1
Leader: Joseph Ferri #2223 W945
newpaltz33@yahoo.com

Thu. Jan. 6 - KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent 1900', Elev: 3652'
Moderate pace bushwhack & trail hike. Fun scrambles & great views.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com



Thu. Jan. 6 - TWIN

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1850', Elev: 3650'
Relaxed pace.
Registration Period: by Jan. 3
Leader: Ed Moran #2007 W950
edmoran@gmail.com 631-741-3765

Sat. Jan. 8 - BALSAM & EAGLE

Distance: 9.5 mi, Ascent: 2800', Elevs: 3607', 3583'
Loop of Balsam and then out and back to Eagle at a moderate pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Sat. Jan. 8 - BEARPEN & VLY

Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent 2078', Elevs: 3587', 3541'
Moderate pace. Winter instruction. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Dec. 21 - Jan. 3
Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262
russell.buildingscience@gmail.com 518-370-3600

Sat. Jan. 8 - PLATEAU & SUGARLOAF

Distance: 5.4 mi. Ascent: 2785', Elevs: 3835', 3783'
Moderate pace.
Registration period: Jan 1 - 7
Leader: Harold Oakhill #283 W1244
hoakhill@gmail.com



Sat. Jan. 15 - BLACKHEAD

Distance: 9.4 mi. Ascent 2900', Elev: 3940'
Moderate pace from Dutcher Notch. Great views.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sat. Jan. 15 - MILL BROOK RIDGE & BALSAM LAKE

Distance: 8.5 mi, Ascent: 2800', Elevs: 3465', 3729'
Short bushwhack from Kelly Hollow to Millbrook Ridge, then easy trail hike at a moderate pace. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Sun. Jan. 16 - RUSK

Distance: 3 mi. Ascent 1636', Elev: 3686'
Short but steep bushwhack at a moderate pace.
Registration Period: Jan. 9 - 15
Leader: Harold Oakhill #283 W1244
hoakhill@gmail.com

Sun. Jan. 16 - SHERRILL

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elev: 3558'
Relaxed pace bushwhack.

Registration Period: Open
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Sat. Jan. 22 - BALSAM (WW)

Distance: 5.25 mi. Ascent: 1610', Elev: 3607'
Moderately fast pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Sat. Jan. 22 - BALSAM LAKE (WW)

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1150', Elev: 3729'
Moderate pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leaders: Peggy Wissler #1499 W612 & Yanny Hecht #1868 W751
yannyhecht@gmail.com

Sat. Jan. 22 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE (WW)

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2650', Elevs: 3940', 3994', 3953'
Moderate pace. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Jan. 13 - 20
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997
michael@bongarbiz.com

Sat. Jan. 22 - HUNTER & SW HUNTER (WW)

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent 2200', Elevs: 4030', 3753'
Moderate pace.
Registration Period: Jan. 15 - 21
Leaders: Tom Rankin #1503 W627 & Laurie Rankin #1337 W531
tomrankin7@gmail.com 845-926-6209

Sat. Jan. 22 - KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK (WW)

Distance 7.3 mi. Ascent: 1810', Elev: 3652'
Moderate pace trail and bushwhack.
Registration Period: Jan. 2 - 19
Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063
lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Sat. Jan. 22 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL (WW)

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2600', Elevs: 3605', 3558'
Moderate pace bushwhack. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sat. Jan. 22 - PANTHER (WW)

Distance: 6.6 mi, Ascent: 1800', Elev: 3724'
Moderate pace. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Sat. Jan. 22 - SLIDE

Distance 6.7 mi. Ascent: 1740', Elev: 4184'
Relaxed-moderate pace.
Registration Period: Jan. 10 - 19
Leaders: Ira Orenstein #415 W777 & Karen Bloom #1733 W776
ksbiho@aol.com (preferred) 914-262-5816

Sat. Jan. 22 – WEST KILL (WW)

