



the catskill canister

July—September 2012

Volume 45 Number 3

Inside this issue...

Hiking on All 8 Cylinders

Roads of the Catskills, Fungus, fracking, new members and MORE!

Getting there is half the fun?

Not necessarily, but on the way you might grab some fabulous views. I asked for readers' favorite views of the mountains from various vantage points as they drive to the Catskills to hike. The responses formed two camps: the notch lovers and the height of land fans (and a few of you clearly have one foot in each camp). Topping the list:

- * The NYS thruway, south of New Paltz
- * Platte Clove Road, coming in from Route 214
- * The view from Olana or the entrance to the Rip Van Winkle Bridge

Honorable mention goes to the following viewing spots:

Approaching Stony Clove Notch on 214 from the north, and approaching Deep Notch on 42 from the north; Route 44/55's overlook; the Taconic State parkway's overlook in Columbia County; Maplecrest Road; Route 23A at the top of the rise by the old stone church and Mountaintop Arboretum; the view from the parking lot at the Hudson Valley Mall in Kingston; Route 209 heading north from Stone Ridge; and I90 at the Mass Pike interchange. Surprisingly, only one person mentioned the Ashokan Reservoir Causeway: views of the bushwack, Burroughs and Devil's Path mountains, as well as bald eagles and a reservoir.

DRIVE SAFELY!

So let's talk mileage. How many would you say that you cover during an average hiking trip? Six, eight, twelve? Maybe you're one of those ambitious souls for whom sixteen or eighteen is just a warm-up. Or would you say, fifty, a hundred, two hundred or more because you count getting to the trailhead as half the fun? If you're like me, you probably think of yourself as treating your car to a hike as well.

My first mechanical hiking partner was a 1991 Nissan Maxima, with a 3.0 L SOHC V6, that handled like a rally car wearing Black Diamond's on its tires. What this meant was that when I saw the lack of a speed limit posted on High Point Mountain Road in West Shokan, the logical conclusion I arrived at was "oh, NYS speed limit 55!" and indulged in a little Japanese-style trail running. Of course, that led directly onto Peekamoose Road, where one ought to ease off and take one's time in winter. Not just for safety, but to admire the steep, rocky scree on the north rim of the valley transformed into a rippled, swirled, frosted wedding cake of white ice falls. Who couldn't help but stop and savor a sight like the ten foot icicles creeping off of the ledges along Frost Valley Road, or the way they picked up sediments from the moss, rocks and dirt above, resembling fat milky tapestries of ice, draped down in streaks of green and red and brown?

Yes, I remember the time I took my old Cadillac Fleetwood (named Bertha) with her tired old carbureted V8 up Platte Clove Road, huffing and puffing at 20 mph the whole way with her water gauge threatening 250 degrees. I stopped at the hairpin to let her catch her breath, and wondered about the remains of the rusted old Ford Ranchero than hangs over the cliff directly under the turn. I realized that this amusement park ride of a back road must be the equivalent of a precipitous rock scramble on four wheels. It's all there—the exposure, the adrenaline spikes, the I'm-sweating-my-guts-out-but-at-least-I-have-more-control-going-against-gravity feeling you get as you carefully make your way up it. These are the things that keep me coming back to the mountains again and again—the old rich, sweet beauty and the sharp, tangy risk combining to thrill the outdoorsman's palate.

Let's talk about Cross Mountain Road, which runs from Mill Brook Road to Alder Creek Road in the remote western Cats. If you've never driven it, you ought to. This road is an epic journey in about five miles. Starting from Mill Brook Road, it climbs through shady ledges above the eponymous stream, winding under dripping rock eaves of emerald moss. Continuing higher, it pours into a wide valley that pitches up steeply in every direction, with grassy, wind-blown meadows funneling up to the forested slopes of Cross Mountain and Barkaboom Mountain, high above. The path winds higher and higher, up the valley and through switchbacks until it reaches a high pass, where it becomes a rough, rutted track pounded into the steep eastern wall of a deep ravine, begging comparisons to Diamond Notch. On a spring day when the leaves are budded out in that fresh, pale green that only comes once a year, a drive over Cross Mountain Road might just be a Catskills destination in and of itself.

