



the catskill canister

Vol. XXX, No. 1

JANUARY - MARCH, 1997

MACNAUGHTON: THE OTHER WINTER PEAK

MacNaughton always held a certain fascination for me because of its status as the optional Adirondack 46'er peak and consequent lack of heavily traveled herd paths. I do enjoy finding a canister and reading the log, but the growing popularity of winter climbing has led to the kind of heavy traffic, particularly in March, that soured me on climbing the high peaks in the other seasons. MacNaughton, however, remains relatively unspoiled.

I made my first attempt in February of 1988 in unconsolidated snow. I talked Henry Edmonds into accompanying me. Though a strong bushwhacker, Henry had not been on snowshoes before and he had a rather harsh introduction to the sport. We based out of Wallface Lean-to and followed the outlet of Wallface Ponds. Henry was exhausted by all the sliding and scrambling before we even got to the thick spruce. I led us into an area of short spruce trees that were buried up to their tops. Each step was a spruce trap as we bulldozed our way up. I was worn out plowing through the spruce, buoyed up only by my oft-repeated assertions that it couldn't be too much farther and we must be almost there. When Henry announced he couldn't go on, I realized I'd had enough too. Henry was always otherwise engaged when I invited him on any of my other excursions.

As I neared completion of my winter peaks, I remained determined to climb MacNaughton, especially as it was now considered one of the 4000-foot peaks. Someone had told me that there was a faint herd path following a brook just beyond Hunter Pond on the Duck Hole Trail, so I decided to try that approach. I left the Upper Works early Friday morning on March 10th. I planned a ski approach, pulling my snowshoes and pack on a sled. This trail has become an active lumber road and was plowed and icy, but I determined to ski it, even if walking might have been quicker and easier.

Although I had skied this trail more than a dozen times, lumbering had so transformed it that I missed the junction of the Indian Pass Trail. I came to a logging crane, sawing and loading logs, and had to wait till the workmen finished loading the logging truck before I could get by. I reached the first suspension bridge over Calamity Brook and realized that I had missed the junction, but assumed that since I didn't see it, it must have been closed due to logging. I decided to take the Crossover Trail; even though I'd never been on it, I didn't stop to look at the map or I might have seen that it ascended 500 feet over the shoulder of a ridge and was not likely to provide good skiing.

I spent a grueling couple of hours hauling my sled over a narrow, poorly marked trail that no one else seemed to be using. The descent down to the Indian Pass Trail sent me whipping through spruce branches, barely in control, as my sled propelled me down the steep slope. I picked up ski tracks heading toward Preston Ponds, but was becoming fed up with skiing. When the trail began to climb steeply, I abandoned the sled and skis for a more conventional snowshoe approach. The trail climbed into an enchanting spruce forest around Preston Ponds, but was rather infrequently marked and I ended up following a stream bed rather than the trail. I got up high enough to see where Hunter should be, and thrashed through snow-laden evergreens, seeking the opening I imagined ahead. I

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THE CATSKILL CANISTER

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Articles on hiking or travel experiences, essays or poetry, should be sent to Darielle Graham, 60 Barker St., #419, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.

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STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING

*Whose woods these are I think I know,
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.*

*My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.*

*He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.*

*The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.*

ROBERT FROST

NEW MEMBERS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,033	Wendy B. Lindskoog	8/10/96
1,034	Peter C. McGinnis	8/31/96
1,035	Alan Kapitzke	9/27/96
1,036	Dean B. Gregory	7/14/96
1,037	Terry Duvall	7/14/96
1,038	David M. Lindemann	10/4/96
1,039	Joel T. Marchewka	10/12/96
1,040	Fred J. Backhaus, Jr.	1/15/96
1,041	Inge G. Backhaus	10/14/96
1,042	Donald F. Bernier, Jr.	1/6/96

LEADERSHIP PATCH: NEW REQUIREMENT

The club awards the leadership patch to members who have led six separate hikes scheduled in the *Canister*. At least one hike must be to a trailless peak, and at least one other must be led during the winter. A new requirement, passed at last year's Annual Dinner Meeting, includes the obligation to attend at least one club-scheduled trail maintenance hike.

broke out onto a small jewel of a beaver pond, studded with drowned trees, around which the trail skirted.

It was noon before I reached the stream that led up MacNaughton, and I did find a herd path, but soon lost it again. I found myself going through some very thick spruce and realized that by climbing up the western-facing ridge I was encountering the densest growth. I'd set myself a turn around time and when that time arrived, I was ensnared in thick brush. "I really should turn back," I kept saying as I crawled through one thicket after another. I came to a break in the trees and saw that I was nowhere near the top. I might have pressed on had I been on a herd path, but when I'm stubborn and don't listen to that inner voice, I make my worst mistakes. I turned back, and on the way out found the Indian Pass Trail junction I'd missed; it was clearly marked by a sign, but had been blocked by a mound of snow from the snow plow.

That night, unable to sleep, I started studying the map. I'd climbed MacNaughton twice before, from Wallface Ponds, but ruled that out for winter because of the seven-mile approach. Yet I'd gone that far the previous day. The key was that this trail could get me within one mile and only 1,000 feet short of the summit, and the woods on the eastern side were much more open.

I started out from Heart Lake on a packed trail and soon reached Scott Clearing. The Wallface Ponds Trail was unbroken, but someone had signed in for Lost Pond the week before and I could see faint tracks under the snow. This trail leads to one of the wildest and prettiest areas in the high peaks. This time, I was less hasty, stopping frequently to consult my map.

After the initial climb, the trail undulated over a plateau dotted with small ponds and marshes broken up by spruce-covered knolls. The firm trail ended after Scott Pond and the route finding became more challenging, but I could see faint signs that someone had come this way this season. I suspected the previous party had been going for MacNaughton and was sure I'd be there soon and confirm my hunch.

At Wallface Ponds, I stepped onto the ice for a better view of my destination. MacNaughton loomed over the wind-scoured surface of the upper pond and I started winding my way along the ponds to get as close as possible to the mountain. I planned to climb the eastern spur that ascends from the outlet of the lower pond. I crossed the outlet between the upper and lower ponds, hugging the shore, wary of the ice under this swift-flowing water. Suddenly, my snowshoe broke through the ice; I quickly pulled it out, and as I scrambled for safety, the ice gave way twice more. I shuddered as I contemplated what would have happened had both feet gone through and I ended up waist-deep in water seven miles from the road.

At the point I entered the woods, I saw yet again faint traces of someone's passage. Keeping to the most open route, I saw tantalizing clues of the other person's progress, but not enough to follow. Near the crest, I had to dodge, weave and not infrequently bash my way through the brush, but I was in my element. Reaching the summit crest, I wound my way north, searching for the canister. After twenty minutes, I realized I was on the wrong summit and dropped down to the north, assuming there was another high point I couldn't see. Sure enough, the terrain started to rise again and the ridge narrowed, and I hit the register as a view opened up over Wallface Ponds.

The party whose tracks I had detected, had climbed the peak in February and theirs had been the only other ascent that winter. Just as I found this my most rewarding peak in my summer 46'er quest, so in winter it was the most gratifying. A warm glow infused me as I looked back over the route I had come, that familiar feeling of being on top of the world.

*John Graham (#478)
60 Barker Street
Mount Kisco, NY 10549*

CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND - JANUARY 24 - 26, 1997

LOCATION: Mountain Gate Lodge, 10 McKenley Hollow Road, Oliverea, New York (3 mi. south from Big Indian on County Route 47); telephone: (914) 254-6000 or (800) 733-0344.

Members and aspirants are invited to the club's annual winter weekend, which this year is being held at its new venue of Mountain Gate, a lodge and Indian restaurant, in the heart of the Catskills. Hikes have been, and will be, scheduled for aspirants who might need any of the required winter peaks. (See page 5 of the hiking schedule for hikes already scheduled.) You don't have to hike or stay overnight at the Lodge, but if you're in the area, stop by for the Happy Hour and dinner. If you have any questions, contact Arthur Zimmerman, 766 Neptune Boulevard, Long Beach, New York 11581; telephone: (516) 432-1205.

