The Catskill Canister Volume 53 Number 3 July - September 2020



Nature's Disco Ball along the Escarpment Trail. Photo by Jason Pelton #3013 W1211

ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Members and Aspirants,

With New York moving into a phased reopening, the Club Board is slightly revising our guidance to members. The situation is changing, as we all know, so we will update this as needed. For the latest information, please refer to the News section of the Club's website.

As responsible hikers, please continue to follow the NYS guidelines for your area as far as whether restrictions on local travel have been lifted and if your area has moved into phased openings, as well as follow the <u>DEC press releases</u>.

If the restrictions for travel have been lifted for your area:

- Hike with social distancing always in mind and use face masks when encountering other hikers
- Avoid crowded trailheads and be prepared for alternatives
- PLEASE know your abilities, conditions and limits.

Are you looking for less crowded hikes? Check out the western Catskills which have some wonderful less explored terrain. The NYNJTC Catskills map 144 will give you lots of options.



Memorial Day weekend at the Giant Ledge/Panther parking lot. This is not going to be a safe hiking experience and why it is important to have a back up plan.

NOTE:

<u>Doubletop and Graham</u> reopened on May 15. Follow the State guidance for your region and ONLY ask for permission to hike if travel is appropriate for your area. You MUST get approval from the caretaker before hiking. Contact Bill at his office number: (845) 586-4099. The 607 number formerly listed will not be answered and he will only be responding during <u>Mon-Fri</u> business hours. This is a landline, so texts will not work. Contact information is also listed on our <u>website</u>.

If you do not get approval and you are working on your 3500 member list, your summit will not be counted. DO NOT abuse the generosity of the private landowner of those mountains and only contact him if you fit the criteria. Please be respectful of these protocols so that we do not lose access to these mountains.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Maria.

Thanks in advance for your thoughtfulness and conscientiousness.

Catskill 3500 Club Board

In this issue:

- Announcement
- President's Column
- · Congratulations to the Class of 2020!
- Trail Mix: News and Notes from the Club
- Notch to Notch: Exploring Lake Heloise to Jennie Notch
- A Catskill Puzzle
- A Catskill 3500 Riddle Answer
- · Mountain Sage
- · Catskills in the Ice Age Book Review
- · Of caves and Cavemen on Ashokan High Point
- · Exploring the Burroughs Range
- In Memoriam
- A Journey Cut Short
- · Hike Schedule
- New Member lists
- Editor's Notes
- Puzzle Answers



Trail Spice

The President's Column by Maria Bedo-Calhoun

"You have to accept whatever comes, and the only important thing is that you meet it with the best you have to give."

— Eleanor Roosevelt

Questions. It seems our days are filled with them. From the bigger ones, like what to do for Mother's Day and realizing having a virtual one is the safest option, disappointing as it is. To the mundane – I really want some dark chocolate and there is none in the house! Normally I would give in to the craving and pop out, but that is now fraught with all those "what if" questions and the risk is just not worth it.

The Club Board and you, our fellow hikers, have faced and will continue to be challenged by questions and dilemmas. For the Board there was the moment when we realized we had to cancel the annual dinner, losing that wonderful yearly opportunity where we can embrace old friends, congratulate new members, and share fun and togetherness with fellow Catskill lovers. Then we had to end our hikes, Wilderness First Aid classes as well as our maintenance trips. Finally, it became clear that, with the New York State mandates, we needed to offer guidance on hiking in the high peaks during this crisis and we asked members to stay low and local.

That last decision was the most difficult for us as we understand only too well how the mountains are a place of refuge and a way to recharge, but staying local was a state wide decision and we needed to emphasize the importance of that to members. Additionally, we know some volunteer first responders and the limited resources of the local communities in the Catskills. The crisis began during the tricky spring shoulder season where ice and snow is still up high, making conditions hazardous and accidents more likely to happen. If someone had to be carried out – which can take up to 30 people rotating the carry – what does that mean? What is our obligation to not put anyone at risk unless absolutely necessary? Calling for help in the woods is now a much bigger question – rescuers have COVID protocols they must follow for their equipment and themselves. They must assume anyone they contact will potentially carry the virus. This not only affects them, but the local communities and families they return to.

As noted at the beginning of this Canister, we just revised our guidance to members from our initial request to stay out of the high peaks. Chances are it might change again by the time you read this as I am writing on May 15th. More of New York State may reopen, but I doubt the bigger picture will change – that large gatherings will not be possible for the foreseeable future – and, sadly, the annual dinner is not looking possible until next year. Even whether we will be able to have our regularly scheduled hikes and maintenance trips is up in the air.

We have a board meeting in June and will be sending out an e-blast with further updates after that. If you are not a member of our <u>Facebook page</u> or the <u>Groups.io</u> page for the Club, do join to get the latest information.

So, yes, life has changed for the time being. Among so many other non-hiking decisions, we will all need to make recreational choices in the months to come:

- · How many are too many cars at a trail head.
- If a trail is tight, how to social distance especially in steep areas where people are breathing heavily.
- Making sure face masks are worn when encountering other hikers even when it is a hot day and very annoying to put them
 on.
- · What hikes are too much of a physical challenge knowing we need to do our best to avoid any potential need for a rescue.
- If your GPS fails, do you have enough confidence and map reading ability to get out of the woods on your own.
- If you are injured or get lost is there sufficient equipment in your pack.

I think of Eleanor Roosevelt often these days as she lived through so many difficult times – from the Great Depression to the Dust Bowl and then World War II. Her strength of spirit was formidable. We are all being challenged on a variety of levels and I suspect some of you out there reading this have already faced so much in the past two months. But there will come a day when we will be back together again to celebrate the friendships we have formed and the love and respect we have for these unique and beautiful Catskill mountains.

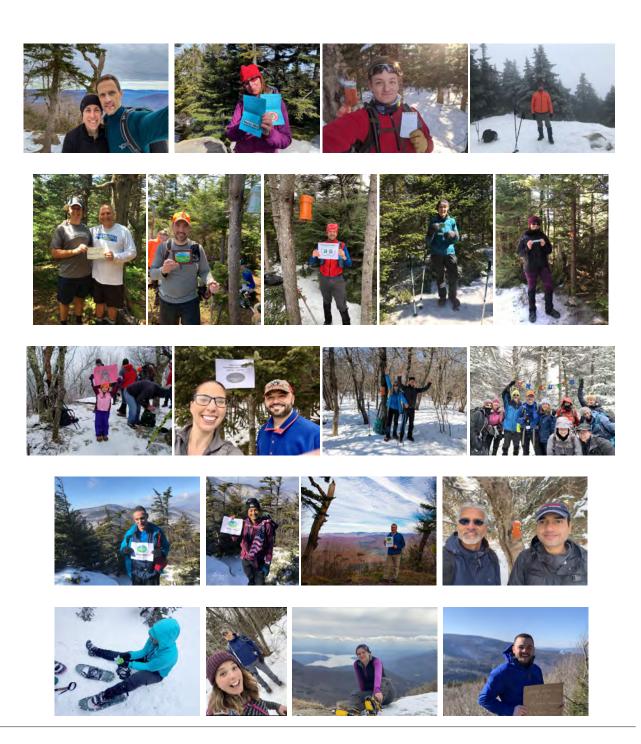
As is often said, but so relevant now, the mountains are not going anywhere.

Stay safe everyone.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Congratulations from the Club Board to everyone who finished this year; a great accomplishment to be super proud of!

Unfortunately, we were not able to celebrate in person this year, but it we did get to virtually enjoy the fun photos that were submitted by some of our newest members! Thank you all who participated! Here's a sampler (we could not publish all) and be sure to check out the rest of the photos in the Club's <u>Facebook album</u>!





Trail Mix: News and Notes from the Club



Postponement of the club events



Unfortunately, at the time of publication, all club events and group activities remain on hold. These include: the annual dinner, club-led hikes, the wilderness first aid training, adopt-a-highway, trail maintenance and the navigation class, We will be sending out an eblast in late June with updates.



Volunteering opportunities - trail adoption and maintenance



As we welcome summer and NY slowly begins to reopen, we want to reach out to our fellow hikers about giving back. We all love and have missed hiking on the trails in the Catskills, so this is a good time to think about volunteering for future trail work with the Catskill 3500 Club and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

When the region reopens, the trails will definitely need some work and TLC. There are a couple of different ways that you can get involved and contribute.

First, you can volunteer to be part of the 3500 Club Trail Crew. We maintain the section of the Long Path over Table and Peekamoose in the southern Catskills and invite you to join our team to keep this trail in top shape. Contact Trail Maintenance Chair <u>Lourdes Sonera</u> for more info and check out <u>Club's calendar</u> for scheduled events.

Second, you can volunteer with the NY-NJ Trail Conference to maintain a section of trail in the Catskills. Andy Garrison and others at the TC have done a great job of reorganizing and recruiting for the trail maintenance program. The trail sections listed below are in need of maintainers:

Mount Tremper: Contact <u>Tim Luby</u>, who happens to also be the admin of the super useful <u>Catskill Trail Conditions</u> Facebook page!