Of course, some back roads come with backstories. People familiar with the Wawarsing area have probably heard of the long-abandoned Potterville community at the end of Lundy Road, and the ghost stories surrounding it. Forgotten amongst all this tall-tale-ery is the experience of Lundy Road itself, as it goes from pavement, to smooth dirt, to rougher dirt, to ruts and washouts as you work your way north along it and,

(Continued on page 3)

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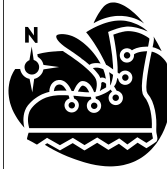
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Nominal dates for receiving the Canister are: Mar 15, Jun 15, Sep 15, and Dec 15.

By the time you are reading this, it will be full summer in the Catskills. But while I'm writing, the trees near the summits are still leafless. One of the many joys of hiking up mountains in the spring and fall is the chance to observe the full range of seasonal change in a single day.

I got to see this multiple times this spring. First, in mid-April, I went south to join my daughter in a hike up Old Rag. We drove through rural Virginia, with well-advanced spring all around us. Then we drove up into Shenandoah National Park, watching spring reverse as we went up. Up on Skyline Drive, everything was bare and lifeless, but we could clearly see the greenery filling up the lower valleys and making inroads up the hillsides and upper valleys. The next morning we drove back down and around to the parking area for Old Rag: Spring! Flowers! And so many shades of green! Then, as we hiked up Old Rag, it all fell behind us again. We observed many little flowers by the trail as the leaf canopy diminished, until things finally looked lifeless near the top. Then we went down again, surrounded soon by tiny flowers, then green ground covering, bushes, and finally full leaf canopy above us. The difference from one switch-back to another was astonishingly clear.



Last weekend I hiked alone up Twin and Indianhead. Once again, there was exuberant spring down at the trailhead, not a leaf nearby up at the top, and that delightful small altitude range with the little flowers.

If I knew more botany, I'm sure I would get even more enjoyment out of the nature around me. But even with my minimal knowledge, I take great pleasure in sensing my surroundings. Yes, I'm still into peak-bagging – I'd feel unhappy if I didn't make it to the top. I also enjoy feeling my muscles and joints, heart and lungs, working the way nature intended. But I could feel the latter on a treadmill!

Wilderness seems to be essential to my emotional well-being. I am so happy about what this club, through all its aspects, does to preserve our own piece of Forever Wild space: its advocacy, though the Conservation Chair; its hikes that introduce people to the Catskills and (I hope!) instills the respect for wilderness; its trail maintenance and litter pick-up and even canister maintenance that make the experience more enjoyable for all visitors; its efforts at communicating; and all the work that goes into running the club (membership and aspirant handling, leaders and leader coordination, finances, ...).

We got to thank some of the original members for founding our club at that amazing 50th year anniversary celebration (thanks for the superb organization, Mike! some special patches still available!), and will have thanked (again) our volunteers at a cookout by the time you read this. So if you haven't already, do jump in and help out. ☘

Thank You, Volunteers!

**Peekamoose/Table
Trail Maintenance Day
April 28, 2012**

Leaders: Cathy O'Neill -

Peekamoose, Phil Knudson - Table

Volunteers:

Jeff Glans
Andrew Gerber
Louise Perkins
Martha Naber
Edna Blanchfield
Mike Dwyer
Carol White
David White
Elie Bijou

**Rt 214 Adopt-A-Highway clean-up day
April 14, 2012**

Leader: Cathy O'Neill

Volunteers:

Andrew Gerber
Charles Lutomski
Mike Dwyer
Jenny Lutz
Donna Wamsley
George Preoteasa
David White
Carol White
Gerry Griffin (Aspirant)
Elie Bijou

Catskill Mushrooms

Hikers along Catskill trails are indeed lucky to be always close to these mysterious life

forms, which are the reproductive parts of a large filamentary system called mycelium. They accomplish the same function as flowers in the plant kingdom by producing spores instead of seeds. Anyone interested in mycology can spend a lot of time admiring them. This activity can obviously interfere with peakbagging, but after you have conquered them all, you can take your time and be rewarded not only with new knowledge and love of these versatile flowers, but also with unbelievable gourmet meals.

It is not long ago when mushrooms were included in the plant kingdom, even though many taxonomists disagreed with this classification, since mushrooms—fungi are dependent on plants for their nutrition in a similar way as animals, and we, are. So after much deliberation, a new kingdom was created for them and taxonomists did not have to wonder whether a mushroom is closer to a geranium or a giraffe.

