



# the catskill canister

Vol. XV, No. 1

W I N T E R 1 9 8 2

## SILVER HOLLOW MOUNTAIN

After a two-month hiatus in my hiking schedule, I was looking for a relatively short, but not too easy, hike. My initial thought was to do Little Rocky--the one between Silver Hollow and Olderbark mountain, south of the Devil's Path. I had seen its bald summit while climbing Olderbark and thought it would have good views. In discussing this, my long-time hiking friend, Don Rain, noted that Little Rocky was not on the 3,000 footer list, but that Silver Hollow was. Since we are both pursuing the 3,000 footers, albeit at a very leisurely pace, we quickly agreed upon Silver Hollow. At only 3,000 feet, it is the lowest of that group, and ranks number 98 on the CATSKILL 100 Highest list.

Access was much easier than we had expected. We parked at the Forest Preserve Access parking area on Route 214, about one-half mile north of Notch Inn Road. At about 9:30, Don, Salley Decker, and I started walking. Where possible, we followed the abandoned railroad bed back to Notch Inn Road. (At one point it leads out to Route 214 for a short distance.) About one-half mile in on Notch Inn Road, we met two bow hunters on their way out after an early morning hunt. One of them said that he had been bow hunting for 16 years, without success.

Our plan was to follow the road to the height of land and then to ascend the ridge to the summit, or, to be more precise, the summits. Both are shown on the map as being 3,000 feet high. The ridge is fairly well defined and presented no problems. Notwithstanding a steady though not heavy snowfall (on November 7), the views of the nearby shoulder of Plateau, and of the more distant notch between Hunter and Plateau, were very good.

After lunch in the swampy but protected saddle between the two peaks, we decided to return via the north-westerly side of the mountain, and set off on a bearing of true north. It was steep in places and the footing was difficult because of the newly fallen leaves and snow. But the woods were open and the going was good, especially after the grade eased a bit. About three-quarters of the way down, we noticed what in the distance appeared to me to be an abandoned backpack. It turned out to be part of a twin-engined Piper airplane, the rest of the wreckage of which was found nearby.

We intersected the railbed as planned and enjoyed the walk along it back to Notch Inn Road. Of particular interest here were the well-preserved remains of two dressed-stone bridge abutments. The entire walking part of the trip took less than 4 hours at a fairly slow pace. This is an interesting and readily accessible area, worth considering if one is looking for an easy bushwhack.

--John Kennedy, Rhinebeck, NY

THE CATSKILL CANISTER Published by The Catskill 3500 Club, Inc.

Deborah F. Glynn, President, Traver Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569  
Franklin B. Clark, Editor, 10 South Washington St., Athens, NY 12015  
Elinore G. Leavitt, Assoc. Editor, 246 Joslen Blvd., Hudson, NY 12534

BLACKHEAD FROM THE JONES FARM

On the first Saturday in November 1927, the Greene County Boy Scouts organized a hike up Blackhead. The Scout Executive led boys from Athens, Cairo, and Catskill up the trail from the Jones Farm; the Maplecrest scoutmaster led his boys up the old trail from Big Hollow, meeting on top for lunch. I was sixteen at the time, had never hiked anything but roads, and had looked forward to a 3000-foot climb with a sense of excitement tinged with apprehension.

It was spitting snow when my father dropped off the Athens contingent. The first part of the hike was up a ridge, which presented no problems for anyone. When we came to the section that was once a log chute, there were plenty of trees to grab. We were proud to reach the high shoulder below the summit. On top we found a wild winter day. We were dressed for fall in the Hudson Valley, and here we were in a snow cloud with a raging north wind. The spring had four inches of ice. The trees were so coated with hoarfrost that we had great difficulty in starting fires to cook the food most of us had brought. It was the coldest half hour of my life.

Almost forty years passed before I went near Blackhead again. In January 1967, the Catskill 3500 Club had for its first winter hike Black Dome and Thomas Cole. On the way back, Bill Leavitt led some of us who needed Blackhead-in-winter up the old trail from the col. A sleet storm carried on a south wind had reached us before noon. This time, however, dressed in a parka, warm mittens and boots, I found it an enjoyable experience. Blackhead has become one of my favorite mountains.

--F. B. C.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #380 James E. Pelzer 10/11/81 516-627-2551  
91 Dennis St., Manhasset, NY 11030
- #381 James P. Haggett 10/17/81 914-462-2893  
3 Krakower Dr., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
- #382 Ethel Churchill 11/8/81
- #383 Robert S. Churchill 11/8/81 212-260-6477  
36 Gramercy Park E., New York, NY 10003
- #384 Thomas E. Murtha, Jr. 10/ /81 212-956-5494  
219-46 93rd Ave., Queens Village, NY 11428
- #385 Gerald VerValin 12/12/81 607-369-4661  
55 Martin Brook St., Unadilla, NY 13849
- #386 Eleanor B. Skarka 12/21/81 914-236-7553  
R. D. 1, P.O. Box 215, Marlboro, NY 12542



