



the catskill canister

Vol. XXXIII, No. 1

JANUARY - MARCH, 2000

FIRST DESCENTS IN THE CATSKILLS

First descents conjure up images of high-altitude mountaineering with all its challenges, hazards and hardships. How can there be first descents in the Catskills when all the peaks have been climbed and descended in all conceivable directions? First descents on skis? It's possible that a lot of the trails have been descended in this manner. But, descend from the summit by bushwhacking on skis and there's a good chance of achieving a first descent.

A review of skiing history will help us understand how we can manage to ski trailless, steep, wooded terrain. Skiing is thousands of years old, but turning skis was not part of the game until the 1860s when Sondre Norheim of Norway figured out that if he had a twisted root cable going around the heel of his boot, he'd have more control of his destiny. He also invented turning techniques, such as the telemark (Nordic/downhill) and Christiana, to complement his equipment innovations. A whole new world opened to him because of his newly-acquired control. No longer restricted to flat terrain and ski jumps, he could venture into the hills and mountains.

Others wanted to be part of this new sport with the result that there followed an explosion in ski, binding and boot design. Eventually, it was discovered that even greater control could be gained if the heel was locked to the ski. Norheim's free-heel telemark turn techniques fell into disuse. What remained of Nordic/downhill skiing was the classic cross-country skiing on flat or easy terrain familiar today, with steep terrain being descended with alpine (heel down) equipment.

In the 1970s, some bored western skiers, looking for new experiences, started skiing with a free heel again, but this time, on the steep, bumpy terrain of a downhill ski area. They soon realized that their cross-country equipment could not stand up to the terrain and thus started the movement toward hybrid ski boots and skis. This equipment combines characteristics of both ski disciplines: the lightness of cross-country skis, but with metal edges; and the stiffness of alpine boots, but made of leather for flexibility. After a few years, a market developed so that today's cross-country/downhill equipment is the best of both worlds.

Cross-country/downhill skiing began in the Catskills in the early 1980s at Belleayre Mountain alpine area near Pine Hill. Here, a small group of thrill-seekers perfected their new-found skills, very soon becoming experts. Reading about their western counterparts taking to the back country, they thought, why not do that in the Catskills? They immediately realized that skills needed to be refined to handle all snow conditions (no grooming here) and to allow for concise turns around unforgiving trees. Importantly, about ten inches of snow were required to cover small branches, twigs and forest floor litter. Even a small stone or tiny sapling could cause a skier to trip and fall. In the years when snow was plentiful, many Catskill peaks were added to the list of first off-trail ski descent. To date, the following are known: Slide, Balsam, Balsam Lake, Belleayre (from the real summit), Panther, Overlook, Sherrill, Fir, High Point and Ginseng.

Certain precautions when planning an off-trail ski trip should be considered mandatory. Map reading and compass skills are absolutely required. As much as possible should be learned of the terrain with routes (primary and secondary) planned in advance. Ideally, an off-season scouting hike

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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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THANK YOU!

The Catskill 3500 Club extends a thank you to all those members and aspirants who have forwarded donations to the club. These are much appreciated.

**WANTED: NEWS FOR
PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE COLUMN**

If there is a special event in your life, or that of another member or aspirant (graduation, engagement, marriage, promotion), or a special achievement on or off the trail, please send the news to Ralph Ferrusi, 34 Kim Lane, Stormville, New York 12582.

**CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND
JANUARY 21 - 23, 2000**

The Catskill Winter Weekend will be held from January 21-23, 2000 at the new location of Schwarzenegger's Sunshine Valley House located on Spruceton Road, Westkill, New York. Hikes have been, and will be scheduled for members and aspirants (see p. 5 of the hiking schedule). For those interested in downhill skiing, Schwarzenegger's is within a half hour's drive of Windham, Hunter Mountain, Belleayre and Cortina Ski Areas. Guests can also enjoy common areas including outside pavilions, Conan's Corner Bar and Lounge and the heated swimming pool. The telephone number of the hotel is 518-989-9794.

Rates are as follows: Double occupancy is \$65.00/night, which includes Friday night lodging, Saturday breakfast, trail lunch and dinner. Saturday night lodging, Sunday breakfast and trail lunch is \$48.00, making a total of \$113:00, which includes sales tax and gratuity as well as a 10% discount. Saturday night dinner only is \$17:00, including tax and gratuity. Add \$5.00 per person for a single room. All rooms have a private bath, color television and telephone. Meals comprise a hearty breakfast, trail lunch and full dinner served family style. Before dinner, guests can enjoy free cheese and wine.

To reserve, send a deposit of \$30.00 to Arthur Zimmerman, 766 Neptune Boulevard, Long Beach, New York 11581; telephone 516-432-1205. Checks should be made payable to the **The Catskill 3500 Club, Inc.** Cancellation requires one week's notice.

should be done to record compass bearings and determine when the ascent requires occasional snowshoe use. It is a good idea to be aware of the latest possible weather forecast, and also to be aware of the snow conditions, which can vary tremendously.

In addition to all the items needed for a winter mountaineering climb, including extras in case of an emergency night in the woods, a ski repair kit is essential. No one should attempt a ski climb and descent unless adequately prepared in mind, body and equipment. And if a peak is not on public land, landowner permission should be obtained prior to the attempt.

Howard Adriance (#326)
75 Sharon Lane
Kingston, NY 12401

3500 CLUB T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS FOR SALE

<p>Club t-shirts and sweatshirts are being offered for sale to members and aspirants. Both are medium-weight 50/50; the t-shirt is available in sky blue with the club's three-color emblem, while the sweatshirt is available in heathery ash grey, also with the club's three-color emblem, and with a hood and handwarmer pocket.</p> <p>Send your order, along with a check, payable to The Catskill 3500 Club, Inc., to Dave Sutter, 575 Grove Street, #C-6, Clifton, NJ 07013. Checks will be deposited at the time the order is placed.</p>	<p><u>T-Shirt</u></p> <p>Med. ___ Lge. ___ X-Lge. ___</p>	<p><u>Sweatshirt</u></p> <p>Med. ___ Lge. ___ X-Lge. ___</p>
	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Apt. # _____</p>	
	<p>_____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p>	<p>_____ County, if NY State _____</p>
	<p>Cost - T-shirt:</p>	<p>NY State residents: \$11.25</p> <p>All other states: \$10.50</p>
	<p>Cost - Sweatshirt:</p>	<p>NY State residents: \$22.00</p> <p>All other states: \$20.50</p>

APPEAL FOR HIKE LEADERS

Members are encouraged to consider leading hikes for the club. What is particularly needed are leaders for slower hikes. This is your chance to become more involved with the club. Expert knowledge of the Catskills is not necessary, but a strong sense of responsibility is. Those interested should contact the Outings Chairman, John Graham (914-241-2240; jbgraham@prodigy.net).

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING SCHEDULED

Keep Saturday, April 8, 2000 free for the Catskill 3500 Club Annual Dinner Meeting which will again be held at the Hillside Manor in Kingston, New York. Invitations will be mailed in February. New members since the last dinner meeting (March 20, 1999) will be presented with their certificates on April 8th. The speaker chosen for this event is Richard Parisio, Environmental Educator with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, whose program, "America's First Wilderness," describes how the Catskills and the Forest Preserve have helped shape the conservation movement in America through the influence of Thomas Cole and the Hudson River School of Painters, John Burroughs and others.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: JANUARY - MARCH 2000ASSUMED RISK

December through March in the Catskills, 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.

Sat. Jan. 1 HALCOTT

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1500'
Elev.: 3520' Order: 34

A relaxed bushwhack with a late start. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call or e-mail leader to register between Dec. 27-30 ONLY.

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692; mountain.man.france@prodigy.net

Sat. Jan. 8 DOUBLETOP and GRAHAM

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev.: 3860', 3868' Order: 8, 7

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 Jan. 3-7.

Leader: Bob Novick (#1,086), 201-385-3161 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. only)

Sat. Jan. 8 SLIDE

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register week prior to hike.

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

Sun. Jan. 9 SOUTHWEST HUNTER and HUNTER

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

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: Call leader to register between Jan. 3-7.

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

Sat. Jan. 15 BIG INDIAN

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3700' Order: 19

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

Meeting Place: Call or e-mail leader to register between Jan. 10-13.

Leader: Dave Sutter (#1,110), 973-778-0992; DSUTTR@aol.com

Sun. Jan. 16 WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

Distance: 6 mi. 1700'
Elev.: 3524' Order: 33

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Jan. 9-13.

Leader: Jim Chambers (#1,097), 315-589-8500 (6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Jan. 22 **RUSK and HUNTER**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3680', 4040' Order: 21, 2

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

Meeting Place: Call or e-mail leader to register between Jan. 17-20 ONLY.

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692; mountain.man.france@prodigy.netSat. Jan. 22 **SLIDE, CORNELL and WITTENBERG**Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 3500'
Elev.: 4180', 3860', 3780'
Order: 1, 9, 14

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register two weeks before hike.