Walking along Catskill trails, your eyes will be attracted to mushrooms growing either on tree trunks or on the ground. The former belong to a large family known as polypores, and most of the species are tough and woody, displaying beautiful shapes and colors. Some of their names, like turkey tail, red belt, or hemlock varnish, are very descriptive. Other members of this family are delicious and highly prized. I have enjoyed them in countless meals for 81 years. Specifically, they are Chicken of the Woods, Hen of the Woods, Beefsteak Polypore, and Bearded Hedgehog, as well as several other shelf-like mushrooms, such as Oysters, which belong to a different family.

The mushrooms growing on the ground fall into many families, with many look-alike species that can be either edible or poisonous. Great care must be taken when collecting them. The entire family called Amanitas, also known as Death Caps, are never to be eaten. Some other mushrooms to avoid are Sickener, Jack O Lantern, Poison Pie, or False Morel, as their names imply. This reminds me of my niece's favorite comment, "every mushroom is edible, but some of them only once."

There are, however, two families that are easily identified, and contain almost no poisonous species. The two families are Boletes and Puffballs. They boast some of the highest prized and greatest tasting mushrooms, the best one being King Bolete.

If this write-up gets you interested in expanding your outdoor activities, ending up in a great epicurean experience, join the Mid Hudson Mycological Association and take part in their mushroom hunting field trips. ☞ [Editor's note: Never consume any mushroom or plant unless positively identified by an expert. The 3500 Club supports a Leave No Trace ethic. Ed.] Henry Halama #1647

Hiking on All 8, continued from page 1

seemingly, farther back in time. First time I ever drove it, I got as far as the severely eroded section about a mile north of the old Lundy Estate, to the point where the road makes a sudden steep ascent over deep cracks and boulders, where I knocked my exhaust pipe loose. The narrowness of the road prevented me turning around, which led to a neck-straining half-mile drive in reverse, engine rumbling the whole way, until I found a side pull-off to re-orient myself. What I took away from the experience, however, was a profound respect for the haunted-ness of the road. Not in the sense of mysterious spooks and spectres crawling the night, but haunted by the echoes of how things used to be in the Catskills, when small farming communities grew and lived and died. I felt as if I'd watched the seasons change over the course of six or seven miles, and knew that they change would again and again and again until the old Earth ran out of gas.

Someday we'll all run out of gas, just the same, but until then, let us rejoice in the changing of our own seasons, the marching of our feet, and the rolling of our wheels. ☞

Peter Spielvogel #1708

Conservation Corner—

A Note from our Conservation Chair,

Carol White

The Latest on Fracking

A study published in the journal *Ground Water* in mid-April 2012 has raised new concerns about the

safety of gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale, concluding that fracking chemicals injected into the ground could migrate toward drinking water supplies. Using computer modeling, the study concluded that natural faults and fractures in the Marcellus, exacerbated by the effects of fracking itself, could allow chemicals to reach the surface in just a few years. "The Marcellus shale is being fracked into a very high permeability," said Tom Myers, an independent hydrogeologist. Where man-made fractures intersect with natural faults or break out of the Marcellus layer into the stone layer above it, contaminants could reach the surface areas in tens of years, or less. It can take five or six years before the natural balance of pressure in the underground system is fully restored, the study found, and chemicals left underground continue spreading from the drill site long after drilling is finished.

On March 9, 2012, the Associated Press reported that a dozen earthquakes in Ohio were almost certainly induced by injection of gas-drilling wastewater into the earth, regulators said. Well operations began three months ahead of the first quake and the seismic activity was clustered around the well bore. A fault has been identified in the Precambrian basement rock where water was being injected. (Might increasing earthquakes accelerate the migration of frack fluids to aquifers?) Scientists agreed that direct evidence of fluid migration is lacking, but to date little sampling has been done to analyze where fracking fluids go after being injected underground.

More than 5,000 wells were drilled in the Marcellus between mid-2009 and mid-2010. Operators inject up to four

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Hike Schedule July 2012—September 2012

Assumed Risk: 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.

Private Property: All Catskill 3500 Club hikes respect "No Trespassing" signs and the owners' wishes in such regards; leaders shall obtain permission to cross private property when so required.