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent 1900', Elev: 3898'
Moderate pace. Winter instruction. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Jan. 7 - 16
Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262
russell.buildingscience@gmail.com 518-370-3600



Sun. Jan. 23 - BALSAM (WW)

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elev: 3607'
Relaxed pace bushwhack.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Sun. Jan. 23 - BLACKHEAD (WW)

Distance: 5.2 mi. Ascent: 1720', Elev: 3940'
Moderate pace. Winter instruction. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Jan. 7 - 16
Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262
russell.buildingscience@gmail.com 518-370-3600

Sun. Jan. 23 - FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP (WW)

Distance: 7.5mi. Ascent: 3100', Elevs: 3692', 3608'
Steep bushwhack at a moderate pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Sun. Jan. 23 - HALCOTT & RUSK (WW)

Distance: 3.5 mi. Ascent: 1850', Elev: 3509'
Distance: 3.5 mi. Ascent: 1660', Elev: 3686'
Two short but steep bushwhacks at a moderate pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sun. Jan. 23 - PANTHER (WW)

Distance 6.6 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev: 3724'
Relaxed - moderate pace.
Registration period: Jan. 15 - 19
Leader: Tonda Highley #1944 W857
Thighley1944@gmail.com

Sun. Jan. 23 - SLIDE (WW)

Distance 6.7 mi. Ascent 1700', Elev: 4184'
Relaxed-moderate pace.
Registration period: Jan. 16 - 21
Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312
catskill35r@gmail.com

Sun. Jan 23 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK (WW)

Relaxed pace. Beginners welcome.
Distance: 6.2 mi. Ascent: 1575', Elev: 3525'
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Sharon Klein #3364
CatsNGunks@gmail.com

Sun. Jan. 30 - NORTH DOME

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3605'
Relaxed pace bushwhack and trail hike.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Sat. Feb. 5 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 1500', Elev: 3525'
Moderate pace. Winter instruction. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Jan. 21 - 31
Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262
russell.buildingscience@gmail.com 518-370-3600

Sat. Feb. 5 - WITTENBERG, CORNELL & SLIDE

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3600', Elevs: 3782', 3857', 4184'
Challenging scrambles at a moderate pace. Shuttle required.



Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com



Mon. Feb. 7 - SLIDE

Distance: 5.6 mi. Ascent 1800', Elev: 4184'
Moderate pace.
Registration Period: Jan. 29 - Feb. 5
Leader: Joseph Ferri #2223 W945
newpaltz33@yahoo.com

Thu. Feb. 10 - PANTHER

Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev: 3724'
Relaxed pace.
Registration Period: by Feb. 8
Leader: Ed Moran #2007 W950
edmoran@gmail.com 631-741-3765

Sat. Feb. 12 - BIG INDIAN & FIR

Distance: 10.5 mi. Ascent: 2221', Elevs: 3699', 3629'
Moderately pace bushwhack and trail hike.
Registration Period: Feb. 2 - 9
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173, W997 michael@bongarbiz.com

Sat. Feb. 12 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 3100', Elevs: 3605', 3558'.
Moderate pace bushwhack. Winter instruction. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Jan. 24 - Feb. 6
Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262
russell.buildingscience@gmail.com 518-370-3600



Sat. Feb. 12 - PLATEAU, SUGARLOAF, TWIN & INDIAN HEAD

Distance: 9.5 mi. Ascent: 4300', Elevs: 3835', 3783', 3650', 3573'
Moderate pace. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Sat. Feb. 12 - RUSK, EVERGREEN, PINE ISLAND & PACKSADDLE

Distance: 8+ mi. Ascent 3500', Elevs: 3686', 3379', 3146', 3100'
Challenging bushwhack at moderate pace. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sun. Feb. 13 - HALCOTT

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1400', Elev: 3509'
Relaxed pace bushwhack.
Registration Period: open
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Sun. Feb. 14 - PLATEAU

