



the catskill canister

January - March 2012

Volume 45 Number 1



Catskill 3500 Club Helps Flood Victims: \$100.00 to each of Five Organizations

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Governor Cuomo called Prattsville hardest hit by Hurricane Irene, and that's saying something! Located at the confluence of the Schoharie and Batavia Kill Creeks, a terrifying flood decimated the village of Prattsville—an entire gas station and mobile homes on Route 23 washed into the river. Remains of homes litter the landscape, buildings are condemned, and “for sale” signs are everywhere. An October 30th snowstorm that dumped eight inches of snow didn't help. FEMA's disaster recovery trailer in Prattsville now houses a long-term community recovery team. **The Community of Windham Foundation** established an Adopt-A-Family Fund to help those whose homes were destroyed or are uninhabitable—they helped people find new residences, get kids back in school and meet other vital needs.

The Chinese word for *crisis* also means *opportunity*. Prattsville residents met with planners in November to discuss a dream—build a Community Center with a gym, fitness rooms and art classrooms; a Recreation Center with baseball and soccer fields, tennis courts and ice-skating; a Riverfront Park Trail; a town hall and green; neighborhood redevelopment and even an Eco Hotel. Planners, business leaders and FEMA are impressed with how well the townspeople are handling this terrible catastrophe with great positive energy and creativity. People are really engaged, but given the poor economy, it's not clear where money to make their dream a reality will come from.

Visit prattmuseum.com and read the unforgettable history of Zadock Pratt, who founded the National Bureau of Statistics, and visit Pratt Rock Park's whitewashed symbols on the east side of town—a must-see. Pratt couldn't help someone one time because he had no cash on him, so with a rusty nail he scratched a check on a flat stone. “Take that to my bank in Prattsville and they'll give you the money,”—and his cashier did. Pratt had five wives, 1,000 horses, and innumerable enterprises and interests. Thanks to the herculean efforts of dozens of volunteers, the Zadock Pratt Museum on Main Street recovered 90% of historic photographs and papers; 100% of the art and historic fabric; and 25% of the first floor period furniture, thanks in part to an O'Connor Foundation grant.

MARK Project director Peg Ellsworth dried tears while describing a sign she saw: *Rebuilding Prattsville one neighbor at a time*. That's what they're doing in Margaretville, whose Main Street was completely under water—the Fire Station housed 100 people after the flood. A new record was set when the East Branch rose almost 13 feet in 9 ½ hours—flood stage is 11 feet—and the river peaked at nearly 16 feet on August 28th. Peg Ellsworth said that people have been desperate for help, but often don't ask for much. They'll be living with the effects of this flood for months or years, removing contaminated mud and silt from their cellars and crawl spaces. MARK – markproject.org – had raised \$210,000 by mid-October to help people find housing, deal with mold and clean up and rebuild. Many businesses are still closed—but others found new quarters or were unaffected; yet they're struggling, because people think they're not open. The Country Store owner on Windham's west side told us that people think

(Continued on page 3)

The view of Black Dome
From Blackhead's western side: gulp.
Intimidating.
Anonymous

Save the Dates:

Winter Weekend Jan 27—29, 2012

Annual Dinner: March 31, 2012



We're on the web at

www.catskill-3500-club.org

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

The President's Column**Bootprints**

Ah, winter. I started hiking in winter because I wanted to keep hiking, and it was wintertime. It took several hikes for me to learn enough to particularly enjoy this season.

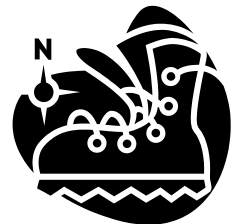
The first thing I had to learn was that it was much better to aim to stay slightly cool while hiking, rather than toasty-warm. This was a major contrast to downhill skiing, where I was either shivering standing in line and riding on a chair lift, or briefly flying down the hill with the wind whipping around me. (Yes, I did try skiing in lederhosen one time, but wound up with cold scraped knees and a resolve never to try a stunt like that again.) Why should you deliberately aim to be a bit cold while hiking? Because otherwise you will sweat, and sweating will make you colder, and you get locked in a vicious cycle resulting only in discomfort and dangerously wet clothing. Slightly cool, on the other hand, is invigorating.