Romer Mountain, Phoenicia East Branch Trail: Contact <u>Andy Garrison</u> about these trails, and others in the southern Catskills that need maintainers. Andy is a true trail boss!

Overlook Mountain: Contact our own Club NY-NJ Trail Conference representative, Matt Smith.

Trail maintenance is fun and rewarding, plus you'll feel great knowing that you're giving back to the mountains that give you so much joy throughout the year.

Thanks and hope to see you out on the trails soon!



Peekamoose Blue Hole Update



DEC Temporarily Reducing Permits to Visit Peekamoose Blue Hole.

During the State's ongoing response to COVID-19, DEC is temporarily reducing by half (from 50 to 25) the number of permits issued per day to visit the Peekamoose Blue Hole in the town of Denning.

DEC permits are required to visit this site on weekends and holidays from May 15 - October 15. Permits are available as late as one day in advance, but more no more than seven days in advance. Permits can be acquired from Reserve America.

DEC introduced the no-cost permits for this unique site in 2018 to increase public safety and reduce impacts to environmental resources.

As a reminder, <u>a permit is not required</u> if one wishes to utilize the Peekamoose Mountain trailhead parking lot on Peekamoose Rd (the parking lot is shared with Peekamoose Blue Hole) in order <u>to hike</u> the area. We recommend to arrive at the trail head early to secure a parking spot.



The canister tally and report have been submitted to the NYSDEC, and the 3500 Club for the year 2019. The previous year's tally was down slightly, the first drop since 2009, but this year made up for that, with sign-ins increasing over 30% from 2018, making 2019 the busiest year ever for the trailless 3500 peaks.

9344 people signed the original 13 canisters, and there were over 800 names from the two new canisters on KHP and Eagle, which were only in place for 5 months. This makes over 10000 signatures, scrawls, marks and scratches signifying someone's accomplishment in climbing the trailless peaks. When I did my first tally in 2008, there were a total of 1750.

For Region 3, Friday (804) and Balsam Cap (805) saw the most visits. Southwest Hunter saw 970 sign-ins, making it the most popular for Region 4. Doubletop was the least visited, with 590 sign-ins.

During 2019, the canisters were painted from gray to orange. Doubletop has not been repainted but may be in the future. This was done to make the cans easier to find, hence lessening further herd path formation and keeping the peaks more pristine and natural. The peaks seem to be cleaner and there have been no incidents of cutting this year. Good Job! However, a couple of fire rings were dismantled at summits. The ecosystem of the trailless summits is fragile and different than lower elevations, a fire can be devastating to both the plants and animals that live in this zone.

In the past, it was required to call the caretaker for permission to climb Doubletop and Graham. Apparently, many did not. The new caretaker, Bill Fiedler, requires this. You or the leader, if a group, must sign with the name and address you gave when requesting permission. Not an option. We are working with him, and names without permission will not count towards membership in the 3500 Club. He may also prosecute those who trespass. So please call, we don't want to lose these peaks!

For those of you just starting your journey, here are some hints. Get a good map and compass. A GPS is another good tool, but can fail. The canisters are not exactly on some of the summits, many of the mapping programs do not take this into account, so do your homework and research. Herd paths are present on all the peaks; try to stay on the main one, if possible, to reduce further formation of side paths. Do not cut, camp or have a fire on the summit. Do your "business" before or away from the summit. Many of the summits have viewpoints, have your break there. When signing, the club encourages you to use a name and some type of identifier which can be used in an emergency. The rangers do check the canisters first, and may wish to contact you for information on who and what you may have seen. Not signing serves no purpose, at least put a first name. The DEC uses the data for future staffing and funding. Sign your dog with a paw print or some sign that it is a dog. I have gotten to know many of your dogs' names, but its still difficult to discern man from beast. When raining or if your hands are wet, try to minimize handling the books. I have replaced them recently with waterproof registers, a gift from one of our members, thank you, but this is the first time and we will see how well they work.



And please, do leave a few lines of your experience, I read each and every entry, and enjoy your comments, usually. Try to learn something on your hike, not just bag a peak for a patch, and convey your finding to others. Have your kids leave their impressions, they seem to have the best advice.

Enjoy, Respect.

By: Jim Bouton, Canisters Chair



Dues for calendar year 2020 are now overdue. 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 <u>David White</u> or <u>Jake Haisley</u> to confirm your status. Forms and rates are on the <u>membership page</u> of the Club website.

You may now use PayPal at the <u>Club site</u> or renew by mail and/or order additional member items using <u>this form</u>. Please make checks payable to the Catskill 3500 Club.

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



Cow Parsnip Alert!



Hey fellow hikers! Summer is approaching and if you're like us, you are ready to hit the trails at full force. But do you know of what's called cow parsnip? There are many patches of cow parsnip around the Catskills. Brushing against or breaking the plant releases a liquid that can cause a severe burn within 24 to 48 hours. This burn can also intensify when in sunlight. It can also cause discoloration of the skin and at time, can last for years. Hikers have reported the following places to have significant plant population along the trails or the whacks: near SW Hunter on Devils Path, North Dome and Sherrill, Halcott, Denning trailhead and some were also found down in the Peekamoose valley

Protect yourself by NOT touching the parsnip and you should also wear long-sleeved shirts, gloves and long pants while on the trails and bushwhacks where cow parsnip may be present. Read more how to identify cow parsnip and how to protect yourself on this <u>DEC page</u>.

While cow parsnip sounds unpleasant, there is a nastier cousin, giant hogweed. Both are non-native and invasive and sometimes are confused for one another. The good news is that no giant hogweed cases have been confirmed in the Catskills (check out the <u>DEC map</u> of confirmed locations). Refer to this <u>DEC brochure</u> to learn more about these invasive species. If you see a patch of a suspected hogweed, <u>get in touch</u> with the DEC. Note that there are no plans to eradicate cow parsnip (as it is more common and not as harmful), so only report the suspected cases of giant hogweed.

Always remember this: if you don't know what it is, don't touch it!!

By: Stash Rusin, 2nd VP and Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond, Canister Editor



area.

Save the date for Trail Maintenance and Adopt-a-Highway events



PEEKAMOOSE-TABLE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Join us for our club trail maintenance outing on Saturday, September 26th, 2020. Please help us keep the Peekamoose-Table Trail clear and safe for the enjoyment of all. Bring work gloves and your favorite trail maintenance tools (the Club will also have tools available). It's fun work and a great way to help the Club and the hiking community. Refreshments will be provided afterwards. Please be sure to sign up so we know who's coming. We still need extra hands! See the schedule listing below for the registration information.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Join us on Sunday, October 18th, 2020 for the Route 214 clean up. Bring work gloves and a great attitude – all else will be provided, including refreshments afterward. Your participation helps the Club, the environment, and keeps the Catskills beautiful! Registration information will be provided in the Fall edition of the Canister.

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 <u>Lourdes Sonera</u>.

Please note: Club volunteering outings schedule is subject to change. Group sizes may be reduced to conform with the social distancing requirements; a mask may be required for situations when social distancing is not possible. Current NYNJTC Trail Maintenance guidance recommendations will be followed.

By: Lourdes Sonera, Trail Maintenance Chair



Congratulations to board members Carol White and Heather Rolland



Congratulations to Carol White, Conservation Chair, and to Heather Rolland, Past President, on having recently published their latest books.

Carol's 7th book has just been published, <u>A Taste of Heaven on Earth: Harnessing the Energies of Love</u>, an in-depth look into the utopian Oneida Community.

Heather's book <u>Asking A Lot: Life with Dogs on Bramley Mountain</u>, was published just after the Spring Canister issue went to press.



The Club extends gratitude to Ted Shemella, departing assistant to the trail maintenance chair



The 3500 Club Board extends deep appreciation to Ted Shemella for his long-time service to the Club. As an assistant to the Trail Maintenance Chair, Ted has tirelessly given his time, knowledge and inspired us to become passionate stewards. In 2018, Ted received the Hike Leader of the Year Award, and was also the recipient of the first Club Service Award.

Thank you for dedication, thorough reporting and your collaborative leadership. Best of luck and endless happy trails!



By: Lourdes Sonera, Trail Maintenance Chair

Trail Mix Photo credits: Canister News photo by Jim Bouton; Cow Parsnip Alert photo by Stash Rusin; Ted Shemella photo by Lourdes Sonera.