RATES: \$108.00 per person for two nights, single or double occupancy, including two breakfasts and one dinner. For a group of at least 20 persons, Mountain Gate is offering a special discount rate of \$76.00 per person for two nights, single or double occupancy, including two breakfasts and one dinner. For those wishing to stay one night only, the cost per person is \$36.00, which includes dinner and breakfast. In addition to Mountain Gate's regular menu of Indian specialties, an American menu will be available during the Winter Weekend. The Happy Hour includes a selection of hors d'oeuvres, wine or beer, for \$8.00 per person.

RESERVATIONS: Call Mountain Gate to make your reservation. It is advisable to reserve as soon as possible, since the discounted rate is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Mountain Gate requires a 50% deposit at the time of reservation by credit card or check.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: JANUARY - MARCH 1997

ASSUMED RISK

Hiking involves certain inherent hazards, and persons participating do so at their own risk. December through April, the windchill on exposed ridges may reach 50 below zero. If you do not know what type of clothing will be adequate, telephone the hike leader in advance. If you cannot buy, rent, or borrow snowshoes, avoid the mountains in winter. Full (not instep) crampons should also be carried. Properly dressed and equipped, and in proper physical condition, a hiker can enjoy the Catskills in what many people consider the most beautiful season of the year.

Wed. Jan. 1 **Giant Ledge and PANTHER**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A moderately-paced trail hike to a required winter peak. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:45 A.M.

Leader: Henry Jenkins (#808), 914-883-7853

Sat. Jan. 4 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3740' Order: 15

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Dec. 30 - Jan 3.

Leader: Sandy Aldrich (#914), 914-963-9802

Sun. Jan. 5 **BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3723', 3868' Order: 16, 7

A moderate trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Bridge over Dry Brook on Rte. 28 in Arkville at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Jan. 11 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1825'
Elev. 3524' Order: 34

A moderately-paced trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Maplecrest Post Office at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (call after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun. Jan. 12 **THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME
and BLACKHEAD**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3940', 3980', 3940'
Order: 4, 3, 5

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Jan. 6 - 10.

Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Jan. 18 **RUSK (and possibly HUNTER)**Distance: 5 mi. (11 mi.)
Ascent: 1600' (3300')
Elev.: 3680', (4040') Order: 21, (2)

A moderate bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Jan. 13 - 17.

Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (before 10:00 P.M.)

Sun. Jan. 19 **WESTKILL**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

A moderately-paced trail hike. May require car shuttle. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Flagpole at Jct. of Rte. 42 & Cty Rd. 6 (Spruceton Rd.) in Westkill FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Irene Logan (#888), 516-621-8129 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. Mon.- Fri. only)

Sat. Jan. 25 **HALCOTT**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3537' Order: 32

A moderate bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Jan. 20 - 24.

Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Jan. 26 **BALSAM**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600' Order: 28

A moderately-paced trail hike to a required winter peak. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Mountain Gate at 9:00 A.M. (see page 4 for Winter Weekend)

Leader: Warren Hale (#576), 908-236-9543

Sat. Feb. 1 **VLY and BEARPEN**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3529', 3600' Order: 33, 29

A moderate bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Jan. 27 - 31.

Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (before 10:00 P.M.)

Sun. Feb. 2 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2550'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Jan. 27 - 31.

Leader: Veronica O'Neil (#932), 914-776-5256 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Feb. 8 **EAGLE (and possibly BIG INDIAN)**Distance: 8 mi. (11 mi.)
Ascent: 1700' (2000')
Elev.: 3600', (3700') Order: 27, (19)

A moderately-paced trail hike with a short bushwhack to peaks. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Bridge over Dry Brook on Rte. 28 in Arkville at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (call after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun. Feb. 9 **FIR (and possibly BIG INDIAN)**Distance: 5 mi. (9 mi.)
Ascent: 1800' (2150')
Elev.: 3620', (3700') Order: 25, (19)

A strenuous trail hike and bushwhack at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Feb. 3 - 7.

Leader: George Sheedy (#806), 914-986-6807 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Feb. 15 **INDIAN HEAD and TWIN**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3573', 3640' Order: 30, 23

A moderately-paced trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Trailhead at Prediger Road at 8:00 A.M.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Feb. 16 **PANTHER and Giant Ledge**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a steady, moderate pace to a required winter peak. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Giant Ledge parking area on County Rte. 47, Big Indian Hollow Road, at 8:00 A.M.

Leader: Kevin Lockett (#1010), 607-652-2058 (Feb. 10 - 14, before 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Feb. 22 **LONE and ROCKY**Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev. 3721', 3508' Order: 17, 35

A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Feb. 17 - 20.

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 (7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Sun. Feb. 23 **BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3300'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

A steep, strenuous bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Feb. 17 - 21.

Leader: Anthony Amaral (#612), 212-603-2217 (9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.); or
212-874-9242 (7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)Sat. Mar. 1 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

A moderate trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Warms Restaurant in Tannersville FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 A.M.

Leader: George Sheedy (#806), 914-986-6807 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Mar. 2 **DOUBLETOP and GRAHAM**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev. 3860', 3868' Order: 8, 7

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Feb. 24 - 28.

Leader: Veronica O'Neil (#932), 914-776-5256 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Mar. 8 **SLIDE**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1

A moderate trail hike at a comfortable pace to a required winter peak. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader for details.

Leader: Doug Robins (#153), 860-693-0130 (before 9:00 p.m.)

Sun. Mar. 9 **SUGARLOAF and TWIN**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3800', 3640' Order: 13, 23

A moderately strenuous trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Trailhead at Prediger Road at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Fabrice Schneider-Manoury (#966), 914-963-9802

Sat. Mar. 15 **RUSK**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

A moderate bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Mar. 10 - 14.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Mar. 16 **Van Wyck, TABLE and PEEKAMOOSSE**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Trailhead at Peekamoose Road at 8:00 A.M.

Leader: Kevin Lockett (#1010), 607-652-2058 (Mar. 10 - 14, before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Mar. 23 Wildcat MountainDistance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1500'
Elev.: 3160'

A moderately strenuous bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Mar. 17 - 21.

Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Mar. 29 SOUTHWEST HUNTER and HUNTERDistance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3740', 4040' Order: 15, 2

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike. Compasses required, as well as snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Mar. 24 - 28.

Leader: Tom Regan (#1026), 516-822-3720 (before 10:00 P.M.)

AN OCTOGENARIAN ODYSSEY

One winter's day, while climbing Hunter Mountain, another hiker asked me how old I was. My response, "Over 80," brought an incredulous stare and the rejoinder, "Gee, I hope I can do what you're doing at your age."

I had already completed all the required 3500 Club climbs, both regular and winter, a decade ago; I decided to repeat the climbs as an octogenarian, a quest I did not consider beyond my capability. Of course, it occurred to me that a man of my years might be taking chances, and that if a disaster befell, I would impose a burdensome chore upon others obliged to carry me back down a trailless peak. So I went to the doctor, and after an EKG, stress test and other tests which indicated I didn't need to rein in my mountaineering, I was summarily dismissed, Medicare notwithstanding.

I studied the *Canister* for climbs appropriate to my pace, and discovered that "strenuous bushwhack" was inimical to my sense of well being, not to speak of trying to keep up with the maddening human surge to the top. In my search for "moderate" hikes, I found that most of the ones described as such in the *Canister* were peaks I had already climbed. So I rounded up a coterie of competent climbers to accompany me, at my pace, to the remaining peaks. Sustained by the inspiration and infinite patience of June Slade, George Perkinson and George Sheedy, I completed my Catskill 35, finishing last year with Kaaterskill High Peak and a party at the summit to celebrate.

My advice to all mountaineers, especially those in their later years, is: Keep climbing - you have naught to lose but elevation.

Paul Leikin (#330)
6 Forest Avenue
Nanuet, NY 10954

CHRISTMAS SNOW

The night before Christmas
'Twas quiet all around;
'Twas quiet on the hills
and quiet on the ground;
'Twas quiet up above
and quiet down below;
And the quiet was the quietness
Of softly falling snow.

John Moore



the catskill canister

Vol. XXX, No. 2

APRIL - JUNE, 1997

THE CATSKILLS: A HIKER SHARES HIS MEMORIES

It's no secret that I have a love affair with the Catskills. They hold a place dear to my heart, not only because I'm so familiar with them and they are conveniently nearby, but because they have their own unique charm, which I will defend upon the drop of a hat. I bristle when they are compared, derisively, to the Whites and Adirondacks; and I protest remarks that the Catskills are too easy and that there are no views. Who could ask for a better view than the one from Acra Point in the month of May, where one looks out over the valley of the Batavia Kill at the soft green of emerging buds, with the Blackhead range as background?