Two ancillary aspects of this lesson are to wear layers, and no cotton (even if you love your 3500 club T-shirt). You'll probably wind up stripping all the way down to your base layer, possibly with a wind-proof layer on top, but want your warmest jacket the moment you stop for lunch.

So, dressed properly, go out and have fun! In particular, the club's Winter Weekend is almost upon us, and we'll have hikes for every level of experience. Rent snowshoes and crampons, or ask your favorite leaders – or chat on the club's yahoo website – for advice in buying them. My main piece of advice is NOT to get the rigid boots and crampons that are designed for ice climbing, but to use flexible ones suitable for hiking.

Then, once winter is over, the club's 50th anniversary will be upon us. Much is being planned: special events at the club's annual dinner (which anyone can attend, not just members; sign-up info elsewhere in this Canister), special patches, maybe even trying to put someone on each of the 35 summits on some appropriate fall day. Share any ideas you have with other club members.

Finally, although a few bridges are still out on roads and trails, the Catskills are basically open for hiking, eating, staying overnight, shopping, whatever. The local people would love our business as they work to recover from Hurricane Irene. Come spring, we'll go back to our responsibilities for trail maintenance, lean-to maintenance, and litter pickup. Meanwhile, winter is a great time for just enjoying being out in the woods. ☘



Membership dues are due! See page 6 for details!

We're on the web at

www.catskill-3500-club.org

50 Years of Volunteering - Even Irene and Lee Could Not Shake Us!

By Laurie Rankin, #1337

The 3500 Club began in November of 1962 when a group of people decided to volunteer their time to lead hikes to all 34 of the peaks in the Catskill mountains (for details and documentation, please buy a copy of our past Catskill Canister CD). Volunteers also gave their time to serve on the Club's Executive Committee.

As time progressed many club members became individual trail maintainers and the Club took on maintenance of the Table-Peekamoose trail. The Club assisted in the building or refurbishing of lean-tos on Balsam Lake Mountain, Hunter Mountain, and Diamond Notch along with the maintenance of the Bouton lean-to on Table.

Move the clock forward to the present and the spirit of volunteerism continues greater than ever. In 2011 alone, we had two successful lean-to workshops with the NYNJTC in May with 31 participants. 3500 Club volunteers were prepared to do a lean-to replacement at Shandaken Creek and a lean-to refurbishment at Devils Acre. There were some delays in getting approvals through the DEC, so in the meantime, seeking something to do, 16 volunteers turned out to work on the badly overgrown PH-WB trail. Despite the heat and humidity, they quickly reclaimed a majority of the trail for fellow hikers to use.

As we waited for the DEC approvals for the lean-to work, Irene and Lee came sneaking in from the south and the Catskills were devastated. Numerous homes, businesses, bridges, and roads within the Catskill mountains and its communities were washed away and changed forever! The DEC officially closed all of the trails in the Catskills so that they could concentrate their efforts on assisting the local residents to safety. The local municipalities, national guard, and volunteer fire departments worked non-stop to evacuate people to safety and make temporary repairs to the infrastructure so that emergency resources were available to all. Utility companies from as far away as Oklahoma assisted local power company efforts to restore power but despite their best efforts power and phone lines were down in many places for over a week.

And the 3500 club volunteers were inquiring: What can I do to help? We assured them that they would be called upon when needed and indeed they were. The DEC gave the local municipalities time to begin to get the roads and bridges stabilized, then they began to visit the trails in the mountains. They found many of them missing in the valley floors! Bridges gone, trails gone, trees down... realizing the scope of the devastation, the DEC requested assistance. Late on a Tuesday evening a request went out to the volunteers to assist the DEC with assessment of the trails. 26 volunteers responded and visited and assessed nearly 100 miles of trails within the next 5 days, allowing the DEC to get a much clearer picture of what conditions were. They were then able to begin to re-open many miles of trails that had been unaffected by Irene and Lee.

The clean up and repairs continue. At press time, several roads have not yet reopened, and several trail bridges still require repairs or replacement. While Irene and Lee have certainly left their mark upon the landscape, so have the volunteers who stepped up and met the challenge. In another 50 years 3500 Club members might reminisce about 2011 and the devastating changes the communities in the Catskills withstood. But they will also remember the spirit of volunteerism and the willingness of Club members to give back to the land and the communities we all love so dearly. ☘



Club Helps Flood Victims continued from page 1

they're closed—a car in their parking lot was buried in mud, hood-first. Flood waters rose to chest level in Windham. “We need people to come back!” he said, in his good-as-new-store, breakfast and lunch restaurant, and looking zoo with pigs, goats, chickens, turkeys, bunnies and miniature horses, all rescued from local shelters.