SELL OR SWAP REI 4-season Crestliner mountaineering tent in perfect condition. Call Howard Adriance 914-338-4603

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

- Feb. 7 SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG Strenuous trail hike.  
(Sun.) Leader will decide if  
weather allows completion of all three. Cars will be  
placed at both trailheads.  
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2500 Elev.: 4180, 3860, 3780 Order: 1, 9, 14  
Meeting Place: Parking lot behind drug store in Phoenicia at 8:00 a.m.  
Leader: Fred Jordan (#245), Box 167, Stottville, NY 12172  
518-828-9287
- Feb. 27 TWIN & INDIAN HEAD Moderate trail hike.  
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2300 Elev.: 3640, 3573 Order: 22, 29  
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 8:00 a.m.  
Leader: William Lawson (#78), 395 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY 12203  
518-436-1781
- Mar. 6 SHERRILL Moderate bushwhack from Rt. 42.  
Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2200 Elev.: 3540 Order: 30  
Meeting Place: Parking lot behind drug store in Phoenicia at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: Roman Hrycun (#314), R. D. 1, Box 49B, Rhinebeck, NY 12572  
914-876-2451
- Mar. 13 WINDHAM Moderate trail hike from Big Hollow.  
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800 Elev.: 3524 Order: 32  
Meeting Place: General Store & P.O. in Maplecrest at 8:30 or Big Scot-  
Ramada Inn parking lot, Kingston at 7:30 a.m. 914-687-7065  
Leader: Bradley Snyder (#323), Mohonk Lake, New Paltz, NY 12561
- Mar. 20 RUSK Moderate bushwhack.  
Distance: 3 mi. Ascent: 1680 Elev.: 3680 Order: 20  
Meeting Place: Jct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken at 9:00 a.m.  
Leaders: James Hoyt (#308), R 5, Box 76, Kingston, NY 12401  
Wilson Hoyt (#309), 9 Fairmount Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530  
914-331-5565 (James) 516-775-2059 (Wilson)
- Apr. 10 PLATEAU & SUGARLOAF Moderate trail hike on Devil's Path  
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2400 Elev.: 3840, 3800 Order: 12, 13  
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 9:00 a.m.  
Leader: Jim Stone (#299), 7 W. Chestnut St., Rhinebeck, NY 12572  
914-876-7676
- Apr. 24 HUNTER Moderate to strenuous bushwhack from Spruceton  
Road that may require snowshoes.  
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000 Elev.: 4040 Order: 2  
Meeting Place: Jct. Rts. 42 & 28 in Shandaken at 8:00 a.m. or  
Jct. Rt. 42 & Spruceton Road at 8:15 a.m.  
Leader: Howard Adriance (#327), 93 Johnston Ave., Kingston, NY 12401  
914-338-4603
- May 1 BLACKHEAD Moderate hike from Jones Farm (Cairo) on an old  
unmarked trail, with time for nature study.  
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 3000 Elev.: 3940 Order: 5  
Meeting Place: Parking lot at Thruway Exit 21, Catskill at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: Franklin Clark (#33), 10 S. Washington St., Athens, NY 12015  
518-945-1413



# the catskill canister

Vol. XV, No. 3

S U M M E R 1 9 8 2

## LONG PATH PROJECT

We have had eight hikes and have walked about 100 miles so far. The terrain has changed dramatically from one area to the next, as has the weather from October to May. We have all been pleasantly surprised by the beauty and variety of the scenery and flora of the countryside, and by the amount of wilderness in such a highly urbanized area of the country.

The idea for this continuous hike came to me after I realized that while setting up a homestead in Pine Bush, NY, I was not getting out to hike more than five or six times a year. What better way to guarantee at least one hike a month than to set out on the Long Path, starting at the George Washington Bridge and going to the end at Windham? With the announcement in *THE CATSKILL CANISTER*, I expected about half a dozen members to respond, which they did. However, the North Jersey Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club heard about the idea and fourteen more end-to-enders joined up, most of them aspirants of the Catskill 3500 Club.

The scenery has been marvelous. First the basalt cliffs of the Hudson River rampart, with views of New York City, Hook Mountain, High Tor, and the mighty Hudson itself, ever changing with varying light and wind. Then came the Hudson Highlands in winter: black gneiss rock, trees white with snow, and wilderness areas I had not seen in over fifty years of hiking there. Next came Schunemunk Mountain: red puddingstone, sandstone cliffs, and a clear day so that we could finally see the CATSKILLS. The last hike took us to the banks of the Wallkill at Montgomery. Most of the walking was over the historic abandoned railbed of the New York, Ontario & Western Railroad. After the rolling hills and dales, woods and farms of the Wallkill Valley, we shall cross the Shawangunks and then the foothills of the CATSKILLS before arriving at the place we like best, just in time for winter.

One aspect of this trail that stands out is variety. The scenery has varied from river to rocky highlands to rolling valleys. The rocks themselves have varied from basalt to folded and fractured gneiss to conglomerate, sandstone, and shale, and we haven't reached the Gunks yet with their peculiar capstone and crevices. Soda cans have not varied much from Coke and Pepsi, but beer cans and bottles have gradually changed from Bud, Millers, and Schlitz to Genesee, Utica Club, and Bud. I wonder what we shall find in the CATSKILLS.