I need only remind folks that the area is replete with history, with trails and mountain tops not half as crowded as the Whites or Adirondacks, where one can stand in the col between Lone and Rocky and not wish for more wilderness, and where it's possible to experience the most delightful bushwhacking to be found anywhere, with open woods leading to interesting rock ledges, flowing streams, and a huge variety of flora. And the woods themselves. Once cut over for their tannin and homesteading, they are once again pristine and nearly fully regrown, a joy to walk through. A bonus is suddenly to come upon a stand of virgin hemlock, a grand glimpse of the past. Nowhere else have I experienced so many long ridges without encountering another person, but caught sight of deer darting over the ridge, a porcupine lumbering along the path, or the footprints of a coyote.

To me, the Catskills are a potpourri of memories, beginning with an autumn hike around North and South Lakes that included a visit to the old Kaaterskill Mountain House ruins, followed by a hop up to Artist Rock. From there, it was an easy progression from showing off the Catskills to my new wife, to introducing groups of boys' club members to an area so far removed from their inner city habitat, to sharing these mountains and my experiences of them with others.

I remember Slide Mountain once had broad open views because campers had cut every tree in sight and left paths crisscrossing the entire summit. Now trees have filled in to obscure most of the views. Then, there was the great view from the leanto at the top of Hunter's Becker Hollow Trail, now mostly gone.

Never will I forget my first snowshoe hike to Windham High Peak, in deep powdery snow on a clear sparkling day. We emerged from the coniferous forest onto an open ridge, well grown over, into snowdrifts so deep they required enormous energy to plow through. On a subsequent snowshoe trip that started from Peekamoose Road and encompassed Peekamoose, Table, Lone and Rocky and Balsam Cap, one of our party became trapped on a ledge while descending Balsam Cap. We had to fashion straps and ropes to haul him up and find a safer route to Moonhaw Road. Then there was the Lincoln's birthday hike, where a blinding snowstorm hit as we were returning to Stony Clove. We struggled back to our car in the dark to find that the light, wind-swept snow had infiltrated the hood,

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

To commemorate its 75th anniversary next year, the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) will hold a Trails Symposium entitled "Trails of the 21st Century," to discuss user management, multiple use and long-distance trails on Saturday, April 26, 1997 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the State University of New York in Albany, New York.

There will be a \$20.00 registration fee. To register, call Bill Brosseau, ADK's Trails Director, at (518) 523-3441, or write to: Trails Symposium, ADK, P.O. Box 867, Lake Placid, NY 12946.

On May 9, 1997, the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks will convene a public forum on "The Catskill Forest Preserve: Our Heritage, Our Future" at the Frost Valley YMCA Conference and Environmental Education Center, Claryville, New York, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. To receive a reservation form, write to the Association at 30 Roland Place, Schenectady, NY 12304, or call them at 518-377-1452, or contact Deborah Meyer De Wan at 914-679-6994.

IN SPRING

*In Spring the day is early
And wakes a rosy world,
Where all the twigs are pearly
And every bud's uncured.
The birds are up and singing
Before they can be seen --
And April winds are winging
Their way to make earth green.*

*In Spring the sun grows pleasant;
To prove that he is fond,
He scatters for a present
Gold coins in every pond.
He sets the bell-flowers ringing
With perfumed melodies --
And April winds run swinging
Among the startled trees.*

*In Spring the night is starry;
Sleep taps upon the door,
And not a heart is sorry
Though daylight is no more,
It knows the night is bringing
Dreams for another day --
And April winds are singing
The silent hours away.*

Michael Lewis

packing the engine so it wouldn't start. Eventually, a plow crew came by and arranged to tow us to a garage where the engine had a chance to thaw out. It was after 3:00 a.m. when we arrived home.

There are also a few painful memories. Leading a hike on Southwest Hunter, I stepped on some leaves and completely disappeared from the view of those following. The leaves had covered a crevasse, and I plunged about eight feet, landing on my pack with, luckily, only a scratch on my brow and a sore ankle to show for my fall. Another misadventure occurred on Plateau, as we dipped into Mink Hollow on sheets of ice. Trying to help one of our group around a tricky bend, I neglected my own position and, despite crampons, slid off a rock onto a stump twenty feet below. That fall resulted in a chipped ankle and a massive hematoma which put me out of circulation for a while and effectively ended my jogging routine.

The rest has been pure joy: the bears on Panther, the bobcat on Balsam Lake; the fun of trying to hit, dead on, the connecting ridge between Fir and Big Indian when the visibility was nil and our compasses were doing amazing jigs because of iron deposits; finding a touching tribute to a deceased hunter near the canister on Halcott; and, more recently, discovering an unmarked trail on Hunter, which turned a traditional trail hike into a bushwhacking adventure.

My greatest reward has been, and is, the number of hikers I've introduced to the Catskills - an area that, for me, symbolizes beauty and grandeur, a reminder that in the days of urban development such a treasure still exists.

Fred H. Schroeder (#181)
134 Craver Road
West Sand Lake, NY 12196-3009

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: APRIL - JUNE 1997

ASSUMED RISK

Hiking involves certain inherent hazards, and persons participating do so at their own risk.

Sat. Apr. 5 BEARPEN and VLY

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32

A moderately-paced trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Municipal parking lot in Fleischmanns across from library at 8:00 A.M.

Leader: Joan Dean (#360), 201-762-0396.

Sun. Apr. 6 PLATEAU from the South

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3840' Order: 12

A very strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Apr. 7 - 11.

Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Apr. 12 BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3300'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Apr. 7 - 11.

Leader: Allen Kapitzke (#1035), 860-345-3203

Sat. Apr. 12 RUSK

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

A moderate bushwhack at a comfortable pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Apr. 7 - 11.

Leader: Doug Robins (#153), 860-693-0130 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Apr. 13 **PLATEAU and SUGARLOAF**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3840', 3800' Order: 12, 13

A moderate trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Warms Restaurant in Tannersville FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 A.M.

Leader: George Sheedy (#806), 914-986-6807 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Apr. 19 **BLACK DOME, BLACKHEAD
and THOMAS COLE**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3980', 3940', 3940'
Order: 3, 5, 4

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Car shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Maplecrest Post Office FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (before 10:00 P.M.)

Sun. Apr. 20 **BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3720', 3868' Order: 17, 7

A somewhat strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Trailhead at Millbrook Road (off Dry Brook Road) at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (call after 5:00 P.M.)

Sat. Apr. 26 **FIR**Distance: 7+ mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3620', Order: 25

A moderate trail hike and bushwhack. All-weather hike.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between April 21-25.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710 (7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. only)

Sun. Apr. 27 **TABLE & PEEKAMOOSE**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3190'
Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11

A moderate, all-weather trail-clearing hike on a portion of the Long Path that the club is responsible for clearing. Bring loppers, weed whackers, etc., if you have them. If not, the club will furnish them - BUT, COME.

Meeting Place: Trailhead at Denning at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Jerry Gervais (#687), 914-795-2116

Sat. May 3 **HALCOTT**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3520' Order: 34

A moderate bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Mar. 31 - Apr. 4.

Leader: Joan Dean (#360) 201-762-0396.

Sat. May 3 **Dry Brook - Huckleberry Loop**Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3460'

A pleasant loop along a relatively new trail. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Huckleberry Brook Road parking area (south from Margaretville) at 9:00 A.M. (call for directions)

Leader: Alvin De Maria (#655), 914-255-1704

Sun. May 4 **ROCKY from Moonhaw**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3508' Order: 35

A very strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Apr. 28 - May 2.

Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. May 10 **PANTHER and Giant Ledge**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A moderate trail hike. Steady, heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Panther Mountain trailhead FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710 (7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. only)

Sun. May 11 **EAGLE and BALSAM**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3600', 3600' Order: 27, 28

A bushwhack to Eagle and trail hike to Balsam at a moderate pace. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 5 - 9.

Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. May 17 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK and Roundtop**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3655', 3440' Order: 22

A moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Trailhead at end of Platte Clove Road at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 203-355-5573 (5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. May 18 **FIR and BIG INDIAN**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2150'
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 12 - 16.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (call after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun. May 18 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1825'
Elev.: 3524' Order: 33

A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Trailhead at Route 23A at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: George Sheedy (#806), 914-986-6807 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. May 24 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER (and possibly HUNTER)**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3740', (4040') Order: 15, (2)

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Race cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 19-23.

Leader: Sandy Aldrich (#914), 914-963-9802

Sat. May 31 **GRAHAM, DOUBLETOP, BIG INDIAN and EAGLE**

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 4000'
Elev.: 3868', 3860, 3700', 3600'
Order: 7, 8, 19, 27

A very strenuous, fast-paced bushwhack and trail hike from Seager. All-weather hike; however, inclement weather may necessitate changes in route and pace.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 27 - 29.

Leader: Anthony Amaral, Jr. (#612), 212-603-2217 (9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.)

Sun. June 1 **BALSAM CAP, FRIDAY, CORNELL and WITTENBERG**

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 4000'
Elev.: 3623', 3694', 3860', 3780'
Order: 24, 20, 9, 14

A strenuous bushwhack at a fast pace ending at Traver Hollow. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 26 - 29.

Leader: Stephen Fishman (#618), 914-331-1206 (before 10:00 P.M.)

Sat. June 7 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2550'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between June 2 - 6.

Leader: Allen Kapitzke (#1035), 806-345-3203

Sun. June 8 **INDIAN HEAD from Mead**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3573' Order: 30

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between June 2 - 6.

Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. June 14 **WESTKILL**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

A moderately-paced trail hike to and from Hunter Mountain parking area. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Flagpole at Jct. of Rte. 42 & Cty. Rd. 6 (Spruceton Rd.) in Westkill at 8:45 A.M.

Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. June 15 **PANTHER End-to-End**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A moderately-paced trail hike. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Panther Mountain trailhead on Cty. Rte. 47 (shuttle required) at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Martin Cohen (#728), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. June 21 **LONE and ROCKY**Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev. 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 35

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between June 16-20.

Leader: Sandy Aldrich (#914), 914-963-9802

Sun. June 22 **WITTENBERG and CORNELL**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3120'
Elev.: 3780', 3860' Order: 14, 9

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Irene Logan (#888), 516-621-8129 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. Mon.- Thurs. only)

Sat. June 28 **SLIDE**Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1

A moderately-paced trail hike via Neversink, returning on Curtis Ormsbee Trail. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Denning trailhead at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 203-355-5573 (5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. June 29 **DOUBLETOP and GRAHAM**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev. 3860', 3868' Order: 8, 7

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between June 23-27.

Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (before 9:00 P.M.)

SEARCHING FOR PROMETHEUS

High on 13,200-foot Wheeler Peak in Nevada's remote Snake Range lies an ancient grove of twisted and weathered trees. Thirty years ago, a dendrologist researching in the area made the biggest mistake of his life. After breaking his increment borer while coring an ancient bristlecone pine to check its age, he chainsawed it down. Until that moment, it had been the oldest living thing on earth. Stunned, the Forest Service concealed what happened as long as it could. Eventually, the scandal broke. The corpse became known as "Prometheus." The National Park Service has since taken over the area and does not publicize the event or its location.

Trees have always held a special interest for me. I've had the good fortune to find and nominate for the record books one national and eight Pennsylvania champions. In 1981, the state forester appointed me to the Pennsylvania Big Trees Committee. These credentials allowed me access to the notes of the hapless scientist. I hoped to gain clues which would let me find Prometheus' remains. But the file provided me with only a general location.

On a clear September afternoon in 1995, John Sharsmith, a geologist friend from Wyoming, and I were at 11,000 feet, near timberline on Wheeler Peak. I was certain the fallen tree was nearby, and had enlisted John's help in trying to find it. We looked in vain through a venerable grove on the moraine below Wheeler's headwall. This was my third search in as many years. Above us, Wheeler Peak's 1900-foot north face towered over the glacier. The weathered and contorted bristlecones were strikingly handsome against a dark blue sky. A splendid alpine basin surrounded us, with sweeping views to the northeast.

Then I saw it, thirty yards downhill near the edge of the grove. As I approached the almost perfectly preserved remains of Prometheus, I was unprepared for the sadness that swept over me. John, following, studied the bleached cadaver, then spit out, "I can't stand carcasses," as he moved off some distance to sit and write in his journal. The effect of finally confronting such immeasurable loss made it difficult to choke back tears. I found I had no desire to photograph the melancholy scene. John finished his entry and we returned slowly and in silence over the talus slopes to the trail.

*Robert McElroy (#797)
36 Rabbit Run Road
Malvern, PA 19355*

THE SOUND OF TREES

I wonder about the trees.
Why do we wish to bear
Forever the noise of these
More than another noise
So close to our dwelling place?
We suffer them by the day
Till we lose all measure of pace,
And fixity in our joys,
And acquire a listening air:
They are that that talks of going
But never gets away;
And that talks no less for knowing,
As it grows wiser and older,
That now it means to stay.

My feet tug at the floor
And my head sways to my shoulder
Sometimes when I watch trees sway,
From the window or the door.
I shall set forth for somewhere,
I shall make the reckless choice
Some day when they are in voice
And tossing so as to scare
The white clouds over them on.
I shall have less to say,
But I shall be gone.

Robert Frost

NEW MEMBERS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,043	Michael Boeckman	11/10/96
1,044	William H. Smith	1/15/96
1,045	Malcolm Spector	11/16/96
1,046	Richardo Valdes	11/17/96
1,047	Brian Sunners	12/29/96
1,048	Marti Green	1/4/97
1,049	Leonard Green	1/4/97
1,050	Mary Najda	12/21/96
1,051	Alan C. Knight	12/27/96
1,052	Gary B. Myers	12/28/96

NEW WINTER MEMBERS

353	Paul Rabenold	3/19/96
354	Thomas W. Regan	2/8/97
355	Robert E. Dinse	2/9/97
356	Timothy B. Tillson	2/9/97
357	Bernard Japy	2/9/97

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

James T. Amrod	Wendy Lindskoog
Robert E. Dinse	Virginia McMath
Jo Ellen Elsener	Nancy P. Neumann
Sharon Flanigan	Anne Pavelka
Margaret Freifeld	David L. Rosenthal
Susan Gerhardt	Timothy B. Tillson
Kathleen M. Gill	Arthur Zimmerman

LEADERSHIP PATCH: NEW REQUIREMENT

The club awards the leadership patch to members who have led six separate hikes scheduled in the *Canister*. At least one hike must be to a trailless peak, and at least one other must be led during the winter. A new requirement, passed at last year's Annual Dinner Meeting, includes the obligation to attend at least one club-scheduled trail maintenance hike.



the catskill canister

Vol. XXX, No. 3

JULY - SEPTEMBER, 1997

CLIMBING HUAYNA PICCHU

Ever since I first saw a picture of Machu Picchu, I wondered whether the jagged, shark-toothed peak rising up in the background, Huayna Picchu, could be climbed. When my wife Kathy and I arrived at Machu Picchu, I learned from our guide that there was a trail up the left side of Huayna Picchu which, though steep in places, was really not that difficult and stayed within a narrow band of foliage. Thus assured, I knew where I was going to spend at least part of the free afternoon on our second day at the ruins.

We had spent the week before in Lima, acclimatizing for our trek to the Island of the Sun on Lake Titicaca at 12,500+ feet before travelling to Cuzco, where I experienced acute altitude sickness and felt as if I had a severe, cheap wine hangover. After visiting several Inca ruins, and a day whitewater rafting on the sacred Urubamba River, we embarked on a four-hour train ride across the stark but beautiful Altiplano and down into the dense, jungle-like foliage of the Urubamba Gorge to Machu Picchu.

Machu Picchu is the most exotic, graceful setting I've ever seen. It was impossible not to take picture after picture. After a half-hour photographic frenzy, our guide led us on a hike on the Inca Trail, through the Gate of the Sun to the small beautiful ruins of Huinya Huayna. The trail was carved in the near vertical hillsides a couple of thousand feet above the roar of the brown-watered Urubamba amid sharp, heavily-jungled peaks.

The day Kathy and I climbed Huayna Picchu, my wife wasn't feeling that well. It was the only chance we had to make the climb. She realized how important it was to me, and I realized how important it was that we do it together. So we ascended at a slow, steady pace, stopping to rest whenever Kathy felt weak and light-headed.

