

The Catskill Canister  
Volume 53 Number 1  
January - March 2020



Black Dome window. Photo by Michael Kucinski

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## Trail Spice

*The President's Column by Maria Bedo-Calhoun*

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This week brought the first dusting of snow to the Catskills and winter scenes are coming into view as snow pokes out on the tops of the peaks here and there. It was a beautiful fall and I am ready for the change of seasons which brings such a different feel to the mountains. The crowds quiet down and there is a sweet peacefulness in the air. Some of you reading this have been winter hiking for years and know well the amazing vistas and scenes out there during these months, but others of you may think that hiking ends once the leaves fall. My answer is..... definitely not!! Winter offers views in the Catskills you will never see the rest of the year - there are no nettles to worry about (yay!) and, when the rocks are covered by snow, there is a softness to the trails and the scenery. Go up Balsam after a snowfall, see the firs creating a winter wonderland and you will be hooked.

If you are completely new to being in the mountains during this season, make sure to look at the [Winter Weekend](#) the Club is offering in January - listed later in the Canister and on-line. There are all levels of hikes and great camaraderie to be had with fellow Club members both on trail and off. Additionally, the Club offers a variety of winter hikes throughout these months. Hike leaders will give you lots of information on how to prepare and be comfortable so that you can appreciate the beauty of the mountains during this special season.

I remember my adjustment to winter hiking very well! While I grew up cross country skiing, I never tried out snowshoes until much later in life. My hiking companions on my first excursion on the contraptions found it pretty funny to watch me stepping all over the sides of my snowshoes, tripping and toppling into the snowbanks. I was so used to my feet being closer together on skis, I had to learn to adapt to the wider dimensions of the snowshoes. Additionally, I got huge laughs when we came to a stream that had not frozen over yet. I would never have wanted to get skis wet, so, naturally, I bent over and removed my snowshoes to cross as I just assumed that it was the same case...the heckling from my hiking buddies was immediate and I still get ribbing for that one. But after that learning curve, I quickly realized that winter is a special time on the trails (or bushwhacking – even more fun!) and now get excited when hearing forecasts of potential snow. So, dive in and enjoy!

Introducing Club members to the pleasures of winter hiking is one of the missions of the Club and an extension of the goal of the Board to represent our members the best we can and in a variety of ways. The sharing of hiking is a fun part of what the Club does, but listening is something we need to do, even when there is disagreement about events or occurrences. For those on social media, you are well aware of all the varied opinions that were expressed when the Department of Environmental Conservation installed steel rungs on the west side of Twin Mountain this fall. For those who do not know about that yet, it is detailed later in the Canister, both why and what the current situation is. That it resulted in vandalism was even more disconcerting and troubling.

Having discord like this was not easy for any of us on the Board. But it was a learning experience, especially for me as a new president, that communication and transparency are the keys to keeping our community of mountain lovers connected even if there may be different opinions along the way. We found that information was so important in defusing the tension and, while social media has its issues for sure, it is the best medium for getting those details out there quickly. If you are on Facebook, "like" the [Club page](#) for updates. If Facebook is not your thing, there is also a new board forum on [Groups.io](#) that has replaced the Yahoo Group (as Yahoo Groups is ending).

It is our goal to continue to develop this philosophy of clear communication and apply it to our stewardship projects, the developing Catskill Search & Rescue group, education through our Social Media platforms and the Canister as well as in our relationships with other area organizations as the Club continues to grow in membership and in its activities.

Please reach out to me with any thoughts or suggestions at [president@catskill-3500-club.org](mailto:president@catskill-3500-club.org).

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View from Balsam Lake Fire Tower. Photo by Terry Conrow



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### Trail Mix: News and Notes from the Club

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#### Catskill 3500 Club New Discussion Board Announcement



The Club has switched to a new email discussion group. We replaced Yahoo Groups with [Goups.io](https://Goups.io). If you wish to join the new group you can simply send an [email](mailto:) using your own usual email address and follow the instructions. Your first post will be vetted to help prevent spam. This new group is a speedier cleaner way to communicate while sharing many of Yahoo's features so should be easy to learn. Enjoy!

*By: David Bunde, Digital Content Chair*

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#### Doubletop and Graham Caretaker Update



The 3500 Club would like to congratulate Bill Scholl on his recent retirement from his position as head caretaker for the Furlough Farms and the Gould Family. During his tenure as caretaker he has granted permission to hundreds of hikers to access the private peaks and property under his care. Bill took an active role in managing the property, which is apparent when hiking this pristine area. It is no accident that the stream along the trail and the lands we have passed through on our way to Balsam Lake Mountain, Eagle, Big Indian, Doubletop and Graham are in such wild and seemingly natural condition. This is the result of careful land management by a dedicated and true steward like Bill. The 3500 Club would like to thank Bill for allowing us this opportunity over the years to enjoy and share this experience and wish him the best in future years.

Bill Fiedler took over as the new caretaker upon Bill Scholl's retirement and he can be reached at (607) 221-1277 to arrange for permission to hike. Club page has been updated to reflect the new contact information.

*By: Jim Bouton, Canisters Chair*

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#### DEC Issues Final Management Plan for Sundown Wild Forest and Vernooy Kill State Forest



The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced that the final Sundown Wild Forest and Vernooy Kill State Forest Management Plan is available and outlines plans to improve opportunities for outdoor recreation on the lands and waters in the southern Catskills. The unit management plan (UMP) encompasses 34,568 acres of land in the towns of Denning, Olive, Rochester, and Wawarsing in Ulster County, and the town of Neversink in Sullivan County.

The State lands covered by the plan currently offer many recreational opportunities including hiking, camping, picnicking, swimming, nature observation, fishing, hunting, trapping, snowshoeing, and biking. Proposals in the plan include:

- Construction and expansion of additional multiple-use trails and parking areas to facilitate public use;
- Expanded opportunities for snowmobiling, equestrian use, hiking, mountain biking, camping, and opportunities for people with disabilities throughout the unit;
- Construction of 10.1 miles of new trail that will re-route a section of the Long Path. The proposed re-route will enhance hiker experience by eliminating a 9.6-mile stretch of the Long Path that runs along public highways; and
- Construction of a 30-40 car parking area near the Peekamoose Blue Hole and construction of a 1,500-foot accessible trail to connect the parking area to the Peekamoose Blue Hole.
- Construction of a lean-to along the Ashokan High Point trail.
- Re-route the current loop trail starting near the summit of Ashokan High Point from the existing Ashokan High Point Trail, then turning westerly back to a point along the lower portion of the Ashokan High Point Trail. The re-route proposal would extend the trail from the northwest side of the current loop and wrap the trail around southwest to the Norway spruce plantation where the lean-to would potentially be located. This re-route would be about 2 – 2.5 miles. The current loop trail is an example of a poorly laid-out and poorly constructed trail and as a result gets little use and has problems with erosion. This new loop can be constructed without the need for extensive cutting of trees but will require tread work.
- Expansion of the Kanape trailhead parking area to accommodate 15-20 cars.

Three land acquisitions within the Catskill Park have been formally classified as wild forest as a result of the adoption of the plan:

- 1,314 acres of the former Lundy Estate;
- 231 acres formerly known as the Camp Pine property along the Neversink River; and
- A 136-acre inholding known as the Malloy property in the Peekamoose Valley.

Upon acquisition by the state in 2002, 3,686 acres of the former Lundy Estate outside the Catskill Park were designated as Reforestation Area, creating the Vernooey Kill State Forest.

The final [UMP](#), as well as the [executive summary](#), are available at the [DEC's website](#).

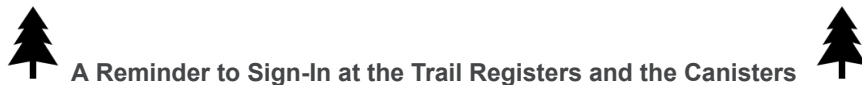
*\*Note: Club's review of the UMP draft and the comments were published in the [2019 Winter Canister](#).*



Dues for calendar year 2020 are now payable. Those of you who receive the emailed quarterly link from us also get a dues reminder. Members and Aspirants who joined after the middle of the year may renew at a half year rate to get back to "calendar year renewal." Contact [David White](#) or [Jake Haisley](#) to confirm your status. Forms and rates are on the [membership page](#) of the website.

You may now use PayPal at the [club site](#) or renew by mail and/or order additional member items using [this form](#). Please make checks payable to the Catskill 3500 Club.

*By: Dave White, Membership Chair and Jake Haisley, Aspirants Chair*



We would like to remind members and aspirants to always sign in with the name, destination, and duration of stay in trail registers each time you hike, not only for your safety, but to show use of our trails. The Department of Environmental Conservation uses this data to advocate for more resources for the Catskill Forest Preserve and your information can aid in Search and Rescue situations. Similarly, climbers should sign in the canister notebook on the summit of each of the [15 peaks](#) that have the canisters. The canisters are one of the places the rangers go if someone is missing in the backcountry. The books are tallied every winter by the Canisters Chair, [Jim Bouton](#), and the number of visitors per months is turned over to the DEC. The books themselves are given to [David White](#), the membership chair, for storage.



The 3500 Club Trail Maintenance outing was held on Sunday, September 22nd, 2019. The crew of 16 dedicated volunteers, led by Chair Lourdes Sonera and Co-Chair Ted Shemella, removed several blowdowns, overhead obstructions, cleaned all water bars in addition to performing basic maintenance.

Thanks so much to all who participated!

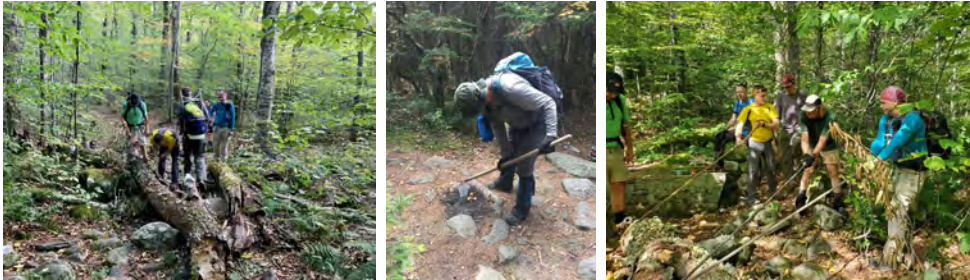
Participants:

**Denning Crew**

Lourdes Sonera  
Tom Mortone  
Larry Leslie  
Peter Greweling  
Johnny Witter  
Colleen Hardcastle  
David Lemmo  
Steve Lercari

**Peekamoose Crew**

Ted Shemella  
George Kugler  
Rick Taylor  
Francine Snyder  
Liz Lesar  
Clare D  
Harold Oakhill  
Richard Garrison



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 **Adopt-A-Highway Update** 

The 3500 Club Adopt-A-Highway outing for the Route 214 clean up was held on Sunday, October 27th, 2019. Huge appreciation to all the volunteers who came out (in less than favorable weather, to put it mildly) to help clean up the Club's 2 mile section. Thanks to Ted Shemella, Colleen Hardcastle, Johnny Witter, Steve Welgoss, Nick Hepler, Charlie Lutomski and Lourdes Sonera. We are grateful for the most loyal volunteers that without hesitation showed up to support our efforts to keep our highways clean. The team picked 8 bags off trash and gave a ride to two hikers who needed a bailout from their original plan of traversing the Devil's Path.