--Fred Schmelzer, Pine Bush, NY

## INFLATION

Extra Catskill 3500 Club patches now cost \$1.50.

THE CATSKILL CANISTER Published by The Catskill 3500 Club, Inc.

Deborah F. Glynn, President, Traver Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569  
Franklin B. Clark, Editor, 10 South Washington St., Athens, NY 12015  
Elinore G. Leavitt, Assoc. Editor, 246 Joslen Blvd., Hudson, NY 12534

SLIDE MOUNTAIN TEMPERATURES - 1981

The maximum-minimum thermometer on the summit of Slide Mountain was in operation for the fourth year (see Vol. XIV, No. 2 for background). Thanks to the addition of Bill Riemvis to the "staff," the number of readings was considerably increased.

The lowest temperature (a new record for this study) was -31, presumably on January 4. The previous lows were -13, -24, and -17.

The high for the year was 82, presumably reached on June 16th. The previous annual highs were 81, 82, and 86.

1982 got off to a brisk start with a -27 in early January.

--Bradley Snyder, Mohonk Lake, New Paltz, NY

1982 OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

President, Deborah Glynn; Past President, Jonathan Clement; First Vice President, Fred Schmelzer; Second Vice President, John Kennedy; Secretary, Kathryn Griffin; Treasurer, David Clapper; Annual Dinner, Roy Messaros; Canisters, John Kennedy; Conservation, Ray Donahue; Information, Deborah Glynn; Membership, Elinore Leavitt; Outings, James Stone; "The Catskill Canister," Franklin Clark; Trails, Cyrus Whitney; Winter Weekend, Walter Gregory.

APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONFERENCE

In the spring of 1983 all trails will lead to New Paltz, New York, site of the next biennial Appalachian Trail Conference hosted by the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference.

A high light of the get-together will be the 60th anniversary of the Appalachian Trail. America's best-known trail starts in Georgia, enters New Jersey at Delaware Water Gap, runs north into Harriman Park, crosses the Hudson River at Bear Mountain Bridge, and leaves New York north of Pawling on its way to Maine. The first section of the AT was opened for public use in 1923 in Harriman Park. This nearby park will be the locus of many of the hikes scheduled during the conference.

CATSKILL TRAIL BOOSTER PROGRAM

In 1981 the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Appalachian Mt. Club (AMC) combined financial efforts and ran a three-week model trail project in the CATSKILLS. The results were considerable; during the three weeks steps were rebuilt on a badly eroded section of the Devil's Path; bog bridges were constructed on a wet trail section of Sugarloaf Mt.; and the lower section of trail up the Wittenberg from Woodland Valley was rebuilt. Those who have hiked these sections since September surely have been impressed by this fine professional work.

This year, the AMC proposes a three-week project in the same vein. Last year, half was funded by the DEC and half by a private donor through the AMC. However, no private donor has come forth with AMC's half of the projected \$6,000 cost. The solution is the development of a new Catskill Trail Booster campaign, patterned after the highly successful White Mt. Trail Booster program.

Donors of \$5 or more will receive a button that says "Catskill Trail Booster 1982." Buttons will also be sold in the CATSKILLS at some state campgrounds, at the Mt. Gate Lodge run by AMC, and at the proposed hiker information booth on Rt. 28 at Mt. Pleasant.

Interested persons are urged to send a donation to Joel White, AMC Mt. Gate Lodge, McKinley Hollow Road, Olivera, NY 12462. Checks should be made payable to AMC Catskill Trail Fund.

--TRAIL WALKER (adapted)

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Anyone willing to spend a day at the trail information station on Rt. 28 at Mt. Pleasant is requested to write or call Joel White, AMC Mountain Gate Lodge, Olivera, NY 12462, 914-254-4770.

#### WILDERNESS RANGER PROGRAM

The Wilderness Ranger Program of the Department of Environmental Conservation is now in its fifth year of operation. The areas currently being patrolled in the CATSKILLS are: Big Indian-Beaverkill, Slide-Panther, Northdome-Westkill, and Plateau-Indian Head.

The rangers are mainly concerned with protection of the resource, and the safety of the users. Their principal duties include the administration of first aid, search and rescue, minor trail maintenance, forest fire suppression, and enforcement of Department rules and regulations.

There are DEC Regional Offices at 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, 12561, 914-255-5453, and at 439 Main Street, Catskill 12414, 518-943-4030

#### FOLK MUSIC CLUBS

For a nationwide listing of about 300 groups for singing, dancing, and storytelling, send a business-size SASE (with 37¢ postage) and \$1.50 (to help defray the cost of compiling the list) to Sol Weber, 25-14 37th St., Astoria, NY 11103.

#### CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

400	Joanne Baskerville 3/14/82 24 Pine Hill Ave., Apt. 4, Stamford, CT 06906	203-969-0499
401	Mary Ellen Gleason 3/14/82 140 Hoyt St., #5C, Stamford, CT 06905	203-359-2450
402	Jane Bloom 3/14/82 102 W. 80th St., New York, NY 10024	212-799-7502
403	Elizabeth Manuele 3/19/82 38 Birch Hill Dr., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603	914-471-4572

- 404 Jay Stagg 3/20/82  
% Bank of New York, 112 State St., Albany, NY 12201
- 405 Peter Sluiter 3/27/82 518-235-6844  
2 Museum Lane, Waterford, NY 12188
- 406 Donald Hendrickson 5/8/82 201-391-6807  
1 Raven Road, Montvale, NJ 07645
- 407 Richard Maltz 5/9/82 212-362-2861  
175 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10017
- 408 Harold Post 5/13/82 518-943-4683  
14 Walnut St., Catskill, NY 12414
- 409 Russell Sawyer 2/20/82 914-634-6408  
2 Mary Ann Lane, New City, NY 10956

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Sept. 18 BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM A moderate trail hike.

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev.: 3725', 3868' Order: 15, 8  
Meeting Place: Big Scot parking lot in front of Ramada Inn, in  
Kingston at 8:00 a.m.

Leader: James T. Amrod (#339), R. D. 1, Box 104, Red Hook, NY 12571  
914-758-6144

Sept. 25 KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK A moderate trail hike.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3655' Order: 21  
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Bleecker Staats (#272), Echo Valley Rd., Red Hook, NY 12571  
914-758-6304

Oct. 9 WESTKILL A moderate trail hike.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev.: 3880' Order: 6  
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken at 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Peter Kelly (#358), 56 Sawkill Rd., Red Hook, NY 12571  
914-758-8210

Oct. 10 HUNTER A moderate circular trail hike from Spruceton  
(Sun.) to enjoy fall foliage. Joint hike with Ramapo  
ADK & North Jersey ADK.

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000' Elev.: 4040' Order: 2  
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: John Hornyak (#290), 5 Wexford Dr., Mendham, NJ 07945  
Days: 212-572-4606 Eves: 201-543-4114

Oct. 16 BALSAM CAP (& ROCKY?) Strenuous bushwhack which may  
include Rocky if time and conditions permit.

Distance: 6-8 mi. Ascent: 2800'(3000') Elev.: 3623'(3508') Order: 23,  
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville at 8:30 a.m. (34)  
Leaders: Erik & Roman Hrycun (#347 & 314), Box 49B, R.D. 1, Rhinebeck,  
914-876-2451 NY 12572

Oct. 30 ADIRONDACK HIGH PEAKS Ranger's Walk, 12-15 miles of  
central high peaks in the Adi-  
rondacks, including at least one major peak. Start from either Garden  
parking lot at Keene Valley or ADK Loj. Destination may be at dis-  
cretion of group, if priorities of patrol are not important. Call  
for details, including equipment. 518-576-4796  
Leader: Peter Fish (#12), Box 43, Hulls Falls Rd., Keene, NY 12942

# 3500 CLUB MEMBERS

OUR NEWSLETTER "THE CATSKILL CANISTER"  
IS THE COMMUNICATION MEDIUM TO KEEP  
MEMBERS AND ASPIRANTS INFORMED AND  
ACTIVE ON ORGANIZED HIKES AND OTHER  
CLUB FUNCTIONS.

IT NEEDS YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

PLEASE USE THIS FORM TO VOLUNTEER  
YOUR SERVICES AS HIKE LEADER

PREFERRED TIME OF YEAR	SEPT - OCT	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	NOV - DEC - JAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	FEB - MAR - APRIL	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	MAY - JUNE	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SATURDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUNDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>

PREFERRED AREA OR SPECIFIC HIKE ROUTE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO JIM STONE  
7 WEST CHESTNUT ST  
RHINEBECK, NEW YORK 12572  
914/876-7676

CONTRIBUTIONS OF NEWSLETTER ARTICLES WOULD BE  
APPRECIATED BY THE EDITOR: FRANKLIN B. CLARK  
10 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ATHENS, N.Y. 12015





# the catskill canister

Vol. XV, No. 4

A U T U M N 1 9 8 2

## MY FIRST 4000-FOOT MOUNTAIN

When I was a boy, my family made many trips up the Hudson River, but we did not go to the CATSKILLS. The family of a playmate spent every summer in Palenville, and he talked of Haines Falls and the inclined railway. So in 1922 when the plant where I was working shut down for a long Fourth of July holiday, I took a West Shore train to Catskill and a Stanley Steamer stage to Palenville. There I had lunch and then started walking to Haines Falls and west. It was a dusty road, but the country was green and nice. At a road junction I went south toward Phoenicia, enjoying the mountains in the distance. I came to a farmhouse that looked like a possible place to stay, went up the driveway, and knocked.

I was lucky, for it was the home of the Becker family. Mr. Becker and his younger son worked the farm; the older son was the fire watcher on Hunter Mountain, reached by a trail beside the barn, going straight up. The mother had died, and the daughter kept house. They were very nice people and I stayed there several times, climbing Hunter on my second trip. So that was my first 4000-footer of the 111.