Volunteer to Lead: If you are a member of the Club please **consider becoming a hike leader**. Just contact Manuel Peraza (outings@catskill-3500-club.org; 718-698-4422 [7pm-9pm]), and Manny will arrange to add you to the low-volume private Yahoo list through which hikes are coordinated. You will be contacted via this means when hikes are needed.

Group Size: All Club bushwhacks are limited to 12 participants including the leaders. The DEC limits group size to 12 in the Wilderness Areas. Accordingly, one should assume that all Club hikes allow no more than 12 participants. If in doubt, please contact the leader.

Sun., July 1 - BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY

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

Moderately paced, but very strenuous bushwhack to two of the more difficult peaks. Well behaved dogs welcome.

Registration Period: 6/17 - 6/28

Leaders: Doug Garrity, #1757, Suzanne Provenzano #1968; suzanne273@gmail.com; 845-679-2171

Sat., July 7 - THOMAS COLE, BLACKDOME & BLACK-HEAD

Distance: 7.5 mi. Ascent: 2800' Elev: 3940', 3980', 3940'

Moderately paced, challenging traverse, with car shuttle necessary. Well-behaved dogs welcomed if arranged in advance.

Registration Period: 7/3 - 7/6

Leader: Heather Rolland #1777, W757; hali-agrace@hotmail.com

Sun., July 8 - WESTKILL MT.

Distance: 8.7 mi. Ascent: 2000' Elev: 3880'

Moderately paced hike to celebrate leader's 25th anniversary as a 3500 Club Member. Hike entire Westkill loop over St.

Anne's Peak, including a side trip to Diamond Notch Falls.

Champagne and cake served. Joint hike with ADK. Rain date July 15.

Registration Period: 7/2 - 7/6

Leader: Lanny Wexler #593; highpt43@verizon.net; 516 644-5867

Sat., July 14 - PANTHER

Distance: 6.8 mi. Ascent: 1545' Elev: 3720'

A moderate trail hike at a leisurely pace.

Registration Period: by 7/12

Leader: Sue Kenyon #1774; snowsusie88@yahoo.com; 917-613-2042

Sat., July 14 - TWIN

Distance: 7.10 mi. Ascent: 2000' Elev: 3640'

Moderate to slower pace trail hike.

Registration Period: Please contact leader.

Leader: Bob Krisak #1600; bobocloc2@verizon.net; 609-587-6174 (before 7:30 PM)

Sun., July 15 - RUSK

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1600' Elev: 3680'

Relaxed paced bushwhack, May add East Rusk if interest is there.

Registration Period: 7/7 - 7/12

Leaders: Mike & Ellen Dwyer #s 1453 & 1452; jemsdwy@verizon.net; 631-472-9290

Sat., July 21 - HUNTER (From Route 214)

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2040' Elev: 4040'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: 7/8 - 7/12

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

Sun., July 22 - NO SCHEDULED HIKES

Sat., July 28 - BEARPEN & VLY

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

Moderately paced bushwhack. Well behaved dogs welcome.

Registration Period: 7/16 - 7/26

Leader: Bill Winterbottom #1904; billw@usdsoftware.com

Sun., July 29 - NO SCHEDULED HIKES

Sat., Aug. 4 - NO SCHEDULED HIKES

Sun., Aug. 5 - BALSAM & EAGLE

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1600' Elev: 3600, 3600

Moderately paced, appropriate for novice or less strong hikers. Well-behaved dogs welcomed if arranged in advance.

Registration Period: 8/1 - 8/4

Leader: Heather Rolland #1777 W757; hali-agrace@hotmail.com

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Sat., Aug. 11 – WITTENBERG, CORNELL & SLIDE

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2230' Elev: 3940', 3660', 4180'
Moderately paced slightly strenuous trail hike. A car shuttle will be required.

Weather permitting we should have some lovely views.

Registration Period: by 8/8

Leaders: Mike Stallbohm #1826 & Paul Swieton #1824;
swietp@gmail.com or mstall0128@gmail.com; 518-758-2158

Aug. 12 – NO SCHEDULED HIKES**Sat., Aug. 18 – BIG INDIAN & FIR**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2400' Elev: 3629', 3700'
Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Well behaved dogs welcome.