Distance: 6.8 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev: 3835'
Moderate pace.
Registration Period: Feb. 7 - 11
Leader: Tonda Highley #1944 W857
Thighley1944@gmail.com



Sat. Feb. 19 - BALSAM LAKE

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1150', Elev: 3729'
Moderate pace. Winter instruction. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Feb. 4 - 14
Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262
russell.buildingscience@gmail.com 518-370-3600

Sat. Feb. 19 - FRIDAY, BALSAM CAP, ROCKY, LONE, TABLE & PEEKAMOOSSE

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 4500', Elevs: 3692', 3608', 3487', 3700', 3825', 3819'
Long, challenging bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Sat. Feb. 19 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE

Distance: 7.3 mi. Ascent: 2650', Elevs: 3940', 3994', 3953'
Moderate pace with steep climb up to Blackhead.
Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sun. Feb. 20 - FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP

Distance 8 mi. Ascent: 2900', Elevs: 3692', 3608'
Relaxed pace bushwhack.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Tue. Feb. 22 - PANTHER

Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent: 1785', Elev: 3724'
Relaxed pace. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
ericapellegrino71@gmail.com



Sat. Feb. 26 - ROUND TOP & KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elevs: 3465', 3652'
Moderate pace bushwhack and trail hike to Round Top, one of the Catskill's hundred highest, and the less traveled western approach to Kaaterskill High Peak.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Sun. Feb. 27 - ROCKY & LONE

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elevs: 3487', 3700'
Long and sometimes thick bushwhack, relaxed pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Wed. Mar. 2 - RUSK, HUNTER & SW HUNTER

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 3200', Elevs: 3686', 4030', 3753'
Long bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Sat. Mar. 5 - LONE & ROCKY

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500', Elevs: 3700', 3487'
Moderate pace bushwhack and trail hike from Denning.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com



Sat. Mar. 5 - WINDHAM, BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE

Distance: 14.5 mi. Ascent: 4500', Elevs: 3525', 3940', 3994', 3953'
Long trail hike from Peck Road to Barnum Road at a moderate pace. Shuttle Required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Thu. Mar. 10 - BALSAM & EAGLE

Distance: 9.5 mi, Ascent: 2800', Elevs: 3607', 3583'

Loop of Balsam and then out and back to Eagle at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Thu. Mar. 10 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2800', Elevs: 3940', 3994', 3953'

Moderate pace.

Registration Period: by Mar. 7

Leader: Ed Moran #2007 W950

edmoran@gmail.com 631-741-3765

Sat. Mar. 12 - BALSAM LAKE & MILL BROOK RIDGE

Distance: 9.0 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elevs: 3729', 3465'

Moderate pace trail and bushwhack. Shuttle required.

Registration Period: Feb. 21 - Mar. 9

Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063

lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922



Sat. Mar. 12 - INDIAN HEAD & TWIN

Distance: 7.5 mi. Ascent: 2320', Elevs: 3573', 3650'

Moderate pace.

Registration Period: Mar. 3 - 10

Leader: Michael Bongar #2173, W997

michael@bongarbiz.com

Sat. Mar. 12 – WEST KILL, NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 4700', Elevs: 3898', 3605', 3558'

Long, challenging trail hike and bushwhack at a moderate pace. Shuttle required.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168

nmdange@live.com

Mon. Mar. 14 - BALSAM

Distance: 5.25 mi. Ascent 1582', Elev: 3607'

Moderate pace.

Registration Period: Mar. 5 - 12

Leader: Joseph Ferri #2223 W945

newpaltz33@yahoo.com

Sat. Mar. 19 - PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3200', Elevs: 3819', 3825'

Relaxed pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082

ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407



Sat. Mar. 19 - WINDHAM, BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE

Distance: 14.5 mi. Ascent: 4500', Elevs: 3525', 3940', 3994', 3953'

Long trail hike from Peck Road to Barnum Road at a moderate pace. Shuttle Required.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168

nmdange@live.com

Mon. Mar. 21 - PANTHER

Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev: 3724'

Relaxed paced.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082

ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Fri. Mar. 25 - HUNTER & SW HUNTER

Distance 9 mi. Ascent: 2300', Elevs: 4040', 3753'

Relaxed pace on challenging trails.