At Labor Day I went back with my brother and climbed Slide.\* In those days it was not difficult to find a farmhouse or a boarding house where they would "put you up for the night." There was a nice one in Woodland Valley, but we pushed our luck too far several times. Once my brother and I got into some back country that I would not be able to locate today, and asked a farmer in the field about a place to stay. He said there wasn't any, but he talked to his wife and then said we could stay there. We had bacon and eggs for dinner and the same for breakfast, which didn't bother us at all. But the bedroom was up a ladder and just big enough for the bed and two feet of space at the top of the ladder. It was hot from the sun on the roof, so I rolled over to open the window and found several sturdy nails holding it in place.

Another time in the Denning area a man told us they had sold out to a fish-and-game club, as had others roundabout, and could not take anyone in. We had no camping equipment or food and it was late in the day. He was not allowed to sell us any food, but he said there was a state lean-to a mile up the road and he "gave" us some bacon and eggs and an old frypan. At the lean-to we found a rusty axe, and while I was trying to use it in the dark, a piece of wood hit me in the eye. So I spent the night with a cold, wet handkerchief on it. We headed for home with daylight, with no permanent damage. After that we took to tents and established campsites.

Getting back to hotels, my old geology professor liked the West-

\* See Vol. V, No. 3, Summer 1972

Deborah F. Glynn, President, Traver Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569  
Franklin B. Clark, Editor, 10 South Washington St., Athens, NY 12015  
Elinore G. Leavitt, Assoc. Editor, 246 Joslen Blvd., Hudson, NY 12534

kill Hotel. "They give you real cream in your coffee." So another time I went over Hunter to stay there. They did have a "good kitchen" as the saying went, but it was also known for the painting over the fireplace--a life-size nude. The hotel burned down later and no one seems to know which fireman rescued the painting.

--Henry L. Young, Ridgewood, NJ

### ANOTHER CATSKILL CIRCLE

A few years ago, my hiking interests were extended with my introduction to cross country skiing, and these days I find myself looking at hiking trails through cross country glasses. One winter day, while following that indomitable hiker, Bill Reimvis, up Kaaterskill High Peak in quest of my winter patch, our bushwack brought us to a wide trail, perpendicular to our compass path. "What's this, Bill?" "Oh", he said, "That is the snowmobile trail that goes all the way around Roundtop and Kaaterskill." "Really?" "Yes, and it follows the same contour line around both mountains."

Two weeks later my wife and I were back on the same compass bearing heading for that snowmobile trail. Upon arrival, we turned left and 30 minutes later came to an interesting trail branching to our left. We continued past this side trail, staying on the main trail for another hour before turning back to the side trail intersection. This time, we did follow the side trail. It turned out to be an exit spur from the main loop trail ending at the top of the Cortina Valley ski area chairlift! We chose not to ski down the ski area trail, as it would be a long road walk from the area parking lot to our car. Instead, we opted for a circuitous ski route to avoid private lands, but did manage to ski to the car.

After this introduction we were determined to do the entire main loop. A week later found us again on the bushwack heading. This time we turned right on the snowmobile trail. It was covered with firm, old snow. It soon became obvious that this part of the trail is no longer used by snowmobiles, as we had to ski around many blowdowns. Two hours down the trail, another spur was encountered on our right. Later, we were to find that this spur terminated on Platte Clove Road near the New York City police camp. We noted that after this intersection, there were no more blowdowns, indicating that snowmobile use of the loop trail is about one half its length and on the north-east side of the loop.

Four and one half hours and eight miles (estimated) from our start, we had completed the loop by returning to our bushwack ski tracks. We used this same route to return to our car. It should be noted that a total of one and one half hours was needed for the in and out bushwack. The loop trail has only six short up-and-down pitches and, depending upon conditions, they can be walked or skied. While there are no views, this trail provides a feeling of accomplishment and is aesthetically pleasing. We encountered no snowmobiles on either day.

Directions: At Tannersville, take Clum Hill Rd. from Route 23A. Turn left on Gillespie Rd. to its dead end at a wood road. Ski one mile on the wood road to the last house on the left. Ski on the left side of the house using a wood road to enter the woods behind the house. Follow this wood road for one half mile to its end at a small creek. The land rises abruptly on the other side of the creek. Cross the creek and follow a 160 degree compass bearing for ten to fifteen minutes, depending upon snow conditions, to the base of small cliffs. Turn right and follow the cliff line until you can move uphill. It is about ten more minutes uphill to the snowmobile trail.

Skiing skill required: Not for novices but an intermediate skier will have no problems.

Alternate start route: Negotiate with Cortina Ski area for a ride on the chair to the spur trailhead at the top. Use the spur trail for entry and exit to and from the loop trail. There will be an uphill climb on the way in.

Total time and distance: Six hours on firm, powderless snow. Distance is about ten miles.

References: Hikers Regional Map No. 71 (1975); Kaaterskill USGS map; The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development Map of the Catskill Mountains (1981).