The Catskills Farmer Flood Relief Fund has helped those impacted by two floods in late summer. A special \$5 million grant fund was established in early September and checks were sent nearly immediately to Catskill farmers in need, including many people in Prattsville; those in Middletown, Shandaken and Olive also benefitted. The Watershed Agricultural Council is the clearing-house and has distributed over \$1 million to help farmers rebuild and recover.

In Ulster County, **FAMILY of Woodstock** provides temporary shelter and helps locate rental housing or assists with security deposits, supplies food pantries and provides many other necessities including counseling to flood-impacted people or wherever need exists. The **Shandaken Area Revitalization Program** helps those whose houses were flooded by the Esopus with rental assistance, repairs, replacement of furniture, food and other necessities. Its mission is to ensure adequate housing for low and moderate income people. ☘

Submitted by Carol White, Catskill 3500 Club conservation chair, with contributions by Diane Galusha, Communications Director & Education Coordinator, Catskill Watershed Corporation; Carolyn Bennett, Catskill Mountain Foundation & Zadock Pratt Museum; and Adrienne Larys, active in Catskill organizations.

Hike Schedule December 2011 — March 2012

Assumed Risk: Hiking involves certain inherent risks and persons participating do so at their own risk. In cold weather hike participants should avoid cotton clothing as it retains dampness and the resulting chill can result in hypothermia, **which can lead to death.** Instead, wear (and have available in your pack) garments of wool or fleece. Silk or polypropylene make the best base layers, as they tend to wick moisture away from the body. Hats, gloves, and a headlamp must be part of the standard winter kit. Ice and snow can come early and unexpectedly to these peaks. **Each hiker must bring snowshoes and full crampons to the trailhead;** the leader may advise that these do not have to be taken on the hike, but be aware that while there may be bare ground at the trailhead, there is often very significant ice and snow as the elevation increases, which could result in those improperly prepared being sent back. Anyone not properly equipped may be refused permission to participate, at the leader's absolute discretion. **Winter in the Catskills is not to be treated lightly.**

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

Cancelations: Please be aware that, **in the case of bad weather or bad driving conditions, most hikes will be canceled; if you are uncertain, please contact the leader before leaving for the hike.** As a matter of courtesy to our volunteer hike leaders, we ask that you let them know as early as possible if you have to cancel your attendance on a hike.

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

Volunteer to Lead: If you are a member of the Club please **consider becoming a hike leader.** Just contact Manuel Peraza (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., Jan. 1—HALCOTT

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1720', Elev: 3520'
Moderately paced bushwhack. Well behaved dogs welcome.
Registration Period: Dec 18 — Dec 29.
Leader: Doug Garrity #1757; garrid0@lycos.com; 845-471-1079

Sat., Jan. 7 – INDIAN HEAD

Distance: 6.5 miles Ascent: 1600' Elev: 3573'
Moderately paced trail hike. Well behaved dogs welcome if arranged in advance.
Registration Period: Dec 29 — Jan 5.
Leader: Heather Rolland #1777, W757; haliagrace@hotmail.com

Sat., Jan. 7 – FIR & BIG INDIAN

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2400', Elev: 3629', 3700'
A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Well behaved dogs welcome.
Registration Period: Dec 26 – Jan 6.
Leader: Bill Winterbottom #1904; billw@usdsoftware.com

Sun., Jan. 8 – WINDHAM H. P.

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'. Elev: 3524'
Moderately-paced trail hike.
Registration Period: Please contact leader to register.
Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; hikeleader3500@yahoo.com; (718) 463-5675 after 3:00pm
(518) 827-7327 weekends.

Sat., Jan., 14—EAGLE FROM MCKENLEY HOLLOW

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'. Elev: 3600'
Moderately paced trail hike.
Registration Period: Jan 8 - 12.
Leader: Edna Blanchfield #1245; goat-girl_35r@verizon.net; 845-246-3362.

Sun., Jan. 15 – NO HIKING.