Originally built about 1,000 years ago, the trail up Huayna Picchu was steep but well maintained, with secure stone steps at appropriate spots and occasional cables to hang onto. Eventually we reached a big open ledge with grand views of the ruins, the Urubamba Gorge and the surrounding saw-toothed peaks. From this ledge, we had to crawl through a cave and then ascend the final pitch on narrow, steep steps that were the most exposed part of the climb. The actual summit consisted of several huge boulders that we had to clamber over and under. Then it started to rain, so we snapped a couple of summit shots, put on our Goretex and started down. The descent went quickly, even though it was slippery, and we kept looking back at the magnificent peak we had just climbed. The memory of Huayna Picchu lingered as we rode the train a couple of days later to Lake Titicaca to begin our trek to the Island of the Sun.

*Ralph Ferrusi (#122)
34 Kim Lane
Stormville, NY 12582-5305*

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The Catskill Canister is published four times yearly by the Catskill 3500 Club, Inc., for \$5.00 a year.

Articles on hiking or travel experiences, essays or poetry, should be sent to Darielle Graham, 60 Barker St., #419, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.

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**CATSKILL 3500 CLUB
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President	Doug Robins	860-693-0130
Past President	Bruno Walmsley	201-609-4679
First Vice President	Michael Doehring	914-761-7225
Second Vice President	Gerald Gervais	914-795-2116
Secretary	Amy Whitney	201-327-9420
Treasurer	Wanda Davenport	201-670-8383
Annual Dinner Meeting	Roy Messaros	201-337-5004
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Conservation	Howard Dash	914-255-3409
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Outings	John Graham	914-241-2240
<u>The Catskill Canister</u>	Darielle Graham	914-241-2240
	Michael Doehring	914-761-7225
	Doug Robins	860-693-0130
Trails	Gerald Gervais	914-795-2116
Winter Weekend	Art Zimmerman	516-432-1205
NY/NJ Trail Conf. Rep.	Sue Eilers	914-698-7219

***** HIKERS' ALERT ABOUT PRIVATE PROPERTY *****

We wish to alert hikers that the following Catskill peaks are not on state land; Doubletop, Graham, Bearpen and Vly are privately owned. Hikers who wish to climb Doubletop or Graham should obtain permission by calling the caretaker, Bill Schulls, at 914-586-4056. We have not yet encountered any difficulty with regard to climbing Bearpen and Vly, but hikers are advised that access may be denied by the landowners. Care should be taken not to violate their privacy or park cars in such a way as to cause inconvenience.

In addition, the club has been asked to advise hikers wanting to climb Balsam Cap and Friday that they are not to cross the Shultis property on Moonhaw Road, a traditional method of accessing these peaks, but instead ascend from the state land at the end of Moonhaw Road. This will make climbing Balsam Cap more difficult, as it must now be ascended from either the Friday - Balsam Cap col or Peekamoose Road.

NEW ROSTERS AVAILABLE

New rosters are available and can be obtained by sending \$3.00 to Cyrus B. Whitney, 41 Morley Drive, Wyckoff, NJ 07481-3322.

RETURN TO SLIDE

As I hiked up Slide Mountain on a crisp, sunny day this past February, my final required hike for entry into the 3500 Club, I remembered my father's words from 1958, "You've had more fun on this trip than you've ever had in your life." I don't think so, I had thought. But I didn't want to hurt his feelings, so I just nodded my head. I was ten years old at the time. For the first time in my life I had climbed a mountain -- the tallest mountain in the Catskills!

In retrospect, my father's statement was probably correct. I had loved every minute of that trip. We did it together, just the two of us. That in itself was a rare event for a boy with two younger brothers and a father who worked two jobs. And, I'd hiked to the top of a real mountain. As a native Long Islander, I was accustomed to seeing mountains only in pictures.

My father and I never hiked up another mountain together. He was too busy working in order to feed and clothe us boys. Thankfully though, he did manage to schedule two more hikes up Slide, one with each of my brothers.

My next Catskill hike was almost 24 years later, in August 1982, with my 11-year-old daughter, Stephanie. At that time I was an inexperienced and woefully ill-equipped hiker, and my route choice almost did me in. We camped at Woodland Valley and hiked up over Wittenberg and Cornell to the summit of Slide. Then we backtracked for a total of 14 miles on the trail and almost a mile of total ascent. My daughter, with her unlimited supply of youthful energy, had a ball. I was absolutely exhausted and extremely sore, but not discouraged.

Since then, there have been many more hikes in the Catskills and elsewhere. As my other two children, Julie and Matthew, got older, they joined us. While our journeys to the Catskills did not entail the long drive my father and I had endured, the 7-hour round trip from our home in the Finger Lakes region of New York meant that we could only manage an occasional Catskill trek.

February's hike up Slide was a dual milestone. My goal of qualifying for the 3500 Club, a 39-year odyssey, was about to be achieved. A noteworthy event for sure, and one that was all the more satisfying because Julie and Matthew, now adults, were able to accompany me. But the most significant aspect of the hike to me was that after all these years I was returning to Slide with my father.

Dad had died almost a year earlier, after an extended illness. A humanitarian to the end, he had arranged for his body to be donated to medical science, and then to be cremated. Years ago I had asked him what he wanted me to do with his ashes when they were returned to us. "I'd like you to scatter them on top of Slide Mountain," was his reply.

You got your wish, dad. Thanks for all the wonderful memories.

*John Slechta (#1,054)
24 Foothill Road
Elmira, NY 14903*

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: JULY - SEPTEMBER 1997ASSUMED RISK

Hiking involves certain inherent hazards, and persons participating do so at their own risk.

Sat. July 5 BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3300'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between June 30 - July 4.

Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750 (till 9:30 P.M.).

Sun. July 6 PANTHER

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Panther parking lot on Rte. 47 at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (weekdays after 5:00 P.M.).

Sat. July 12 WESTKILL End-to-End

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

A somewhat strenuous trail hike at an easy pace; bring bathing suit. Shuttle required. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Mink Hollow parking area on Spruceton Road at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Joan Dean (#360), 201-762-0396 (before 10:00 P.M.).

Sun. July 13 Echo Lake and Plattekill from Mead

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev: 3100'

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between July 7 -11.

Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.).

Sat. July 19 PEEKAMOOSE and TABLE

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3190'
Elev.: 3843', 3847' Order: 11, 10

A somewhat strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Rte. 28 and 28A in Boiceville at 8:45 A.M.

Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.).

Sat. July 19 BALSAM LAKE, GRAHAM and
DOUBLETOP

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 2900'
Elev: 3720', 3868, 3860'
Order: 17, 7, 8

An all-weather, fast-paced, strenuous trail hike and bushwhack. Shuttle required.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between July 6 - 13.

Leader: Donna Beth Stewart (#1003), 212-722-2028 (before 11:00 P.M.).

Sun. July 20 WINDHAM, Burnt Knob, Acra Point

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev: 3524' Order: 33

A strenuous, all-weather trail hike at a moderate pace. Shuttle required.

Meeting Place: Parking area on Rte. 23 at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710 (6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. only).

Sat. July 26 BEARPEN and VLY

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32

A moderately-paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between July 21 - 24.

Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (before 9:30 P.M.).