View off Sherrill. Photo by Stash Rusin #2829

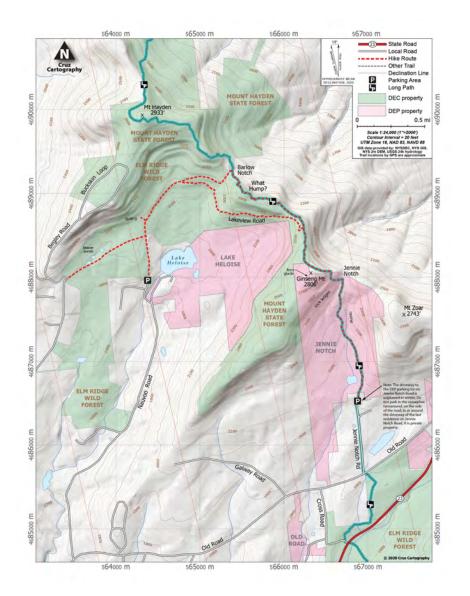
Notch to Notch - Exploring Lake Heloise to Jennie Notch

Cartography by: Liz Cruz
Text and Photos by: Alan Via #429 W174

After reading the geological tour, *The Ice Age at Barlow Notch* by Robert and Johanna Titus in the October – December 2019 Canister, here's an on-the-ground tour of one of my favorite hiking locations.

Highlights: The area between Lake Heloise, Barlow Notch and Jennie Notch offers hikers a lot to see in this lightly visited area – old roads, a quarry, necklace of beaver ponds, high meadow, interesting section of rocky cliffs and a variety of bushwhacking possibilities. You'll hike through sections of the Elm Ridge Wild Forest, Mount Hayden State Forest, and the Lake Heloise and Jennie Notch DEP properties.





Map was prepared specifically for this article by Liz Cruz. Map will print best if downloaded directly from this <u>link</u>.

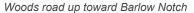
The map has been georeferenced and can be imported into the Avenza Maps app.

Getting there: Turn off NY 23 onto Old Rd, E of Windham. Bear LEFT onto Nauvoo Rd in 0.25 mi. Continue 2.5 mi to a small parking at 2000 ft, abutting NYS and DEP properties. Carpool from NY 23 Windham trailhead to avoid overcrowding the parking area.

Begin on the LEFT of a pair of woods roads through a gate. There are no trail markers until you reach the ridge, but the road is simple to follow. Look for an intersecting woods road on the LEFT at 0.3 mi. This 1.5 mi round trip is worth the short detour. The road is gently rolling and passes a string of small beaver ponds under the gaze of Mt. Hayden's SSW ridge. There are some bushwhack opportunities from the road so long as you remain on public land. The road ends at a gate marking the beginning of private property. Back on the woods road leading to Barlow Notch, there's an unmarked path on the LEFT that leads to a small

quarry just ahead. Continuing toward the Notch, the road is a very gradual uphill through hardwoods and past multiple stone walls. You'll gain little elevation as the road follows the contour of the cirque along the SE side of Mt. Hayden. When trees are bare there, look for filtered views of Ginseng, Cave, and West Cave Mts. Unfortunately, views of Lake Heloise are screened and non-existent in warm weather months.







A beaver pond on the side trail off Barlow Notch trail

Take note of a key intersection near 2200 ft on the RIGHT. It's shown as Lakeview Rd on the map, but is actually another woods road, an alternative route to or from Jennie Notch (more on that, later). Just before Barlow Notch, there's a wet section where a stream runs over the road. If you happen to be hiking with a dog, she can cool off and hydrate on this mostly dry hike. At 2300 ft, Barlow Notch is an easy 1.5 mi stroll from your vehicle. The intersection with the Long Path is wooded but has bare-tree SW views toward Patterson Ridge, Cave and West Cave Mts. If you want to check out Mt. Hayden, the summit is 0.75 mi and 625 ft above the Notch.

From Barlow Notch, turn SE on the Long Path's AQUA markers. The trail switchbacks 225 ft up to what we've nick-named 'What Hump?' It's named after the question posed by a *Young Frankenstein* character. Watch it to see if you catch the reference. This 2560 ft grass and sedge meadow provides SW views toward the Caves across Lake Heloise. The Long Path meanders SE along the ridge before a climb along the N ridge of Ginseng Mt. An easy detour gets you a look at this recently-purchased DEP summit. A couple of minutes past the top is a gorgeous fern glade that's not to be missed. Returning to the Long Path, descend 400 ft to Jennie Notch. The first 100 ft is gentle, the remaining 300 ft, steeper.



What Hump meadow



A fern glade on Ginseng Mt.

To return to Lake Heloise, simply reverse your route. An interesting alternative is intercepting Lakeview Rd. Leave the Long Path near 2550 ft on Ginseng's N ridge, turning W off the trail. a brief 100 yd 'whack lands you on Lakeview Rd. It's a great shortcut, a gradual downhill through deciduous forest. The compensation for leaving the Long Path is a section of spectacular ledges the road passes before meeting the Lake Heloise trail S of Barlow Notch (the intersection below Barlow Notch previously mentioned).

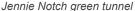
.... And Coming from the other direction – Hiking to Jennie Notch

Highlights: The hike to Jennie Notch follows an old jeep road from the DEP parking area at the top of Jennie Notch Rd. Great autumn foliage hike, old quarry, and large pond offering reflecting views of Ginseng Mt.

Getting there: Turn onto Old Rd or Jennie Notch Rd from intersection with NY 23, then onto Jennie Notch Rd, continuing to the 2050 ft DEP parking area. Carpool from NY 23 Windham trailhead to avoid overcrowding the parking area. The driveway to the DEP parking lot is not plowed in winter. Do not park in the snowplow turnaround in front of the last house or park on the side of the road or in the driveway. This is private property.

Follow the Long Path's AQUA blazes on the hard-packed jeep road. It turns grassy in midsummer, and when the trees fledge, sections of the road are like hiking through a green tunnel. Don't miss the large pond on the LEFT, two minutes from the parking area. Walk downhill through the woods to where you'll be greeted by the reflection of Jennie Notch and Ginseng Mt in the pond's mirror-like surface. It's a great place for birding and seeing wildlife. If hiking with your pooch, she can drink and swim while you enjoy the view.







Large pond along the Jennie Notch trail

The trail to Jennie Notch has spring wildflowers, areas of summer ferns, and berry bushes in sunny sections. It's a glorious hike in autumn, with leaves afire. A stream passes under the road through a large culvert midway to the Notch. The growth on both sides of the road mostly hides the rest of the forest during summer, but when leaves have fallen, you're treated to the sight of stone walls climbing the slopes, rocky ledges, and a mixed forest that includes sections of hemlock. Be certain to check out the rocky ravine on the RIGHT near 2180 ft. A stream flows through this small gorge, making it interesting in all seasons.

Just before reaching Jennie Notch, there's a long section of very tall ledges on the LEFT. Scattered stone near the trail provides the impression that a quarry might have operated here. The Long Path turns W from Jennie Notch, climbing steeply over Ginseng Mt.'s E ridge. See the Lake Heloise trip description for details about the trail connecting the Notches.



Ledges below Jennie Notch

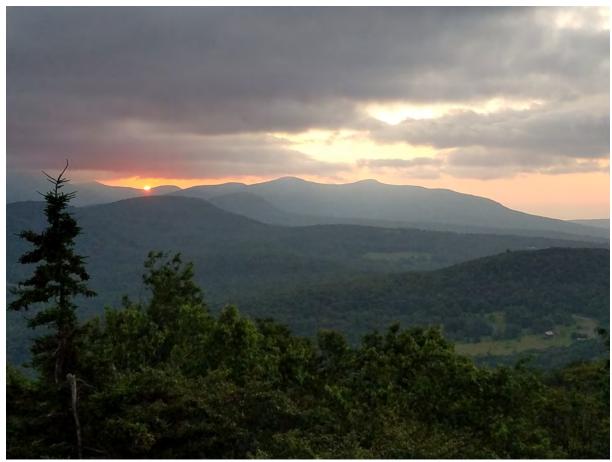


Along Ginseng Mt ridge

Mileages and Elevations Gains: Lake Heloise to Jennie Notch and return is 5.5 mi r/t with 1250 ft elevation gain. Jennie Notch road to Jennie Notch is 2 mi r/t with 400 ft elevation gain. The area sees a lot of hunting activity. Avoid during the big game hunting season.

This article is based on hike chapters in Alan's guidebook, *Doghiker*, published by SUNY Press March, 2020 (see the book review in the <u>2020 Spring Canister</u>). Information and Liz Cruz's map are used with permission of Liz, Cruz Cartography, and SUNY Press. Alan is a frequent contributor to *The Canister* and other publications. He is the author of *The Catskill 67 – A Hiker's Guide to the Catskill 100 Highest Peaks under 3500'*.

Cartographer Liz Cruz frequently collaborates with Alan Via on books, magazines and newspaper articles. She is the creator of the The Taconic Crest Trail map and the alidade map in the Hunter Mt tower. Her work was included in *The Trails of the Adirondacks: Hiking America's Original Wilderness* published last year.