Leader: Jane Smalley (#1,068), 914-941-3918 (before 9:30 P.M.)

Sun. Jan. 23 **BEARPEN and VLY**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32

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

Meeting Place: Call or e-mail leader to register between Jan. 17-20 ONLY.

Leader: Anthony Amaral, Jr. (#612), 212-603-2217 (9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.); AAMARAL@Thelenreid.comSat. Jan. 29 **FIR**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3620' Order: 25

A moderately-paced 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 Jan. 24-27.

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

Sun. Jan. 30 **FRIDAY and BALSAM CAP**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3694', 3623' Order: 20, 24

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. 24-28.

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

Sat. Feb. 5 **Tremper and Carl Mountains**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 2740', 2880'

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register week prior to hike.

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

Sun. Feb. 6 **WESTKILL Traverse**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

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

Meeting Place: Call or e-mail leader to register by Feb. 3.

Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411; mike_selender@mindspring.com

- Sat. Feb. 12 **BLACK DOME and THOMAS COLE** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3980', 3940' Order: 3, 4
- A moderately-paced trail hike. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
- Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Feb. 6-10.
Leader: Jim Chambers (#1,097), 315-589-8500 (6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)
- Sun. Feb. 13 **BALSAM** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 3720'
Elev: 3600' Order: 28
- Join us for another "kid-friendly" peak bagging trip. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
- Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Feb. 7-11.
Leader: Tim Watters (#261), 201-818-0156 (day)
- Sat. Feb. 19 **LONE and ROCKY** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 35
- A strenuous trail hike and bushwhack at a moderate to fast pace. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
- Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Feb. 14-18.
Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)
- Sun. Feb. 20 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK** Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22
- A moderately-paced trail hike or bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. All-weather, except winter storm or bad driving conditions cancel.
- Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Mon.-Thurs. up to two weeks before hike
Leader: Donnabeth Stewart (#1,003), 212-722-2028 (9:00 P.M. - 12:00 P.M.)
- Sat. Feb. 26 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER and HUNTER** Distance: 8 (12) mi. Ascent: 2700' (3500')
(Optionally East Rusk and RUSK) Elev. 3740', 4040' (3640', 3680')
Order: 15, 2 (21)
- A strenuous bushwhack. Return by trail or ascend East Rusk and Rusk.
Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
- Meeting Place: Call or e-mail leader to register by Feb. 24.
Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411; mike_selender@mindspring.com
- Sun. Feb. 27 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
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 Feb. 21-25.
Leader: John Nye (#1132), 914-967-8540 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.); 914-278-2770 (7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.)
- Sat. Mar. 4 **Samuel's Point** Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 2885'
- A moderate bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
- Meeting Place: Call leader to register week prior to hike.
Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Mar. 5 **BLACKHEAD**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3940' Order: 5

Join us for another "kid-friendly" peak bagging trip to a required winter peak. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Feb. 28-Mar. 3.

Leader: Tim Watters (#261), 201-818-0156 (day)

Sat. Mar. 11 **HALCOTT**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3520' Order: 34

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

Meeting Place: Call or e-mail leader to register between Mar. 6-9.

Leader: Dave Sutter (#1,110), 973-778-0992; DSUTTR@aol.com

Sun. Mar. 12 **TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11

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

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

Leader: Jim Chambers (#1,097), 315-589-8500 (6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Mar. 18 **FRIDAY and BALSAM CAP**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3694', 3623' Order: 20, 24

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

Meeting Place: Call or e-mail leader to register by Mar. 16.

Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411; mike_selender@mindspring.com

Sat. Mar. 18 **BLACKHEAD**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3940' Order: 5

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: Former Maplecrest Post Office at 8:30 A.M.

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

Sun. Mar. 19 **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. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. All-weather, except winter storm or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Mon.-Thurs. up to two weeks before hike.

Leader: Donnabeth Stewart (#1,003), 212-722-2028 (9:00 P.M. - 12:00 P.M.)

Sat. Mar. 25 **BALSAM LAKE**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3720', 3868' Order: 17, 7

A moderate trail hike 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 Mar. 20-24.

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

NEW MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,218	Andrew Moroz	8/15/99	1,229	Holly Hawkes	10/23/99
1,219	Arthur Hawxhurst	8/01/99	1,230	Mark Styczynski	10/26/99
1,220	Lorraine C. Smith	8/24/99	1,231	Adelaide Haas	10/24/99
1,221	Raymond S. Wilkin	7/27/99	1,232	Nancy Donohue	10/30/99
1,222	Richard W. Hughes	8/31/99			
1,223	Philip P. Fountain	8/31/99			
1,224	James E. Bunch	9/19/99			
1,225	Gregory P. Labas	9/25/99			
1,226	Edward Neveu	9/26/99			
1,227	Craig Sommers	10/03/99			
1,228	Richard E. Weig	10/16/99			

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

William D. Mishler
Paul A. West

RUINS UNDER THE STARS

Sometimes I see them,
The South-going Canada geese,
At evening, coming down
In pink light, over the pond, in great,
Loose, always dissolving V's--
I go out into the field,
Amazed and moved, and listen
To the cold, lonely yelping
Of those tranced bodies in the sky,
Until I feel on the point
Of breaking to a sacred, bloodier speech.

Galway Kinnell

DUST OF SNOW

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

Robert Frost



the catskill canister

Vol. XXXIII, No. 2

APRIL - JUNE, 2000

SNAPSHOTS OF ALASKA

Question: Where is it possible to see all 15,300 feet of a 15,300-foot mountain? Answer: from a ship off the coast of Alaska.

We do not really see all the advertised height of most mountains because we are not standing at sea level. The 12,000-foot altitude of the Front Range of the Rockies, for example, is not as exciting when we realize we're already a mile high when we're looking at it. Indeed, to see most of the full altitude of a mountain, one could not do much better than to view the Adirondacks from Lake Champlain or the Catskills from the Hudson; each of the viewing points being under 100 feet above sea level.

But those aren't 15,300-foot mountains. And to see that much mass, all at once, is indeed impressive. Actually, we couldn't quite see it all at once; it rose through a couple of weather systems, so that a cloud bank cut it off every 5,000 feet or so.

"It," I should explain at this point, was Mount Fairweather (an ironic name, given its location in a decidedly damp part of the world, were it named for meteorological conditions, but in fact it was named for a person). Fairweather is the fifth highest mountain in North America, and my family and I fixated on its snowy bulk for a couple of hours as we cruised north along the Alaskan coast last July. (The mountain is actually in British Columbia, Alaska being not much more than a pinched coastal strip at this point.) It reminded my wife and me of another immense and snow-blanketed mountain we had observed, similarly awestruck, 25 summers earlier – Mt. McKinley, or preferably, Denali. That one had put on an even better show than Fairweather, displaying almost 18,000 of its 20,320 feet from the lowlands to its north.

That's the remarkable thing about Alaska – just how much you can see, without even trying very hard. From our ship we could see entire rivers: from their start as meltwater from hanging glaciers five thousand feet above the Pacific, plunging down through several vegetation zones – lichens, taiga, towering evergreen forest – before crashing into the ocean. Not many rivers spend their entire existence in a nearly vertical state, but these mostly unnamed torrents did. They reminded us of those diagrams in ninth-grade earth science books that attempt to show "The Life of a River, from Source to Mouth."

Much of the freshwater one can see along the Alaska coast is in the form of gigantic ice cubes. Even with the deleterious effects of global warming that have sent most of them retreating into the hills, the glaciers are still bigger than our average counties; I would even wager that the more expansive of them could engulf one of our smaller states. Seeing Hubbard Glacier from the sea and Mendenhall Glacier, near Juneau, on foot, trying to grasp the fact that their width is measured in miles and the height of their faces in stories, hearing their thunderous calving, are all unforgettable. I'd always wanted to see calving (the splitting off and falling into the sea of huge chunks of aqua-blue ice), and it was quite a show, but the sound – remarkably like that of a fast-approaching thunderstorm, or maybe ninepins in the fastnesses of the Catskills – is even more stunning. But what had even more impact, as it had 25 years ago, was realizing we were witnessing the shaping of the Earth. Stand near a glacier, and you realize geology is not ancient history – it's happening right now, even as you watch. Studying rock that was sculpted by ice just last month forces home the concept of geology as *process*.

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VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED FOR 3500 CLUB PROJECT

This spring volunteers from the Catskill 3500 Club will assist personnel from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in the construction of a hiker's shelter in the Catskills. The Club will make a sizable contribution to help defray the cost of materials. The DEC will clear the site and make necessary preparations as soon as weather conditions permit. Tentative plans are for the shelter materials to be flown by helicopter to a site, probably on Balsam Lake Mountain, in April or early May. Soon thereafter, construction will begin. No experience is necessary. The DEC will furnish most tools and equipment. The work is physical but not demanding; professionals from the DEC do the heavy work. Members and aspirants interested in participating in this project and obtaining a work schedule should send their name and preferably e-mail address to George Sheedy at sheedy@warwick.net; or you can call him at 914-986-6807.

PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Dr. Dean Gletsos (#1,128) climbed Mount Olympus, the highest peak in Greece (9,570 feet) on August 4, 1999.... Friedel Schunk (#248) reports from his home in Achim, Germany, where he relocated in 1995, that he participated in twelve Du-/Triathlon events in age group M60 during the 1999 season and earned the 1999 awards badge in Gold from the German Triathlon Federation for exceeding a season total of 10K swimming, 400K biking and 100K running.... It's a small world - Mike Doehring (#144), Club President, was seated at the same table at last year's annual dinner as Kathy Ferrusi (#1,022), a former Croton High School math student of his some thirty years ago....

If there is a special event in your life or that of another member (graduation, engagement, marriage, promotion) or a special achievement on or off the trail that you would like to appear in the Peripatetic Porcupine column, please send the news to Ralph Ferrusi, 34 Kim Lane, Stormville, NY 12582.

*****DEADLINE FOR T-SHIRT/SWEATSHIRT ORDERS*****

For those who have not yet placed orders for 3500 Club t-shirts and/or sweatshirts, the deadline for orders will be April 1, 2000. Delivery will be approximately June 1, 2000. Please send your request to Dave Sutter: 575 Grove Street, Unit C-6, Clifton, NJ 07013; tel: 973-778-0992; fax: 778-1281; email: dsuttr@aol.com

Wildlife is so ubiquitous in Alaska, it's taken for granted. As we sailed away from Hubbard Glacier, we passed by an ice floe on which dozens of seals were sunning themselves, oblivious to our mammoth cruise ship (okay, at this point I have to confess, this was hardly roughing it; we were soaking up such amenities as three waiters at each meal and two swimming pools – but it was still Alaska). Exploring the docks and marveling at the mysterious totem poles of Ketchikan and hiking in melting snow high above Juneau, we could not glance skyward without seeing two or three bald eagles circling, intent on fish in the always-near salt water – a curiosity worthy of any item in the local paper in most places, along the Alaska coast they're almost nuisances. From our ship we once caught sight of the humps of a distant pod of whales.

And then there was the legendary vegetation. The Alaska Panhandle is a rain forest – a surprise to people who think rain forests are always in tropical climates. But precipitation, not temperature, is the determining factor (for that matter, the frigid North Slope, which we had visited on our first trip to Alaska, but not on this one, is a desert). And of precipitation there is no dearth; in Ketchikan on a sunny and almost uncomfortably warm afternoon, we were informed we were experiencing the first dry day in over five weeks. And this rain spawns remarkable growth: 300-foot-tall Sitka spruces; Devil's club, a shrub with a leaf like the swamp maple, except 18 inches across; salmonberries the size of golf balls.

I could go on. Alaska can – and does – produce volumes of words appropriate to its nearly incomprehensible size (impose it on the "Lower 48: and it would stretch from Alabama to Montana, with the tip of the Aleutians in California). But better you should go and see for yourself. If you find a cruise or tour confining, as we did at times, freelance it – Alaskans are unfailingly happy to accommodate visitors, although they're a little casual about details like timetables (on our first ferry trip a ferry we were scheduled to take from Petersburg to Sitka turned out to be drydocked in Seattle, and our train from Skagway to Whitehorse departed *three days* behind schedule, so quit complaining about MetroNorth). But none of this really matters. Just go. Go and see.

Neal S. Burdick
35 Woods Drive
Canton, NY 13617

The author is editor of *Adirondack*, the Adirondack Mountain Club magazine, and of ADK's eight-volume trail guide series. His "day job" is publications editor at St. Lawrence University.

WANDER-THIRST

Beyond the East the sunrise, beyond the West the sea,
And East and West the wander-thirst that will not let me be;
It works in me like madness, to bid me say goodbye;
For the seas call and the stars call, and oh! the call of the sky.

I know not where the white road runs, nor what the blue hills are,
But a man can have the sun for friend, and for his guide a star;
And there's no end of voyaging when once the voice is heard,
For the river calls and the road calls, and oh! the call of a bird!

Yonder the long horizon lies, and there by night and day
The old ships draw to home again, the young ships sail away;
And come I may, but go I must; and, if men ask you why,
You may put the blame on the stars and the sun and the white
road and the sky.

Gerald Gould

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: APRIL - JUNE 2000**ASSUMED RISK**

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

Sat., April 1 **TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE**
Trail Maintenance

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11

A rewarding hike that will allow you to give something back to the mountains. Come ready to work and bring hand tools if you have them. If not, the club will provide them. All who want to get to the top of both peaks will get there. Snowshoes and/or crampons may be required.

Meeting Place: Trailhead at Denning at 10:00 A.M.

Leader: Jerry Gervais (#687), 914-795-2116 (weekends only, before 9:00 P.M.)

DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD!

Sun., April 2 **FIR (and possibly BIG INDIAN)**

Distance: 10+ mi. Ascent: 1800', (2500')
Elev.: 3620', (3700') Order: 25, (19)

A bushwhack and trail hike, stepping smartly; unusual route; snowshoes and/or crampons may be required. Inclement weather cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader for details Mon.-Thurs. before 5:00 P.M.

Leader: Stephen Fishman (#618), 914-331-1206

Sat., April 8 **Mt. Tremper**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800'

A moderate trail hike. Snowshoes and/or crampons may be required. Heavy rain cancels.

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

Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750 (by 9:00 P.M.)

Sun., April 9 **HUNTER**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 4040' Order: 2

A moderately-paced trail hike; possible loop via Becker Hollow. Snowshoes and/or crampons may be required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Stony Clove Notch/Devil's Tombstone parking area at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710

Sat., April 15 **HALCOTT**

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

A moderate bushwhack. Rain cancels. Snowshoes and/or crampons may be required.

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

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

Sun., April 16 **DOUBLETOP and GRAHAM**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev.: 3860', 3868' Order: 8, 7

A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Snowshoes and/or crampons may be required. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or e-mail leader to register between April 10-14.

Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (by 9:00 P.M.); jbgraham@prodigy.net

Sat., April 29 **HUNTER (and possibly**
SOUTH WEST HUNTER)

Distance: 7 (8) mi.; Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 4040', (3740'); Order: 2, (15)

A slow, "kid-friendly" hike. Rain or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or e-mail leader to register between April 24-27.

Leader: Allen Maser (#706), 973-835-1533 (Don't call after 10:00 P.M.; if not in, leave message with phone number); amaser@myrealbox.com

Sun., Apr. 30 **BEARPEN and VLY**

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

A moderately paced bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or e-mail leader to register between June 12-16.

Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (by 9:00 P.M.); jbgraham@prodigy.net Sat., May 6

Sat., May 6 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A moderately-paced bushwhack.

Meeting Place: Call or e-mail leader to register between April 24-28.

Leader: Henry Jenkins (#808), 914-883-7853; gaymooseman@yahoo.com

Sat., May 6 **Dry Brook Ridge**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3460'

A moderate trail hike. Shuttle required. Heavy rain cancels.

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

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

Sun., May 7 **FIR and BIG INDIAN**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 1-5.

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

Sat., May 13 **BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3720', 3868' Order: 17, 7

A slow, "kid-friendly" peak-bagging expedition. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or e-mail leader to register between May 8-11.

Leader: Allen Maser (#706), 973-835-1533 (Don't call after 10:00 P.M.; if not in, leave message with phone number); amaser@myrealbox.com

Sun., May 14 **LONE and ROCKY**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 35

A strenuous bushwhack at a slow to moderate pace. Will start early. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 8-12.

Leader: Rocky Walberg (#886), 914-758-6721 (between 5:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.)

Sat., May 20 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK, Burnt Knob
Acra Point, BLACKHEAD, BLACK
DOME and THOMAS COLE**

Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 4200'
Elev.: 3524', 3940', 3980', 3940'
Order: 33, 5, 3, 4

A strenuous hike at a steady pace. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Peck Road parking area at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411 (H); 201-524-4669 (W);
mike_selender@mindspring.com

Sat., May 20 **SLIDE**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1

A moderate trail hike at an easy pace. New hikers welcome. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Trailhead parking area on south side of Cty. Rd. 47 (Slide Mt. Road) at 10:00 A.M.

Leader: Jane Smalley (#1,068), 914-941-3918

Sun., May 21 **FRIDAY and BALSAM CAP**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3694', 3623' Order: 20, 24

A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or e-mail leader to register between May 15-19.

Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 914-278-2770 (7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M. only); nyestreet@aol.comSun., May 28 **Western Catskills**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 2975', 2844', 2970', 2760'

A moderate trail hike via Middle Mountain and Touch-me-Not trails from Mary Smith Hill Road to Alder Lake. (Part of Finger Lakes trail system.) Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Contact leader by May 25 for details.