--Howard F. Adriance, Kingston, NY

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- 410 Shirley Rosen 7/11/82 201-796-0401  
28-02 Fair Lawn Ave., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
- 411 John N. Vasilakis 7/15/82 914-292-9222  
Liberty Gardens, Apt. C-2, Liberty, NY 12754
- 412 Sue Gyscek 7/3/82 914-452-1064  
137 Violet Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
- 413 Betty Lou Bailey 7/17/82 518-372-7946  
Schuyler 16, Netherlands Vil., Schenectady, NY 12308
- 414 Donald A. Schoudel 5/8/82 914-795-5482  
P. O. Box 161, Milton, NY 12547
- 415 Ira H. Orenstein 9/5/82 914-632-1647  
197 Drake Ave., New Rochelle, NY 10805

SELL OR SWAP Coleman Peak I stove \$25.00; Gerry butane stove \$10.00.  
Call Howard Adriance 914-338-4603

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Nov. 6 LONG PATH TRAIL CLEARING Members & aspirants can assist with the maintenance of the Club's section of the L.P. Those helping may be able to clear their way to the top of Peekamoose and Table.  
 Distance: 1-9 Mi. Ascent: 500-2300' Elev.: 3843', 3847'  
 Meeting Place: Grocery store in Sundown at 8:00 a.m., or call leader to arrange a more convenient place.  
 Leader: Cy Whitney (#266), Morley Drive, Wyckoff, NJ 07481  
 201-447-2653

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES (continued)

Nov. 13 FRIDAY A strenuous bushwhack up the slide on Friday.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2400' Elev.: 3694' Order: 18  
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: Roy Messaros (#97), 249 Mulberry Way, Franklin Lakes, NJ  
201-337-5004 07417

Nov. 20 SAMUEL'S POINT & MT. PLEASANT A circular, strenuous bushwhack over two smaller peaks from Traver Hollow.

Distance: 7-8 mi. Ascent: 2900' Elev.: 2885', 2800'  
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: Sam Steen (#92), 6 DuBois St., Kingston, NY 12401  
914-331-1010

Nov. 22 - Dec. 14 DEER SEASON (firearms) in CATSKILLS  
No scheduled hikes.

Dec. 18 EAGLE & BIG INDIAN A moderate trail hike from Seager, with a short easy bushwhack to the canister on Big Indian.

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2200' Elev.: 3600', 3700' Order: 26, 18  
Meeting Place: Parking area at trail head in Seager at 9:00 a.m.  
Alternate meeting place: Big Scot parking lot in front of Ramada Inn in Kingston at 7:45 a.m. Leader will meet only at Seager.  
Leader: Larry Leslie, Jr. (#208), 19 William St., Catskill, NY  
518-943-5727 12414

Jan. 8 SUGARLOAF & TWIN (& INDIAN HEAD?) A strenuous trail hike that may include Indian Head if time and conditions permit. The ascent of Sugarloaf will be by trail and the descent from Twin or Indian Head a bushwhack. Order: 13, 22, (30)

Distance: 7-9 mi. Ascent: 3000' (3500') Elev.: 3800', 3640', (3573')  
Meeting Place: Big Scot parking lot in front of Ramada Inn in Kingston at 8:00 a.m. or Mink Hollow trail head near Lake Hill at 8:45 a.m. (access from Rt. 212)  
Leader: Bradley Snyder (#323), Mohonk Lake, New Paltz, NY 12561  
914-687-7065

Jan. 15 NORTH LAKE SKI TOUR Easy ski tour in the scenic escarpment area at North Lake.

Distance: 5 mi.  
Meeting Place: Entrance to North Lake campsite at 10:00 a.m.  
Leader: Deborah French Glynn (#159), Traver Rd., Pleasant Valley, NY 12569  
914-635-8756

Jan. 29 WITTENBERG & CORNELL A moderate to strenuous trail hike, depending on conditions.

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2300' Elev.: 3780', 3865' Order: 14, 9  
Meeting Place: Parking lot behind drugstore in Phoenicia at 8:30 a.m.  
Leaders: Nathan (#396) & Arthur Church (#319), Charlotte Drive, Lagrangeville, NY 12540  
914-223-3684



# the catskill canister

Vol. XV, No. 2

SPRING 1982

## NUMBER TWENTY-SIX

It was late October, early for the two inches of snow that had fallen the night before. On the way to the summit of Slide Mountain there were times I thought myself to be in another world. There were the ruby and gold leaves, the new snow, branches with melting ice, a strong sun--all the seasons at once. I was with my 16-year-old son on my third climb ever.

He popped up out of the woods. The woodsman had two small boys with him. He asked if we would like to see the slide. "That's how the mountain got it's name," he said. We began to follow him, the two boys, my son, then me. We dropped off the trail and seemed to fly down and across, down again, snow and wet leaves covering my boots, hands soon numbed by holding myself back by hanging on to the trees. In a few moments they all outdistanced me. I followed their tracks, listening for the cracks of branches breaking, and fighting to keep up. I felt my age. Then, silence! Not even their voices!