- Sun. July 27 **WESTKILL** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6
A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Parking area behind Phoenicia Pharmacy at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Kevin Lockett (#1010), 607-652-2058 (before 9:00 P.M.).
- Sat. Aug. 2 **SUGARLOAF and PLATEAU** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2440'
Elev.: 3800', 3840' Order: 13, 12
A moderate trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Stony Clove trailhead at 8:00 A.M.
Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 203-355-5573 (5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.).
- Sun. Aug. 3 **HALCOTT** Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3520' Order: 34
A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between July 28 - Aug. 1.
Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750 (till 9:30 P.M.).
- Sat. Aug. 9 **BALSAM CAP, FRIDAY, CORNELL
and WITTENBERG** Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 4000'
Elev.: 3623', 3694', 3860', 3780'
Order: 24, 20, 9, 14
A strenuous, fast-paced, all-weather bushwhack and trail hike.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between July 28 - Aug. 3
Leader: Donna Beth Stewart (#1003), 212-722-2028 (before 11:00 P.M.).
- Sun. Aug. 10 **INDIAN HEAD and TWIN** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3573', 3640' Order: 30, 23
A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Trailhead at Prediger Road at 8:45 A.M.
Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (weekdays after 5:00 P.M.).
- Sat. Aug. 16 **Dry Brook Ridge** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3460'
A strenuous hike at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Bridge over Dry Brook at jct. of Rtes. 28 and 49 at 9:00 A.M.
Leader: Stephen Schifani (#910), 914-883-7933 (7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.).
- Sat. Aug. 16 **BLACK DOME and BLACKHEAD** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2400'
Elev.: 3980', 3940'; Order: 3, 5
A strenuous, brushy bushwhack; bring bathing suit. No beginners, please. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Aug. 11 - 14.
Leader: Joan Dean (#360), 201-762-0396 (before 10:00 P.M.).
- Sun. Aug. 17 **Silver Hollow to PLATEAU,
and possibly Little Rocky** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3840' Order: 12
A very strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Aug. 11 - 15.
Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.).
- Sat. Aug. 23 **Van Wyck, TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11
Bushwhack up Van Wyck and Table; descend trail to Peekamoose Road. Swim in "Blue Hole." Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Trailhead at Peekamoose Road at 9:00 A.M.
Leader: Alvin De Maria (#655), 914-255-1704

Sun. Aug. 24 **HUNTER and Colonel's Chair** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2400'
Elev.: 4040, Order: 2

A moderate, all-weather trail hike.
Meeting Place: Hunter Mountain Trailhead on Spruceton Road at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Alan Kapitzke (#1035), 860-345-3203 (8:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M., or leave message)

Sat. Aug. 30 **BLACK DOME, BLACKHEAD and THOMAS COLE** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3980', 3940', 3940'
Order: 3, 5, 4

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Maplecrest Post Office at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730

Sun. Sept. 7 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER (and possibly HUNTER)** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3740', (4040') Order: 15, (2)

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Sept. 2 - 5.
Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750 (till 9:30 P.M.).

Sat. Sept. 13 **SHERRILL, NORTH DOME, WESTKILL, SOUTHWEST HUNTER and HUNTER** Distance: 20 mi. Ascent: 6700'
Elev.: 3540', 3610', 3880', 3740', 4040'
Order: 31, 26, 6, 15, 2

A strenuous, fast-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Steady rain cancels or modifies. Shuttle required.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register by Sept. 11.
Leader: Tom Regan (#1026), 516-822-3720 (no calls after 10:00 P.M.).

Sat. Sept. 13 **EAGLE and BIG INDIAN** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3600', 3700' Order: 27, 19

A fairly strenuous hike at a moderate pace; short bushwhack to Big Indian summit. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Bridge over Dry Brook at jct. of Rtes. 28 and 49 at 9:00 A.M.
Leader: Stephen Schifani (#910), 914-883-7933 (7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.).

Sun. Sept. 14 **BALSAM CAP** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2900'
Elev.: 3623' Order: 24

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Sept. 8 - 12.
Leader: Kevin Lockett (#1010), 607-652-2058 (before 9:00 P.M.).

Sat. Sept. 20 **LONE and ROCKY** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 35

A long, strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Sept. 15 - 18.
Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (before 9:30 P.M.).

Sun. Sept. 21 **Millbrook Range to BALSAM LAKE** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 17

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace; shuttle required. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Sept. 15 - 19.
Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.).

Sat. Sept. 27 **FIR, BIG INDIAN and EAGLE**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev: 3620', 3700', 3600'
Order: 25, 19, 27

A strenuous, fast-paced, all-weather bushwhack and trail hike. Shuttle required.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Sept. 16 - 21.

Leader: Donna Beth Stewart (#1003), 212-722-2028 (before 11:00 P.M.).

Sun. Sept. 28 **CORNELL, WITTENBERG and SLIDE**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3860', 3780', 4180'
Order: 9, 14, 1

A strenuous trail hike with bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:00 A.M.

Leader: Tim Watters (#268), 201-818-9542

HIKERS INVITED TO PLATTE CLOVE CAMP IN THE CATSKILLS

Meyer Kukle, a long-time Catskill resident and ardent conservationist, is offering weekend hikers to the Catskills overnight accommodation at Platte Clove Camp, which adjoins thousands of acres of State Forest Preserve laced with hiking trails. Built from an old barn, the lodge sleeps thirty in one big comfortable loft. Downstairs is a large, fully-outfitted kitchen and living room complete with cozy woodstove, and four tables with benches, with outdoor picnic tables and hammocks. There is an out-house; candles and lanterns are used in place of electricity. Water comes from a small reservoir or a spring at the edge of the field. The "ice box" is an earthen cellar.

Directions: The camp is behind the Bruderhof Community in the town of Hunter. From Platte Clove Road, take the Bruderhof entrance road and go steeply uphill. Keep going uphill around the buildings to the ballfield at the top. The paved road now becomes dirt and enters the woods. Drive along the left side of the small clearing ahead, then uphill to a wide fork at the top. Park here at the side of the road and walk along the right fork. If you want, park in the clearing at the dam just ahead, the hostel's water supply. Use the footbridge to cross the creek. Continue on this path - not the road. You will immediately cross two more creeks which will lead you to the lodge.

What to Bring: Pillow case; towel; bottom sheet or sleeping bag (mattresses and blankets are provided); warm clothes; raingear; flashlight; food (which is stored in the cellar). Each person cooks his/her own food. Condiments as well as cooking utensils and cutlery are provided. Items such as soap and toilet paper are also provided. Dogs or radios without earphones are not permitted. Smoking is not permitted inside the lodge.

For further details and/or to reserve, call Mr. Kukle at 201-385-4005 at least five days in advance. He prefers a minimum of six people per group in order to open up the cabin. You may still call with less than six, as if Mr. Kukle is staying at the lodge at the time you wish to go, he will be happy to have you spend the night. A contribution of \$15.00 is suggested to cover the cost of keeping the camp supplied.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Sandra Aldrich
Warren Bloomfield
Jo Ellen Elsener

<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>			<u>NEW WINTER MEMBERS</u>		
<u>Number / Name</u>		<u>Date Finished</u>	<u>Number / Name</u>		<u>Date Finished</u>
1,053	Denise McCabe	2/18/97	358	Trudy L. Wood	2/23/97
1,054	John L. Slechta	2/23/97	359	Jacob J. Goldberg	2/23/97
1,055	Arthur J. Townsend	2/24/97	360	Robert J. Schultz, Jr.	3/1/97
1,056	James Giambrone	2/22/97	361	Richard Vertigan	3/8/97
1,057	Stuart Levy	3/2/97	362	Mary Najda	3/8/97
1,058	Nerses Ohanian	1/30/97	363	Steven Makucewitz	3/9/97
1,059	Elizabeth E. Moloff	3/9/97	364	Joel T. Marchewka	3/9/97
1,060	Carol Reese	3/9/97	365	Carol Mantell	3/9/97
1,061	James W. Donaghy	3/16/97	366	Donna Beth Stewart	3/13/97
1,062	Sarah Stitham	3/16/97	367	Nerses Ohanian	2/22/97
1,063	Mark A. Check	3/15/97	368	Katherine Mario	3/15/97
1,064	Steven Herrmann	3/16/97	369	Stephen L. Schifani	3/16/97
1,065	Kevin P. Lane	3/22/97	370	Dean M. Giuliano	3/16/97
1,066	Joseph P. Martin	3/17/97	371	Peter C. McGinnis	3/16/97
1,067	Jay Sadowitz	2/24/97	372	Stewart J. Maurer	3/17/97
1,068	Jane C. Smalley	3/23/97	373	Una Maeve Maurer	3/17/97
1,069	John F. Reynolds	3/29/97	374	Michael Boeckmann	3/19/97
1,070	William H. Nixon	3/30/97	375	Brian T. Sullivan	3/21/97
1,071	Betty Adler	3/31/97	376	Donald F. Bernier, Jr.	3/19/97
1,072	Lori Lear	4/5/97	377	John F. Reynolds	3/17/97
1,073	Kristen Friedman	2/9/97			
1,074	Carol Doell	4/12/97			

LEADERSHIP PATCH: NEW REQUIREMENT

The club awards the leadership patch to members who have led six separate hikes scheduled in the *Canister*. At least one hike must be to a trailless peak, and at least one other must be led during the winter. A new requirement, passed at the 1996 Annual Dinner Meeting, includes the obligation to attend at least one club-scheduled trail maintenance hike.