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

Sat., June 3 **Mt. Tremper and PLATEAU**Distance: 15 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3840' Order: 12

Come celebrate National Trails Day as we hike the grand new Long Path relocation between Mt. Tremper and Silver Hollow Notch, followed by a bushwhack up Plateau. This is a strenuous, all-day hike. All-day rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 29-June 2.

Leader: Howard Dash (#458), 914-255-3409 (between 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat., June 3 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 29-June 2.

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

Sat., June 10 **TABLE, PEEKAMOOSE and
Van Wyck**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11

A combination trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader in advance to register.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573

Sun., June 11 **RUSK and HUNTER**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev.: 3680', 4040' Order: 21, 2

A moderately strenuous bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.

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

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

Sat., June 17 **SOUTH WEST HUNTER**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3740' Order: 15

A moderate bushwhack at a slow to moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.

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

Leader: Rocky Walberg (#886), 914-758-6721 (between 5:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.)

Sun., June 18 **WITTENBERG, CORNELL and
SLIDE**Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 3500'
Elev.: 3780', 3860', 4180'
Order: 14, 9, 1

A strenuous hike at a steady pace. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Slide Mountain parking lot at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411 (H); 201-524-4669 (W);
mike_selender@mindspring.com

Sat., June 24 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3524' Order: 33

A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Parking lot on Route 23 at 9:45 A.M.

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

Sun., June 25 **SUGARLOAF and TWIN**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3800', 3640' Order: 13, 23

A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: New parking area on Dale Road/Elka Park Road at 9:15 A.M.

Leader: Martin Cohen (#728), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M.; **no calls Saturday night**)**ACCESSING THE PEAKS VIA PRIVATE LAND**

Some of the Catskill peaks have traditionally been approached over private land. While property owners often have allowed us to cross their land, it is important that we remain sensitive to their concerns.

On Moonhaw Road, people should not park in the Schultis driveway, but rather 200 yards down the road at a State Land Access sign. While we can cross their land, stay away from all houses as much as possible, including the cabin high up on the ridge to Friday.

Doubletop and Graham are on the Gould property and the caretaker, Bill Scholls, asks that we call him (914 586-4056) when we wish to cross their property. This applies even when approaching from the state hiking trail leading to Balsam Lake Mountain.

Bearpen and Vly have been accessed from Halcott Mountain Road, either from the north or the south. We used to leave our cars at the Brunner property on the south end. This is no longer allowed and has been posted to that effect. In either case, cars have to be parked on the shoulder, so as not to block the road, preferably away from people's houses. It would be wise to shuttle to the area, so as to have as few cars as possible on that road. Incidentally, coming from the south, Halcott Mountain Road has a sign indicating it as Johnston Hollow Road. Use your topographic map. Bearpen is shown on the Prattsville quadrangle and Vly on the Westkill quadrangle. These are the only Catskill peaks not shown on the Trail Conference Catskill Forest Preserve maps.

Four Little Foxes

Speak gently, Spring, and make no sudden sound;
For in my windy valley, yesterday I found
Newborn foxes squirming on the ground--
 Speak gently.

Walk softly, March, forbear the bitter blow;
Her feet within a trap, her blood upon the snow,
The four little foxes saw their mother go--
 Walk softly.

Go lightly, Spring, oh, give them no alarm;
When I covered them with boughs to shelter them
 from harm
The thin blue foxes suckled at my arm--
 Go lightly.

Step softly, March, with your rampant hurricane;
Nuzzling one another, and whimpering with pain,
The new little foxes are shivering in the rain--
 Step softly.

NEW MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,233	Patricia Johnson	1/6/99	1,249	Jack Lovelace	12/29/99
1,234	Connie L. Sciutto	1/6/99	1,250	Roy H. Williams	12/31/99
1,235	Terry Spies	10/2/99	1,251	Joseph A. Jannicelli	1/15/00
1,236	Rose Dittus	10/17/99	1,252	Robert Hatch	1/15/00
1,237	Calvin Grimm	11/6/99	1,253	Daniel J. Hatch	1/15/00
1,238	Daniel B. Case	11/7/99	1,254	David Hatch	1/15/00
1,239	Mary Lou Giuliano	11/7/99	1,255	Aaron P. Hatch	1/15/00
1,240	Kacie Giuliano	11/7/99	1,256	Arthur L. Sandberg	1/19/00
1,241	John P. Susko	11/13/99	1,257	John B. Lounsbury	1/23/00
1,242	Robinetta Berthiaume	11/7/99	1,258	Louis Fitzpatrick	1/28/00
1,243	Tony Bliss	11/21/99	1,259	Margo Moss	1/29/00
1,244	Anthony A. Bliss, Jr.	11/21/99	1,260	Joseph V. Harrison	5/28/99
1,245	Edna G. Blanchfield	12/21/99	1,261	John N. DiGiacomo	10/24/99
1,246	Ronald L. Wilson	12/21/99	1,262	John B. White	10/24/99
1,247	Libbie Hood	12/24/99	1,263	Kenneth A. Paulson	1/28/00
1,248	Gary Hood	12/24/99	1,264	Barbara L. Thomas	2/10/00

NEW WINTER MEMBERS

426	Raymond M. Pride	12/29/99
427	Nancy P. Neumann	12/29/99
428	Robert L. Walberg	1/8/00
429	Carter Bland	1/16/00
430	Robin Jormark-Bland	1/16/00
431	Scott Lane	1/30/00
432	Michelle Lane	1/30/00

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

George Butler, III
 Martha F. Davis
 Kathryn Ferrusi
 Frank P. Gardner
 Kathie F. Laug
 Dennis M. Lewis
 George Sheedy
 Michael A. Vetrano
 James W. Winslow

LEADERSHIP PATCH AWARDED

Congratulations to Marguerite Munch-Weber (#892) who has been awarded the leadership patch. 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. Also, attendance at least one club-scheduled trail maintenance hike is required.

April Rain Song

*Let the rain kiss you.
 Let the rain beat upon your head with
 silver liquid drops.
 Let the rain sing you a lullaby.
 The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk.
 The rain makes running pools in the gutter.
 The rain plays a little sleep-song on our roof at night.
 And I love the rain.*

Langston Hughes



the catskill canister

Vol. XXXIII, No. 3

JULY - SEPTEMBER, 2000

ON FORMIDABLE TERRANE*—EXPLORING THE SHINGLE GULLY ICE CAVES

It's late October. A biting wind urges us up Shingle Gully on the west slope of the Northern Shawangunk's Ice Cave Mountain. The ravine, lush with hemlock and mountain laurel, leads high up the mountain to a geologic anomaly known as the Ice Caves. We scramble upward through a tedious jumble of boulders and fallen trees, heartened that even under gray skies the mountain is bright with color. Yellow sassafras leaves, white birch bark and the intense russet of autumn blueberry bushes are a handsome counterpoint to green fern, laurel and hemlock. And we wonder at late blooming witch hazel's novel choice of seasons for presenting its subtle blossoms.

Fifty years of backpacking and mountaineering persuade me that more elegant scenery exists on the Shawangunk Ridge than in any area of equal size in North America. Diamond-clear streams flow from enchanting "sky lakes" which, with improbably tiny watersheds, perch just under the mountain's crest. (Eleven-acre Lake Haseco collects water from an area only slightly more than twice its size.) Beautiful vistas open in every direction. Waterfalls drop from high ledges as bold headlands, towering escarpments and deep, forested canyons contend for attention. Groves of virgin timber hide in rarely-visited niches. But perhaps most remarkable of all are the yawning rock chasms, called "ice caves" for the deposits of snow and ice that lie in their depths through the summer. High above the Rondout Valley violent forces have torn gaping wounds in the mountain's bedrock, rending a system of deep fissures, the biggest massive enough to swallow several Titanics. Geologists call these events fault-block landslides. The one we're approaching may be the biggest in North America.

"How deep are these things supposed to be?" Paul asks. "I've heard a hundred feet so I'll guess maybe sixty," I answer. Long ago I noticed that people so exaggerate cliff and waterfall heights that halving the number is usually a safe bet.

Our route steepens just before stone ramparts on either side close in. A little farther and the gully floor drops abruptly into a deep cleft. Excited, we clamber cautiously to the broken bottom and stare, awed. Dismal, damp walls of gray rock tower nine stories on either side of the narrow corridor enclosing us. The magnitude of the scene far exceeds our expectation.

Ahead, a tortuous passage leads us upward before hooking hard right and digging deeper into the mountain. We descend through a jumble of steeply inclined slabs to the floor of a second, even bigger chamber. Cap rock of hard quartz-conglomerate overhangs a hundred and twenty feet above our heads. Separated from the walls by frost wedging, ponderous corbeled columns are poised to crash down. We nervously move from under them and climb the chamber's far end to the surface.

"We're in a Japanese garden," Paul says. The mountainside is a landscape painter's vision with small hemlock glens and pale rock ledges scattered among blueberries and pitch pines. But we are unnerved by the first of several potentially lethal traps – a seemingly bottomless, two-foot wide crevasse, hidden behind low blueberry bushes until one has almost stepped into it. "Can you imagine trying to pass through here in the dark?"