If anyone is interested in joining the volunteer list to stay up to date with the future trail maintenance and road clean-up opportunities, please contact [Lourdes Sonera](#).

*By: Lourdes Sonera, Trail Maintenance Chair*



**Club thanks ADK's Neil Woodworth for 30 years of service**



The big gala held for the retirement of [Adirondack Mountain Club's Neil Woodworth](#), held in the New York State Museum on November 21, 2019, featured Catskill 3500 Club notables Maria Bedo-Calhoun, Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond, Mike and Ruth Doehring, David and Carol White, Alan Via, Jeff Levitt, Laurie Schweighardt, Herb Cole, June Fait, Norm Kuchar, and Neil Zimmerman. For this celebration

of Neil's dedication to protecting wild lands and waters, Carol White, Club's Conservation Chair, wrote: "The Catskill 3500 Club heartily thanks Neil Woodworth for his many years of steadfast leadership in protecting our Forest Preserve and public lands. Neil's knowledge of the law, his passion for preserving wilderness, his always quick response to our calls for action, and his ongoing communication to empower us all to be effective advocates, are an important part of New York's conservation history."

Executive Director and Counsel of the [Adirondack Mountain Club](#) (ADK), Neil is retiring after thirty years of preserving New York's wild lands and waters, but he is never leaving the wilderness or its protection. He founded the Outing Club at Hobart and William Smith Colleges and graduated from Albany Law School, then joined ADK's Albany Chapter and "the rest is history." Neil served on so many commissions, councils, and boards that Neal Burdick, ADK's \*Adirondack\* magazine editor since 1985, wrote: "The full list would cause most people to conclude that Neil Woodworth must in fact be a set of triplets."

Highlights of Neil's important work include:

- vigorously defending the \*Forever Wild\* clause of the New York State Constitution; one result was forcing reduction of a major development on a mountain in the Central Catskill Forest Preserve;
- challenging every attempt to weaken environmental rules that would end acid rain, winning even at the U.S. Supreme Court; brook trout have rebounded in lakes recovered from acidification;
- nurturing the High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program to protect rare arctic plants and flowers found only there and in northern Canada, Alaska, and Greenland; Dave and Carol White volunteered with forest ecologist Ed Ketchledge in conserving vital soil for alpine plant growth on Whiteface Mountain;
- energetic promoting of Leave No Trace principles;
- establishing initiatives to fight invasives;
- advocating land acquisition in the Catskill and Adirondack Parks to expand wilderness;
- stopping fracking in New York State.

The Club works with the ADK regularly. Despite the name, they are very involved in conservation issues throughout the state as there are member organizations across the region. Additionally, any legislative issues that affect the Adirondacks can have repercussions in the Catskills and vice versa. Thus, legislative lobbying and expertise is a necessity, which the ADK does have.

One major rescue that Neil and the ADK were responsible for, that many of us do not realize, was Hunter Mountain. In 1996 Hunter was threatened with development by expansion of the Hunter Mountain Ski Bowl through a proposed constitutional amendment. The project threatened the habitat of the rare Bicknell's thrush as well as the fisher, which had recently been reestablished on the mountain. Neil and the ADK played a major role in stopping the proposed legislation banding together with other Catskill organizations like the Club but using their lobbying expertise to halt the project.

At the conclusion of the event, Neil was presented with a patch tree made up of eleven specially-made patches, each representing a major achievement in his career. One of these patches has a wonderful image of the Hunter win.



By: Carol White, Conservation Chair and Maria Bedo-Calhoun, President

▲ Twin Mountain Update ▲

In Spring 2019 the DEC first identified a spot on the west side of Twin as a hazard because of contacts from concerned hikers. The root that used to be there decayed and the DEC were finding frayed ropes remaining and degradation around the spot. Various options were considered and discussed. Some options considered were a reroute, stone steps, wooden ladders or to leave in a natural state. Because of liability concerns, the last option was deemed not possible. The decision on the steel rungs was made, and the rungs were installed in late August 2019 by the professional trail crew, Tahawus Trails LLC. The installation of these rungs generated a very spirited discussion across social media.

These steel rungs were subsequently vandalized over several events in September 2019. The vandalism resulted in the removal of most of the rungs, with the bottom 3 remaining, while some nubs were protruding from the removal of the others. The DEC deemed the trail as a safety hazard for visitors and consequently, in early October, the DEC [temporarily closed](#) a quarter-mile section of the Devil's Path trail between the summit of Twin Mountain and the intersection with the Pecoy Notch trail. While the trail was closed, the remaining rungs were removed, and the nubs were ground down.



This information was presented by Jeff Rider, Natural Resources Supervisor with the DEC, at the Catskill Park Advisory Committee meeting, which took place on October 30, 2019. Jeff Rider said a short-term plan would be announced shortly and then there will be a review of a long term plan. There will be some discussion of those long term options with stakeholders like the 3500 Club. He ended by saying that the DEC was surprised by the social media reaction, though they have also heard positive responses to the rungs and wanted that to be known.

Several 3500 Board members were in attendance. There was then a chance for questions. The 3500 Club was the only one who chose to speak stating that, like the comments the DEC have seen on line, members were mixed in their response as well - both viewpoints need to be represented by the Club. While some members are perfectly fine with the change and appreciated it, others are concerned about the process of making such a major alteration and the lack of notice. And the fear that if this is deemed a hazard what would be next? We stated that our hope and request is that there will be more transparency and inclusion of hikers thoughts in the future. Club's update on the meeting can be viewed on the Club's [Facebook page](#).

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, the [DEC announced the opening](#) of a new reroute for a portion of the Devil's Path and Long Path trails. The DEC said that "the reroute was built in the character of what one expects to find when hiking the Devils Path while also providing a safer route around the compromised rock face." DEC plans to monitor the reroute to ensure there is no significant environmental degradation resulting from public use in this area.



DEC's vandalism investigation is ongoing. To report vandalism on state lands, contact DEC at 1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267).



**Stay tuned for the Wilderness First Aid Announcement**



The Club will again be offering its annual Wilderness First Aid Certification Course (SOLO Certified) in spring of 2020. More information will be posted on the Club [events](#) page, as well as on the Club's [Facebook](#) page and the [Groups.io](#) board soon.



**SAVE THE DATE: 2020 3500 Club Winter Weekend Announcement**



It's time to sign up for the Catskill 3500 Club Winter Weekend!

We are excited to announce that our annual winter gathering will be held from January 24th to 26th, 2020. This year we will again be

celebrating at the [Catskill Seasons Inn](#). The location, as many know after last year, in Shandaken, is perfect for many nearby trailheads. Be sure to check out the hike schedule in the Canister or on [our website](#) to see what Bill Winterbottom, our hiking chair, and the dedicated Club volunteer hike leaders have scheduled. There will be something for everyone, both for experienced cold-weather explorers or those new to spending winter time in the mountains.

As with last year, the basic package begins at \$135 per person, double occupancy (plus tax and a \$10 per night gratuity) and includes: accommodations on Friday and Saturday night, a hot breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, complimentary hors d'oeuvres and dinner Saturday evening. Some rooms have kitchenettes, and others can accommodate up to 6 for those looking for a budget option to lower the cost even more. There is also a specialty room with a jacuzzi for those wanting something deluxe!

See the Inn's [website](#) or call (845) 688-2505 for details and options. Make sure you mention that you are with the Catskill 3500 Club. Rooms are being held for the Club until January 10th, after which they will be opened to the public, so make your reservations soon! The cancellation policy is 7 days prior to arrival after which no refunds are available.

If you are hiking, but not staying at the Inn, feel free to stop by and join the fun on Saturday evening! Dinner is \$40.00 and reservations can be made directly with the Inn. Come early for happy hour too! After making reservations, please let the Winter Weekend coordinator, Bill Chriswell, know. He can be reached at [billc92644@gmail.com](mailto:billc92644@gmail.com) or 201-655-1985. Whether staying at the Inn or not, this is a great weekend to meet some of your fellow members and enjoy some winter adventures and fun!

**Please note: due to a movie crew booking area lodging on a large scale for the months of January through March, room availability at Catskill Seasons Inn has been severely reduced. If you wish to secure lodging for Winter Weekend, we recommend doing so as soon as possible. Other area lodging facilities are being affected also. Our cocktail hour, dinner and other food and beverage needs will not be affected.**



By: Bill Chriswell, Winter Weekend Chair



## SAVE THE DATE: Fifty-Fifth Annual Dinner Announcement



Members and aspirants are cordially invited to attend the upcoming 55th annual dinner, to be held at the Chateau in Kingston, NY, on April 18th, 2020.

Please RSVP by March 30, 2020 by mailing the invitation form to Mike at the address provided. The invitation will print best if [downloaded](#) directly from the club site.

Club related merchandise will again be available for purchase. Along with the the usual vendors, Alan Via will be back with his books (*The Catskill 67* and soon to be released *Doghiker*).

Mike Siudy will be the guest speaker at the 2020 annual dinner. In 2018, Mike completed the Catskill 3500 direttissima, which involved climbing all 35 peaks, by foot, with no car rides to trailheads, in 2 days and 9 hours and 16 minutes, beating the previous record by 6 hours and 8 minutes. Mike will be presenting details about his epic journey including as to why and how he went after a new record for the Catskill direttissima. Mike is 35er #1728 W695, a 46er, a Catskill Gridder, a NE111er, has over 1000 ascents of the 3500 peaks and



also summited over 15 of the 14,000 footers in CO. Mike has run two 100 mile races and he has also completed over 30 racing events, including *Manitou's Revenge* and the Cat's Tail (which he is also a co-director of). Mike is also part of Mountain Peak Fitness/Red Newt Racing Team.

Members and aspirants are cordially invited to attend the

**FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL DINNER MEETING**

**Saturday, April 18, 2020**

**Location:**  
 LOCATION: THE CHATEAU  
 RT 32  
 KINGSTON, NY 12401 (845) 331-4386

**SOCIAL HOUR:** 3:30-5:00 PM  
 CASH BAR, HORS D'OEUVRES SERVED  
**DINNER:** 5:15 PM

**GUEST SPEAKER:** The speaker for this year's dinner is Mike Study, and he will be presenting "Catskills 35 in Under 3 Days, by Foot Only."