MOUNTAIN DAWN

*Clean as the ivoried hoofs of antelopes,
 A gilt-edged wind blows over the divide,
 Where melting glaciers fleck the rugged slopes,
 And giant summits tower side by side.
 Upon these lofty terraces the night
 Escapes as quickly as a hunted deer,
 Shedding an antlered stream of starry light
 Through cabin windows of the mountaineer.
 What splendor can be comparable to this:
 Blue ranges eloquent with spruce and pine;
 And morning falling like a lover's kiss
 On rosy peaks above the timberline.
 Who mirrors such vast glory in his eyes,
 Has looked beyond the gates of paradise.*

GENE BOARDMAN HOOVER



the catskill canister

Vol. XXX, No. 4

OCTOBER - DECEMBER, 1997

HIKER LAUDS THE BEAUTY OF THE BUSHWHACK RANGE

West of the Ashokan Reservoir lies a wild, remote area. From Peekamoose Road near Bear Hole Brook, a bushwhacker can range more than twelve miles north to the village of Phoenicia and cross only a few dim herd paths. His route will traverse eight of the Catskill's highest mountains and visit rare stands of immense hardwoods, denied to the logger's saw by their isolation.

Many years have passed since I first came to the Catskills with my partner, Annamaria, and climbed Table Mountain. We sat on the edge of a long since overgrown viewpoint and looked north over wild ridges extending into the distance. Lone Mountain and her sisters, Rocky, Balsam Cap and Friday, seemed mysterious and inaccessible. It would have surprised me to know that decades later I would be on intimate terms with each of them.

The trailless forest is a magnet for me. I often wander this refuge by myself, sometimes for days and during each season. The rewards are rich. When I'm alone, every aspect of the natural world becomes heightened. I search for secret places, perhaps known only to me, where I may hang my hammock and enjoy the tranquility and scents the forest offers.

The region's allure can be as intangible as the chemistry between good friends. But most of my memories are vivid - like the thrill of entering an ancient grove and realizing the pillar-like trunks were remnants of a virgin forest. I felt favored to be in the presence of the noble trees and envied future generations who will see old growth timber covering these slopes again.

Catskill route-finding has surprises. In other mountains the bushwhacker sees consistent patterns of vegetation and soon determines how the flora distributes itself. He learns not to get trapped in the alder thickets in secondary canyon bottoms (the Sierra and Cascades); that travel is easier in the redwoods or oaks on north-facing slopes and almost impossible in the dense chaparral on south slopes (California coast ranges). But in the Catskills, the explorer takes nothing for granted. One ridge will be open and afford easy passage; the next may be a traveler's nightmare. On one mountain a hiker may drop out of the balsam into open trees, and on the adjacent one, find the balsam descends another four hundred vertical feet on an identical west slope. This portent of unknown obstacles adds adventure when a new route is undertaken.

Mountaineering friends who have explored and climbed with me in the higher ranges of the United States wonder why I hold these hills so special. The overall richness of the landscape includes a bounty of individual treasures. Among them, the falls and deep pools of Bear Hole Brook; the unusual rock window giving access through the final cliff band on the eastern approach to Rocky's crest; the lofty collection of rivulets that are the source of the Rondout; perhaps the tracks of an elusive fisher in the snow on the Friday-Balsam Cap saddle; the immense, mysterious log triangle lashed high in the hemlocks on Cornell's east ridge; or the great height of the solitary white pine beside the Neversink's East Branch below Rocky.

Cont'd on Page 3

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Articles on hiking or travel experiences, essays or poetry, should be sent to Darielle Graham, 60 Barker St., #419, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.

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CORRECTION REGARDING THE SHULTIS PROPERTY

The notice in the July - September, 1997 issue of the *Canister* that hikers would no longer be permitted to cross the property of Frances and Nelson Shultis to access Friday and Balsam Cap was in error and does not reflect the wishes of the owners. Our relationship with the family goes back over 35 years and was fostered by the founders of the 3500 Club, many of whom were personal friends of the Shultises. Frances and Nelson have been very hospitable and generous in letting us use their land to reach the high peaks and they continue to welcome responsible hikers for this purpose. Several private properties have been developed on the ridges leading to the peaks and care should be taken to avoid trespassing in areas close to these home sites. Meetings will be held with the Shultises and acceptable routes (not trails) will be agreed upon for those hikers wishing to climb Friday and Balsam Cap by way of Maltby Hollow on Moonhaw Road.

DATES SET FOR WINTER WEEKEND

Keep the dates of January 23 - 25, 1998 free for the winter weekend, which will take place at Mountain Gate, located on McKenley Hollow Road (off County Road 47) in Oliveria, New York. Full details will appear in the January - March, 1998 *Canister*.

Tucked under the west side of Balsam Cap's false summit, fountainheads of emerging streams suggest a phrase from the late writer and wilderness defender, Wallace Stegner: "The sudden poetry of springs." On another mountain, perhaps appearing through a lattice of beech and hemlock, a fern-draped cliff may loom. If it bars my route, the challenge is welcome. Will I search for a ramp, find a safe line for a direct ascent, or try to skirt it? As I climb higher, and distance myself from human enterprise, cares fade, purged by the mountain's stature. The trees might part to reveal a distant view. Absorbed with the spectacle, I'll pause and hear the wind in the balsam needles.

Nights spent on the mountain are stimulating. The stars can be brilliant in a black sky. Coyotes may draw near for a spine-tingling concert. But sleep comes easily. In warm months I'll awake to bird songs, with sunlight filtering through the leaves. Winter mornings often begin with intense cold and perfect white beauty. I'll marvel at the snow-muffled silence. And in any season, far from the nearest trail, peace and solitude reward and nourish.

Romer Mountain, Cross Mountain, Samuels Point, the east slopes of Wittenberg and Cornell; Friday, Balsam Cap, Lone and parts of Table and Peekamoose are the dominant heights. Below the summits spirited streams tumble through deep ravines. As I wander this exhilarating arena, I sometimes imagine my predecessors, the Esopas and Maquasis tribes, the backwoodsmen and the first homesteaders, walking over the same ground.

Each mountain shows me a tangible personality, vulnerable to moods - often vibrant, sometimes in repose. Perhaps I'm overly sentimental, but should this upland suddenly be gone, I would forever feel an emptiness.

*Robert McElroy (#797)
36 Rabbit Run Road
Malvern, PA 19355*

MY HEART'S IN THE HIGHLANDS

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here;
My heart's in the Highlands a-chasing the deer;
A-chasing the wild deer, and following the roe --
My heart's in the Highlands wherever I go.

Farewell to the Highlands, farewell to the North,
The birthplace of valor, the country of worth;
Wherever I wander, wherever I rove,
The hills of the Highlands forever I love.

Farewell to the mountains high-covered with snow;
Farewell to the straths and green valleys below;
Farewell to the forests and wild-hanging woods;
Farewell to the torrents and loud-pouring floods.

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here;
My heart's in the Highlands a-chasing the deer;
A-chasing the wild deer, and following the roe --
My heart's in the Highlands wherever I go.

Robert Burns

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1997ASSUMED RISK

Hiking involves certain inherent hazards, and persons participating do so at their own risk.

Sat. Oct. 4 NORTH DOME and SHERRILL

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader for details.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M. weekdays)

Sun. Oct. 5 FIR and BIG INDIAN

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2150'
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Sept. 29 - Oct. 3.

Leader: Sandy Aldrich (#914), 914-963-9802 (before 9:30 P.M.)

Sat. Oct. 11 DOUBLETOP (and possibly GRAHAM)

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1850'
Elev.: 3860', (3868') Order: 8, (7)

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Oct. 6 - 10.

Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.)

Sat. Oct. 11 TABLE, PEEKAMOOSE, LONE (and possibly ROCKY)

Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3847', 3843', 3721', (3508')
Order: 10, 11, 16, (35)

A strenuous trail hike and bushwhack at a moderate, but steady, pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Denning trailhead at 8:00 A.M.

Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411 (7:00 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.) or
201-524-4669 (9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.)