Registration Period: Mar. 18 - 22

Leader: Tonda Highley #1944 W857

Thighley1944@gmail.com

Sat. Mar. 26 - VLY, BEARPEN & HALCOTT

Distance: 11+ mi. Ascent 3750', Elevs: 3541', 3587', 3509'

Unmarked trail hike in am and short but steep bushwhack in pm. Moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com



Tue. Mar. 29 - THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME & BLACKHEAD

Distance: 8.5 mi. Ascent: 2520', Elevs: 3953', 3994', 3940'

Moderately fast pace. Shuttle required.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390

ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Photos used in this section are by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond, *The Canister* Editor.



Blackhead Range and Hunter from West Kill. Photo by Harold Oakhill #283 W1244

NEW MEMBERS

Members listed are as of the publication; more recent finishers will be listed next quarter.

New Lifetime Members:

Number	Name
1070	Will Nixon
1585	Moira Colangelo
1670	Mike DiFabio
2081	Geralynn Demarest
2238	Ron C Roberts
2359	Stephanie Hutchins
2377	John LaGraff
2609	Sam Spohn
3070	Lynn Andersen
3429	Geoffrey Sheau

3561	Benjamin Chrobot
3732	Valerie Holmes
3748	Ming Liu
3765	William E Aubrey II
3767	Jeffrey S Lyle
3771	John Leiser
3789	Marina Proskoff
3790	Gregory Bikbov
3793	John F Munz
Asp	Keith Muller
Asp	Colleen Furmanski

New Members:

Number	Name	Date of Finish	Final Peak
3722	Caitlyn Dunn	8/15/2021	Wittenberg
3723	Maureen Dunn	8/15/2021	Wittenberg
3724	Greta Dunn	8/15/2021	Wittenberg
3725	Matt Dunn	1/24/2021	Friday
3726	Colleen Sheehan	1/18/2021	Blackhead
3727	Kathryn Z Mauro	8/29/2021	West Kill
3728	Elizabeth Kostro	8/29/2021	West Kill
3729	Todd France	8/29/2021	SW Hunter
3730	Andrew Klementyev	9/6/2021	Slide
3731	Tyler Murtha	9/5/2021	Halcott
3732	Valerie Holmes	9/6/2021	Twin
3733	Christian Pace	9/6/2021	Twin
3734	Deanne Archibald	9/11/2021	Kaaterskill
3735	Kristen Freemann	8/8/2021	Lone
3736	Augie Freemann	8/8/2021	Lone
3737	Derek Kopff	9/11/2021	Slide
3738	Brian Williamson	7/24/2021	Slide
3739	Sherri Williamson	7/24/2021	Slide
3740	Wayne Kogoy	7/24/2021	Slide
3741	Kristina Kogoy	7/24/2021	Slide
3742	Kyle J McGonigal	9/18/2021	Kaaterskill
3743	Melissa McGonigal	9/18/2021	Kaaterskill
3744	James Jean	9/18/2021	Balsam Lake
3745	Melissa Larralde	9/21/2021	Kaaterskill
3746	Emmy Kinsey	9/21/2021	Kaaterskill
3747	Jennifer Swantz	9/11/2021	Sugarloaf
3748	Ming Liu	9/18/2021	Lone
3749	Edward J Kobos Jr	8/7/2021	Friday
3750	Mark Houghtaling	9/18/2021	West Kill
3751	Sharon Shaughnessy	9/25/2021	Balsam
3752	Richard Cole	10/2/2021	Rocky
3753	Joe Frederick	10/2/2021	Blackhead
3754	Luke Nelson	10/2/2021	Peekamoose
3755	Kyle Wright	9/25/2021	Plateau
3756	Donovan deCesare	9/29/2021	Kaaterskill
3757	Kevin Kenny	10/9/2021	West Kill