Please detach and mail to:  
 Michael Doehring  
 7 Cloverdale Avenue  
 White Plains, NY 10603  
 tigermath@aol.com (preferred)

Reservations: \$50.00 per person  
 Amount of check: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Checks made payable to "The Chateau" but mailed to Michael Doehring

Please Circle Choice of Entree

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rib Eye Steak    Chicken Française    Mixed Veg. Lasagna  
 Reg# \_\_\_\_\_ Winter# \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rib Eye Steak    Chicken Française    Mixed Veg. Lasagna  
 Reg# \_\_\_\_\_ Winter# \_\_\_\_\_

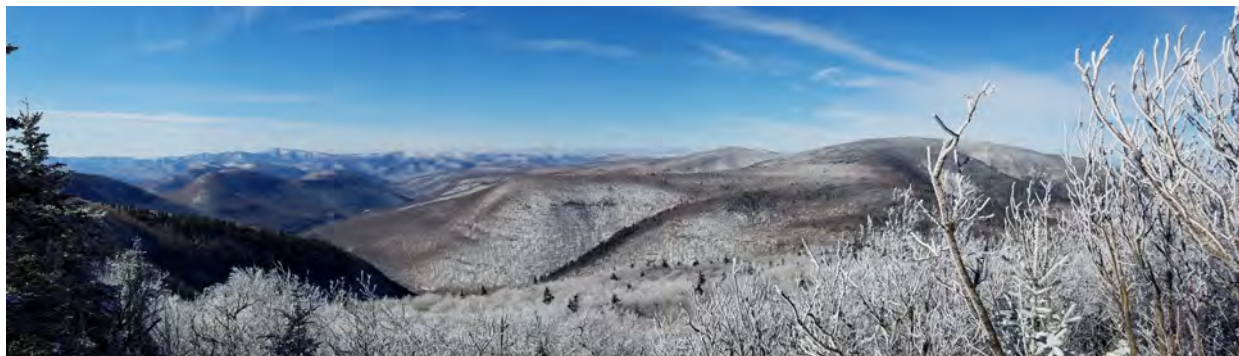
If you intend to sit with a large group, print the names of the people you would like seated at your table, and please verify that they plan to attend and wish to sit with you.


SPACE IS LIMITED SO RESERVE EARLY—CHECKS WILL BE DEPOSITED AFTER THE DINNER—THERE IS NO VALET PARKING.

PLEASE CHECK HERE IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE \_\_\_\_\_  
 DEADLINE IS MARCH 30, 2020

*By: Mike Doehring, Annual Dinner Chair and Stash Rusin, 2nd VP*

**Trail Mix Photo credits:** Trail Maintenance photos are by Lourdes Sonera (Trail Maintenance Chair), Steve Lercari, Colleen Hardcastle, and Ted Shemella. Adopt-a-Highway photos are by Lourdes Sonera and Colleen Hardcastle; Neil Woodworth event photos are by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond (Catskill Canister Editor); Twin Mountain Update photos are by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond (rungs) and by Maryellen Eyer (steps post reroute), the map is courtesy of the DEC; Winter Weekend photo is by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond.



View off Plateau. Photo by Jason Pelton #3013 W1211

## Walter Gregory's Snowshoe Crampons

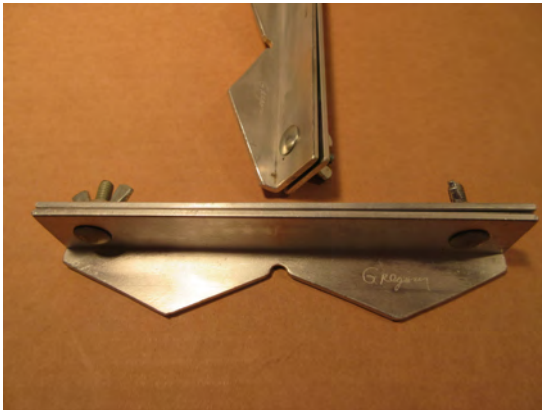
Text and Photos by: Dan Nielsen #549 W181

This past July I read a post on Yahoo groups by Maria Bedo-Calhoun announcing the digitizing of all *Catskill Canister issues* and their availability on [Club's website](#). I clicked the link and opened the first Canister from Winter 1968. On page three, in the list of new members, a name caught my eye. It was #18, Walter Gregory. I looked through my Rolodex and found him: Walter Gregory ... Valhalla NY and a note: "snowshoe crampons."



I first started hiking the Catskills in 1967 as part of a high school outing, completed the 3500 in 1986 and the winter 3500 in 1988. In the early years my snowshoes were a pair of Green Mountain bear paws. They were long and wide which offered great flotation but were heavy and not all that maneuverable, especially on bushwacks. In addition, there was hardly any traction on the steep Catskill slopes. Unable to find commercially available traction aids, I improvised. I used an old pair of 4-point instep crampons, ones that no longer fit my hiking boots, and strapped them onto my snowshoes. They worked, but not all that well.

I read an advertisement in some hiking publications about snowshoe crampons manufactured by Walter Gregory. I contacted him and he said they were \$7 a pair and he had two pairs left. I bought both. That was in December 1983. This was perfect timing for me as I purchased a pair of CatPaws from Carl Heilman II in January 1983. The CatPaws were very light weight and, as I was soon to find out, excellent for all types of winter conditions. As an aside, Carl made custom cabinetry and the snowshoes out of his shop in Brant Lake NY, before becoming the famed Adirondack nature photographer he is now. What I still needed was bindings. Shortly thereafter, Leon Greenman of Down East provided those. Formerly, Leon ran Greenman's Camping Emporium on Spring Street in New York City, had co-authored "Guide to the Catskills" and revised all of Bill Hoeflerin's Catskill Hikers' Region Maps.



Gregory's crampons were fairly simple in design: a flat piece of aluminum on the snowshoe top with an angled piece on the bottom with two large "teeth." The pieces were connected with two wing-nutted bolts. His crampons are still on my snowshoes; both are still being used thirty-six years later.



View of Devil's Path from Spring Farm. Photo by Steve Aaron #3199

## Bringing the Baby to the Mountains – a Parent Guide for Hiking with an Infant

Text by: Dorcinda Knauth #2024 W862

“Oh how nice...you're having your baby in the fall? You'll be cozy all winter at home, with your baby in your arms!” That's what woman after woman told me during my pregnancy, thinking they were giving me soul-comforting advice. Personally, the thought of missing two whole seasons of hiking was dismal. My husband and I met on Halcott Mountain and our baby was conceived in the White Mountains. I spent much of my pregnancy outdoors, hiking avidly in the Catskills for the first seven months, which is when my body finally told me to take it easier. Even still, on the day I gave birth to my beautiful baby boy, part of my labor was on the Scenic Hudson trail Poet's Walk with the Catskill Mountains in my sights.



I believe that parenting shouldn't mean giving up the things you love, even if you do have to tweak them a bit. Hiking with a newborn was a learning process for me and ultimately rewarding, so I thought I'd jot down some of the tips I learned along the way for anyone curious.

1. Start slow. Despite my hopes that I could just have a baby and then hit the trails, I quickly discovered it would be a longer road to recovery. The day after I left the hospital, I walked the River to Ridge Rail Trail in New Paltz, and boy, did I feel slow. In fact, even walking to the mailbox felt like a big deal. My midwife gently suggested bedrest for two weeks and that helped. In the first months, my husband and I hiked all those small hikes that never seemed that appealing before when bigger mountains were calling. Small, flat hikes became stepping stones to getting back out in the mountains, like the mile hike at Comeau Property hike in Woodstock, Vernooy Kill Falls, and the many fantastic trails in the Shawangunks. When we finally hiked Bearpen with Leander at 5 months (his first high peak), I felt like I had reclaimed an important part of myself and my relationship with my partner.
2. Keeping the baby warm is key. Layer your baby just like you would yourself. For fall hikes, I carried a wool shawl for wrapping the baby during nursing. For winter, I bought an extra-large puffy coat and carried the baby inside my zipped-up jacket, using a baby carrier. I use the LILLEbaby 6-Position All Seasons Carrier, but there are a ton of great options out there. I originally had thought about wearing the baby outside of my jacket, but having him inside my puffy ensured that he was toasty warm, and if he overheated I could adjust the temperature by unzipping the jacket or taking him out for a bit. For breastfeeding in the snow, bring something to sit on for comfort. I have an old cut-up sleep pad that I use as a seat.
3. As our baby grew, it became more difficult to walk uphill on a steep slope with a pair of legs dangling in front of mine. At that point, I

transitioned him to a back carrier. I chose the “Osprey Poco AG Child Carrier” because it was rated well for baby comfort, and (the most important part!) it was in stock at Rock and Snow in New Paltz. The truth is, it doesn’t really cinch down small enough for my frame but that said, I love this bag and so does my son. He has barely cried in it even spending hours in the bag. The best feature is the sunshade, which makes me feel like I am carrying around a baby rajah. Plus, you can wrap netting around it to protect from blackflies and drape a poncho over it on rainy days.



4. Diaper changes really aren’t a big deal on the trail...it’s just like any other diaper change experience except you are doing it on a rock outcropping or the forest floor. Just make sure you bring lots of wipes and a resealable bag for carrying out the undesirables. For what it’s worth, we also only used disposable diapers on hikes instead of the cloth diapers, which we found tended to leak.

5. Sing songs...lots of them. And if you can’t remember lyrics, make them up. And if you can’t remember any songs, make up your own. The baby will be happy, and the bears will stay out of your way. And probably so will other hikers. Whenever my baby seemed fussy on the trail, a little singing did the trick.



6. One of the best things about the 3500 Club in my opinion is bushwhacking and exploring the woods with an old-fashioned map and a compass. But try to avoid areas with a lot of mountain laurel, because scratching your baby’s soft beautiful skin is heartbreaking. If you are carrying your baby on your back, then you also need to be prepared to duck a few extra inches than you normally would to avoid branches.

7. Bring a favorite toy if you want but also let nature be the ultimate toy. We stopped to let the baby feel tree bark, hold rocks, and put his hands and feet in running water. It is a wonderful thing to have your baby experience and enjoy the natural world. In fact, the first time our baby crawled was at the top of Hunter Mountain, as he dug in the dirt and tugged at the grass.

8. Don’t forget snacks! If you can monitor your baby’s needs and offer a snack just before they ask for it, much fussiness can be avoided. As a parent, I’m not too particular about what I feed our baby as long as it is healthy. Soon after he started eating solid foods, he just ate the same things I ate, which for trail lunches turned out to be a lot of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.



9. Carrying a baby is heavy. Personally, I haven’t done any real backpacking in years because the thought of carrying so much weight feels discouraging. But somehow, carrying a 30 lb bag that holds your precious baby seems worth it. When I hike with my husband, I get him to carry most everything else—water for two, our emergency kit—you name it. The baby pack I am carrying is still much heavier and I wouldn’t have it any other way. Yes, the baby sometimes tugs at my hair and pokes me with leaves, but he’s also right beside me the whole time. Don’t forget to bring poles, because it’s a lot of weight.



10. Hiking with a baby is a constantly changing experience as the baby grows and learns new ways of interacting with the world. Try to stay flexible and be ready to adjust how you hike together. Soon, I’ll be discovering the joys of hiking with a toddler and a whole new adventure will begin.

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Photos are by Dorcinda Knauth #2024 W862, Luke Massie, Dany Davis #2000 W904

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Snowy Slide. Photo by John Fellows #2153 W882

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## WINTER JOY RIDES - The Long Haul

Text and Photos by: Friedel Schunk #248 W87

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Ode to the peak baggers! How much nature do you have to love to be admitted to the club? The answer is: a lot.

The Fall CANISTER 2019 edition included obituary references to two of my neighbors from northern NJ. One of them actually alerted me to the Catskills when just the two of us were on an AMC club hike in Harriman State Park north of NYC in the mid 70's. The tip did not take long to sink in. After that I quickly made my first acquaintances in the Catskills – a few fellows, half a generation or more my seniors who devoted much of their retirement time to be all over the Catskills all the time. On occasion I could be a guest at one of them who had built a wooden mountain hut in Oliverea upon his retirement and relocation from Brooklyn. That opportunity came in very handy particularly in winter time. And as I learned something from them about lists they got me hooked in earnest. And that is how it all started.