Sunset on Red Hill. Photo by Jason Pelton #3013 W1211

A Catskill Puzzle

Puzzle and Photo by: Jess Prekel #3106 W1308

Catskill 3500 Club

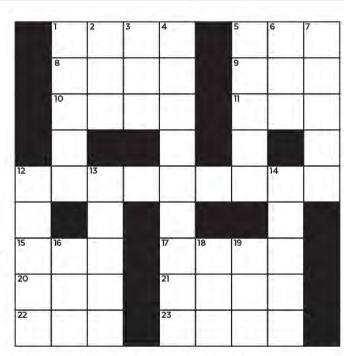
Summer Canister 2020

ACROSS

- 1. Association
- 5. June bug, for one
- 8. Mojíto wedge
- 9. Wooly mama
- 10. Where a selfie lens points
- 11. 7 outdoor principles
- 12. Buzz off!
- 15. "(Sittin' On) the Dock of the
- 17. Leatherman, e.g.
- 20. Volcano Mauna _
- 21. Noble, in Nuremberg
- 22. Moose's kin
- 23. Whose nap lasted 20 years?

DOWN

- Non-PPE mask that begins with bala-
- 2. Burning
- 3. "Let me think for a moment..."
- 4. Apiculture expert
- 5. Catskill setting for 1959 novel My Side of the Mountain
- 6. At your ___risk
- 7. Fix your boot laces



- 12. High peak named for its long, flat summit plateau
- 13. Palindromic boat
- 14. Bodies of water found in areas of Dutch influence
- 16. Old-school ISP
- 18. Amo : I love :: ___: I hate
- 19. Acronym for sign-up time frame





Viewpoint below Slide summit, early morning after hurricane Dorian. Photo by Laurie Rankin #1337 W531

Catskill 3500 Riddle Answer

Text and Photo by: Ed Moran #2009 W950

Congratulations to those who have successfully passed their entrance exam for the Master's program in Catskill3500ology! For those wishing further clarification, what follows is a complete analysis and breakdown of the problem provided by a 3500 doctoral candidate:

"Woo-hoo!"

This is an interjection used to convey pleasure at the accomplishment of completing the regular and grid lists. It can also be used on the occasion of summiting an individual peak or finding that PB&J you lost in the bottom of your pack last summer.

"Yesterday I hiked one last peak to finish the regular season 3500 list and became a 3500 Club member. Today, I hiked one peak and finished my Catskill grid."

This detail establishes that as of 2 days before, the finisher needed one peak to finish the regular season 3500 list and at least one, and possibly two peaks to finish the grid. We can conclude that the peak we did yesterday for the regular finish was also necessary for the grid as it can be easily proven using Van Benschoten's theorem that it is impossible to finish both lists on the same day. The core of the problem is how does one accomplish all of this in 2 days? More importantly, although not asked on this version of the exam, how does one explain to one's disbelieving family the tremendous significance of these accomplishments?

"It all started with the first mountains I ever climbed when I joined a 3500 Club hike to Giant Ledge and Panther over the Christmas holiday. Later that winter I got my first snowshoe experience on a hike to Balsam and Eagle..."

This is a significant part of the solution as it identifies that the winter requirement has been met for Panther and Balsam.

"...and also my first 4000-footer on Cascade Mountain in the Adirondacks. I was hooked!!!"

This is useless information, a distraction, or as the magicians call it, a misdirection. Not that there's anything wrong with the ADKs.



"From there I hiked all of the 4000 footers in NY... in winter ...twice!"

This is significant as it establishes that the requirement to hike Slide Mountain (4184 feet) in winter has been met. It also establishes that the hiker is a 46'er although this offshoot calculation is not necessary to solve the problem (not that there's anything wrong with the ADKs).

"I couldn't stop there and last summer I finished my Northeast 115 on Katahdin. In the end, finishing the Catskills lists posed the biggest challenge of all because I got plantar fasciitis in my left foot and had to rest for 6 weeks before I could hike my last peak. But now I can proudly call myself a 3500 Club member!"

The admissions department wishes to apologize for this overly wordy bit of misdirection. It was not part of the approved exam and it remains a mystery how it got onto the test that was administered. Foreign hackers are suspected.

Here are the exam questions and answers:

1. What day is it?

Answer: It is February 1

2. On which peak did I become a 3500 Club member? Answer: I became a 3500 club member on Blackhead

3. On which peak did I finish my Catskill grid? Answer: I finished the grid on Blackhead

The required Catskill3500ology 700 class will more fully explain these answers, including the following:

- The core of the problem revolves around the 3500 club requirement that 4 of the peaks, Balsam, Panther, Slide and Blackhead must be climbed at least twice, with one of those being in the winter. The information in the problem confirms that this requirement has been met for Balsam, Panther, and Slide. The peak needed for both lists has to be Blackhead:
- Since the grid had been completed for most months of the year, we can assume that the regular Catskill 3500 list (non-winter) was also completed.
- · We know that Balsam, Panther and Slide were also completed during the winter from the information in the problem.
- This leaves Blackhead as the only remaining of the 4 winter required peaks so it has to be the one that was hiked "yesterday".
- Since it is now determined that Blackhead was the peak needed to meet the final winter requirement (and complete the regular 3500 list) we know that yesterday was part of a winter month.. This means that Blackhead cannot already have been hiked in a winter month, therefor it has to also be the peak required for the grid finish.
- The grid requirement for Blackhead for December can be fulfilled before the start of winter (12/20) and for March can be done in the spring (after 3/20).
- Therefore, Blackhead cannot have previously been done in January or February or the regular list would have been completed.
- Since Blackhead was neither previously hiked in January or February, it was needed in both to finish the grid. Therefore, the regular 3500 finish had to have been on January 31 so that the grid finish could be the next day on February 1.

If you've read all of the above and are still reading this, you are a true student of the Catskills. Or perhaps you've just been quarantined too long like me.

Ed is a 3500 club hike leader, a member of the Catskill Mountain Search and Rescue Team, an active New York State licensed guide and owner of Eastern Outdoor Experiences Guide Service.



View from Sugarloaf. Photo by Siu Samantha Yuen #2894 W1311

Mountain Sage

Text and Photos by: Steven #2344 W948 and Lauren #3335

Sage (#3336) has been hiking with her father Steven (#2344 W948) since she first learned to walk. She conquered her first peak, Mount Beacon, when she was just 2 years old. Now at 9 years old, she is proud to call herself a Catskill 35er.





Sage began her journey to become a 35er when she was 5 years old on Sugarloaf mountain. "I love hiking because you get to be in the wilderness," says Sage. Just like any hiker, Sage had good days in the mountains and bad days. "The hardest day was when we did Rocky, Lone, Peekamoose and Table, because of the distance and bushwhacking. I like bushwhacking, but Rocky was annoying because of how thick the trees were." Her favorite Catskill peak was Wittenberg because of the views and the fun rock scrambles.

Despite overcoming the challenges the Catskills presents, Sage still loves to hike. She particularly loves to hike with family friend Tara who was with Sage for her first Catskill peak in 2015.

Family and friends are extremely proud of all she has accomplished at such a young age. Sage's future hiking goals include the Pemi Loop in the White Mountains and to become an ADK 46er.

Photos are courtesy of the family. From R-L: 1) Approach trail to Rocky, Lone, Peekamoose, and Table; 2) Family, Tara and friends on Bearpen.



Erratics along the Long Path near Buttermilk Falls. Photo by Karen Lee

Catskills in the Ice Age Book Review

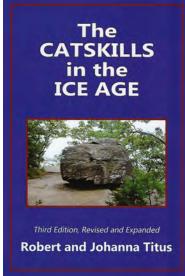
Text by: Dany Davis #2000 W904

One of the pleasures for me of hiking in the Catskills is the plentitude of books available to help inform my awareness of the land I traverse. I have a little reference library of Catskill books gathered over the years that I return to over and over for information or inspiration. So many good books are available whether you are interested in hiking trail information, history of people in the Catskills, or natural history and science. I love adding books to my library, even ones that I have an earlier edition of, if I feel it counts as a "new book." Offered the chance to review the latest edition of *The Catskills In the Ice Age* by Robert and Johanna Titus for the Canister, I took it is an opportunity to see if I could add a new book to my library.



It is a bold thing to do – to try and cover the complicated legacy of the recent ice age in the Catskills in a book that offers something to all readers. I am a Catskill Mountains hiker and a geologist researching Catskill stream geology, and I think the Tituses totally take this on and succeed in the recent 3rd edition of *The Catskills in the Ice Age*. The book seems to aim for a diverse readership (natural history, field/road guide, lovers of well-told stories, geologists or geology enthusiasts) and delivers.

What the authors share with us is the collective and collaborative work of scientists through the last century. Using this inherited knowledge, they set out to tell ice age stories like Catskill bards keeping alive these hard-earned geologic stories and awareness of a "cool" period in Earth's very recent history. The Tituses take these acknowledged sources of what we know about Catskill glacial geology and make it available to a broader, more diverse readership. In my mind, this is a gift to the work of the scientists who built much of what we know – it carries their work forward, into the hands of the curious reader who wants to know what the Catskills were like in the ice age. It also highlights how much there is still to know and understand about this latest period of Catskill Mountain sculpting. I know of six other geologists that have been adding and revising these stories over the last ten years – the science is continuing to tell us just how complicated and dynamic this time was in the Catskills. This book doesn't cover that very recent work, yet it covers much of what we know and what the authors surmise.