Sat., Jan. 21 - WESTKILL

Distance: 6.4 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev: 3880'

(Continued on page 5)



Each hiker must bring snowshoes and full crampons to the trailhead; the leader may advise that these do not have to be taken on the hike.



A moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: January 16-20.

Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; suzkna@msn.com;

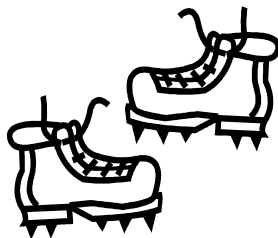
718-435-3092 after 7pm.

Sun., Jan. 22 – NO HIKING.

Sat. Jan. 28 & Sun. Jan 29:

WINTER WEEKEND

Please see insert for WINTER WEEKEND hike schedule.



Sat., Feb. 4 – FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP

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

Moderately paced but very strenuous bushwhack to two of the more difficult peaks.

Registration Period: After Jan 20.

Leader: Mike & Ellen Dwyer #1452;

jemsdwy@verizon.net; 631-472-9290.

Sun., Feb. 5 – NO HIKING.

Sat., Feb. 11 – BEARPEN & VLY

Distance: 8.5 mi. Ascent: 2375'. Elev: 3600', 3529'

Moderately paced trail hike with partial bushwhack.

Registration Period: Please call leader by Thursday of the week of the hike to register and discuss necessary winter gear.

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

Sun., Feb. 12 – WINDHAM H. P.

Distance: 7 mi. Elev: 3524'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: Feb. 5 – 11

Leader: Bob Ricketson #1361, W622;

bobrick@mhicable.com; 518-943-5223.

Sat., Feb. 18– PLATEAU

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2200', Elev: 3840'

A moderate trail hike at a leisurely pace.

Registration Period: by February 16

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

Sun., Feb. 19 – SOUTH WEST HUNTER & HUNTER

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2225'. Elev: 3740', 4040'

Moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike.

Registration Period: Please contact leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; hikeleader3500@yahoo.com;

(718) 463-5675 after 3:00pm (518) 827-7327 weekends.

Mon., Feb. 20. RUSK & EAST RUSK

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev: 3680', 3640'

Moderately-paced bushwhack.

Registration Period: Feb 10 – Feb 18

Leader: George Preoteasa #1478;

gvpreo@gmail.com; 201-694-8344

Sat., Feb. 25 – NO HIKING.

Sun., Feb. 26 – LONE & ROCKY

Distance: 11mi. Ascent: 2000', Elev: 3721', 3508'

A very difficult, long and strenuous bushwhack to the most remote peaks. Well behaved dogs welcome.

Registration Period: Feb.12 - Feb. 23.

Leader: Doug Garrity #1757; garrid0@lycos.com;

845-471-1079.

Sat., Mar. 3 – DOUBLETOP

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev: 3860'

Moderately-paced bushwhack.

Registration Period: Feb 24 – Mar 1.

Leader: George Preoteasa #1478 gvpreo@gmail.com;

201-694-8344

Sat., Mar. 3 – TWIN

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

Moderate to slower pace trail hike. Heavy snow or ice cancels.

Registration Period: Please contact leader to register.

Leader: Bob Krisak #1600; bobocloc2@verizon.net;

609-587-6174 (before 7:30 PM) .

Sun., Mar. 4 –BLACKHEAD RANGE TRAVERSE

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2760', Elev: 3940', 3980', 3940'

A moderately paced but strenuous trail hike. Car shuttle required. Well behaved dogs welcome.

Registration Period: Feb 19 – Mar 1.

Leader: Doug Garrity #1757; garrid0@lycos.com;

845-471-1079.

Sat., Mar. 10 – SUGARLOAF

Distance: 5 mi. Elev: 3800'

Moderately paced trail hike.

(Continued on page 6)



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



Registration Period: Call leader by Thursday of the week of the hike to register and discuss necessary winter gear.
Leader: Peggy Wissler (#1499). 914-260-7506.

Sun., March 11 – CORNELL & WITENBERG

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2850'. Elev: 3860', 3780'
Moderately-paced trail hike.

Registration Period: Contact leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; hikeleader3500@yahoo.com;
(718) 463-5675 after 3:00pm. (518) 827-7327 weekends.

Sun., Mar. 11 – GRAHAM & BALSAM LAKE

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

Registration Period: Mar. 4 - 10.