Peak bagging is contagious as it is rewarding. For one thing – you get to know the neighborhood. The check marks on the lists may be the price of admission but they are less likely the main “driving” factor behind the enjoyment of hiking. My first hikes date back to when I was 7 years old, outfitted with very limited means after the war years in the torn country where I was born. Love of and respect for nature was in my case developed far before polemic political groups made the issues fashionable. Looking back on my many outings devoted to the areas of the North Eastern USA I can honestly say that I derived great satisfaction from each and every outing, much of it simply by being in the (probably somewhat overused term) wilderness. Finding out how to get there was on occasion more difficult than it sounds. Residing in New Jersey the mileage ratio of driving vs. hiking was sometimes as ridiculous as 50 to 1 for a given outing. And camping out, particularly in winter, certainly adds to the challenge and experience (not all of which is recommended for duplication). Back in the 70's, when gasoline was sometimes tough to come by, when speed limits hindered one's progress it was important to properly plan and economize the ambitions. A realistic assessment of one's own age and the coordination with professional and other miscellaneous obligations were other important factors.

Still, more important than the check marks were the views, the smell of nature, the discovery of animals in their natural habitat, their communication, encounters with friends or strangers, also the achievement of a goal, the physical demand and the call for mental alertness – all these associations provided the impetus and the justifications for the outings. Dedication to these objectives made the

undertakings worthwhile. We all know what the rule book says about party size for an outing. But leaving New Jersey on late Friday afternoon for a week-end hike in New Hampshire or Maine will not necessarily get you many takers. Finding a motel that has open for you around midnight and that you want to leave again before any normal person gets out of bed, is not so easy either. Sleeping in the cold car and trying to still start the day early with a hot breakfast was not very enticing or time saving if a bed was available; however, sometimes that was the only choice. And then there were the snow storms one knew one was heading into. Would snow chains be required on the back roads that needed to be traveled? Might the snow plow have gone through before me? All these concerns and conditions were real, not for every outing, but frequently.



Winter is the favored time of the year and was for me in the 1970s and 1980s when I did all of my peak bagging. Fewer crowds became appealing to me after completing in 1978 the first go-around (all season) of the North Eastern 4000 footers (NE111) within 24 months. On the all-time list there were three other New Jersey residents who completed that list before me. The winter lists took a little longer as I included the New England 100 Highest concurrently in my schedule, in addition to other international climbing. Finishing all of those lists in early 1986 it seemed I had "out-dedicated" any other New Jersey resident in lists rankings.

What did it take to get to that point? Some of the early winter finishers in the Adirondacks were proud to have summited all the required 4000 footers on day trips whereby sometimes the days seemed to have had more than 24 hours. I believe foregoing backpacking trips and foregoing the challenge of grooming winter mountaineering skills takes away a lot of what winter hiking is all about. In my winter log book the successful summits included 40 solo hikes and over 20 overnight (solo or group) backpacking outings. Additionally, there were solo and group summit attempts, with and without tenting, that had to be abandoned because of extreme conditions. Was all this survived unscarred? No, I paid my price on two occasions which made for an interesting return journey. One can definitely see better with two eyes than with one and one can walk better with a knee that had not been badly twisted in a slip on an unanticipated ice patch. Other experiences included a long and lonely nightly hike back to Millinocket to initiate the evacuation and hospitalization of another group member who had fallen ill at a Baxter State Park hut during a Katahdin mission; that was at a time before mobile communication became fashionable.

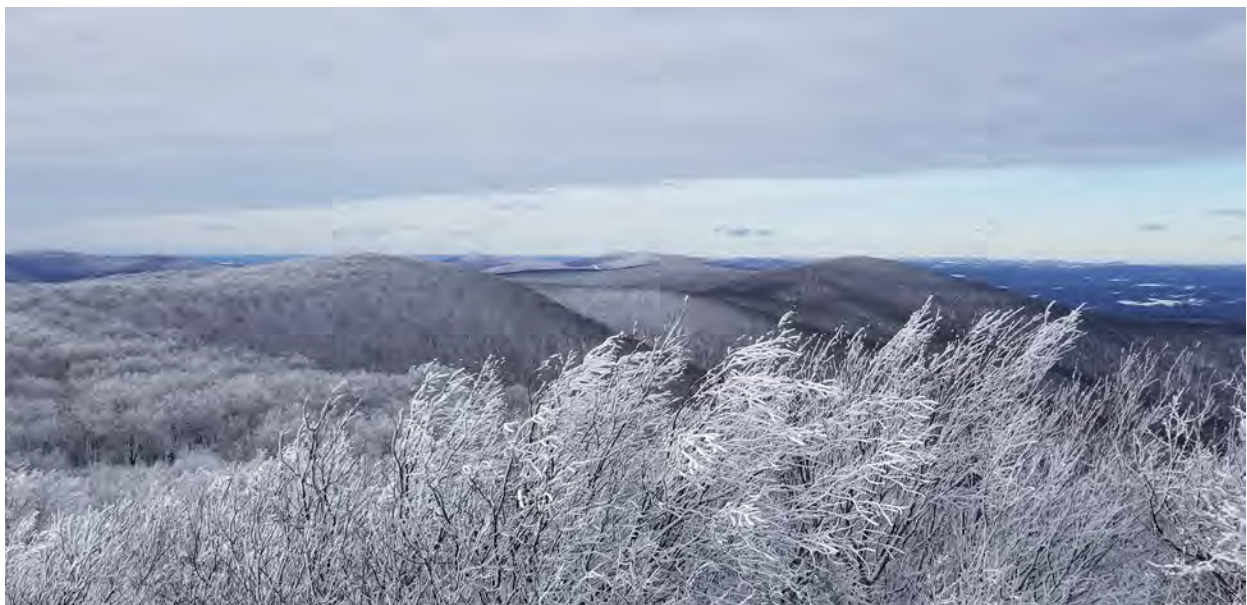
Lesson: do your homework re required skills and acquire experience, be confident in your abilities. The unexpected can always happen; experience will teach you to control it. Winter hikes are most rewarding, whatever the conditions. Solitude can be a great teacher.

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Friedel Schunk, b. 1938 in Germany: North Eastern Peak (lists) lover for 10 years. Finisher winter lists: # 9 on North East 4000 ft, # 34 New England 4000 ft, # 13 New England Hundred Highest. Matured into modest rock and ice climbing, limited high altitude mountaineering (success on 3 of the 7 highest NA peaks, incl. Denali; Nepal Annapurna range), and enthusiastic international long-distance cross country age group ski racer; kayaker. American Alpine Club member since 1984. To fulfill other family obligations, I reside again in Germany since 1995.

Top photo: Friedel on a recent trip to the Bavarian Alps; bottom photo: Friedel in 1982, on Denali.

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View off Bearpen. Photo by Josh Gorsch #3009

## PANTHER GORGE Book Review

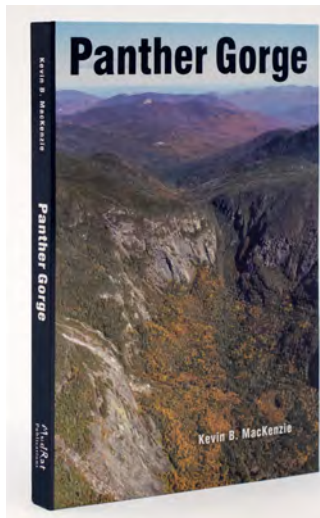
Text and photo by: John Sasso #2034

Panther Gorge – that deep chasm between New York State’s highest peak, Mount Marcy, and its eastern neighbor, Mount Haystack, invokes senses of awe, mystery, and trepidation when gazed down upon from either peak. Prior to the twenty-first century, the last time the Gorge was explored to a considerable extent was in the 1870s during Verplanck Colvin’s Adirondack Survey. Since then, for well over one hundred years, only a few have ventured into its depths for an audacious bushwhack, or a climb up a rock-face of Marcy. In 2009, the Gorge captured the interest of Kevin “MudRat” MacKenzie, an explorer of a sort who is well-known for his climbing and documenting of slides in the Adirondack High Peaks. Over a ten-year period, through fifty-four trips, Kevin explored what amounts to every nook and cranny of the Gorge, undoubtedly more than anyone else since Colvin’s survey. His in-the-field experiences and thorough research have finally culminated in the book *Panther Gorge*.



Kevin’s book reveals his in-depth, encyclopedic knowledge of Panther Gorge, yet it does not come off as dry, matter-of-fact reading like an encyclopedia. To the contrary, the author seeks not only to inform but to attract the reader by imbuing a sense of humor, adventure, and intrigue into the text. If anything, the reader will often find themselves whispering under their breath “Wow, that’s cool!” or “I did not know that!” Readers who are not even remotely inclined visiting the Gorge will still enjoy the colorful, professional-quality photos taken by the author during his many visits to the Gorge. The photos are taken from a wide variety of points, giving the reader a far better sense of what it is like within the Gorge, beyond what any hiker has seen from Marcy or Haystack.

The book delves into the rich history surrounding Panther Gorge as well as intimate details of the Gorge, based on the many



bushwhacks and climbs the author has done over a ten-year period. For example, how many are aware of the talus caves of Mount Marcy? Although not intended to be a guide book, the reader will get a good sense of the terrain, vegetation, challenges, and redeeming values of the Gorge through Kevin’s well-written trip reports which detail thirty-seven of his adventures. While Kevin pays particular attention to detail (e.g. “roughly 250’ of bushwhacking” or “a heading of 29 degrees true north”), how he conveys his treks will give the reader a sense as if they are there. In some cases, the stories will keep you on the edge of your seat. Take for example his trip report “Racing the Storm: Misty Climbing on Haystack and a Flash Flood.” In it, Kevin and his two hiking companions helped a soaked and shivering trail runner coming off the Great Range get shelter and into dry clothes during a storm that moved in and made Johns Brook uncrossable. The following day, when the storm dissipated to a drizzle, Kevin and friends still had to contend with crossing Johns Brook, which was waist deep at one point, in order to get back to the trailhead.

Rock- and ice-climbers who use the Catskills as their playground may look to consider expanding their horizons after reading *Panther Gorge*. Kevin, along with a number of his compatriots, has pioneered a vast number of routes along Marcy and Haystack from the Gorge, and a lengthy chart in the book illustrates this fact. Kevin does a great service to the intrepid climber by clearly illustrating these routes on clear, color photographic plates in the back of the book. *Panther Gorge* shows the diversity of climbing opportunities in New York State, and that there are still wild places within four hours of the city where one can experience true, untrammelled wilderness.

I had the pleasure of helping Kevin research some of the history of Panther Gorge as well as review the chapter on the topic. The history of the Gorge given is like no other seen in any text. Kevin not only delves into the name-origin of the Gorge, but also the trails cut and people guided through the Gorge by the colorful nineteenth-century guide “Old Mountain” Phelps, how the Gorge came into play in Verplanck Colvin’s Adirondack Survey, historic bushwhacks and rock-climbs, a proposed railroad through the Gorge – and more! Kevin also provides a thorough accounting of the search, rescue, and recovery incidents in the Gorge, going back to 1875.