Registration Period: 8/4 – 8/16

Leader: Doug Garrity #1757; garrid0@lycos.com;
845-471-1079

Sun., Aug. 19 – BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent 2040' Elev: 3723', 3868'
Moderately paced hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Registration Period: 8/13 – 8/17

Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; suzkna@msn.com; 718-435-3092 after 7pm

Sat., Aug. 25 – WINDHAM

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent 1800' Elev: 3524'
Leisurely paced trail hike along the Escarpment Trail.

Registration Period: By 8/23

Leader: Sue Kenyon #1774; snowsusie88@yahoo.com; 917-613-2042

Sun., Aug.26 – NO SCHEDULED HIKES**Sat., Sep. 1 – SW. HUNTER & HUNTER**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2225' Elev: 3740' & 4040'
Moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike. Rain (or threat of) cancels.

Registration Period: Please contact leader.

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

Sat., Sep. 1 – HALCOTT MT.

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev: 3,537'
Relaxed-pace, but steep bushwhack.

Registration Period: 8/19 - 8/31

Leader: Hans Schick #1853, W759;
Hans.W.Schick@gmail.com; 845-896-6454 (7 to 10 PM)

Sun., Sep. 2 – NO SCHEDULED HIKES**Sat., Sep. 8 – INDIAN HEAD, TWIN & SUGARLOAF**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1,650' Elev: 3573', 3640', 3800'
Moderately paced trail hike with some rock scrambles. Car

shuttle required.

Registration Period: Please contact leader.

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

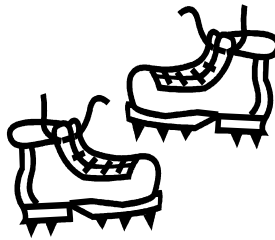
Sun., Sep. 9 – PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2950' Elev: 3843', 3847'

Moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Registration Period: 9/3 – 9/7

Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; suzkna@msn.com;
718-435-3092 after 7pm

**Sun., Sep. 9 – LONE & ROCKY**

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2000' Elev: 3721', 3508'
Very difficult, long, and strenuous bushwhack to the most remote peaks. Well behaved dogs welcome.

Registration Period: 8/26 – 9/6

Leaders: Doug Garrity #1757 and Suzanne Provenzano #1968; suzanne273@gmail.com; 845-679-2171

Sat., Sep. 15 – PLATEAU

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev: 3840'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: 9/10 – 9/13

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

Sun., Sep. 16 – NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

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

Moderately paced but challenging and steep bushwhack. Car shuttle required. Well-behaved dogs welcomed if arranged in advance.

Registration Period: 9/11-9/15

Leader: Heather Rolland #1777 W757; hali-agrace@hotmail.com

Sat., Sep. 22 – DOUBLETOP MT.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1,860' Elev: 3862'

Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Registration Period: 9/14 – 9/21

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

Sun., Sep. 23 – NO SCHEDULED HIKES**Sat., Sep. 29 – KAATERSKILL H.P.**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1,900' Elev: 3,655'

Relaxed-pace hike along marked trail, snowmobile loop, and herd path with a stop at Hurricane Ledge.

Registration Period: 9/16 - 9/28

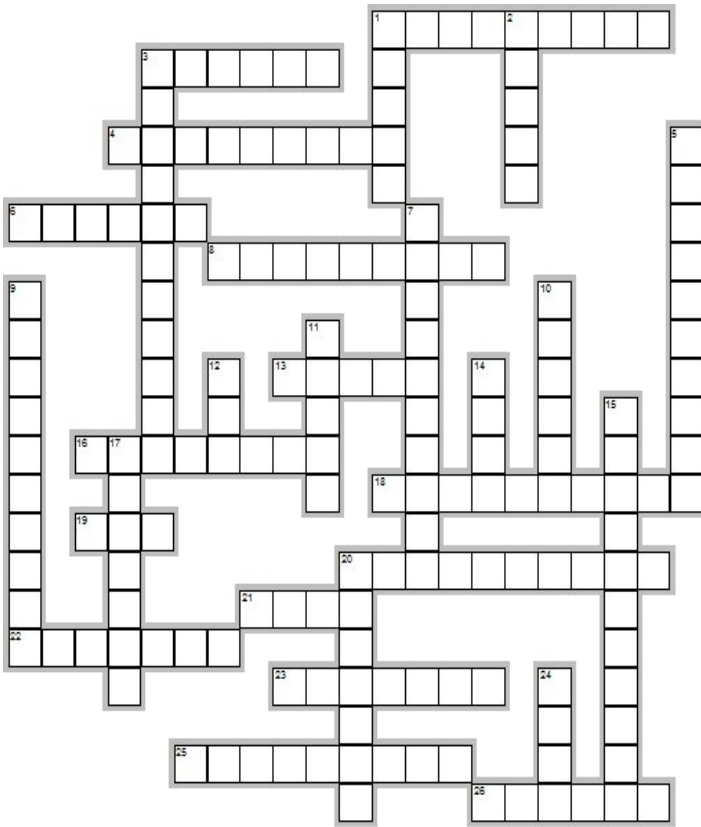
Leader: Hans Schick #1853, W759;
Hans.W.Schick@gmail.com; 845-896-6454 (7 to 10 PM)