This book is not just a retelling of others' stories, however; the authors, both scientists, collect their own data and make their own interpretations for some of the many as yet unsolved puzzles. I do have a copy of an earlier edition and didn't read it then as closely as I did now and I was pleasantly surprised to feel more informed than I did before reading the book. I write this as a 'Catskill geologist' specializing in streams in a glacially conditioned landscape. I have read all the source material the Tituses reference and yet did not pick up on some of the details that make for the good informative stories they tell. I even started taking notes on looking into certain observations and interpretations to improve my landscape reading skills.

I also enjoy having a book in my library where I can open it to any chapter and read it and not feel as though I needed to read the preceding chapters to appreciate every detail they pack into each chapter. If some of that information is needed, the chapters often refer to figures or content in other chapters so the reader can satisfy their curiosity.

After reading the book and going back and forth with the earlier editions, I am happy to add this as a "new book" into my library. I feel the collaborative work presented in this book is the copy that will get pulled from the shelf each time I want to check into one of these stories.

Many of the stories they tell can be seen from the peaks and trails we hike and the roads we drive to and from our hikes. If you are looking for a book that will help you to read the Catskill landscape and imagine what the Catskills were like in the ice age I recommend the latest edition of this book as a fantastic resource.

Catskills in the Ice Age can be purchased through the publisher, <u>Blackdome Press</u>, as well as at <u>Amazon</u> and <u>http://catskill.net/purple/</u>.

Dany's photo is courtesy of the reviewer, and the book jacket is courtesy of the publisher.

Dany Davis AKA Sporty Spice is a geologist and mountain enthusiast living in Rosendale NY.



North Dome cliffs. Photo by Steve Aaron #3199

Of Caves and Cavemen on Ashokan High Point

Text and Photo by: John Sasso #2034

In the <u>last edition</u> of the Catskill Canister, we delved deep into the histories of High Point and Samson Mountains, including shedding light on why the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey marker on High Point is stamped "SAMSON." Having researched the histories of over 140 peaks (to date), I have found that accompanying some are legends, fictional tales intertwined with facts. I was elated to find that such is the case with High Point. During the time in which Guyot was working on surveying the Catskill mountains, several interesting stories were reported by a few regional newspapers regarding High Point. The stories center around a cave discovered off a slope of High Point referred to as the "Samsonville Cave."



The discovery of the Samsonville Cave was first reported in the May 4, 1876 edition of "The Evening Gazette." In the early spring of that year, two hunters around High Point heard their dog frantically barking, as if it cornered some wilderness critter. When the young men reached their dog, they saw that he was barking at a hole large enough for a rabbit to go through, located near a high, rocky shelf. There seemed to be more to the hole, so the men proceeded men dig around it until, unexpectedly, the ground beneath them gave way and the two punged into an eight-foot pit. After lighting a torch, they found they discovered a cave! Their curiosity led them through a fifty-foot tunnel which met up with a small, shallow stream that cut a channel across the tunnel. After moving forward another two hundred feet, they reached the end of the tunnel, where some sunlight came through the small opening. Returning back through the cave but exploring further, they also discovered two "apartments" (large rooms). Stumbling further around the cave system that they literally fell upon, the two incidental spelunkers managed to find their find exit from the darkness.

Five months after the Samsonville Cave made the news, the "Kingston Freeman" reported two stories pertaining to possibly the same cave, which should be relegated to Catskill folklore; these were reprinted in the October 26, 1876 edition of "The Evening Gazette."[2]. The first was a "wild, improbable story" of a man, woman, and child who were known to hold up in the cave, which was used as a place to stash their takings from their acts of thievery performed at night or at opportune times during the day. The man was considered heavily armed, and the woman had a reputation for being something of a sharpshooter. As the story goes, a hunter came upon the smoldering remains of a campfire near the cave, thus, figuring the couple were still in the vicinity, this was the chance to finally capture them. The hunter ran back to town and organized a posse. When the posse returned, they were unable to find the cave as it had apparently been carefully covered up by the couple to hide their domicile. Strewn about the area were various articles, and one in particular provided a clue to the man's identity: a small passbook containing the name of a man known as Brace. This Brace character was purportedly a habitual thief who would "take anything from a load of vegetables to an iron pot and a set of smoothing irons, besides scythes, corn cutters, hoe, axes, and even young cattle." To the misfortune of the posse, Mr. Brace and his female companion remained on the lam. The news report did not elaborate on how the child was related to the couple.

The second legend connected with possibly the same cave was that of a room in the cave so large that its ceiling was high as the dome of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The locals who lived at the foot of High Point claimed that a fire burned within this cavern and the smoke from it poured out through crevices on the summit. A tale connected with the cave was said to have originated from an old Dutchman long ago and was passed down through a long chain of people over the years. While the Dutchman was hunting for porcupine on High Point, he was startled by what sounded like peals of thunder emanating from within the mountain, The Dutchman, who had sailed around the world and had been the captain of a pirate ship, attributed the noise to a waterfall which worked its way through the center of the mountain. Figuring there must be a stream at the base of the waterfall, he spent more than half of the day searching for the stream, until he came upon water running beneath a large rock. Success was had after he rolled away the rock to reveal the mouth of the cave! From within the cave he could clearly hear water falling from several hundred feet, striking the rocks at the floor of the cave. After further exploration of the cave, the Dutchman found that the origin of the waterfall was a small opening at the summit. He surmised that, over time, water worked its way through this hole and slowly bore out a channel which grew larger as it went deeper into the mountain. Off this channel were rooms which seemed scooped out by Nature's hand, and deep pools which were the home to many strange kinds of fish.

Of these legends, the "Kingston Freeman" cautioned their readers that they are simply reporting the gossip from the people who live by High Point, which are a mix of truth and myth. Over time, these tales have been expanded to the point where "it is almost impossible in the great mass of fabrications, to find the few grains of truth from which these stories have sprung."

I would be remiss if I did not mention De Witt Clinton Overbaugh's 1900 novel "The Hermit of the Catskills: A Tale of the American Revolution," [3] which centers around a hermit who lived with his Native American wife in a cave off High Point.

Overbaugh conceived of the legend while healing from a severe injury to his eye incurred while hunting in the fall of 1888. Of the ingredients for his novel, Overbaugh wrote, "I gathered together all that was obtainable to serve my purpose and wove about

them the woof and the tarp, weaving here and there the fiction with facts." The reader is left to ponder whether such a couple (let alone the hermit) truly existed in a cave off of High Point when the author notes that their descendants remained in the vicinity of "Binniewaters" in Ulster County (likely the hamlet of Binnewater in the Town of Rosendale), which is over ten miles east of High Point.

The novel takes place during the Revolutionary War where the hermit, known as "Nick of the Woods" [4] by the superstitious, established a homey residence on the side of High Point. The hermit's wife was described as a 25-year old Native American, "a wonder of beauty; tall and straight as the mountain pine, locks like the raven in color; eyes of the same hue, but soft and tender in expression, and an olive complexion combined with peachy softness." The entrance to the cavern was secured by a heavy oaken door and inside, it was sufficiently large enough to serve as comfortable living quarters, furnished with a dining-room table and chairs, portraits of celebrated figures of the Revolution, and a lamp made from the horns of a mountain goat. Smoke from the fire stoked inside swept up through a natural chimney, exiting the mountain. A small room was furnished in the style of a Masonic lodge, complete with a stone altar in the center and adorned with all the objects and engravings particular to a Masonic lodge. The hermit would record visitors to his make-shift Masonic temple in a heavy, leather-bound book, one of them being George Washington while passing through on a visit to Kingston. Nobody knew where the hermit's cave was located, for if anyone came upon him in the woods, he would offer to take them there but only under blindfold. Can one imagine General Washington, the "Father of His Country," cautiously stumbling along the wooded slopes of High Point while being guided to the cave?

The hermit seemed to delight in having some notoriety as "The Evil Spirit of High Point," and explained to a guest that he would, on occasion, exemplify such by producing fire and smoke of different color from the chemicals in his lab. Such an exhibition of supernatural powers is reminiscent of the scene from the movie "The Wizard of Oz" when "The Great and Powerful Oz" first introduced himself to little Dorothy and her traveling companions. At the end of Overbaugh's novel, the hermit finally reveals to the public, before a packed courtroom, that he is not some great, fearful spirit of High Point. No, he is a mere mortal, a Dutchman by the name of Philip de Rutsen, the viscount, Earl of Egmont. The keen observer will note some interesting connections between the hermit in Overbaugh's novel, which he started work on in 1888, and the two aforementioned folk-tales reported by the "Kingston Freeman" in 1876: a hermit with a female companion, a large cave with a few rooms to easily live in, and that the hermit was a Dutchman. Given that Overbaugh consulted with the Ulster County historian, Marius Schoonmaker, in the course of writing his novel, could he have fashioned the characteristics of these folktales into his work?