In conclusion, whether the reader is an avid rock-climber, bushwhacker, Adirondack history buff, or someone who loves outdoor photos and true tales of adventure, *Panther Gorge* has something for everyone. The book undoubtedly fills a hole in all of Adirondackiana and will be an excellent addition to anyone’s library. If you are interested in adding *Panther Gorge* to your library, you can order the book by going to <https://www.adirondackmountaineering.com/panthergorgebook>.

Panther Gorge front cover image is courtesy of Kevin MacKenzie.

John Sasso (#2034) is an Adirondack historian, and avid hiker and bushwhacker, from Colonie, N.Y.

Contact the author at [jsassojr@gmail.com](mailto:jsassojr@gmail.com). For those interested in the history and folklore of the Adirondacks, join John’s Facebook group “[History and Legends of the Adirondacks](#).”



View off Balsam viewpoint. Photo by Siu Samantha Yuen #2894

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### Triple Tower Challenge: Pushing the Limits

Text by: Alicia Devero #2646

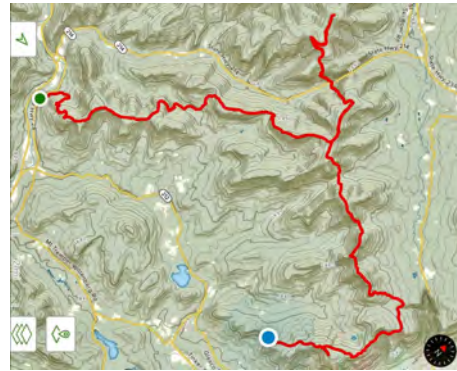
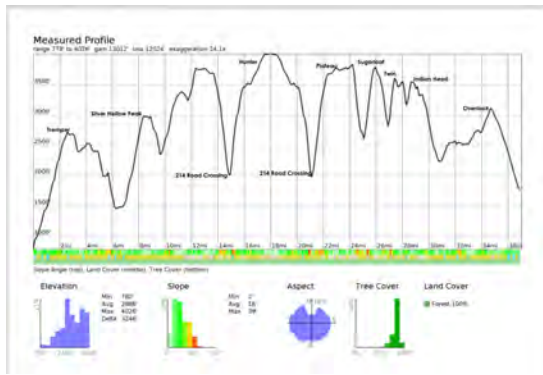
"Why don't you join Saily and me for the Triple Tower Challenge" – asked David one day.  
"Absolutely Not!" – I responded with such an intensity that left no room for misinterpretation.

David and Saily are the most amazing hikers I have ever met. But I was not in the same league with them. After the right knee meniscus transplant the year before, I was slowly regaining my strength, but hiking 42 miles with 13,000 elevation gain sounded absolutely insane.



**Triple Tower Challenge** – invented by David – is an Evil Sister of Two Towers Challenge. All participants have to reach three historic Fire Towers: Mt. Tremper, Hunter Mt. and Overlook Mt. within a 22-hour period. The entire course spans across 42 miles of the most aggressive mountainous terrain the Catskills has to offer. It originates at the Mt. Tremper Trailhead in Phoenicia and it runs on the Warner Creek Trail until it bisects with the Devil's Path atop the Plateau Mt. Then it turns west on the Devil's Path towards the Hunter Mt. Fire Tower and back to the intersection. The last part traverses the eastern section of the Devil's Path until it dissects with Overlook trail, which leads to the Overlook Fire Tower and terminates at Mead Mountain Rd. in Woodstock, NY.





Elevation profile and the route.

"If you hire me as your support team and your Uber driver I am in" – I said smiling – "But, this is as far as I am prepared to go with "participating.""

### The First Triple Tower Challenge, June 24, 2017

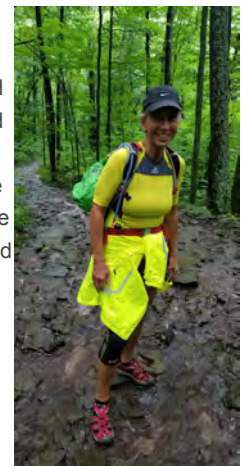
The night before the challenge, David and Saily agreed that I would meet them some time around 12:00 pm at Devil's Tombstone Parking area. Just in case, I arrived on Rt. 214 a little earlier, but they didn't come down Plateau Mt. until almost two hours later looking so exhausted, their sight made my own body ache. As it turned out, it was actually not the distance, but constantly changing weather, from sun and clouds to rain and hail that made the trail conditions extremely challenging that day. Nevertheless, after a short break they resumed the challenge and I joined them on the hike to the top of Hunter Mt. On the way down to Rt. 214 David expressed his eagerness to continue, while Saily contemplated her options. On one hand, I didn't want her to continue, because from the very beginning I thought the whole idea was absolute madness, but on the other hand I didn't want her to leave my boyfriend alone either, in case something happened to him. After all, the worst part of the trail was still ahead of them - the Eastern part of the infamous Devil's Path, which for the most part, would have to be completed in darkness. Feeling like a culprit unable to turn off my emotions, I sealed my lips allowing them to fight off their own "demons" without my help or encouragement. Eventually, Saily decided to continue hiking and many hours later, sometime after 1 am, I reunited with both of them at the foothills of Overlook Mt. They became the very first hikers to finish Triple Tower Challenge setting a record time on this distance: 19 hours 13 min. With all honesty, I couldn't be prouder of them.



When I said that the trail conditions during the Triple Tower Challenge were bad - the following year they were absolutely horrendous. And since my skills as a hiker and trail runner significantly improved over the past twelve months – I was involuntarily drawn to the list of participants. On one hand, I was quite excited about the prospect of hiking together with David, but on the other hand, I didn't feel like I was ready for it. In order for me to succeed, my body and mind have to be on the same page and more importantly, my heart has to be in it. And mine wasn't, at least not yet.

### Second Triple Tower Challenge, August 18, 2018

On the day of the Second Annual Triple Tower Challenge it was down to David, Hyman and me to beat the previous record, and the odds of completing the challenge were not looking good. Mother Nature completely lost her mind as it was raining for the past two weeks and the weather prognosis for the entire weekend looked quite grim. The night before the hike, David moved our start time to 7 am hoping that weather conditions would improve, but in reality, we all knew that we were doomed for failure even before we set foot on the trail. Nevertheless, when we arrived at the trailhead on Old Country Rd. in Phoenicia, we realized that all trails were completely flooded. It seemed like the creeks turned into roaring rivers while all trails turned into creeks. I made a last-minute decision to hike in Keens (hiking sandals) instead of wearing hiking boots or trail runners. I figured that if I wore thick socks, I could stay warm and this way water would run through my shoes instead of collecting inside of them.



To make a long story short, the moment we set off on the trail – we were all soaking wet. The conditions didn't change a bit until we came out of the woods many hours later - on Rt. 214 – wet, cold and exhausted. But, by then I was done. There was no human or divine power that could've forced me into continuing "down" that treacherous path. I have never hiked Mt. Tremper before, so I had absolutely no idea what to expect, but it felt like the longest fourteen miles of my life. To our defense, we were hiking all day in fairly deep, cold water, it was either drizzling or

raining with a few occasional passing thunderstorms, the rocks were very slippery, slowing down our pace as we desperately tried to avoid injury, and I was seriously worrying about hypothermia as our hands and feet were cold. Yet, the only way to get out of this hell was to keep on moving forward. Until we came to a sudden stop ... and that's when the real fun began.

The Warner Creek, which under normal circumstances is an innocent looking stream, suddenly turned into a wild river, which at that point could've been easily classified as a category IV rafting adventure with a very low survival rate. We had wasted close to an hour walking up and down the river in search of safe passage to no avail. Finally, David suggested that we turn around. Even though I am a Zodiacal Cancer, I never turn back. Never! In my book of life - there is only one way - forward! Fortunately for me, Hyman didn't entertain the idea of quitting either, so even though David was the only voice of reason in our group, he had to succumb to the



stubbornness of two lunatics on his team. Eventually, we crossed the river using a "butt-sliding" method along a gigantic tree trunk that connected both sides, but it wasn't the safest way by any stretch of the imagination. Unfortunately, it was THE ONLY way. When we finally escaped Dante's Inferno and reached our car at Devil's Tombstone Parking lot, I quit. And I never quit! Although, I have to admit, I was relieved that I had been able to get to that point in one piece, even though I felt a gigantic bruise on my honor. I was so angry, I promised myself that the following year I would complete the Triple Tower Challenge. And as for David and Hyman, they still forced their way up Hunter Mt., but then, deteriorating weather conditions, which is hard to imagine, forced them to abandon the idea of continuing.

### Third Triple Tower Challenge, July 13, 2019

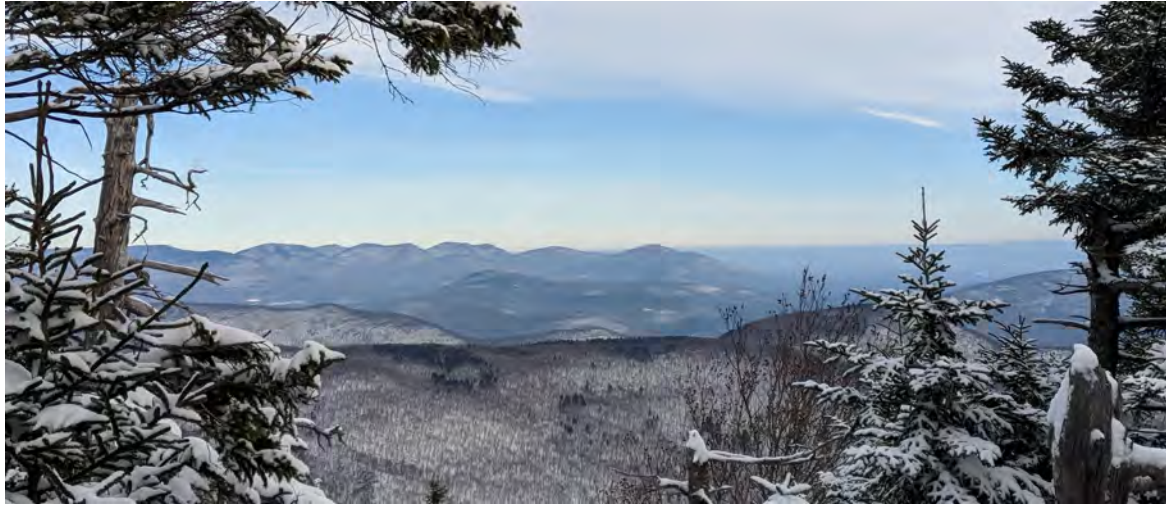
The following year I was prepared for the challenge, both mentally and physically and my heart was definitely in the right place. By mid-July I already completed twenty weeks of training, which included two 50K Ultras and this time around, I had absolutely no desire to neither lose nor quit this challenge. And when the time came – I was ready. And as it turned out, the Third Annual Triple Tower Challenge belonged exclusively to women: Sherry, my hiking and trail running competitor and Saily, who decided to participate in this event for the second time. Unfortunately, David couldn't join us due to injury, but he promised to assist us, as our team supporter and our Uber Driver.