Sun., Sep. 30 – NO SCHEDULED HIKES

In case of heavy rain or thunderstorms, hikes may be canceled; if in doubt contact the leader.

Catskill Crossword

Submitted by Ed Gilroy, # 1305



UNKNOWN ROADS

Last weekend I wanted to take a ride up through the Catskills Mtns, on my Harley-Davidson like I have done many times before. The weather forecast was good: 75 degrees & sunny. However, this time was going to be different as I did NOT look at a road map before leaving.

I jumped on Route 32 and pointed the front tire in a northerly direction to Route 28 and into the mountains. The big V-twin was purring along as I went thru Boiceville, Phoenicia and Fleishmans. Turning right in Arkville I picked up Route 30 north. I turned just before Roxbury onto Settlement Road and this is where I started my journey on unknown roads.

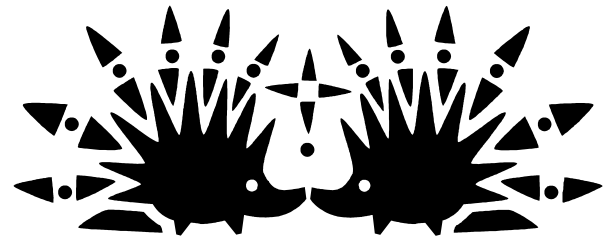
After approximately four miles of rolling countryside and hillside farmland I came to a road sign that was rather worn & slightly tilted but still legible. It said Narrow Notch Road. Sounds good to me, I thought. Now this road is paved but the winters have done some damage over the years and the rapid gain in elevation and tight turns required me to put the heavy machine in low gear. As I crested another hill the view became so spectacular I had to stop and take a deep breath. I had views of unknown step rising mountains to the east of me.

I made a mental note of my position the best I could without a map, so as to later see if these mountains were named. I turned onto Tower Mountain Road and ended up in Stamford. Okay, I know where I am now.

Although the ride back was enjoyable, this story is about the view from the top of Narrow Notch. Since this area is outside the Catskill Blue Line I could not reference my Trail Conference maps. A little more research and I came to know the names of the mountains that had forced me to stop my motorcycle right then & there. They were Cowan Mountain and Lyon Mountain. *Levi #1627*

Across

1. sweet bread
3. Pine Hell
4. acne vulgaris
6. Opposite of Monday
8. Golden State Death
13. Propose it again next meeting
16. Everyday is a Winding Road Singer
18. look, the biggest extant deer
19. Swamp
20. Huge Cherokee
21. All By Myself
22. Florida State Animal
23. Ithaca landmark
25. Twice the Summit you needed
26. Game Seeker



Down

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Earthquake results | 12. the heck of it |
| 2. Cartoon Squirrel | 14. hard, dry biscuit or a twice-baked bread |
| 3. Pine water | 15. Catskill Landscapes |
| 5. Dark Round | 17. East of 12430 |
| 7. Titanic need not fear | 20. Ursus Instrument |
| 9. Pine Hat | 24. Schwartzenegger and Devito Movie |
| 10. Cracker Peak | |
| 11. Federal Bird | |

The Peripatetic Porcupine

On Monday, October 17, 2011 at 12:50 PM, Aaron Schoenberg, #1582, completed his 67 ascents of New England 4000-footers on Killington Peak in Vermont:

“It was a bitter cold day with a high overcast as my body had not adjusted to below freezing wind chill temps yet, but that got me ready to enjoy the freak October snow-storm a week plus later. Due to the bleak weather conditions, we did not hang around at the summit to celebrate.”
Submitted by Aaron Schoenberg, #1582

Matthew Watters, # 625, currently a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, England, is the founder of STUDENTS- 4- HAITI. Matt first visited Haiti as a 14-year-old in 2006 while on working on his Eagle Scout project. He noticed the young boys played soccer using rocks, cans, or just about anything to substitute for the soccer ball they lacked. That fall Matt chose to provide soccer equipment for the youth of Haiti as his Eagle Scout project. As a result, Matt began regular trips to deliver the supplies. On a subsequent trip, he noticed the need for healthcare and became inspired to train and qualify as an Emergency Medical Technician after helping with a medical mission in Haiti. The 2010 earthquake destroyed one of the hospitals Matt had worked in. He developed the "Hope for Haiti" campaign which raised another \$50,000 toward the \$70,000 needed to replace it. *Submitted by Betty Maury Heald, #305*

My latest anthology was accepted by the University Press of New England and will be published in Fall 2012, titled *Peak Experiences: Danger, Death and Daring in the Mountains of the Northeast*: www.carolwhite.org/books. The subject matter was determined by contract last year with University Press, who wanted a focus on peril, triumph over adversity, and lessons learned in the mountains. Being Winter 46ers, having hiked the 48 White Mountain high peaks in winter and having corresponded with 200 people during the last 15 years to compile three previous books, *Women with Altitude*, *Catskill Peak*

Fracking, Continued from page 3

million gallons of fluid, under more than 10,000 pounds of pressure, to drill and frack each well. Twenty-five municipalities in New York State have adopted fracking bans and 80 other municipalities have adopted temporary moratoriums. Any decision on allowing hydrofracking in NYS is on hold while the DEC reviews the 74,000 comments received on a draft environmental report.

In other news: Aqua America plans to destroy a low-income mobile home community and force its longtime residents to move so they can take three million gallons per day out of the Susquehanna River and sell it to fracking companies. Water will then be mixed with poisonous chemicals and injected into the earth. The Susquehanna River has recently been experiencing drought-like conditions due to the lack of precipitation. Yet officials are considering permission to take 20 million gallons per day! Municipal water treatment plants are not designed to remove some contaminants found in wastewater, including radioactive elements. A common

Experiences and Adirondack Peak Experiences, I felt able to tackle the new assignment. Following publication, Dave and I will offer programs about our own and others' experiences in the mountains, with a slide show featuring major peaks of the Northeast in all seasons.

Submitted by Carol White, # 310

Juanita Wilsey, #1518, #657W, completed the Catskill 420 Grid on December 29, 2011. Pat, #1586, #665W, and Moira Colangelo, #1585, #664W, did likewise on February 21, 2012. All are members of the Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club.

Submitted by Patrick Colangelo, #1586, #665W

Marguerite Munch-Weber, #892, completed the Catskill 420 Grid on Saturday, February 18, 2012 on Blackhead.

Submitted by Marguerite Munch-Weber, #892

George Grzyb, #1927, #769W, and Carla Simons, #1928, #770W, completed the AMC NH4000 on July 3, 2011 atop Owl's Head. A celebratory Woodstock Inn Pemi Pale Ale was well enjoyed on the summit. More recently, George and Carla have road-tripped across both New Zealand's North and South Islands in February. Highlights included completing the Kepler Track Great Walk (60km in 2 days), Whanganui River Journey (150km in 3 days), and summiting Mount Taranaki. Wildlife encountered included the North Island Brown Kiwi, Fiordland Crested Penguin, Yellow-Eyed Penguin, and Alpine Kea.

Submitted by George Grzyb, #1927, #769W

Kathy #1022, #413W, and Ralph Ferrusi #122, #34W summited both 3,213-foot Mount Davis, the highest point in Pennsylvania, and Backbone Mountain's 3,360-foot Hoyer-Crest, the highest point in Maryland, on Saturday, February 18, 2012. In January, they banged out Delaware's 447.85-foot high point at a benchmark on Ebright Road, north of Wilmington. ☘

Submitted by Ralph Ferrusi, #122, #34W

practice is to re-inject it into the ground, despite being banned in some states.