[1] "Nick" is slang for "the devil." Overbaugh may have borrowed the title "Nick of the Woods" from the 1837 novel by that name by Robert Montgomery Bird, which was a best-seller at the time. Bird's novel was set in Kentucky in the 1780s, where Nick of the Woods was viewed as an evil spirit who roamed the woods and killed scores of Native Americans. The Native Americans who feared this genocidal maniac referred to him as Jibbenainesay.

- [2] Unknown. "Samsonville Cave." The Evening Gazette. May 4, 1876, p.1.
- [3] Unknown. "A Wonderful Cavern." The Evening Gazette. October 26, 1876, p.1.
- [4] Overbaugh, De Witt Clinton. *The Hermit of the Catskills: A Tale of the American Revolution*. New York: G.W. Dillingham Co., 1900.

John Sasso (#2034) is an Adirondack historian, and avid hiker and bushwhacker, from Colonie, N.Y.

Contact the author at <u>jsassojr@gmail.com</u>. For those interested in the history and folklore of the Adirondacks, join John's Facebook group "<u>History and Legends of the Adirondacks</u>."



View of Ashokan High Point off Wittenberg. Photo by Steve Aaron #3199

Exploring the Burroughs Range

Text and photos by: Dany Davis #2000 W904

The Catskill Mountain wilderness around the Burroughs Range is my-go to place for off-trail adventure in the Catskills. It presents the largest contiguous mountain wilderness in the Catskill park, while also having

many access points for "choosing your own adventure."

Several years ago, I set out to hike the three Burroughs Range peaks – Wittenberg, Cornell and Slide – at least once every month for a year. These peaks and their neighbors are where I have gone to repeatedly for camping solace, robust hikes and connecting with mountains since I moved here from Alaska in 1987. To add to the exploratory challenge of this yearlong venture, I wanted to make sure that each hike was a different route or set of peaks that always included Witt, Cornell and Slide.



Over the course of a year from October 2013 to September 2014, I explored this terrain solo, with my friends and cohorts in Team Danger Girl, and most often with my canine companion, Irie. Each month had challenges and rewards that formed an experience that still guides how I approach exploring the Catskills: pick true friends willing to push some boundaries with you, explore the paths of streams, sit among the isolated remnants of first growth forests, follow the tracks of fishers to see where they are going. One of the early challenges in this "project" was just getting the hike in before the end of a month. Sometimes, this was after an earlier bust pursuing an overly ambitious attempt or getting "weathered out." Following such busts, I would have to return and make a different Burroughs Range hike happen that month. In the end, I ended up making 17 visits to these peaks during that year. It was a wonderful way to force creative hiking.

Fall fell into cold winter fast that year, and by December, blizzard-driven snow and visiting arctic cold set the mountain stage with a lasting snowpack well into early spring. Summer days made for long, multi-peak ventures as we explored terrain around the Burroughs peaks. I "finished" the annual circle of hikes with a final classic loop out of Woodland Valley during the peak fall foliage. I've now had over 30 visits to these three peaks since 2013 and will continue this relationship for as long as I can.



Slide to Panther panorama from Cornell's summit crown

If you asked me where I would want to hike in the Catskills right now, it would be heading up one of these three peaks through the higher elevation yellow birch groves that seem to carry so much passion in their centuries of mountain life. The birches thrive in the steep talus slopes where other trees struggle to grow. Around 3,200 feet on one of these peaks' south-eastern slopes is an ancient, wildly-limbed, craggy-shaggy yellow birch tree that forms the "sweet spot" in the Catskills for me. I go there to touch base in these mountains.

Thirteen Walks in a Mountain Range

October 2013

Looking east I see the sisters,

Cornell and Wittenberg from Slide's perched boulder,

And know this is a good place to know.

A good place to be.

Cold fast dark finish with surprising house lights
shining like stars in the dark fabric of the folded land at night.

November 2013

First snow of the season comes in with the cold Wind that swept across Wittenberg's summit.

By dusk, the snow fell like streaming moonlight As we descended Slide.

Feeling resonant in our element.

December 2013

Out in deep December cold
Snowshoeing the Burroughs Loop
From Esopus headwaters.
Less than -10°C as we fuel up on Witt's summit stage
Before descending fast to Woodland Valley
Through the early dark.



January 2014

Team Danger Girl adventure bust
Leads to solo traverse on the last day possible.

Descending from the Slide-Cornell col
Into Burroughs' Woodland Valley
I cross deep packed snow back to waiting warmth.

February 2014

Adventure by misadventure with Danger Girl
Out of Moon Haw Valley.
Ascending to the Bruin's Causeway
Up Van Benschoeten's path.
Deep snow made slow going with long winter
Night hiking and forever apologizing.

March 2014

Across the peaks to Slide and down Snowmuted cliffs, over to the base of Friday and up into snarling balsam. Signing in at the can with a quick Familiar drop back down to Moon Haw.



April 2014

The Graceful Pole Scrambler
joins me for a route up Slide's slide
on a Woodland Valley loop.
Snow still so deep in the Slide Brook valley,
Even our poles
could not probe the depths we crossed.

May 2014

First, another solo traverse to Slide's summit
Before the north face balsam-grasping
Descent to Woodland Valley.
Later, a Catskill Nine walking party Across the mountains we roamed.

June 2014

The spicy sweet surprise of pink azalea
Down the steep slopes of Slide,
after scrambling up Cornell from Woodland Valley
to lounge on the peak's northern crown,
looking out across the mountain expanse.



July 2014

A run out from the West Branch Neversink
Through a torrent of rain up the steps to Slide,
Over the Burroughs ridge to Wittenberg and back.
We lope down Curtis-Ormsbee Trail
Getting to the car in time for lunch.

August 2014

Third time's the charm:

I. Up Slide along the Pirate's Ridge from Deer Shanty.

We bail on the other peaks for the chill retreat

Into hemlock forest and East Branch Neversink pools.

II. Woodland Valley Witt whack with Great views and ground-crawling,

Balsam scrub-scraping, ledge-scrambling, dog-portaging Adventure.

III. Last day success via Sporty's Spur,
Ascending a ridge up Slide's north side
Stepped with cliffy bits and ramps of open forest
Until the balsam stops you.

September 2014

A two-day trek with camp on the east slopes of Slide.

Cornell rises above the trees, calling me up

To the conglomerate boulder on Cornell's western crown;

Where, 25 years earlier I cooked a sunset dinner,

Staying late into the night, falling for these peaks.



October 2014

Closing the temporal loop with a bowtie.

One beautiful autumn Burroughs Loop traverse
With a visit to Panther and Giant Ledge
for full fall foliage bedazzle,
And a moment to be thankful
For this great place.

- Photo 1: Devonian river sandstone in the Burroughs Range
- Photo 2: The Wittenberg and the distant Central Escarpment from Cornell's summit crown
- Photo 3: The 'Sisters' Cornell and Wittenberg from Slide
- Photo 4: Yellow birch on Curtis-Ormsbee Trail



Sunset off Richmond. Photo by Laurie Hladik #2416 W1059

IN MEMORIAM

Bernard E. "Barney" Kinahan, Jr. (#111 W24) passed away on March 29, 2020 at the age of 81. Barney was born and raised in Yonkers, New York. He earned a degree in Electrical Engineering. In the mid-70's he decided to change careers and move to a small country home in Brainard, NY. He was employed for many years at HESS as a Station Manager at several area locations. A confirmed bachelor, Barney was an avid hiker and cyclist, and while on vacation traveled around the country in his camper van. Jonathan Clement (#68 W17), remembers: "Barney led several hikes for the 3500 Club including a two day backpacking trip in from Windham High Peak to Kaaterskill Falls and a strenuous hike on Mount Greylock in Massachusetts. Later in life he was a Civil War reenactor and among various volunteer activities helped maintain a small historic cemetery near his home. Barney was a friendly, outgoing person who is missed by those who knew him." Mike Doehring #144 W51 (Annual Dinner Chair) had lots of great hikes with Barney over the years, as they both lived in Westchester. Mike recalls: "Barney section-hiked the Appalachian Trail, mostly during his summer vacations. Doug Robins (#153 W45) and I had the pleasure of meeting him on the top of Katahdin in Maine when he finished the quest. We made sure to be early coming up from the other side (east). Good thing we started when we did, because Barney was on a roll and would have beaten us, except he stopped to talk to any folks he saw to let them know he was finishing. Naturally, we had a small cake and some bubbly to celebrate. We'll miss him."

Ronald P. Clark (#1917 W754), 70, of Brier Court, sadly died Thursday, Apr 23rd, at Saratoga Hospital, after more than a month of fighting the COVID-19 virus. Ron was well known and loved in the hiking community. His friends on the ADK High Peaks Forum remembered Ron as an avid hiker, bushwhacker, slide climber and a trailbreaking machine. Ron was also a well known soccer referee in the Capital District and it was recalled that he came to one of the Catskill 3500 Club dinners straight from a soccer game, in his ref uniform.