On the day of the challenge the weather was absolutely superb: sunny, but not too hot, with low humidity and a slight wind – a dream come true trail running conditions for any hiker or a runner. We set the start time for 5:00 am to cover as much distance as possible in cooler conditions, before the air turned hot. This time around I knew the trail by heart - I knew the distance, changes in elevation and how to effectively distribute my energy – I was on fire! I took off the moment I set my foot on the trail and soon I lost sight of Saily and Sherry. It was my second humbling lesson on that trail that taught me that races are not team events. So, when we finally met at the top of Mt. Tremper, I had to make a decision whether to jeopardize my friendship or my ambition. Naturally I chose friendship as it has a value beyond reason, and I slowed down erasing my dream of completing the challenge by improving David's and Saily's time from two years ago. But, I didn't feel defeated. On the contrary I felt a huge dose of satisfaction, because it never crossed my mind that one day I would be just like David and Saily – that one day I will exceed my own expectations and outrun my Masters. I was finally in a league of my own.

It is amazing how much more enjoyable the trails may become when you are in the right state of mind knowing that you are prepared for the challenge. Everything looks more beautiful while the distances seem to be shorter and less challenging. Saily and I, were so happy and relaxed hiking and chatting that when we bumped into Megumi and Eric on our way down from Hunter Mt., they were very surprised how fresh we looked after twenty-two miles of constant hiking. And the sandwiches that David prepared for us while waiting for our return at the Devil's Tombstone Parking Lot have never tasted better. Unfortunately, we lost Sherry to knee injury, so we had to continue the journey through Devil's Path without her. It was the last part of the challenge and it turned out to be quite an interesting experience, to say the least. When the sun set over the Sugar Loaf Mountain, goblins and ghosts, uninvited, came out of the dark corridors of my mind and decided to have a feast. I would prefer, if they went back to where they came from, but after all we were on Devil's Path, so I guess they were in the right place after all. Imagine running this trail in complete darkness on your own. The moment we walked out of the woods and began our ascent to the top of Overlook Mt., I felt a new wave of energy filled with joy. We had completed the challenge in 20h 15min - I didn't beat David's and Saily's record, but I completed the challenge and I made David— now my fiancé and my ultra running coach – very proud of me. I am looking forward to new challenges and I intend to keep on pushing my limits until I won't be able to hike or run any more. But until then, I will embrace the beauty of the Catskill Mountains and let them be the witness to my happiness.





Devil's Path from Balsam Cap. Photo by Lori Beer #2393 W969

### Balsam Lake Fire Tower Centennial Celebration Wrap Up

Text and photos by: Laurie Rankin #1337 W531, BLM Chair, Director, NYS FFLA (Forest Fire Lookout Association)

The weekend of August 3 - 5<sup>th</sup> 2019 the Balsam Lake Mountain Fire Tower Crew hosted a number of events to celebrate the fire tower turning 100 years old. Centennial Events were held in Livingston Manor at Morgan Outdoors on Friday and at the Dry Brook Community Hall on Sunday. The 100 year history of the fire tower was illustrated through numerous displays. There were children's events at the summit on Saturday.

The site of the first fire tower in NYS, the summit of Balsam Lake mountain (BLM) saw a couple of different wooden towers before the current steel tower was erected in 1919. Getting the steel to the summit was quite a task. Included in the displays was a first hand account of how several teams of horses and men got the steel to the summit. The tower was utilized for fire spotting purposes until the mid seventies when it was decommissioned and abandoned. The tower was served by several different Observers, whose photos, dates of service and pay rate were part of the displays. Old photos, examples of wild land fire fighting tools, patches, the Forest Rangers who supervised the towers and memories were on display.



Also included in the historical displays was information about the restoration project, begun in 1997 by local individuals who wanted to save the fire tower. Through their volunteer fundraising efforts, the tower was able to be restored and reopened in 2000. Since then, thousands of volunteer hours have been logged as volunteer stewards continue to open the tower from Memorial Day through Columbus Day on weekends and holidays. They educate the visitors about the history of the tower, [LNT](#) and [hikeSafe](#) principles and more.

On Saturday at the summit there were numerous children's activities available for kids to participate in and we had a special guest who was also celebrating a birthday, Smokey Bear! It was a warm and humid day and it is no easy task for a large bear to climb to 3723 feet but there he was, making the children and the adults smile! A HUGE THANK YOU to all who made this happen; Forest Ranger Lt Ken Gierloff, Forest Ranger Eric Stratton, Assistant Forest Ranger Travis Acuna and an even bigger thanks to Assistant Forest Ranger Ryan Lowe!

To commemorate the centennial, patches were designed by Holly Covart of Media Solstice Marketing in Sullivan County. These patches were designed at no cost to the Fire Tower group and may still be available in limited quantities.

A comment from a Retired Forest Ranger aptly describes the experience of visiting the 100 year old fire tower: "Enjoying the grandeur of the mountains from a rocky ledge or summit cannot compare to the 360 degree panoramic view of a fire tower. Anticipation builds with every flight of steps that you ascend, until you poke your head up into that small, fragile, glass enclosed room. For some, it's a frightening, yet exhilarating accomplishment. For others, it is pure pleasure." (1)



Another visitor to the events, Roy Todd wrote “This tower has a life of its own and makes ours richer, just knowing it is standing watch generation after generation.”

Many thanks to Lisa Lyons of Morgan Outdoors, the volunteers and NYSDEC Forest Ranger staff who made this event possible.

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(1) NYSDEC Forest Ranger, Bob Marrone, ret. – from Kaatskill Life 2003.

NYSDEC Forest Ranger staff pictured in the photo above: from left to right, Assistant Forest Ranger Travis Acuna, Assistant Forest Ranger Ryan Lowe as Smokey and Forest Ranger Eric Stratton.



Balsam Lake summit. Photo by Jason Pelton #3013 W1211

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### From Haystack to Hunter ...

Text and photos by: Paul Krempa #3144

Why hike? Well, if you like trees, rocks and mud, you’ll probably enjoy hiking. But really .. why hike? John Muir said “the mountains are calling and I must go.” Well, for 4 plus decades the same mountains were there, but they never called me.

I had heard about the 46ers before and had 2 friends who were pursuing it. There was certainly interest in the “quest”, but with work and family obligations, little time to tag along. It was in mid 2017 where a window opened and my friends Jim Giordano (#3022) and Mike Stampalia (#3136) took me to the Catskills to hike Plateau to see if I liked it. It wasn’t easy, but they started teaching me about finding the trail, looking for spike marks, the basics of hiking, leave no trace, etc. I enjoyed it, and it was great exercise, but I wasn’t fully sold on it yet.



They took me to do Saddleback in the Adirondacks next. This was a bit different, meeting at 4 am, to try and get to the Garden trailhead by 6 am so we could get a spot. Then a much longer hike, finishing up around 4 pm, and getting a fantastic black bean burger at the Ausable Inn. Views were more epic from Saddleback and even though I was sore for a few days after, I did enjoy it. I did another hike with my friends and then I hiked Big Slide solo. I was learning and trying to find my own way, as many hikers do. I then planned out Algonquin, Wright and Iroquois. Started early from the Adirondack Loj and hit the summit of Algonquin around 8 am .. I was in awe! The views were stunning. NOW I was hooked. I finished a few more in the ADK before it started snowing.

I had no intentions of ever hiking in the winter, then the same friends took me to “an easy one.” We tackled Blackhead the first week of December. That’s right, before Dec 21, so it didn’t count for the winter. I thought it was nuts, but by the time we finished, I was a fan! No bugs, no crowds, but a certain serenity that made this a different experience.

As time permitted over the next 2 years, I started the journey on both quests, the 46 and the 3500. Ping ponging North and South until I realized I was well within reach of both goals. I tried thinking what I could do to make the finish even more memorable. I ended up doing some basic math and after deciding to finish them both on the same day, it became clear that it would be an unforgettable achievement.

I discussed the idea with the same friends that “roped” me into hiking. We all laughed and thought it was silly ... silly enough to be done. While the finish in the Catskills was going to be Hunter, a moderate hike up an easy path, the way things had worked out, for the 46 I had Haystack, one of the longer and more difficult hikes (made even more challenging by the unexpected summer closing of the Garden trailhead). Starting the hike from the Loj trailhead instead of the Garden added a nice 600+ foot col, another mile+ in distance, and 30 more minutes of travel time in the car to get to Hunter.

With a little planning, Jim and I headed up to Lake Placid the night before to get an early (3:30 am) start. I had hiked in dusk before, but not in total darkness. The first 2 hours were some of the quietest I’ve experienced. Peering at the stars between the tree tops provided unexpected wonder. We were swift, knowing there was a long day in front of us. When we reached Little Haystack, I was slightly overcome with emotion, looking up Haystack, and thinking of the countless trips and hours spent on trails. There are many amazing views in the Adirondacks, Haystack has one of them - a fantastic 360 degree panorama of peaks I hiked to get there. Sitting on top, enjoying our accomplishment, we had to remember that we still needed to get back to Loj, and then drive 4 hours to our next trailhead. On the way back Jim had me stop at Indian Falls lookout, for a short rest. It was well worth it.



We made it back to Albany to meet our friend Mike who then joined us for a hike up Hunter.

We got to the Spruceton trailhead about 7:30 pm and started the trek up. By 9 pm, we were on top of Hunter with some slight light left. Gorgeous pink hues lit up the sky, but the light was about all gone. The next 90 minutes required headlamps and we were back at the car at 10:30 pm. A long day and many miles... but most importantly, an extraordinary experience.



While this may sound like the end, there is a bit more. I had hoped to be the first person to complete the 46 and 3500 on the same day but subsequently found out, there was at least one other (Jeremy Preston #2281), who did it a few years prior. As chance would have it, as I brought my wife along to start the NYS DEC’s fire tower challenge in the Catskills, I ran into Jeremy, who was volunteering as a steward at the Balsam Lake fire tower. His finish was Windham and Cascade. An awesome effort, but I will always have Haystack to Hunter.



Sherrill's viewpoint. Photo by Tim Perry #2880

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### In Memoriam

Frank Schellhorn, of Windham, NY, passed away October 9, 2018 at the age of 75. He was member #1787. He was an avid athlete and outdoorsman. A hike of the Burroughs Range was made by six of his friends last September in his memory.

George J Elias, of Inverness, FL, passed away November 2, 2019 at the age of 89. He was member #467. He was also ADK 46er #594 and a leader of the LI ADK in many positions. George and his wife Helen were the driving force behind the restoration of the Red Hill Fire Tower, the effort which resulted in the formation of the Catskill Fire Tower Project. Doug Hamilton, current Red Hill Chair, recalls: "In the late 1990's their interests in hiking and history prompted them to coordinate the restoration of the Red Hill Fire Tower and the Observer's Cabin. They could see the fire tower from their home. George assisted Helen, Chairman of the Red Hill Fire Tower Committee, for 12 years, in every aspect of the restoration from trail maintenance to painting the roof of the fire tower. George left small, but meticulous, notes on tools and supplies for volunteers in case they weren't sure how to use these things. George was a kind, quiet and generous man with a great sense of humor who will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His spirit and presence will live on at the Red Hill Tower."

William "Liam" Gillespie, of Cold Spring, NY, passed away November 18, 2019 at the age of 72. He was member #2484 and winter #1094. One of his many friends said: "He was always playful and in great spirits, and kept hiking a priority until his health waned."

Paul Martin, of Smithtown, NY, passed away December 1, 2019 at the age of 61. Paul loved the Catskill mountains and the woods. He was so proud when he became member #2640 on October 4, 2016 on Doubletop Mountain. He had a fun-loving sense of adventure and always made an extra effort to be present when his friends were doing trail work or celebrating various accomplishments and milestones. Paul's hiking friends will miss him dearly.