Leader: Bob Ricketson #1361, W622;
bobrick@mhicable.com; 518-943-5223.



Sat., Mar. 17 – PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE

Distance: 10 mi, Ascent: 2600', Elev: 3640', 3800'
A moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: Mar. 5—15.

Leader: Maria Bedo #1851; maria.bedo@verizon.net;
917-881-9272.

Sun., Mar. 18 – SLIDE

Distance: 4.2 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev: 4180'
A moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: March 12-16.

Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; suzkna@msn.com;
718-435-3092 (after 7:00 pm).



Sat., Mar. 24 – NO HIKING.

Sun., Mar. 25 – NO HIKING.

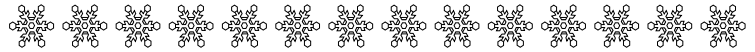
Sat., Mar. 31 – NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 8.5 mi. Ascent: 2500', Elev: 3540', 3610'
Moderately paced bushwhack. Car shuttle required. Well behaved dogs welcome if arranged in advance.

Registration Period: Please contact leader to register.

Leader: Heather Rolland #1777, W757;
haliagrace@hotmail.com.

Time to renew your subscription:
*It's that time of the year for members to pay dues and for aspirants to renew their subscription. Forms on our web-site in the **Membership** tab can be downloaded. If there are no changes, it's not necessary to print and send the form. Sending your payment early will save the expense of an extra mailing by the club.*



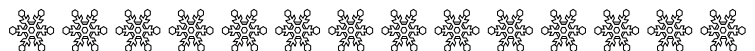
Come join the 3500 Club Winter Weekend January 27-29, 2012!

Do you need any winter peaks? Do you want to get more comfortable with snowshoeing? All four required winter peaks will be led by experienced hike leaders so you can pack in two fun-filled days in the outdoors and spend a great weekend in the beautiful Catskills. If you already have your required peaks and are working on your winter round, or if you just want to get away, you can join in too!

As last year's weekend was so popular, we will once again be at the Frost Valley YMCA - a great setting not only for hiking, but also for cross-country skiing. There are two housing options available: the Lakeview Lodge, which is a regular hotel-like setting at \$131 per person double occupancy, both nights included. The other choice is the Biscuit Brook Lodge, a large cabin with bunks and several size rooms at \$35 per person covering both nights. It has a central meeting space with a fireplace (perfect after a day of playing in the snow!). Bathrooms are shared and further information is available at <http://www.frostvalley.org/lodging/index.html>.

Food costs for the entire weekend are only \$80 per person and this includes all meals from Friday night to Sunday morning. On Saturday evening there will be ample opportunity to socialize with fellow club members around the fireplace (bring your own bottle), and enjoy the ambience of the Frost Valley setting.

We are filling up quickly, so contact me asap if you are interested! To make a reservation or for more details please contact Maria Bedo: winterweekend@catskill-3500-club.org; 917-881-9272; or at 61 Spring St., Tarrytown, NY 10591.



Our New Members 2011

1950	Anthony Olivari	10/1/11	1955	Terri Baker	11/5/11
1951	Matthew L. Peoples	10/2/11	1956	Scott Baker	11/5/11
1952	Don Eccleston	9/17/11	1957	Catherine Wallace	11/13/11
1953	John Eshleman	10/29/11	1958	David Hirthler	11/13/11
1954	Theresa Berntsen	11/6/11	1959	Jim Juliano	7/4/11





The Peripatetic Porcupine

Heather emailed me recently and suggested reviving the *Canister's* Peripatetic Porcupine. I was a big fan of the original Porcupine when Elinore Leavitt compiled it; back then it often filled a half-page of the *Canister*. When Elinore passed away, so did the Porcupine. I suggested reviving the Porcupine during Darielle Graham's editorship, and it flourished once again, until it, once again, receded, and ultimately vanished, in a change of editors. With your input, we hope to re-revive it.

First things first. I love the Catskills: the mountains, the valleys, the cloves and hollows; the streams and reservoirs; the villages, towns, and hamlets: Peekamoose, Bearpen, Friday and Balsam Cap; Stony Clove, McKenley Hollow; the Esopus and the Neversink; the Roundout and the Pepacton; Maplecrest valley, Sundown, Shady—get me going!