I was deep in the woods, out of breath, the slope falling away; then some more tracks, and I found them. They were standing at the top of the slide--a white gash in the mountain that seemed to fall away forever as I craned my neck to look downhill. "Would you like to go further," he asked, unaware of my just having caught up with them. "Not me," I said, "You all go and I'll wait here." He told me not to stray, that they would be gone just a few minutes and would pick me up on the way back. Off they went, my son with them, to see more of the awesome slide.

Very soon I was alone, no sound, except for the wind whistling through the trees and bringing down ice-heavy branches, the sun still strong, in and out of some clouds that began to come by. I relaxed and took in the uniqueness of the setting, wondering about the forces of nature that caused the falling away of so much of the mountain. He knew the exact year it happened. I think he said 1820. And then the other slide--the one they were off to see without me--that happened in the 1960's. He said he saw the new gash one day from another mountain, and knew that he had to climb it. He described the ascent so matter-of-factly, but it must have been dangerous. "I came over and hustled up," was the way he put it. I had just spent several exhausting hours on the Slide trail, and he just hustled on up. The fellow was beginning to take on an unreal aspect to me, like some Norse mythological figure who lived in mountains in winter. Clear-eyed, his body moved effortlessly and gracefully through the woods. Not a step wasted. I guessed his age at 60, but it was difficult to tell. Could he have been 70? He loved the woods, especially the snow. And the boys with him felt safe, learning things just by being with him.

Then suddenly, while I was lost in other thoughts, there was a

THE CATSKILL CANISTER Published by The Catskill 3500 Club, Inc.

Deborah F. Glynn, President, Traver Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569  
Franklin B. Clark, Editor, 10 South Washington St., Athens, NY 12015  
Elinore G. Leavitt, Assoc. Editor, 246 Joslen Blvd., Hudson, NY 12534

thwack about twelve feet to my left, and there he was again. He popped up from behind a large pine, pleased, I could tell, at having arrived back at the place where he had left me.

I followed them again, only up this time. I took long high steps on that steeply angled part of the mountain. My heart was pounding trying to keep up, afraid I might lose them, listening for sounds, looking for tracks in the snow. Then I saw one of the boys waiting near a larger group of boulders that I still had to ascend. I breathlessly asked, "Did-he-tell-you-to-wait-for-me?" The boy did not answer, but he clearly was waiting, and the going became easier with the little trail-blazer in front. Then, with a last hard push I was up on the trail.

He was there to greet me, not breathing hard at all. He smiled and wanted to know if I had enjoyed the side trip. "That was my first bushwhack," I said, "Now I know what it's like." I asked him if he ever got lost, which was my main fear as I began to learn more about hiking the high peaks. "No! Once in a while I may get confused about direction, but I just look around to get my bearings and move on." He made it sound as easy as deciding whether I was on the east side or west side of Manhattan. "If you're ever lost," he said, sensing my real concern, "just climb, just climb up. You'll know where you are when you hit a summit." I wanted to know more about that advice, but knew I would not forget it and I hoped I would never have to use it.\*

He said he had to go, and started walking down the trail, the two boys bouncing along behind. As we followed, my son was full of the view of the second slide, how steep it was, and that the old man had told him how he had climbed up hand over hand. Our guide began to follow the trail down the mountain. He took long strides, and the grace of his movements again struck me. He did not bounce. Instead, he seemed just to flow, and his head appeared to glide through the air. He decided to leave the trail when we were about half way down. Not many words passed between us at that point. Some thanks, good-byes, and hope-to-see-you-again's. And then he and the boys were gone.

I had told him how my son and I hoped to become 3500 Club members one day, and sensing that he was already a member had asked him his number. He had hesitated a moment, surprised perhaps that I knew the numbering system, and then had answered, "Twenty-six." He volunteered that he had climbed all 34 of the mountains in winter too. "What's left?" I asked. "Well," he said, "we're thinking of getting a patch that's entirely black for those members who climb them all in the

\* Dubious advice for neophytes. People become lost when it is foggy, raining, snowing, or dark, even on a marked trail. If you go into the woods without a guide, or a compass and map (and the ability to use them), you deserve your fate. If you lose your compass, go down-hill. It takes less energy, and eventually you will come to a road.

dark." I did not know if he was pulling my leg or not, but he said that he had already climbed two.

I never did get to know his name, but I guess I did not have to. From his number and my brief experience with him on Slide Mountain, I had all the information I would ever need.