SE Warren summit. Photo by Alan Via #429 W174

## Rambles and Brambles [Hike Schedule](#) January - March 2020

Familiarize yourself with the seven [Leave No Trace](#) Principles for all your hikes:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare;
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces;
3. Dispose of Waste Properly;
4. Leave What You Find;
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts;
6. Respect Wildlife;
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

The Catskill 3500 Club's hiking credo includes 3 basic principles:

1. Follow the rules
2. Use your map and compass
3. Know your limitations.

The Club also promotes the adherence to the [hikeSafe](#) hiker responsibility code. [hikeSafe](#) encourages hikers to be prepared:

- with knowledge and gear
- to leave your plans
- to stay together
- to turn back for emergencies
- to share the hiker responsibility code with others.

Not all parking areas are open in winter, and of those that are, not all are plowed in a timely manner. Always have a shovel in your car and consult this [list](#) for winter parking guidelines.

**Assumed Risk:** Hiking involves certain inherent risks and persons participating do so at their own risk. In cold weather hike

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

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

Please **wear snowshoes** to avoid postholing; they are helpful as snow deepens in the higher reaches, and it leaves the trail in good shape for those following you.

Club hikes may be canceled at the hike leader's discretion if dangerous weather conditions exist. When in doubt (heavy rain, high winds, or other serious weather conditions), please contact your hike leader.

**Group Size:** All Club hikes are limited to 12 participants including the leaders. The DEC limits group size to 12 in the Wilderness Areas. Accordingly, all Club hikes allow no more than 12 participants.

The hikes listed here and on the [online events calendar](#) are official 3500 Club hikes. Any other advertised hikes to the 3500 peaks are private hikes and, while they can count for membership to the Club, the Club is not affiliated with those hikes.

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



En route to West Kill. Photo by Harold Oakhill #283 W1244

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The calendar of the current hike schedule can also be found on the [Club site](#).

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**Wed. Jan. 1 - SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG (New Year's Day)**  
Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2850', Elevs: 4184', 3857', 3782'



New Year's Day sunrise hike from Slide at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

[marvfreedman@gmail.com](mailto:marvfreedman@gmail.com)

**Sat. Jan. 4 - HUNTER & SW HUNTER**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 4030', 3753'

Moderately paced trail and bushwhack hike.

Registration Period: by Jan. 3

Leader: Christy Belardo #2959 W1230

[christy.belardo@gmail.com](mailto:christy.belardo@gmail.com)

**Sat. Jan. 4 - VLY**

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1252', Elev: 3541'

Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack.

Registration Period: Dec. 28 - Jan. 3

Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063

[lgizz@hotmail.com](mailto:lgizz@hotmail.com) 845-532-3922

**Sun. Jan. 5 - GRAHAM & BALSAM LAKE**

Distance: 9.6 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elevs: 3868', 3729'

Moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike.

Registration Period: Dec. 27 - Jan. 3

Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 [shnaber@yahoo.com](mailto:shnaber@yahoo.com)

Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 [newpaltz33@yahoo.com](mailto:newpaltz33@yahoo.com)

**Sun. Jan. 5 - KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2200', Elev: 3652'

Moderately paced bushwhack with steep scrambles.

Registration Period: Dec. 26 - Jan. 2

Leader: Tom Martone #2454 W1010

[tom.martone.cmc@gmail.com](mailto:tom.martone.cmc@gmail.com)

**Sat. Jan. 11 - VLY & BEARPEN**

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elevs: 3541', 3587'

Relaxed - moderate pace.

Registration period: Jan. 4 - 9

Leader: Lyn W. #2865

[catskill35r@gmail.com](mailto:catskill35r@gmail.com)

**Sat. Jan. 11 - FRIDAY, BALSAM CAP, ROCKY, LONE, TABLE & PEEKAMOOS**

Distance: 12+ mi. Ascent: 4500', Elevs: 3692', 3608', 3487', 3700', 3825', 3819'

Long, challenging bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

[marvfreedman@gmail.com](mailto:marvfreedman@gmail.com)

**Sun. Jan. 12 - EAGLE**

Distance: 8.2 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev: 3583'

Moderately paced hike.

Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Registration Period: Jan. 6 - 10

Leader: Michael L. "Mick" Dunn, Jr. #1272

[mickfords@gmail.com](mailto:mickfords@gmail.com) (603) 809-0348

**Fri. Jan. 17 - TABLE & PEEKAMOOS (Weekday)**



Distance: 9.6 mi. Ascent: 2950', Elevs: 3825', 3819'

Relaxed pace hike with discussion on the 7 principles of Leave No Trace.

Registration Period: Jan. 12 - 16

Leader: Moe Lemire #2921

[hikeonguides@gmail.com](mailto:hikeonguides@gmail.com)

**Sat. Jan. 18 - DOUBLETOP, GRAHAM & BALSAM LAKE**

Distance: 8+ mi. Ascent: 3300', Elevs: 3874', 3868', 3729'

Challenging bushwhack and easy trail hike at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

[marvfreedman@gmail.com](mailto:marvfreedman@gmail.com)

**Mon. Jan. 20 - FIR, BIG INDIAN, EAGLE & BALSAM (Weekday)**

Distance: 12+ mi. Ascent: 3350', Elevs: 3629', 3699', 3583', 3607'

Long, challenging bushwhack & trail hike at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open



Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951  
[marvfreedman@gmail.com](mailto:marvfreedman@gmail.com)

**Sat. Jan. 25 - PANTHER (WW)**

Distance 6.6 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elev: 3724'  
Relaxed - moderate pace.  
Registration period: Jan. 15 - 23  
Leader: Tonda Highley #1944 W857  
[Thighley198@gmail.com](mailto:Thighley198@gmail.com)



**Sat. Jan. 25 - BALSAM & EAGLE (WW)**

Distance: 7.7 mi. Ascent: 2600', Elevs: 3607', 3583'  
Moderately paced trail hike.  
Registration period: Jan. 10 - 21  
Leader: Jerry Licht #1423 W562  
[jllicht61@aol.com](mailto:jllicht61@aol.com)

**Sat Jan. 25 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK (WW)**

Distance 6.2 mi. Ascent: 1500', Elev: 3525'  
Relaxed - moderate pace  
Registration Period: Jan. 15 - 23  
Leader: Ira Orenstein #415 W777 & Karen Bloom #1733 W776  
[ksbiho@aol.com](mailto:ksbiho@aol.com) (preferred) (914) 262 5816

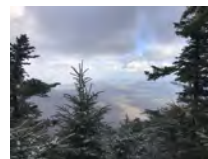


**Sat. Jan. 25 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL (WW)**

Distance: 6+ mi. Ascent: 2400', Elevs: 3605', 3558'  
Trail hike & bushwhack at a moderate pace.  
Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951  
[marvfreedman@gmail.com](mailto:marvfreedman@gmail.com)

**Sat. Jan. 25 - BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY (WW)**

Distance: 7.69 mi. Ascent: 2813', Elevs: 3608', 3692'  
Moderately paced bushwhack.  
Registration Period: Jan. 15 - 23  
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997  
[michael@bongarbiz.com](mailto:michael@bongarbiz.com)



**Sat. Jan. 25 - HALCOTT (WW)**

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3509'  
Relaxed paced bushwhack.  
Registration Period: open  
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082  
[ad322@freeelectron.net](mailto:ad322@freeelectron.net) 518-947-6407

**Sat. Jan. 25 - WITTENBERG & CORNELL (WW)**

Distance: 9.6 mi. Ascent: 2600', Elevs: 3782', 3857'  
Very fast paced hike.  
Registration Period: by Jan. 17  
Leader: Timothy Watters #268W94  
[twatters@wattersfinancial.com](mailto:twatters@wattersfinancial.com)



**Sat. Jan. 25 - RUSK (WW)**

Distance: 3.6 mi. Ascent: 1580', Elev: 3686'  
Moderately paced bushwhack.  
Registration Period: by Jan 23  
Leaders: Peggy Wissler #1499 W612 and Yanny Hecht #1868 W751  
[YannyHecht@gmail.com](mailto:YannyHecht@gmail.com)

**Sun. Jan. 26 - BLACKHEAD & BLACK DOME (WW)**

Distance: 6.4mi. Ascent: 2500', Elevs: 3940', 3994'  
Moderately paced trail hike. Suitable for beginners.  
Registration period: Jan. 18 - 24  
Leaders: Tom Rankin # 1502 W627 and Laurie Rankin #1337 W531  
[tomrankin7@gmail.com](mailto:tomrankin7@gmail.com)



**Sun. Jan. 26 - BALSAM (WW)**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1795', Elev: 3607'  
Relaxed pace trail hike.  
Registration Period: open  
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082  
[ad322@freeelectron.net](mailto:ad322@freeelectron.net) 518-947-6407

**Sun. Jan. 26 - SW HUNTER, HUNTER & RUSK (WW)**

Distance: 12+ mi. Ascent: 3100', Elevs: 3753', 4030', 3686'

Long trail hike & bushwhack at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

[marvfreedman@gmail.com](mailto:marvfreedman@gmail.com)

**Sun. Jan. 26 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK (WW)**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2500', Elev: 3525'

Moderately paced with shuttle.

Registration Period: Jan 16 - 23

Leaders: Jim Bouton #1539 W614 and Margaret McGrath #2009 W939

[mmcgrath55@msn.com](mailto:mmcgrath55@msn.com) (email preferred) 845-750-8671 before 8 pm.

**Sun. Jan. 26 - PLATEAU (WW)**

Distance: 6.8 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev: 3835'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: Jan. 17 - 24

Leader: Jake Haisley #2488 W1065

[jacobhaisley@gmail.com](mailto:jacobhaisley@gmail.com)

**Sat. Feb. 1 - RUSK**

Distance: 3.6 mi. Ascent: 1580', Elev: 3686'

Moderately paced bushwhack.

Registration Period: by Jan. 30

Leader: Christy Belardo #2959 W1230

[christy.belardo@gmail.com](mailto:christy.belardo@gmail.com)

**Sun. Feb. 2 - OLDERBARK & PLATEAU**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2500', Elevs: 3463', 3835'

Difficult, dense trees and scrambling. Moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike.

Registration Period: Jan 24 - 31

Leader: Jon Gordon #2816 W1252 and Ben Gordon #2817 W1251

[jonathan.gordon@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.gordon@gmail.com)

**Sat. Feb. 8 - BLACKHEAD**

Distance: 4.7 mi. Ascent: 1725', Elev: 3940'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: by Feb 7

Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 [shnaber@yahoo.com](mailto:shnaber@yahoo.com)

Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 [newpaltz33@yahoo.com](mailto:newpaltz33@yahoo.com)

**Sat. Feb. 8 - VLY, BEARPEN & HALCOTT**

Distance: 11+ mi. Ascent: 3750', Elevs: 3541', 3587', 3509'

Unmarked trail hike in am and bushwhack in pm, at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

[marvfreedman@gmail.com](mailto:marvfreedman@gmail.com)

**Sat. Feb. 8 - TABLE, PEEKAMOOSE & LONE**

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 3810', Elevs: 3825', 3819', 3700'

Very fast paced hike.