3758	Michele Valerio	10/9/2021	Big Indian
3759	Anthony Rera	10/16/2021	Slide
3760	Becky Sumber	10/17/2021	Kaaterskill
3761	Sandra Manca	6/5/2021	Rocky
3762	Anthony Muccari	7/14/2020	Sugarloaf
3763	Michael C Camp	10/16/2021	Kaaterskill
3764	Daniel Heim	10/17/2021	Table
3765	William Aubrey	10/21/2021	Rusk
3766	Sandra Reed	10/21/2021	Kaaterskill
3767	Jeffrey S Lyle	10/17/2021	West Kill
3768	Kathy Marryat	10/23/2021	Big Indian
3769	Rick Smith	10/24/2021	Kaaterskill
3770	Catherine Carlson	10/7/2021	Sherrill
3771	John Leiser	10/16/2021	Lone
3772	Rob Taylor	10/24/2021	West Kill
3773	Bruce Coveny	10/23/2021	Sugarloaf
3774	Kari Coveny	10/23/2021	Sugarloaf
3775	Joseph Klapkowski	10/9/2021	Hunter
3776	Tatiana Barros	10/24/2021	Windham
3777	Eric Milner	10/22/2021	Windham
3778	Allison Polesky	10/22/2021	Windham
3779	Mac McCaulley	10/31/2021	SW Hunter
3780	Roy Tario	11/11/2021	Slide
3781	Jennifer Ho	11/6/2021	Lone
3782	Ashley Furey	9/16/2021	Sugarloaf
3783	Anthony Strangia	10/17/2021	Balsam Lake
3784	Paul Meyer	11/14/2021	Panther
3785	Jennifer Howland	9/11/2021	Sugarloaf
3786	Jennifer Vestal	10/22/2021	Balsam Lake
3787	Matthew Sherrill	11/13/2021	Sherrill
3788	Bruce Alsdorf	11/16/2021	Slide
3789	Marina Proskoff	11/14/2021	Panther
3790	Gregory Bikbov	11/14/2021	Panther
3791	Russ Dresher	10/21/2021	Sherrill
3792	AmyLou Coppola	11/6/2021	Cornell
3793	John F Munz	11/28/2021	Kaaterskill
3794	Laura Heady	5/23/2021	Halcott
3795	Sarah G Oakhill	11/3/2021	Eagle
3796	Michael W Liegey	8/26/2021	Slide
3797	Chad Simpson	11/29/2021	SW Hunter



Snow squalls moving in from Overlook Tower. Photo by Steve Aaron #3199

Editor's Notes

By Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond



I hope you are continuing to enjoy *The Canister*, and I thank each and every one of you who has reached out with feedback, suggestions and of course, with submissions. Feedback, as well as content contributions to future editions and ideas are very much welcomed and appreciated. Submissions on the topics of hiking with kids, pushing your limits, exploring something new and exciting, history of the Catskills, ecology, wildlife and geology, your personal experiences, advice, etc. are just some of the examples of what we would love to include in the next issue of *The Canister*! Any book lovers out there? I would love to publish your review of a relevant nature/Catskills/hiking book. For photo submissions, please ensure the photos are high resolution (several MB at a min) and landscape format is preferred. We would love to see your photos of foliage, geological oddities, waterfalls, wildlife, views, flora, sunsets and sunrises. Please contact me at editor@catskill-3500-club.org.

Department of corrections - many thanks to James E. Close (#2061 W965) for pointing out that the handsome amphibian creature photographically captured along the Devil's Path in the Summer 2021 issue is a wood frog, and not a toad.

Please note: the newsletter will print best if downloaded as a pdf file directly from the [Club's site](#).



Giant Ledge and Panther from Slide. Photo by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond #2814 W1222

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Sun setting on Peekamoose. Photo by Siu Samantha Yuen #2894 W1311

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