Cont'd on Page 3

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IN MEMORIAM

Manfred D'Elia passed away on March 15, 2000 at the age of 91. A true renaissance man, Fred (#91, #29W), was an accomplished concert pianist and teacher, as well as a field and track contender who set records while in his eighties. But above all he loved the outdoors and hiking. A 46er, he had summited Mt. Rainier, the Matterhorn, Mt. Demavend - a 6000 meter peak in Iran, had hiked along the higher elevations of Mt. McKinley and climbed Pikes Peak. In addition to being an avid outdoorsman, he was the founder of the North Jersey and Ramapo chapters of the ADK. Among fellow hikers, Fred's love and knowledge of Harriman State Park and its trails were legendary; he infused all who followed him up a tough ridge or to a viewpoint with his enthusiasm, and will be missed by those whose lives he entered. He leaves behind his wife, Toshiko, of Ridgewood, New Jersey, a daughter, Erica Diestel of Allendale, New Jersey, two daughters from a previous marriage and three grandsons.

PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

On March 15, 1999, aspirant Sue Kirk completed the Northeast 111 in the winter, becoming the 27th recorded person to do so!... Susan Puretz (#1,208) completed an end-to-end backpack of Vermont's Long Trail in August 1999 with her husband, Phil McDonald, a two-time LT end-to-ender.... Rick Valdes (#1,046) and Karina Marinez were engaged on January 15, 2000 in Wawayanda State Park (where they met while fishing); an April 7, 2000 wedding was planned.... This winter, Friedel Schunk (#248) qualified for Worldloppet Master status. The Worldloppet is a series of fourteen international cross-country ski races in fourteen different countries and four continents, ranging from 42 km. (26 miles) to 90 km. (56 miles), with races drawing up to 15,000 participants.... Bob Novick (#1,086) completed the Adirondack Winter 46 on March 11, 2000 on Mount Marcy.... John H. Swanson (#592) and Nan Giblin (aspirant) announce their engagement; they are currently enjoying climbing together in the Catskills and have not yet set a date.... Kevin Lockett (#1,010) has hiked all 35 Catskill peaks each winter for the past five winters.... Mary Griffin (#1,050) has hiked all 35 Catskill peaks each of the last four winters, with the exception of the 1998/99 season.

If there is a special event in your life or that of another member (graduation, engagement, marriage, promotion) or a special achievement on or off the trail that you would like to appear in the Peripatetic Porcupine column, please send the news to Ralph Ferrusi (see column on this page).

Marveling at the abundance of wonders and assuming we've seen all the ice cave offerings, we bushwhack uphill on parallel zig-zag courses to cut to the High Point trail leading to the mountaintop. But wait – something interesting seems to be happening off to the right. We move in that direction, and "God Almighty! Look at that!" Overwhelmed, Paul murmurs: "This is the main event." We stare into a hundred-foot deep, sheer-sided abyss over a quarter of a mile long and a hard stone's-throw across. In places the ground surface eases without warning to the very edge of the void. We wonder if there have been fatalities here over the years. For almost a century, until the 1950s, this was an important blueberry-picking area with entire families camping on the mountain to earn their living during the harvest.

Pressed for adequate superlatives, we traverse the rimrock searching for viewpoints. Once, peering tentatively over the brink, we're startled to find ourselves on a thin overhang, above empty space.

Time for continuing on to High Point runs out as an obscure herd path aiming downhill tempts us to try an alternate return route. A faint path parallels the five-foot wide, fifty-foot deep crevasse that splits the fall line for a half mile back down the mountain. Similar to what occurs on glaciers, heavy snowfall and high winds will bridge and conceal some of the narrower clefts. Then, only a rope, proper gear and knowledge of crevasse rescue techniques can assure reasonably safe travel here.

Though I've ranged over and cherished the Shawangunk backcountry for twenty years, this is my first visit to the Shingle Gully ice caves. Nothing I had heard about them prepared me for the experience. I'll return again soon to explore more fully this extravagantly riven piece of mountainside.

There are ice caves at other locations in the Northern Shawangunks. The Shingle Gully group or "Greater Ice Caves" is the most spectacular. Access is only by permission of the Nature Conservancy Land Manager (518-272-0195).

*Bob McElroy
36 Rabbit Run Road
Malvern, PA 19355-3436*

* "Terrane" (in the title of this article) is used instead of terrain when referring to rock formations. One of John McPhee's books is titled "On Suspect Terrane."

TAHOE RIM TRAIL 150 MILE CLUB

Looking for a new hiking challenge? Then hike the Tahoe Rim Trail. Lake Tahoe is one of America's most beautiful mountain lakes; it sits high in the Sierra Nevada on the border between California and Nevada. The Tahoe Rim Trail is 150 miles long and circles the lake, between 6,200 feet and 10,000 feet in elevation. It can be hiked in sections or all in one big circle, which would probably take between ten days to two weeks. The last nine miles of the trail are to be completed in 2001, but the whole trail can be hiked now, with only a short section requiring a compass and map (a Catskill 3500 Club specialty). The best part is, when you finish you can become a member of the Tahoe Rim Trail 150 Mile Club. The club started last year (I am member #11) and less than twenty people have completed the circle so far. Become one of the first 100! For more information, contact the Tahoe Rim Trail Association at 775-588-0686 or go to my website: www.TimsTahoeAdventures.com.

*Tim Hauserman (#512)
P.O. Box 5382
Tahoe City, CA 96145*

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: JULY - SEPTEMBER 2000**ASSUMED RISK**

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

Sat., July 1 Giant Ledge and PANTHER

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A moderate trail hike, good views. Bring bug spray.

Meeting Place: Panther Mountain trailhead at hairpin turn on County Route 47 at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Larry Allen (#1,277), 607-862-3552; V2LEA@juno.com

Sun., July 2 TWIN and INDIAN HEAD

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3640', 3573' Order: 23, 30

An easy to moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

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

Leader: Ed Neveu (#1,226), 518-233-0267 (between 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.); enevu@nycap.rr.com

Sat., July 8 SHERRILL and NORTH DOME

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3540', 3610' Order: 31, 26

A moderately-paced bushwhack with steep descents. Shuttle required. Heavy or steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between July 5-6.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710 (between 8:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Sat., July 15 SOUTHWEST HUNTER and HUNTER

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

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

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between July 10-14.

Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (by 9:00 P.M.); johnbgraham@earthlink.net

Sun., July 16 BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3720', 3868' Order: 17, 7

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between July 10-13.

Leader: Dave White (#859), 315-853-6942 (between 7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Sat., July 22 Dry Brook Ridge

Distance: 9.6 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3460'

A moderate trail hike. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register by July 21.

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

Sat., July 29 FIR and BIG INDIAN

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19

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

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

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

Sun., July 30 LONE and ROCKY

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 35

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between July 24-28.

Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 914-278-2770 (7:00 P.M.- 10:00 P.M.); nyestreet@aol.com

Sat., Aug. 5 **BIG INDIAN and FIR**

Distance: 9.5 mi. Ascent: 2100
Elev.: 3700', 3620 Order: 19, 25

A moderate to stiff-paced bushwhack. Bring bug spray.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between July 31-August 4.

Leader: Larry Allen (#1,277), 607-862-3552; V2LEA@juno.com

Sun., Aug. 6 **FRIDAY, BALSAM CAP, ROCKY
and LONE**

Distance: 15 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3694', 3623', 3508', 3721'
Order: 20, 24, 35, 16

A long, strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Early start, late out. Approx. 4 miles on marked trails. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register by August 3.

Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411 (Home - by 10:00 P.M.); 201-524-4669 (Work);
mike_selender@mindspring.com

Sat., Aug. 12 **BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY**

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3694', 3623' Order: 20, 24

A strenuous bushwhack, going to Lone by a long but different route at a moderate to fast pace. Rain cancels.

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

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

Sun., Aug. 13 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3524' Order: 33

An easy to moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Parking area on Route 23 at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Ed Neveu (#1,226), 518-233-0267 (between 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.); enevu@nycap.rr.com

Sat., Aug. 19 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

A moderate trail hike at a slow to moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Long Path trailhead at Platte Clove Road at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Robert Walberg (#886), 914-758-6721 (between 5:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.)

Sat., Aug. 26 **WITTENBERG**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000
Elev.: 3780' Order: 14

An easy-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between Aug. 21-25.

Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383; wandamarty@aol.com

Sun., Aug. 27 **BEARPEN and VLY**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2320'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32

A moderately-paced old-road trail hike and bushwhack. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

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

Leader: Dave White (#859), 315-853-6942 (between 7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Sat., Sept. 2 **HALCOTT**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1500'
Elev.: 3520' Order: 34

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Aug. 28-Sept. 1.