The Catskills and I go 'way back, and my 3500 Club numbers are Numbers to be Proud Of: #122, #34W (we've kept the 122 [sort of] in the family: my wife Kathy is #1102, #413W, and my son Ralph III is #1122 [he qualified for a lower number but arranged the 1122 with Cy Whitney], #509W).

Back in the day I learned from the legends—Elinore and Bill Leavitt, and the Reverend Ray Donahue—and the school of hard knocks. I was young and strong, but wickedly inexperienced. My very first snowshoe climb was Friday and Balsam Cap, with Bill and the Reverend, on a borrowed pair of huge, heavy, wooden bear paws. At the end of the day I was almost in tears, after falling on my face in the snow dozens of times, trying to keep up with these guys.

I soloed Westkill, then trail-less, in knee-deep snow, wearing jeans, a cotton sweatshirt, and a cotton denim jacket—fleece, Gore Tex, etc, hadn't been invented then. I once set out from Peekamoose Road in the winter heading for Peekamoose, Table, Lone, Rocky, Balsam Cap, and Friday, and intended to head back over them to my car! If I hadn't met Roy Messaros and Carl Swingley in the col between Friday and Balsam Cap, and descended with them to their car on Moonhaw, I wouldn't be here

writing this today. Luck played a big part in my early day's survival.

The Catskills kicked off a taste for adventure, accomplishment, and achievement. I became the 311th person to walk the Appalachian Trail, then did it again, in sections, over a 22-year period: a Grand Total of 4,217 miles of woods walking.

Between and between, I walked Vermont's Long Trail and New York's then-existing Long Path, became Adirondack 46er #2023, and a Northeast 114er. Kath and I have visited 54 (and counting) countries, in 23 time zones, on six continents.

A quick commercial: I currently write a weekly hiking/travel/adventure column for the Poughkeepsie Journal (every Thursday, www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/Sports/Players_Rec_Sports), and in 2006 authored *Catskill Tales and Tales*, with a chapter devoted to each of the 35 3500-footers: it's a fun read; buy a copy and I'll autograph it.

Hey, enough about me, let's get to the Porcupine. It's *your* column: for you, and about you. Here's the drill: e-mail, or mail me:

Ralph Ferrusi
34 Kim Lane
Stormville, NY 12582-5305
rjferrusi@frontiernet.net



your adventures, accomplishments, achievements: trail-, mountain-, travel-, whatever-wise in the following (suggested) format:

“This summer Kathy(#1022, #413W) and Ralph (#122, #34W) Ferrusi helicoptered into the Mount Robson Provincial Park in British Columbia and hiked, climbed, and camped for five days around magnificent 15,299-foot Robson, the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies.”

I'll print your words verbatim, as much as possible; at times minor (or perhaps not-so-minor) editing may be necessary.

Let's get those cards and letters coming! ☿



Day sleeps longer now
thus I want to hibernate
until crocus time.
Rachael Sheny, asp.

Scarlet tanager:
the flying red kiss that lands
too far from my lips.
Will Nixon #1071, W# 420

Once, I snuck up on
a bear. Since then, I've feared a
bear'd sneak up on me.
Melissa Bean #1877

Nettles, blackflies, and
Prickers on Sleeping Lion.
Doesn't get much worse.
Heather Rolland, #1777, W757

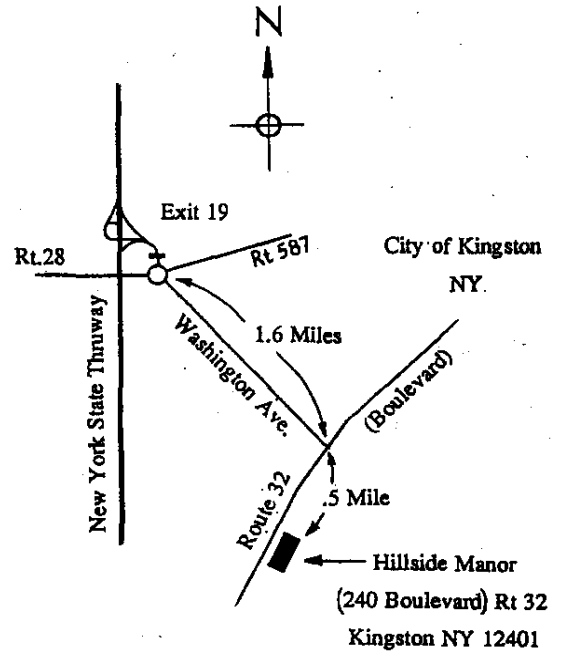


Members and aspirants are cordially invited to attend the
FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
Saturday, March 31, 2012

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

Social Hour: : 3:30 P.M. — 5:00 P.M.
 Cash bar, hors d'oeuvres served

Dinner: 5:15 p.m.