Sunset on Balsam Lake Mountain. Photo by Josh Gorsch #3009

A Journey Cut Short

Ode to Paul T. Martin age 61 11/27/58 -12/1/19

Text and photo: by Paul Tomasko #1864 W764



We met upon a mountain
Were introduced by Tom
Found we had some common goals
And now my friend you're gone

We hiked for miles together
With stops along the way
Had some time to catch our breath
A pause to have our say

Nature gives us all the keys
To open up our souls
Lots of time to contemplate
With so much to behold

Quiet time while going up

A towel to keep you dry

Not much breath to waste on words

As sweat drops in your eye

Some wonder why we do this
I know it makes them freak
We know we're going uphill
That's where they put the peak

We joked about our spouses

Their level hiking goals

Not inclined to walk inclines

As peaks we did behold

Talk of life and politics

We did agree on most

Ah for love of family

We both would share a toast

Friday night was your date night
For that we shared a smile
We cherished what we both had
So glad we walked the mile

Pictured (L-R): Paul Martin, Paul Tomasko, Connie Sciutto, Tom Martone, December 2018.



Neversink cascade. Photo by Steve Aaron #3199

Rambles and Brambles Hike Schedule July - September 2020

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 3 basic principles:

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

The Club also promotes the adherence to the <u>hikeSafe</u> hiker responsibility code. <u>hikeSafe</u> 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 cool weather, hike participants should avoid cotton clothing, as it retains dampness and the resulting chill can result in hypothermia, **which can lead to death**. In summer participants should have available in their pack garments of wool or fleece and a headlamp, should one have to unexpectedly spend the night in the mountains. Anyone not properly equipped may be refused permission to participate, at the leader's absolute discretion.

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

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 <u>online events calendar</u> are official 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. Access to <u>Graham</u> and <u>Doubletop</u> requires a prior permission from the caretaker. See Club's website for the <u>latest guidance</u> on the access and the <u>contact info</u>.



Black bear taking a rest. Photo by Ralph Ryndak #1186 W451

The calendar of the current hike schedule can also be found on the Club site.

Club hiking schedule is subject to change. Hike leader may reduce group size to conform with the social distancing requirements; a mask may be required for situations when social distancing is not possible.

Fri. July 3 - RUSK & EVERGREEN (Weekday)

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 1850', Elevs: 3686', 3379' Moderately paced short trail hike and bushwhack.

Registration Period: June 15 - July 2 Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997

michael@bongarbiz.com

Sat. July 4 - KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev: 3652'

Moderately paced bushwhack & trail hike with scrambles, great views & 2 plane crash

sites

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sat. July 11 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev: 3525'

Map and compass instruction with relaxed pace bushwhack.

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

Sun. July 12 - RUSK

Distance: 3.3 mi. Ascent: 1580', Elev: 3686'

Relaxed paced bushwhack hike.
Registration Period: July 1 - 11
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net (518)947-6407



Sat. July 18 - HUNTER & SW HUNTER

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 4030', 3753' Moderate-to-sprightly paced w/ short bushwhack.

Registration Period: by July 17 Leader: Jess Prekel #3106 jessikraut@gmail.com

Sun. July 19 - INDIAN HEAD & TWIN

Distance: 7.2 mi. Ascent: 2200', Elevs: 3575', 3650'

Moderately quick-paced trail hike. Registration Period: July 6 - 17 Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925

david@dgbdesign.com

Sat. July 25 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 1500', Elev: 3525' Moderately paced trail hike. Bad weather cancels.

Registration Period: June 29 - July 3 Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326 (917)679-5547; <u>suzkna@msn.com</u>

Sun. July 26 - SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU

Distance: 6.1 mi. Ascent: 2290', Elevs: 3783', 3835'

Moderately quick-paced trail hike. Registration Period: July 13 - 24

Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925

david@dgbdesign.com

Sun. July 26 - FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP

Distance: 7+ mi. Ascent: 3000', Elevs: 3692', 3608'

Challenging bushwhack at moderate pace, including visit to B25 crash.

Registration Period: July 19 - 25

Leader: Jake Haisley jacobhaisley@gmail.com

Sat. Aug. 1 - HALCOTT

Distance: 3.7 mi. Ascent: 1690', Elev: 3509' Moderately quick-paced bushwhack. Registration Period: July 20 - 31 Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925

david@dgbdesign.com

Sun. Aug. 2 - EAGLE

Distance: 8.2 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev: 3583'

Relaxed-moderate pace. Registration Period: Jul. 26 - 31 Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312

catskill35r@gmail.com

Sun. Aug. 2 - CORNELL & WITTENBERG

Distance: 5.75 mi. Ascent: 3000', Elevs: 3857', 3782'

Challenging and steep hike on unmaintained historic trail. Moderate pace.

Registration Period: July 26 - Aug 1

Leader: Jake Haisley jacobhaisley@gmail.com

Sat. Aug. 8 - DOUBLETOP, GRAHAM & BALSAM LAKE

Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 3000', Elevs: 3874', 3868', 3729'

Moderately paced, long, challenging bushwhack and trail hike. Plane crash

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Mary Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sat. Aug.15 - HALCOTT via Elk Creek

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1400', Elev: 3509'

Relaxed paced bushwhack with map and compass practice.

A true bushwhack from a different direction.

Registration Period: Aug. 1 - 14 Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082

ad322@freeelectron.net (518)947-6407

Sat. Aug. 15 - BIG INDIAN & FIR

Distance: 10.5 mi. Ascent: 2200', Elevs: 3699', 3629'

Moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike.







Registration Period: Aug. 1 - 15. Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997

michael@bongarbiz.com

Sun. Aug. 16 - DOUBLETOP

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3874'

Relaxed paced bushwhack hike. Registration Period: Aug. 1 - 14 Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082

ad322@freeelectron.net (518)947-6407

Sat. Aug. 29 - SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000', Elevs: 4184', 3857', 3782'

Moderately paced thru hike. Registration Period: by Aug. 29 Leader: Jess Prekel #3106 jessikraut@gmail.com

Sun. Aug. 30 - HUNTER & SW HUNTER

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 4030', 3753' Moderately quick-paced trail and bushwhack hike.

Registration Period: Aug. 17 - 28 Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925

david@dgbdesign.com

Sat. Sept. 5 PANTHER, SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG

Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 4000', Elevs: 3724', 4184', 3857', 3782' Long, challenging bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sun. Sept. 6 - SHERRILL & NORTH DOME

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 3100', Elevs: 3558', 3605'

Moderately paced bushwhack from west. Registration Period: Aug. 30 - Sept. 5

Leader: Jake Haisley jacobhaisley@gmail.com

Sat. Sept. 12 - ROCKY & LONE

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2385', Elevs: 3487', 3700'

Moderately paced, strenuous bushwhack to two remote peaks.

Registration Period: by Sept. 11 Leader: Jess Prekel #3106 jessikraut@gmail.com

Sat. Sept. 12 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 3100', Elevs: 3605', 3558'

Moderately paced bushwhack. Registration Period: Sept. 3 - 12 Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997

michael@bongarbiz.com

Sun. Sept. 13 - VLY & BEARPEN

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elevs: 3541', 3587'

Relaxed-moderate pace.
Registration period: Sept. 6 - 11
Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312
catskill35r@gmail.com

Sun. Sept. 20 - FIR, SPRUCE & HEMLOCK

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elev: 3629', 3384', 3251'

Challenging but moderately paced bushwhack.

Registration Period: Sept. 10 - 19

Leaders: Jon Gordon #2816 W1252 and Ben Gordon #2817W1251

jonathan.gordon@gmail.com

Sat. Sept 26 - TABLE & PEEKAMOOSE (Trail Maintenance)

Join us for our club trail maintenance outing. Please help us keep the Peekamoose-Table Trail clean, clear and safe for the enjoyment of all. Bring work gloves and your favorite trail maintenance tools (the Club will also have tools available). It's fun work and a great way to help the Club and the hiking community. Refreshments will be provided afterward. Please be sure to sign up so we know who's coming. We still need extra hands!

Period: Open





Leader: Lourdes Sonera #2525 W1075

200chu@gmail.com

Sat. Sept. 26 - BALSAM LAKE MOUNTAIN

Distance: 5.8 mi. Ascent: 1150', Elev: 3729'

A moderately paced hike with a short yoga session at peak.

Registration Period: Sept. 18 - 25 Leader: Pamela Martin #2102 Pamelamartiniinc@gmail.com

Sat. Sep. 26 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2550', Elevs: 3940', 3994', 3953'

Relaxed pace trail hike.

Registration Period: Sept. 12 - 25 Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082

ad322@freeelectron.net (518)947-6407

Sun. Sept. 27 - RUSK

Distance: 3.3 mi. Ascent: 1580', Elev: 3686' Moderately quick-paced bushwhack. Registration Period: Sept. 14 - 25 Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925

david@dgbdesign.com

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



View of Eastern Devil's Path from Friday. Photo by Stash Rusin #2829



NEW MEMBERS

The "Class of 2020" includes a record number of new members. There were 219 regular members and 80 winter ones. Certificates are ready to hand out, but due to the uncertainty of when we will be able to celebrate, members may request to receive them by mail.