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

Sat., Sept. 9 **BALSAM LAKE**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1200'
Elev.: 3723' Order: 16

A moderately-paced trail hike in dedication of Balsam Lake Mountain shelter in memory of Elinore Leavitt (#2). Rain cancels. Rain Date: Sat., Sept., 16.

Meeting Place: Mill Brook Road Trailhead at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: George Sheedy (#806), 914-986-6807

Sun., Sept. 10 **RUSK, HUNTER and SOUTHWEST HUNTER**

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 3500'
Elev.: 3680', 4040', 3740'
Order: 21, 2, 15

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a steady pace. Includes a visit to East Rusk. Some dense balsam. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register by Sept. 7.

Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411 (Home - by 10:00 P.M.); 201-524-4669 (Work);
mike_selender@mindspring.com

Sat., Sept. 16 **GRAHAM and DOUBLETOP**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev.: 3860', 3868' Order: 8, 7

A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register by Sept. 15.

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

Sun., Sept. 17 **WESTKILL**

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

A moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

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

Leader: Ed Neveu (#1,226), 518-233-0267 (between 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.); enevu@nycap.rr.com

Sat., Sept. 23 **FIR, BIG INDIAN, EAGLE and BALSAM**

Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 3500'
Elev.: 3620', 3700', 3600', 3600'
Order: 25, 19, 27, 28

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a steady pace. Compass required. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Sept. 18-20 only.

Leader: Bob Novick (#1,086), 201-385-3161 (between 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat., Sept. 30 **PANTHER, Giant Ledge, SLIDE CORNELL and WITTENBERG**

Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 5000'+
Elev.: 3720', 4180', 3860', 3780'
Order: 18, 1, 9, 14

A fast and very strenuous bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between Sept. 25-29.

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 (before 10:00 P.M.); amc_leader@hotmail.com

Sat., Sept. 30 **LONE and ROCKY**

Distance: 10 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 Sept. 25-29.

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

Sun., Oct. 1 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2550'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between Sept. 25-29.

Leader: John Swanson (#592), 732-613-1963; peakbagger@aol.com

LOOKING FOR MID-WEEK HIKERS

We're a small group looking for others to join us. We stay overnight Monday to Thursday and hike some of the 3500 peaks. For more information, please call Sandy Dunn (401-333-6474).

AGREEMENT REACHED ON CANISTERS

In accordance with an agreement between the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Catskill 3500 Club relating to canisters on trailless peaks [Balsam Cap, Friday, Lone, Rocky, Big Indian and Fir], the following provisions will apply:

- Canisters shall be of an earth-tone color, white and/or gray of a size accommodating a 4" x 6" notebook and small pen or pencil.
- Canisters damaged by weather, animals or vandals are to be promptly repaired or replaced by the club. The DEC will notify sponsors [Catskill 3500 Club] of damaged or missing canisters when reported.
- Minimal pruning of branches on the attachment tree is permitted on one side only.
- Semi-permanent mounting hardware, i.e., nails, lag bolts or screws may be used. The exterior of the canister will be unlabeled and unmarked. Location and other information may be placed inside the canister.
- Arrows, signs, paint or other blazes or other direction devices are not permitted.
- The sponsors will provide maps and/or GPS coordinates, when obtained, for the location of each canister, and shall also provide the DEC with use figures by month and canister on an annual basis, January through December by June 1 of the succeeding year.
- In the event the location of the canister leads to further damage to vegetation, erosion, rutting or other impacts unacceptable to the DEC, the sponsors may be directed to relocate the canister at the DEC's direction.
- Renewal of this agreement will comply with the provisions of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan.
- The DEC makes no guarantee as to the safety or security of any canisters installed pursuant to this policy. Sponsors are responsible for the installation, maintenance and replacement of canisters and log books, in accordance with these specifications.

LETTER TO GOVERNOR PATAKI

Joe Gardner (#572), Conservation Chair for the Mohawk Hudson Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club, sent the following letter to Governor Pataki, copying John P. Cahill, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation:

"We express our deep appreciation to you and Commissioner Cahill for the state acquisition of Bearpen Mountain in the Catskills. We join many hiking and outdoor recreation groups who thank your administration for this and other environmental milestones."

NEW MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,265	Christopher W. Olney	2/13/00	1,277	Larry Allen	3/18/00
1,266	James G. Geistfield	2/20/00	1,278	Jeffrey R. Ritter	3/18/00
1,267	Laura L. Lowe	2/11/00	1,279	Lutz Heinrich	3/18/00
1,268	Adam P. Lowe	2/11/00	1,280	Nancy Lawson	3/18/00
1,269	Derrick Hoger	2/26/00	1,281	Peter Manning	3/5/00
1,270	Miriam Kaminer	3/4/00	1,282	Rebecca L. Manning	3/5/00
1,271	Ronald Fecher	3/5/00	1,283	Kevin A. Wagner	3/19/00
1,272	Michael L. Dunn, Jr.	3/7/00	1,284	Bill Wine	3/22/00
1,273	Magdalene Hand	3/5/00	1,285	Antonio Lopez, Jr.	3/24/00
1,274	Edward E. Marks, Jr.	3/11/00	1,286	Theodore F. Thomas	3/27/00
1,275	Mary Armstrong	3/19/00	1,287	Judith Wiener	4/1/00
1,276	Kevin Kelly	3/18/00	1,288	Michael P. Manning	3/20/00

NEW WINTER MEMBERS

433	Michael Lepore	2/21/00	445	James E. Chambers	3/12/00
434	Peter Anderson	2/21/00	446	Charles LaBarre	3/14/00
435	Carsten Warnes	2/24/00	447	Kevin Kelly	3/19/00
436	Barbro Thelemarck	2/27/00	448	Peter Henner	3/18/00
437	Ellen M. Cronan	3/4/00	449	Michael A. Higley	3/19/00
438	Edward Neveu	3/5/00			
439	Dennis M. Lewis	3/5/00			
440	Naomi Sutter	3/8/00			
441	David Sutter	3/8/00			
442	Geraldine Muckelbauer	3/5/00			
443	Gordon Hobday	3/9/00			
444	Dean Gletsos	3/12/00			

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Kristin M. Olson
 Michael D. Olson
 Maria R. Walsh

AN INDIAN SUMMER DAY ON THE PRAIRIE*In the Beginning*

The sun is a huntress young,
 The sun is a red, red joy,
 The sun is an Indian girl,
 Of the tribe of the Illinois.

Mid-Morning

The sun is a smoldering fire,
 that creeps through the high gray plain,
 And leaves not a bush of cloud
 To blossom with flowers of rain.

Noon

The sun is a wounded deer,
 That treads pale grass in the skies,
 Shaking his golden horns,
 Flashing his baleful eyes.

Sunset

The sun is an eagle old,
 There in the windless west,
 Atop of the spirit-cliffs
 He builds him a crimson nest.

Vachel Lindsay



the catskill canister

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OCTOBER - DECEMBER, 2000

HIKER STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

The Appalachian Trail hike on Sunday, June 11th, St John's Ledges to Bull's Bridge, began on a hot, muggy day. The forecast called for a strong chance of afternoon thunderstorms, but I was not too worried. Unlike more exposed routes, such as Breakneck or Schunemunk, the trail stayed in the trees. We started with seven hikers, but one soon developed heat problems and his three friends dropped back to stay with him.

Three of us continued on through the stifling heat. We were approaching Schaghticoke Mountain, the last on our route, when the sky blackened and the wind began to grow cool. This was a physical relief, but the sound of a violent thunderstorm breaking out behind us to the north made us hasten our steps. We had no choice but to press on and hope the storm would miss us or that we could outrun it. We were actually remarking that it had missed us and discussing the mechanisms of lightning when the storm descended on us in full fury.

I stopped to put on rain gear and a pack cover while the others ran ahead. By the time I started walking again, the wind was howling and torrential rain lashed the mountain top. Lightning crashed all around me, and shattered branches rained down on the trail. As I peered through the sheets of wind-driven rain, I spotted Pavel Litvinov prostrate beside the trail and Mark Zand kneeling in the flooded trail beside him. He told me Pavel had been struck by lightning. His breathing had stopped and Mark had applied mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and got him breathing again. Mark's clear-headed action no doubt saved Pavel's life, as I was several minutes behind and might have been too late to revive him.

We moved Pavel out of the water running down the trail, covered him and discussed our options. Fortunately, we were out of the water when lightning struck with a flash nearby, imparting only a slight jolt. Thinking my poles could attract lightning, Mark tossed them away from us. (Later research indicated that they were unlikely to attract lightning unless held over the head, like umbrellas, which are often struck.) Mark felt Pavel might recover on his own, but in case he didn't or took a turn for the worse, we decided that I should go for help while Mark stayed with him. Because he might be there for hours, I gave Mark my fleece shirt, insisted he put it on, and ran about one and a half miles down the mountain to the road. Four trees had been knocked down across the trail and I wondered how hard it would be to negotiate a stretcher around them.