Sun. Oct. 12 WITTENBERG, CORNELL and SLIDE

Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 4200'
Elev.: 3780', 3860', 4180'
Order: 14, 9, 1

A very strenuous trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader for details.

Leader: Irene Logan (#888), 516-621-8129 (Mon.-Fri., 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Oct. 12 Huckleberry Loop/Dry Brook Ridge Circular

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2800'
Elev.: 3460'

A moderate trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader for details by Oct. 9.

Leader: Richard Barr (#604), 212-877-2694

Sun. Oct. 19 EAGLE, Haynes, BALSAM and Belleayre

Distance: 15 mi. Ascent:
Elev: 3600', 3600' Order: 27, 28

A moderate but steady paced trail hike. No stragglers. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Corner of Elm and Main in Pine Hill for shuttle departure at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Martin Cohen (#728), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M. - NO CALLS SAT. NIGHT)

Sun. Oct. 19 **PANTHER**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Oct. 13 - 17.

Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Oct. 25 **PEEKAMOOSE and TABLE**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3190'
Elev.: 3843', 3847' Order: 11, 10

An all-weather trail-clearing hike on a portion of the Long Path the club is responsible for clearing. Bring loppers, weed whackers, etc., if you have them; if not, the club will furnish them - BUT, COME.

Meeting Place: Trailhead on Peekamoose Road at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Jerry Gervais (#687), 914-795-2116 (leave message on 914-341-5515)

Sun. Oct. 26 **HALCOTT**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3520' Order: 34

A moderate bushwhack at a comfortable pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Oct. 20 - 24.

Leader: Doug Robins (#153), 860-693-0130 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Nov. 1 **BLACK DOME, THOMAS COLE and BLACKHEAD**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3980', 3940', 3940'
Order: 3, 4, 5

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Westernmost parking area near Colgate Lake on Co. Rd. 78 near E. Jewett at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 (7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M., Nov. 3 - 6 ONLY)

Sun. Nov. 2 **WESTKILL End-to-End**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

A moderately-paced trail hike. Shuttle required.

Meeting Place: Flagpole at Jct. of Rte. 42 & Cty. Rd. 6 (Spruceton Rd.) in Westkill at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710 (7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Sat. Nov. 8 **Huckleberry Loop/Dry Brook Ridge Circular**

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3460'

A moderate trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Huckleberry Brook Rd. trailhead, outside Margaretville at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Alvin De Maria (#655), 914-255-1704

Sun. Nov. 9 **BEARPEN and VLY**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32

A fast-paced, all-weather trail hike and bushwhack.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Sept. 29 - Oct 2.

Leader: Anthony Amaral, Jr. (#612), 212-603-2217 (9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.)

Sat. Nov. 15 **HUNTER and SOUTHWEST HUNTER**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2400'
Elev.: 4040', 3740' Order: 2, 15

A strenuous trail hike and bushwhack at a moderate pace. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 A.M.

Leader: George Sheedy (#806), 914-986-6807 (Thurs.-Fri., 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Nov. 16 **THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME
and BLACKHEAD** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3940', 3980', 3940'
Order: 4, 3, 5

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Rain cancels. Crampons may be necessary.
Meeting Place: Parking area on Big Hollow Road for shuttle departure at 9:15 A.M.
Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

**Nov. 17 - Dec. 9: HUNTING SEASON (FIREARMS) IN THE CATSKILLS.
NO HIKES SCHEDULED IN THE CATSKILLS.**

December through April the windchill on exposed ridges may reach 50 below zero. If you do not know what type of clothing will be adequate, telephone the hike leader in advance. If you cannot buy, rent, or borrow snowshoes, avoid the mountains in winter. Unless specified otherwise, full crampons should be carried. Properly dressed and equipped, and in proper physical condition, a hiker can enjoy the mountains in what many people consider the most beautiful season of the year.

Sun. Nov. 23 **Lake Awosting** Distance: 10 mi.
A moderately strenuous trail hike from Lake Awosting to Lake Minnewaska. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place: Jenny Lane parking lot off Rte. 44/55 at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750 (till 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Dec. 7 **Taconics near Bear Mountain,
Connecticut** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2000'

A moderate hike in the Taconic mountains of Connecticut and/or Massachusetts. Exact route will depend on conditions. No hunting in Connecticut or Massachusetts on Sunday. Heavy rain or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Call leader for details.
Leader: Doug Robins (#153), 860-693-0130 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Dec. 13 **CORNELL and WITTENBERG** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3860', 3780'
Order: 9, 14

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Woodland Valley Campground at 9:00 A.M.
Leader: George Sheedy (#806), 914-986-6807 (Thurs.-Fri., 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Dec. 14 **BALSAM CAP** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3623' Order: 24

A strenuous bushwhack from Breath Hill at a moderate pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Dec. 8 - 12.
Leader: Murray Friedman (#868), 914-779-6233 (7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Dec. 20 **BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3723', 3868' Order: 17, 7

A moderately-paced trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place: Bridge over Dry Brook in Arkville at 9:00 A.M.
Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (before 9:00 P.M.).

Sun. Dec. 21 **Belleayre and BALSAM**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3600' Order: 28

A moderately paced trail hike to a required winter peak. Shuttle required. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Oliverea-Mapledale trailhead on McKenley Hollow Rd. (off Co. Rd. 47) at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411 (7:00 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.) or
201-524-4669 (9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.)

Sat. Dec. 27 **RUSK**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

A moderate bushwhack at an easy pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Dec. 22 - 26.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710 (7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Sun. Dec. 28 **BLACKHEAD**

Distance: 3 mi. Ascent: 500'
Elev.: 3940' Order: 5

A moderate trail hike at a slow, relaxed pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Parking area at end of Big Hollow Rd. (Co. Rte. 56) at 8:00 A.M.

Leader: Fran Dillenbeck (#918), 607-724-7885 (Mon.-Thurs. after 8:00 P.M.)

Sun. Dec. 28 **FIR**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3620', Order: 25

A moderate trail hike and bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Dec. 22 - 26.

Leader: Alan Kapitzke (#1035), 860-345-3203 (8:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M., or leave message)

LEADERSHIP PATCH: NEW REQUIREMENT

The club awards the leadership patch to members who have led six separate hikes scheduled in the *Canister*. At least one hike must be to a trailless peak, and at least one other must be led during the winter. A new requirement, passed at the 1996 Annual Dinner Meeting, includes the obligation to attend at least one club-scheduled trail maintenance hike.

THE SHEAVES

*Where long the shadows of the wind had rolled,
Green wheat was yielding to the change assigned;
And as by some vast magic undivined
The world was turning slowly into gold.
Like nothing that was ever bought or sold
It waited there, the body and the mind;
And with a mighty meaning of a kind
That tells the more the more it is not told.*

*So in a land where all days are fair,
Fair days went on till on another day
A thousand golden sheaves were lying there,
Shining and still, but not for long to stay--
As if a thousand girls with golden hair
Might rise from where they slept and go away.*

EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON

NEW MEMBERS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,075	Eric J. Nazurak	4/25/97
1,076	Paul A. Mudar	5/22/97
1,077	Peter Cowan	6/7/97
1,078	Peggy R. Kern	6/7/97
1,079	William Schaffer	6/7/97
1,080	Michael V. Wilson	6/7/97
1,081	J. Daniel Bouw	6/14/97
1,082	Charles W. leBarre	7/1/97
1,083	Michael D. Selender	7/6/97
1,084	James F. Maurer, Jr.	6/28/97
1,085	George J. Daxis	7/19/97
1,086	Robert W. Novick	7/26/97

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Stephen Clark
Paul A. Mudar
Harold Weisberg

RELUCTANCE

*Out through the fields and the woods
And over the walls I have wended,
I have climbed the hills of view
And looked at the world, and descended;
I have come by the highway home,
And lo, it is ended.*

*The leaves are all dead on the ground,
Save those that the oak is keeping
To ravel them one by one
And let them go scraping and creeping
Out over the crusted snow,
When others are sleeping.*

*And the dead leaves lie huddled and still,
No longer blown hither and thither;
The last lone aster is gone;
The flowers of the witch hazel wither;
The heart is still aching to seek,
But the feet question "Whither?"*

*Ah, when to the heart of man
Was it ever less than a treason
To go with the drift of things,
To yield with a grace to reason,
And bow and accept the end
of a love or a season?*

Robert Frost