The lists of new and winter members are through April 18th, 2020, what would have been the annual dinner ceremony.

Slide mountain continued to be an overwhelmingly most popular first peak with 30 hikers once again indicating as such on their membership applications. Other popular first peaks included Hunter, Windham High Peak, Wittenberg, Panther, Indian Head and Balsam Lake at 22, 19, 17, 16, 13 and 14, respectively. Overall, 29 out of the 35 peaks had been listed as the first ascent (not surprisingly, Rocky, Balsam Cap, Bearpen, Sherrill, Fir and Friday were not listed, but there was one brave soul who had started their 3500 journey on Lone, all the way back in 1985!). On the flip side, Kaaterskill continued to be the most popular regular season finishing peak (21 finishers), with Rocky being not far behind (19 finishers), and the required winter ascents of Blackhead, Balsam and Slide proved to be popular finales (with 16, 15 and 14 finishers, respectively). Out of the 35 peaks, all but Vly were represented as the final peak.

As last year, we did not notice a trend for an obvious favorite winter finishing peak. West Kill had 9 finishers, Kaaterskill High Peak had 7, Cornell and Plateau had 6 each. Out of the 35 peaks, 26 had been represented for the qualifying last winter climb.

New Lifetime Members:

Number	Name
1790	John Sellingsloh
2269	David Bunde
3186	Jim Groshans
3280	David W Black
3301	Gi S Song

New Members:

Number	Name	Date of Finish	Final Peak
3280	David Black	3/1/2020	Rocky
3281	Paul Silverstein	3/6/2020	Big Indian
3282	Elizabeth Silverstein	3/6/2020	Big Indian
3283	Robert Hendrickson	3/7/2020	Cornell
3284	Pat Johnson	3/8/2020	Windham
3285	Brandon Leichter	3/8/2020	Friday
3286	Shawn Blatter	1/20/2020	Blackhead
3287	Gerald Kabat	2/22/2020	Rocky
3288	Kristen Taylor	3/7/2020	Peekamoose
3289	Richard London	3/7/2020	Rocky
3290	Jenny London	3/7/2020	Rocky
3291	Patricia Alcivar	3/8/2020	Eagle
3292	Nancy Melahn	3/8/2020	Peekamoose
3293	Kathryn Shackford	2/16/2020	Cornell
3294	Kali Bird	3/8/2020	Rusk
3295	Christopher Davison	3/8/2020	Big Indian
3296	Bertha Connelley	3/8/2020	Big Indian
3297	Kevin P Buckley	3/11/2020	Rocky
3298	John Langley	3/16/2020	Balsam
3299	Michael Donoghue	3/14/2020	Hunter
3300	Paul Phillips	3/8/2020	Peekamoose
3301	Gi S Song	3/15/2020	Doubletop
3302	Mary Lou Recor	3/15/2020	Doubletop
3303	Michael Taranto	3/18/2020	Twin
3304	Patrick M Fourspring	3/14/2020	Slide
3305	Daechan Lee	3/21/2020	Big Indian
3306	Dakota Douglas Inman	3/8/2020	Plateau

3307	Thomas C Lesniak	3/18/2020	Panther
3308	Veronica Andreassen	3/21/2020	Sherrill
3309	Ben Vince	3/22/2020	Kaaterskill
3310	James L Martin	3/15/2020	Doubletop
3311	Allison Bier	2/15/2020	SW Hunter
3312	Steven O Normann	3/15/2020	Friday
3313	Kaaren Caron	1/26/2020	Balsam
3314	Andrew Catozzi	3/7/2020	Kaaterskill
3315	Alan Wylen Clark	2/23/2020	Kaaterskill
3316	Joe Limone	2/29/2020	Panther
3317	Glen Redpath	3/15/2020	West Kill
3318	Kumi Shibata	3/15/2020	West Kill
3319	Jenner Michelotti	2/29/2020	Slide
3320	Frank Filopei	3/7/2020	Lone
3321	Alex McClain	3/7/2020	Lone
3322	Kathy O'Neil	3/28/2020	Rocky
3323	Mark Grossman	3/28/2020	Rocky
3324	Barbara Cella	9/23/2017	Windham
3325	Joan Kemp	9/23/2017	Windham

New Winter Members:

Winter Number	Name	Number	Date of Finish	Final Peak
1293	Steven Lercari	3213	3/7/2020	Kaaterskill
1294	Timothy Johnson	3229	3/8/2020	West Kill
1295	Charlie Burnor	3249	3/7/2020	West Kill
1296	Tyler Lewis	2856	3/8/2020	Graham
1297	Brandon Leichter	3285	3/8/2020	Friday
1298	Dustin Wood	2402	3/1/2020	Wittenberg
1299	Kristen Taylor	3288	3/7/2020	Peekamoose
1300	Michelle Idler-Lutz	3000	3/6/2020	Wittenberg
1301	Nancy Melahn	3292	3/8/2020	Peekamoose
1302	Nadee Ramdass	3039	3/7/2020	Kaaterskill
1303	Tom Mercadante	2952	3/9/2020	Windham
1304	Janet Sotola	3065	3/9/2020	Friday
1305	Michele Kaminsky	2804	3/11/2020	Cornell
1306	Sarah A Bacon	3052	3/11/2020	Balsam Lake
1307	Kevin Buckley	3297	3/11/2020	Rocky
1308	Jess Prekel	3106	3/13/2020	Halcott
1309	Carolyn Bettiol	3162	3/14/2020	Eagle
1310	Paul Phillips	3300	3/14/2020	Big Indian
1311	Siu S Yuen	2894	3/15/2020	Hunter
1312	Lyn Walker	2865	3/16/2020	Cornell
1313	Mary Lou Recor	3302	3/15/2020	Doubletop
1314	David Hultgren	1860	3/18/2020	Bearpen
1315	Michael Taranto	3303	3/18/2020	Twin
1316	Mark E L Mack	2514	3/7/2020	Hunter
1317	Tom Campbell	3245	3/18/2020	Indian Head
1318	Eric Zenker	3140	3/21/2020	West Kill
1319	Elizabeth Quell	3119	2/29/2020	Plateau
1320	Andrew Quell	3118	2/29/2020	Plateau
1321	Dakota Douglas Inman	3306	3/8/2020	Plateau
1322	Brian Shultis	2984	3/8/2020	West Kill
1323	Marina Jacqueway	2813	3/21/2020	Plateau
1324	George Constable	3217	3/1/2020	Windham
1325	Mark Celijewski	3256	3/9/2020	North Dome
1326	Thomas First	3107	3/16/2020	Wittenberg

1327	Andrew Catozzi	3314	3/7/2020	Kaaterskill
1328	Alan Wylen Clark	3315	2/23/2020	Kaaterskill
1329	Joe Limone	3316	3/7/2020	Kaaterskill
1330	Kumi Shibata	3318	3/15/2020	West Kill
1331	Glen Redpath	3317	3/15/2020	West Kill
1332	Andrew Amundsen	3058	3/21/2020	Halcott
1333	Jeremy Alan Funk	3113	3/20/2020	Rocky
1334	Jeffrey Quell	3117	2/29/2020	Plateau
1335	Anna Quell	3116	2/29/2020	Plateau
1336	Miyon Lee	2876	3/8/2020	Cornell



Blackhead Range. Photo by Maribeth Williams #3153

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 and suggestions. Feedback, as well as submissions 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 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! For photo submissions, please ensure the photos are high resolution (several MB at a min) and the 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.

Please note: the newsletter will print best if downloaded as a pdf file directly from the <u>Club's site</u>.

The Catskill Canister President Maria Bedo-Calhoun president@catskill-3500-club.org		
Editor Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond editor@catskill-3500-club.org	Aspirants Jake Haisley aspirants@catskill-3500-club.org 12 Stuyvesant St, apt 3 Kingston, NY 12401	
Annual Dinner Chairman Michael E. Doehring tigermath@aol.com 7 Cloverdale Ave. White Plains, NY 10603 (914) 761-7225	Outings Bill Winterbottom billw@usdsoftware.com	
Membership David White members@catskill-3500-club.org 28 Mulberry St. Clinton, NY 13323 (315) 853-1070	T-Shirt Coordinator Ira Orenstein ksbiho@aol.com 18 Interlaken Ave New Rochelle, NY 10801-1102	

The Catskill Canister is published four times yearly by the Catskill 3500 Club, Inc. for \$10.00 a year. Articles, not previously published, of less than 1100 words on hiking, essays, or poetry, should be sent to editor@catskill-3500-club.org.

All material contained herein is copyrighted by the authors or by the Club.

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

Previous issues can be downloaded here.



Fall comes early on dry Arizona. Photo by James Hopson #1813 W782

Puzzle Answers

By Jess Prekel #3106 W1308



Copyright © 2020 Catskill 3500 Club, All rights reserved.

You are reading this email as a benefit of being a member/aspirant in good standing of the Catskill 3500 Club.

Catskill 3500 Club · P.O. Box 294 · West Hurley, NY 12491 · USA