A review of more than 111,000 gas well leases and related documents by the New York Times suggests that leases did not require gas companies to pay for replacement drinking water if their wells were contaminated, and not all costs were covered; only about half require payment for damages to livestock or crops. Most leases grant gas companies broad rights to decide where they can cut down trees, store chemicals, build roads, and drill. Drilling companies rarely describe to landowners the potential environmental and other risks that federal laws require them to disclose.

Read important breaking news about hydrofracking on the Club's website's Conservation page. Links to relevant resources are listed. Contact your local politicians to express your concerns about the possibilities presented by allowing this process in New York State. ☘

New Winter Members

785	Jason Hosier	1945	03/03/12
786	Edward DeSalvio	1902	02/25/12
787	Lisa Weismiller	1773	03/04/12
788	Nelson Zayas	1996	02/20/12
789	Ted Shemella	1550	03/03/12
790	Scott Smith	1899	03/12/11
791	Dan Pekrol	1829	03/04/12
792	Dale D Hughes	1199	03/11/12
793	Tara Siudy	1831	03/10/12
794	Valerie Accardi	1926	03/10/12
795	Tom Hayhurst	1935	03/10/12
796	Nancy Hayhurst	1934	03/10/12
797	Peter Brown	1880	03/11/12
798	Glenda Brown	1879	03/11/12
799	John Kwasnowski	1919	03/11/12
800	James A Barnshaw	1876	03/16/12
801	Chris Kulk	1991	03/17/12
802	Debbie Melita	1897	03/17/12
803	Eric Sieber	2008	03/17/12
804	Michael Ryan	2001	3/17/12
805	Don Eccleston	1952	03/17/12
806	Wendell George	1806	03/18/12
807	Michael Saracino	2013	03/18/12
808	Patrick Watters	1849	03/10/12
809	Grace Watters	1848	03/10/12
810	Peter Rieseler	1941	03/18/12
811	Phil Knudson	2014	03/10/12

Our New Members 2011-2012

This year we had a bumper crop of new members with 86 regular and 41 winter finishers. Since the dinner we have already had an additional 29 and 5. All finishers this year will receive the commemorative patch which is available for purchase by members in good standing.

1993	Patsy Wooters	03/04/12
1994	Brandon Spang	03/07/12
1995	Janine Weyls	02/26/12
1996	Nelson Zayas	02/20/12
1997	Keith Spang	03/07/12
1998	Leslie Concors	03/11/12
1999	Theresa Concors	03/11/12
2000	Dany Davis	02/26/12
2001	Michael Ryan	03/11/12
2002	Paul Pilmanis	03/11/12
2003	Kathy Cronin	10/01/03
2004	Jason Johnson	03/07/12
2005	Joanie Merwin	03/15/12
2006	Michael Schultz	03/17/12
2007	Ed Moran	03/17/12
2008	Eric P Sieber	03/17/12
2009	Margaret McGrath	03/17/12
2010	Dale Mead	03/17/12
2011	Sharon Fletcher	02/25/12
2012	David Fletcher	02/25/12
2013	Michael Saracino	03/18/12
2014	Phil Knudson	03/10/12
2015	Stephan Ryshkewitch	03/16/12
2016	Carol A. Renninger	03/25/12

Hike Leaders Get WFA Certified

The SOLO Wilderness First Aid course, affectionately referred to as “woofa,” was offered to 3500 Club hike leaders earlier this spring. Sixteen participants met for two days at the Krippebush Fire House (does that make you think of The Band song? Me too.) and learned diagnostic and technical skills, with plenty of hands on practice. The Club offered a generous discount to hike leaders via the Founder’s Award: leading at least four hikes over the next two years earns leaders a significant reduction in the price of the course. It also means we are all a little more prepared for those scary moments when something does go wrong. Check the Club’s website for photos and a news clipping of the training.

New Life Members

1897	Debbie Melita
1927	George Grzyb
1928	Carla Simons
1930	Andrew Gerber
2030	Lawrence Lepak
Asp	Eric Perfecto
Asp	Jeremy Preston
Asp	Joel Sciascia
2046	Brian Sikora
2053	Brian Lubbert