Please detach and mail to:

Michael Doehring
 7 Cloverdale Avenue
 White Plains, NY 10603

Reservations \$34.00 per person.

Amount of Check: \$_____

Check should be made payable to
 "Hillside Manor" but mailed to Michael
 Doehring.

Please Circle Choice of Entrée

Name: _____ Prime Ribs Chicken Française Mixed Veg. Lasagna

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

Reservations must be received by March 17, 2012

Winter Weekend 2012 Hike Schedule

All details subject to change. Please read "Assumed Risk" on page 4 of this issue of The Catskill Canister for important information regarding gear and potential cancelations.

Sat., Jan. 28 – BEARPEN & VLY

Distance: 7-8 miles depending on route, Ascent: 2000' Elev: 3600', 3529'

Fast paced trail and bushwhack hike.

Registration Period: Please contact leader to register after New Years. Hike will not take place if Rt. 47 (Big Indian to Frost Valley) is closed.

Leader: Jim Bouton #1539, jbouton@catskill.net

Distance: 6-7 miles Ascent: 2000' depending on route. Elev: 3862'

Moderately slow bushwhack led by the 3500 Club's canister maintainer and Canister editor.

Registration Period: Contact leaders to register.

Leaders: Heather Rolland, #1777 & Jim Bouton #1539; jbouton@catskill.net; hali-agrace@hotmail.com

Sat., Jan. 28 - *BALSAM MT. LOOP

Distance: 5 miles. Ascent: 1700' Elev: 3600' Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: By Jan. 26 or at Winter Weekend.

Leader: David White #860, W311; ccswhite@juno.com; 315-853-1070

Sun., Jan. 29 – *SLIDE

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1600' Elev: 4180'.

A relaxed paced trail hike.

Registration Period: Contact leader to register.

Leader: Jean Taylor; Taylor.Jean.E@gmail.com; 908-209-4750.

Sat., Jan. 28 – *BLACKHEAD

Distance: miles TBD Ascent: TBD Elev: 3940' Moderately paced trail hike. Route will be determined based on conditions. Well-behaved dogs welcome if arranged in advance.

Registration Period: Contact leader to register.

Leader: Heather Rolland #1777, W757; haliagrace@hotmail.com

Sun., Jan. 29 – *PANTHER

Distance: 7 mi Ascent: 3720' Elev: 1545' Moderately paced trail hike suitable for beginners or veterans which will include a stop at a Catskill Hundred Highest peak, Giant Ledge.

Registration Period: Contact leaders to register.

Leaders: Tom and Laurie Rankin #s 1503, 1337; laurierankin@hvc.rr.com

Sat., Jan. 28 – *SLIDE

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1600' Elev: 4180' Moderately paced trail hike suitable for beginners or veterans. If conditions allow, we will do a loop over Curtiss Ormsbee and see if we can locate 33 other Catskill high peaks!

Registration Period: Contact leaders to register.

Leaders: Tom and Laurie Rankin #s 1503, 1337; laurierankin@hvc.rr.com

Sun., Jan. 29 – *BALSAM

Distance: 5.5 miles Ascent: 2,000' Elev: 3,600' Relaxed pace trail hike. If the group desires, we can also summit Belleayre.

Registration Period: Jan. 18-27

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

Sat., Jan. 28 – *PANTHER VIA GIANT LEDGE (3500/AMC)

Distance: 6.5 mi. Elev: 3720'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: Jan. 22 – 27

Leader: Bob Ricketson #1361, W622; bobrick@mhcable.com; 518-943-5223

Sun., Jan. 29 – KAATERSKILL H. P.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1730' Elev: 3651' Moderately paced trail hike & bushwhack. Bad weather or driving conditions cancel.

Registration Period: Contact leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; hikelead-er3500@yahoo.com; (718) 463-5675 after 3:00pm; (518) 827-7327 weekend.

Sun., Jan. 29 – DOUBLETOP

*REQUIRED WINTER PEAKS