Several cars were backed up on the road because of downed trees. The fourth car I tried had a phone and the driver dialed 911. Within twenty minutes of calling for help, I was heading back up the trail with an EMT and a stretcher party. The response was impressive given the state of the roads. On the way up, I heard a radio report that a National Guard helicopter was on standby at Albany. As we neared the top of the mountain and clambered around the first of the fallen trees, we saw to our great relief a shaky Pavel being escorted down the trail by Mark.

After being examined, Pavel declined to be carried out. He continued down to a waiting ambulance, where he was taken to a local hospital and kept overnight for observation. Thirty volunteers had responded to the call and they might have been needed had a rescue been performed. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

Twenty percent of persons struck by lightning die. Most people lose consciousness and often need artificial respiration. They may need up to twenty minutes of resuscitation before breathing resumes unaided. The heart usually begins beating spontaneously once breathing resumes. Often more than one person is struck, and those who are groaning or writhing should be aided only after those who show no signs of life have been attended to. Luckily, the lightning strike on Pavel had bounced from a tree, dissipating the force of the

Cont'd on p. 3

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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, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549.

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TRAILS CHAIRMAN WANTED

I have been privileged to be the Trails Chairman for the Catskill 3500 Club since 1990. In that time I have worked with many different persons, some of whom have supported the Club's trail-maintenance hikes almost every trip. I have appreciated the help of those who came on trail-clearing hikes and enjoyed the friendship of those with whom I have worked. Unfortunately for my trail-clearing activities, I have taken a job in the Finger Lakes region of New York and due to the distance involved, would prefer to discontinue my role as Trails Chairman. The Club is looking for someone to take over this position. This would involve leading trail-clearing hikes over Table and Peekamoose (at least three trips per year are required by the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference) and filling out a brief form twice a year. This is very rewarding work that allows one to return something to the mountains, and I will miss the opportunity to participate as fully as in the past. If you are interested in contributing to the Club in this capacity, please call me at home in the evenings at 315-685-2083 or e-mail me at GGervais@tessy.com to discuss particulars of the position.

Jerry Gervais (#687)

PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Bob Novick (#1,086) finished the New England 100 Highest peaks on Mount Coe in Maine on Saturday, July 22, 2000.... Ralph Ferrusi (#122) completed the entire 2,165-mile Maine to Georgia Appalachian Trail for the second time atop Baxter Peak, Katahdin, Maine, on Saturday, July 29, 2000 accompanied by his wife, Kathy (#1,102)... Carol (#860) and Dave (#859) White and Martin Cohen (#728) and Wanda Davenport (#523) hiked among the hoodoos in Bryce Canyon, Utah.... Katrina van Tassel (#167) spent November 26-December 11, 1999 in Jiangxi Province, China, and brought home 3-year-old Rose Lu Dong Then, who rode on the top of Katrina's pack up Blackhead on March 5, 2000; Katrina's other daughter, Christine Barteld, graduated from Cornell University with Honors and will teach Earth Science this fall.... Kathy and Ralph Ferrusi (#1,102 and #122, respectively) finished third overall in the OC-2 Master's Division in the 12-race 2000 New England Downriver Whitewater Championship Series.

If there is a special event in your life or that of another member (graduation, engagement, marriage, promotion) or a special achievement on or off the trail that you would like to appear in the Peripatetic Porcupine column, please send the news to Ralph Ferrusi, 34 Kim Lane, Stormville, NY 12582.

FOUND IN A STORM

A storm that needed a mountain
met it where we were:
we woke up in a gale
that was reasoning with our tent,
and all the persuaded snow
streaked along, guessing the ground.

We turned from the curtain, down.
But sometime we will turn
back to the curtain and go
by plan through an unplanned storm,
disappearing into the cold,
meanings in search of a world.

William Stafford

strike. Lightning had entered Pavel's right shoulder and exited his left buttock, but he didn't suffer external burns. His right eardrum was punctured and he suffered a temporary loss of vision in his right eye. Tests indicated some internal tissue damage, possibly to the heart muscle, but with monitoring and rest, he is expected to make a full recovery.

Two lessons should be drawn from this accident: first, the importance of first aid and CPR training. I have not had training since my stint in the army and have resolved to take one of the courses offered by the club (Appalachian Mountain Club). Second is the importance of carrying rain gear and extra clothing on every hike. Neither of my two companions on the hike had rain gear; had the rain lasted longer and the rescue been protracted, they might have suffered a dangerous loss of body heat, leading to hypothermia. Evacuations often take half the night and require twenty or thirty persons. Rescuers rightly expect a hiker's companions to remain and help carry the victim out. They will bring blankets for the victim, but not for the whole group. Hikers should think about spending a night out in cold rain when packing a day pack and hopefully they won't have to learn their lesson by a brush with disaster.

John B. Graham (#478)
60 Barker Street, Apt. 419
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

[Mark Zand, who was with Pavel when he was struck, offers these additional comments:]

"After he was struck, he collapsed face forward. I rolled him over; he was clearly not breathing and his eyes were open wide. I wasn't sure if his heart had stopped. I hollered at him, pumped his chest a few times and did a few breaths of artificial respiration. To my great relief, he soon began to breathe shallow breaths. John arrived a couple of minutes later. It took Pavel 30 minutes before he was able to speak, but in the meantime, he moved restlessly on the ground. After an hour, he was able to stand up and we began walking down the trail. A couple of hundred feet in front of us were two very large trees that had been felled by lightning. I am convinced that these were hit when Pavel was struck. Probably another half dozen trees were hit by lightning as we walked out, so it appeared we were walking into the area of greatest lightning activity. We discussed it later, and determined that we had no alternative but to continue down the trail, that to leave the trail and go straight down would have taken us over cliffs. We might have been better off just staying where we were, squatting on the ground. I am very grateful for the quick response of the Kent Volunteer Fire Department. When they examined Pavel on the trail, they were surprised by his strong physical condition; his heart rate and blood pressure were normal. I knew that once Pavel started to breathe again, we had very narrowly and luckily avoided a tragedy."

[Pavel gives the following update:]

"I am all right now, and have since been able to do some "full-strength" hiking. However, I have lost most of the hearing in my right ear, and may need a hearing aid unless restorative eardrum surgery can be performed. Mark Zand certainly saved my life, and I would like to express my deepest gratitude to him. I'd also like to sincerely thank John Graham, the Kent Volunteer Fire Department and my many hiking and non-hiking friends who showed their concern and sympathy."

LIGHTNING DOS AND DON'TS

Here are some basic safety tips regarding electrical storms. But remember, following these tips is no guarantee of safety. Lightning is unpredictable and the danger of being struck is just one more risk we accept whenever we venture beyond the trailhead.

- Stay off exposed ridges and get below tree line. Lightning takes the easiest path, which is usually (but not always) the shortest path, to the ground. Summits and exposed ridges represent the shortest path and are good places to avoid.
- Once below tree line, spread your group among the trees to reduce the risk of more than one person being struck by lightning.
- Stay away from tall, isolated objects like trees, telephone poles or power lines. Lightning striking these objects can jump to you if you're nearby.
- Stay out of shallow caves or gullies.

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- Cars are good places to take refuge if possible (the metal body affords protection, not the rubber tires).
- If you're caught in an electrical storm, drop any metal poles and your pack, if it has a metal frame or stays. Place a closed cell foam pad or your pack (if no metal frame) under your feet. Crouch down with your feet together and your head between your knees - don't touch the ground or rocks with your hands. In this position you present less of a target and lessen the effect of possible ground current if lightning strikes nearby. It won't protect you from a direct strike or side-splash.
- First aid in the event of a lightning strike: 1) check scene safety; 2) assess the ABCs (airway, breathing, circulation) and start CPR if necessary; 3) if CPR is not necessary, examine the victim for burns (specifically entry and exit burns); 4) arrange for speedy evacuation and medical attention.

*Jonathan Silver, Wilderness First Aid Chair,
Appalachian Mountain Club*

John Graham's article, Mark Zand and Pavel Litvinov's comments and the above information by Jonathan Silver are reprinted with permission from *Trails & Waves*, newsletter of the New York/North Jersey Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

WANTED: If anyone is interested in serving on the Audit Committee, requiring one meeting a year for three years, contact Mike Doehring, 914-761-7225; clover7med@aol.com.

On Signal Ridge

... tramping greenwood hemlocked bowers,
but solo blue's a jay piping up beware.
Then as if the overcast betrays o'er
in a backward glance up to halting azure,
a light needling gleam of sliver
so deep suffusing pierced to spirits dead
had that thought once never ever ceased -
to tramp up-country, step for secretly step
into boyish, buoyant hoplite steps.
Trebizond just over horizons,
back to Hellenes from the gates of Babylon
coldish northward streaming, like a sun
glints reverse, upto mountain courses
a *polis* Greek on the Black "Sea! Sea!"*
Cosmos grazing distances into fargone realms,
framed alone about in civilized demeanor
cresting to snow-dusted heights, calm
enjoying Nature's bluff in a birch argent allée,
under nestling vault of sky refreshing wind and vigor,
winging on light of foot soaring too a visions *aerie*.
... trail flash up On Signal Ridge!