--Benjamin Sadock, M.D., New York, NY

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- 387 Philip Tates 1/3/82 212-242-5384  
419 West 19th St., New York, NY 10011
- 388 Arthur Schneier 2/8/82 914-229-7577  
R. D. 2, Box 464, Hyde Park, NY 12538
- 389 Frederic B. Francke 2/7/82 212-636-0315  
% Chemical Bank, 277 Park Ave., New York, NY 10017
- 390 Jan Arnet 2/15/82 212-865-0966  
400 Central Park West, New York, NY 10025
- 391 James Older 2/28/82 201-369-4213  
R. D. 3, Box 353, Neshanic Sta., NJ 08853
- 392 June F. Thompson 2/21/82 516-265-4340  
12 Coe Court, Smithtown, NY 11787
- 393 Richard M. Stevens 3/7/82 201-383-7591  
P. O. Box 99, Greendell, NJ 07839
- 394 Anthony P. Ragonetti 3/12/82 914-889-4411  
Route 9G, Staatsburg, NY 12580
- 395 Samuel R. Tannen 3/12/82 914-229-8271  
Hill & Hollow Rd., Hyde Park, NY 12538
- 396 Nathan Church 3/14/82 914-223-3684  
Charlotte Drive, LaGrangeville, NY 12540
- 397 John C. Morgan, Jr. 3/14/82 201-447-0343  
250 Union St., Ridgewood, NJ 07450
- 398 Ira D. Sasowsky 3/14/82 302-368-2287  
4 Cornwall Drive, Newark, DE 19711
- 399 Mark M. Wilsen 3/14/82 201-748-3765  
68-70 Montgomery St., #4, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Since porcupines originated in South America and migrated late in our age to the north, we maintain good communication with the south. \* \* \* \* Our Mexican cousin reports that Friedel Schunk, #248, climbed Ixtaccihuatl (17,342') last Thanksgiving and that he had previously twice ascended Popocatepetl (17,887'). These are the two snow-capped volcanoes which dominate the skyline at Mexico City. The same person was seen drinking champagne with W-3500-R friends on Nye on the occasion of his becoming a W-46-R. \* \* \* \* From Puerto Rico comes the news that Alton Dieffenbach, #244, has scaled the highest mountain, Cerro de Punta, an ascent of 4390 feet through such flora as banana, orange, grapefruit, and coffee. He prepared for this attempt by backpacking for 15 days in the Swiss Alps and 5 days in the Sierra Nevada. \* \* \* \* The Joseph Whitakers, #238, 239, have returned to Kentucky, where they have spent several days canoeing on the Rockcastle River, little changed since Daniel Boone passed that way. \* \* \* \* Ralph Joseph Ferrusi II, #122, has been working hard on the A-T relocation in Dutchess County. He has also rewalked 400 miles of The Trail with

his backpacking classes. \* \* \* \* We have been known to chasten a dog on a C-3500-C hike, but we never had any trouble with Cricket. We were sorry to learn that he had been killed by a car. His hiking companion, Fred Jordan, #245, will scatter his ashes on an appropriate mountain. \* \* \* \* Jan Arnet, #390, came to this country from Czechoslovakia in 1966. He is a member of the American Alpine Club, with many ascents in the Tetons, Canadian Rockies, Alaska, Peru, Mexico, Europe, Asia, and Africa. His next goal is the Winter Patch. \* \* \* \* Elizabeth Maury, #305, has been appointed to the Citizens Advisory Council for the NJ section of PIP.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

May 1 BLACKHEAD Moderate hike from Jones Farm (Cairo) on an old unmarked trail, with time for nature study.

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elev.: 3940' Order: 5  
Meeting Place: Parking lot at Thruway Exit 21, Catskill at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: Franklin Clark (#33), 10 S. Washington St., Athens, NY 12015  
518-945-1413

May 2 CORNELL & WITTENBERG CLEAN-UP This is an opportunity for members & aspirants to help remove litter from this heavily used area. The date is in conjunction with the NY-NJ Trail Conference annual Spring Clean-up Day. Trash bags will be provided by NYSDEC.

(Sun.)  
Distance: 7-9 mi. Ascent: 2700' Elev.: 3780', 3865' Order: 14, 9  
Meeting Place: Parking area near trailhead in Woodland Valley, 8:00 a.m.  
Leader: Cy Whitney (#266), Morley Dr., Wyckoff, NJ 07481  
201-447-2653

May 8 VLV & BEARPEN Moderate bushwhack.

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3529', 3600' Order: 31, 28  
Meeting Place: Leader will meet in municipal parking lot in Fleischmans across from Library at 8:30 a.m. Those coming from the east may meet on their own at the Big Scot parking lot in front of Ramada Inn, Kingston, 7:30 a.m.  
Leader: Ernest Mahlke (#72), 39 Spruce St., Oneonta, NY 13820  
607-432-4394

June 5 BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM Moderate trail hike.

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev.: 3725', 3868' Order: 15, 8  
Meeting Place: Leader will meet at Big Scot parking lot in front of Ramada Inn in Kingston at 8:30 a.m. and lower parking lot at Bellayre Ski Center at 9:15 a.m.  
Leader: N. Jansen Fowler (#250), 17 Wilkie Ave., Kingston, NY 12401  
914-331-3010

June 12 BIG INDIAN & FIR Moderate bushwhack not recently scheduled.

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev.: 3625', 3680' Order: 23, 20  
Meeting Place: Parking lot behind drug store in Phoenicia at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: Jon Clement (#68), R. D. 1, Box 223, East Greenbush, NY 12061  
518-477-6602

BUG DOPE MAY BE NEEDED IN MAY-JUNE