Jean André Laverdure (#1,299)
Hiking Mt. Carrigan, NH
6 November, 1996

* *The March UpCountry: a translation
of Xenophon's Anabasis (401-399 B.C.)*
translated by W.H.D. Rouse (1947;
The University of Michigan Press, 1974). p.107.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2000**ASSUMED RISK**

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

Sun., Oct. 1 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2550'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between Sept. 25-29.

Leader: John Swanson (#592), 732-613-1963; peakbagger@aol.com

Sat., Oct. 7 **PEEKAMOOSE and TABLE**
Trail Maintenance

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2850'
Elev.: 3843', 3847' Order: 11, 10

A rewarding hike which will allow you to give something back to the mountains. Come ready to work and bring hand tools if you have them. If not, the club will provide them. All who want to get to the top of both peaks will get there.

Meeting Place: Trailhead at Peekamoose Road at 10:00 A.M.

Leader: Jerry Gervais (#687), 315-685-2083 (before 9:30 P.M.) or 315-689-2077, x569 (work)

Sun., Oct. 8 **BEARPEN and VLY**

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

A moderately-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Light rain okay; heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between Oct. 2-6.

Leader: Ed Neveu (#1,226), 518-233-0267 (between 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.); enevu@nycap.rr.com

Sun., Oct. 8 **BALSAM (and Belleayre twice)**

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 3800'
Elev.: 3600', (3375') Order: 28

A moderate trail hike - lots of elevation gain. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Big Indian Post Office on Route 28 at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Richard Barr (#604), 212-877-2694 (until Oct. 6); richardbarr@aol.com

Sat., Oct. 14 **Maplecrest Circular: WINDHAM,**
Burnt Knob, Acra Point, BLACKHEAD,
BLACK DOME and THOMAS COLE

Distance: 16 mi. Ascent: 4500'
Elev.: 3524', 3940', 3980', 3940'
Order: 33, 5, 3, 4

A long strenuous hike at a steady pace. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Peck Road trailhead at 8:00 A.M.

Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411 (by 10:00 P.M.); mike_selender@mindspring.com

Sat., Oct. 14 **Ashokan High Point**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3080'

A moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Junction of Routes 28 and 28A in Boiceville at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750 (between 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.); briansullivan@iname.com

Sun., Oct. 15 **WESTKILL**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

A moderate to fast-paced hike to an excellent viewpoint.

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

Leader: Jean André Laverdure (#1,299), 518-566-6613 (if answering machine, leave number for return call); jalz@hotmail.com

Sat., Oct. 21 **DOUBLETOP and GRAHAM**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev.: 3860', 3868' Order: 8, 7

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between Oct. 16-20.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.); hsrampe@in4web.com

Sat., Oct. 21 **HUNTER**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 4040' Order: 2

A moderately-paced trail hike. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Lanny Wexler (#593), 516-938-5721 (7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.); hipoint23@villagenet.com

Sun., Oct. 22 **THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME
and BLACKHEAD**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3940', 3980', 3940' Order: 4, 3, 5

A strenuous trail hike at an easy to moderate pace. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Former Maplecrest post office at Jct. of Cty. Rtes. 40 (Maplecrest Rd.) and 56 (Big Hollow Rd.) at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Carol White (#860), 315-853-6942 (Mon.-Thurs., 8:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.)

Sun., Oct. 22 **BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

A strenuous bushwhack paced for beginners. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Oct. 16-19.

Leader: Rocky Walberg (#886), 845-758-6721 (between 5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.)

Sat., Oct. 28 **LONE and ROCKY**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 35

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

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between Oct. 23-27.

Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411 (by 10:00 P.M.); mike_selender@mindspring.com

Sun., Oct. 29 **SLIDE**Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1

An all-weather, difficult trail hike and bushwhack at a moderate pace to a required winter peak.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between Oct. 23-27.

Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 914-278-2770 (7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.); nyestreet@aol.com

Sun., Oct. 29 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

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

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

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

Sat., Nov. 4 **DOUBLETOP**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1850'
Elev.: 3860' Order: 8

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between Oct. 30-Nov. 3.

Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M.); wandatrails@aol.com

Sat., Nov. 4 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK and Burnt Knob**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2400'
Elev.: 3524' Order: 33

A moderately-paced trail hike. Shuttle required.

Meeting Place: Windham parking area on Route 23 at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710

Sun., Nov. 5 **BEARPEN (and possibly Roundtop)**Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3600' Order: 29

A lengthy trail hike at a leisurely pace. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between Oct. 30-Nov. 3.

Leader: Dan Case (#1,238), 845-778-1090; dancase@frontiernet.net

Sun., Nov. 5 **WESTKILL End-to-End**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

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

Leader: Marty Cohen (#728), 201-670-8383 (by 9:00 P.M.; no calls Sat. night); wandamarty@aol.com

Sat., Nov. 11 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3740' Order: 15

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

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between Nov. 6-10.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.); hsrampe@in4web.com

Sun., Nov. 12 **BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3720', 3868' Order: 17, 7

A moderately-paced trail hike and bushwhack. Light rain okay; heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between Nov. 6-10.

Leader: Ed Neveu (#1,226), 518-233-0267 (between 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.); enevu@nycap.rr.com

Sat., Nov. 18 **FIR and BIG INDIAN** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike paced for beginners. Heavy rain cancels.

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

Leader: Rocky Walberg (#886), 845-758-6721 (between 5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.)

Sun., Nov. 19 **BALSAM GAP and FRIDAY** Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

An all-weather, difficult trail hike and bushwhack from the Neversink Valley at a moderate pace.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between Nov. 13-17.

Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 914-278-2770 (7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.); nyestreet@aol.com

NOV. 20-DEC. 12 HUNTING SEASON (FIREARMS) IN THE CATSKILLS. NO CATSKILLS HIKES SCHEDULED.

Sat., Nov. 25 **Hamell Mine Circular (Harriman)** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1700'
A relaxed-paced hike on obscure trails to forgotten sites including mine found by Jill Hamell (#971)
Meeting Place: Reeves Meadow parking area on Seven Lakes Drive at 9:30 A.M.
Leader: Dave Sutter (#1,110), 973-778-0992; dsuttr@aol.com

Sun., Dec. 3 **Taconic Mountains in N.W. Connecticut and S.W. Massachusetts** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2000'

An easy to moderate hike at a comfortable pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Nov. 27-Dec. 1.

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

December through April in the Catskills, the windchill on exposed ridges may reach 50 below zero. If you don't 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.

Sat., Dec. 16 **HALCOTT** Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3520' Order: 34

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Dec. 11-14.

Leader: Bob Novick (#1,086), 201-385-3161 (between 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sun., Dec. 17 **DOUBLETOP, BIG INDIAN and EAGLE** Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3860', 3700, 3600' Order: 8, 19, 27

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Dec. 11-14.

Leader: Dave White (#859), 315-853-6942 (Mon.-Thurs., 8:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.)

Sun., Dec. 17 **RUSK**Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

An easy to moderate bushwhack. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between Dec. 11-15.

Leader: Jean André Laverdure (#1,299), 518-566-6613 (if answering machine, leave number for return call); jalz@hotmail.com

Sat., Dec. 23 **FIR, BIG INDIAN, EAGLE and BALSAM**Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 3500'
Elev.: 3620', 3700', 3600', 3600'
Order: 25, 19, 27, 28

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

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register between Dec. 18-21.

Leader: Thomas Murasso (#1,135), 914-834-2012; tmurasso@hotmail.com

Sat., Dec. 23 **PLATEAU**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3840' Order: 12

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

Meeting Place: Trailhead at Devil's Tombstone parking area on Route 214.

Leader: Dave Sutter (#1,110), 973-778-0992; dsuttr@aol.com

Sun., Dec. 24 **SLIDE**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1

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 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 914-687-7750 (between 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.); briansullivan@iname.com

Sun., Dec. 24 **BEARPEN and VLY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32

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

Meeting Place: Call or email leader to register by Dec. 20; email preferred.

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 (between 8:00 A.M.-12 noon); amc_leader@hotmail.com

NEW MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,289	Kurt Ulrich	3/12/00
1,290	Robert J. Ceglarski	4/29/00
1,291	William Drapkin	5/3/00
1,292	Alvin W. Buechele	5/3/00
1,293	Michael Chiarella	5/6/00
1,294	Christopher Bosco	5/5/00
1,295	Larry Larsen	5/14/00
1,296	Tom Farre	5/14/00
1,297	F. David Hudda	5/28/00
1,298	Alfred A. Seymour-Jones	6/4/00
1,299	Jean A. Laverdure	6/18/00
1,300	Robert K. Kiss	6/22/00
1,301	Scott Vonderheide	7/3/00

NEW WINTER MEMBER

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
450	F. David Hudda	5/28/00

NEW LIFE MEMBERSPeter C. McGinnis
Robert J. Ceglarski