Registration Period: by Feb. 3

Leader: Timothy Watters #268 W94

[twatters@wattersfinancial.com](mailto:twatters@wattersfinancial.com)

**Sun. Feb. 9 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2500', Elev: 3525'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: by Feb. 8

Leader: Christy Belardo #2959 W1230

[christy.belardo@gmail.com](mailto:christy.belardo@gmail.com)

**Fri. Feb. 14 - WEST KILL (Valentine's Day)**

Distance: 7.1 mi. Ascent: 1965', Elev: 3898'

A relaxed pace hiked with discussion on the 7 principles of Leave No Trace.

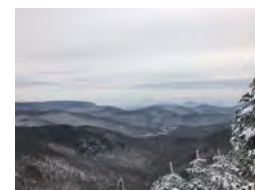
Registration Period: Feb. 9 - 13

Leader: Moe Lemire #2921

[hikeonguides@gmail.com](mailto:hikeonguides@gmail.com)

**Sat. Feb. 15 - BLACKHEAD**

Distance: 4.7 mi. Ascent: 1725', Elev: 3940'



Moderately paced trail hike - winter requirement.

Registration Period: Feb. 5 - 13

Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997

[michael@bongarbiz.com](mailto:michael@bongarbiz.com)

**Sun. Feb. 16 - BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE**

Distance 6.7 mi. Ascent: 2150', Elevs: 3994', 3953'

Relaxed - moderate pace.

Registration period: Feb. 9 - 14

Leader: Lyn W. #2865

[catskill35r@gmail.com](mailto:catskill35r@gmail.com)



**Sun. Feb. 16 - BIG INDIAN & FIR**

Distance: 10.0 mi. Ascent: 2200', Elevs: 3699', 3629'

Moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike.

Registration Period: Feb. 7 - 14

Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 [shnaber@yahoo.com](mailto:shnaber@yahoo.com)

Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 [newpaltz33@yahoo.com](mailto:newpaltz33@yahoo.com)

**Sun. Feb. 16 - FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2200', Elevs: 3692', 3608'

Moderately paced bushwhack.

Registration Period: Feb. 8 - 14

Leader: Jake Haisley #2488 W1065

[jacobhaisley@gmail.com](mailto:jacobhaisley@gmail.com)

**Sat. Feb. 22 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL**

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2700', Elevs: 3605', 3558'

Strenuous bushwhack to two remote peaks.

Registration Period: open

Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082

[ad322@freeelectron.net](mailto:ad322@freeelectron.net) (518)947-6407



**Sat. Feb. 29 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME, THOMAS COLE**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2550', Elevs: 3940', 3994', 3953'

Moderately paced trail hike with car shuttle.

Registration Period: Feb. 22 - 28

Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063

[lgizz@hotmail.com](mailto:lgizz@hotmail.com) 845-532-3922

**Sat. Feb. 29 - ROCKY & LONE**

Distance: 10.9 mi. Ascent: 2385', Elevs: 3407', 3700'

Long and sometimes thick bushwhack.

Registration Period: Feb. 20 - 27

Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 W789

[tshemella@yahoo.com](mailto:tshemella@yahoo.com)

**Sat. Mar. 7 - KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**

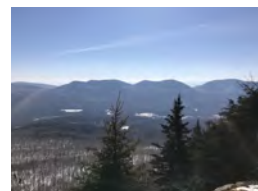
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev: 3652'

Bushwhack & trail hike with scrambles, 2 plane crash sites, at a Moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

[marvfreedman@gmail.com](mailto:marvfreedman@gmail.com)



**Sat. Mar. 7 - PANTHER**

Distance: 6.3 mi. Ascent: 2394', Elev: 3724'

One of the 4 required winter hikes.

Registration Period: Feb. 27 - Mar. 5

Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 W789

[tshemella@yahoo.com](mailto:tshemella@yahoo.com)

**Sat. Mar. 7 - GRAHAM & BALSAM LAKE**

Distance: 9.6 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elevs: 3868', 3729'

Moderately paced hike.

Registration Period: by Mar. 6

Leader: Christy Belardo #2959 W1230

[christy.belardo@gmail.com](mailto:christy.belardo@gmail.com)

**Sat. Mar. 7 - VAN WYCK, PEEKAMOOSE & Table**

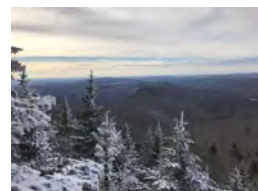
Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3395', Elevs: 3206', 3819', 3825'

Moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike.

Registration Period: Mar. 2 - 5

Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997

[michael@bongarbiz.com](mailto:michael@bongarbiz.com)



**Sun. Mar. 7 - VLY & BEARPEN**

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elevs: 3541', 3587'  
 Moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike.  
 Registration Period: Mar. 2 - 6  
 Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 [shnaber@yahoo.com](mailto:shnaber@yahoo.com)  
 Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 [newpaltz33@yahoo.com](mailto:newpaltz33@yahoo.com)

**Sun. Mar. 8 - PLATEAU**

Distance 8.8 mi. Ascent: 2090', Elev: 3835'  
 Not for beginners. Moderately paced hike with shuttle.  
 Registration Period: Mar. 2 - 7  
 Leaders: Jim Bouton #1539 W614 and Margaret McGrath #2009 W939  
[mmcgrath55@msn.com](mailto:mmcgrath55@msn.com) (email preferred) 845-750-8671 before 8 pm.

**Fri. Mar. 13 - BEARPEN (Weekday)**

Distance: 5.5 mi. Ascent: 1427', Elev: 3587'  
 A relaxed pace hike with discussion on the 7 principles of Leave No Trace.  
 Registration Period: Mar. 1 - 12  
 Leader: Moe Lemire #2921  
[hikeonguides@gmail.com](mailto:hikeonguides@gmail.com)

**Sat. Mar. 14 - GRAHAM**

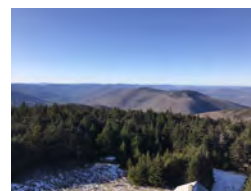
Distance: 4.3 mi. Ascent: 2041', Elev: 3868'  
 A true bushwhack from a different direction.  
 Registration Period: Mar. 5 - 12  
 Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 W789  
[tshemella@yahoo.com](mailto:tshemella@yahoo.com)

**Sat. Mar. 14 - BALSAM CAP & ROCKY**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2850', Elevs: 3608', 3487'  
 Very fast paced hike  
 Registration Period: by Jan 17  
 Leader: Timothy Watters #268 W94  
[twatters@wattersfinancial.com](mailto:twatters@wattersfinancial.com)

**Sun. Mar. 15 - RUSK**

Distance: 3.6 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev: 3686'  
 Moderately paced bushwhack.  
 Registration period: Mar. 1 - 12  
 Leader: Jerry Licht #1423 W562  
[jllicht61@aol.com](mailto:jllicht61@aol.com)

**Sun. Mar. 15 - DOUBLETOP**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3874'  
 Relaxed pace bushwhack.  
 Registration Period: open  
 Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082  
[ad322@freeelectron.net](mailto:ad322@freeelectron.net) (518)947-6407

**Sat. Mar. 21 - SLIDE**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 4184'  
 Relaxed pace trail hike.  
 Registration Period: open  
 Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082  
[ad322@freeelectron.net](mailto:ad322@freeelectron.net) (518)947-6407

**Sat. Mar. 28 - BEARPEN & VLY**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elevs: 3587', 3541'  
 Moderately paced snowmobile trail hike and bushwhack  
 Registration Period: Mar. 21 - 27  
 Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063  
[lgizz@hotmail.com](mailto:lgizz@hotmail.com) 845-532-3922



Photos used in this section are by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond, The Canister Editor.



Camels hump from Thomas Cole. Photo by Maribeth Williams #3153

## NEW MEMBERS

Members listed are as of the publication; more recent finishers will be listed next quarter.

### New Lifetime Members:

Number	Name
1951	Matthew Peoples
3145	Blythe Czaja
3165	Nathan Laing
3179	Douglas Kroll
2906	Joshua Naylor
Asp	Katy Leidel

### New Members:

Number	Name	Date of Finish	Final Peak
3155	Elihu Mazo	8/31/2019	West Kill
3156	Rick Winne	8/18/2019	Balsam
3157	Christopher Flanagan	8/18/2019	Balsam
3158	Matthew Stickle	8/18/2019	Balsam
3159	Thomas Perry	8/31/2019	Rocky
3160	Ellen Perry	8/31/2019	Rocky
3161	Brian Collins	9/3/2019	Fir
3162	Carolyn Bettiol	9/8/2019	Graham
3163	Grace Jones	4/20/2019	Balsam Cap
3164	Tara Litvin	9/1/2019	Kaaterskill

3165	Nathan Laing	9/1/2019	Kaaterskill
3166	Raina Monahan	6/29/2019	Wittenberg
3167	James Connelly	3/16/2019	Slide
3168	Allen R Hutchins	9/2/2016	Hunter
3169	Bob Vertigan	9/7/2019	Plateau
3170	Matt Backus	9/7/2019	Plateau
3171	Peter Caluwe	9/7/2019	Plateau
3172	Lois Wille	9/7/2019	Plateau
3173	Marcus Harazin	9/22/2019	Slide
3174	Maria Alvarez	9/22/2019	Slide
3175	Marc Arnold	9/28/2019	Halcott
3176	Gërt Arnold	9/28/2019	Halcott
3177	Anna Nicanorova	4/9/2017	SW Hunter
3178	John W Buddle	10/1/2019	Plateau
3179	Douglas Kroll	10/5/2019	Sherrill
3180	Tracy Little	10/6/2019	Indian Head
3181	David Hayes	10/6/2019	Indian Head
3182	David C Wideman	10/12/2019	Panther
3183	Mark Eis	10/16/2019	Balsam Cap
3184	Paul Greenberg	10/12/2019	Panther
3185	Nancy J Hilsenbeck	10/15/2019	Sugarloaf
3186	Jim Groshans	10/19/2019	SW Hunter
3187	Leroy S Harrison III	10/20/2019	Friday
3188	Janice Sawyer	10/20/2019	Friday
3189	Mary E Jockel	10/19/2019	SW Hunter
3190	Edward Pelton	10/19/2019	Kaaterskill
3191	Gregory Pelton	10/19/2019	Kaaterskill
3192	Keith Ward	10/26/2019	Graham
3193	Brittany Steele	10/26/2019	Graham
3194	Jeanette Christian	10/26/2019	Balsam Cap
3195	Jessica Ferris	10/26/2019	Cornell
3196	Robert Berry	11/9/2019	Rocky
3197	Deborah Geiger	11/9/2019	Rocky
3198	Christine Record	11/2/2019	Peekamoose
3199	Steve Aaron	10/26/2019	Balsam
3200	Grace Kim	11/11/2019	Sherrill
3201	Mark Radzin	7/9/2019	North Dome
3202	Wendy Fogerty	11/10/2019	Balsam Lake
3203	Crystal Lynch	11/9/2019	Lone
3204	Gregory Ewoldt	11/9/2019	Lone
3205	Brian Heh	11/16/2019	Balsam
3206	Sean Heaney	10/26/2019	Kaaterskill

**New Winter Members:**

<b>Winter Number</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Date of Finish</b>	<b>Final Peak</b>
1258	James Connelly	3167	2/24/2019	Balsam Lake



Sunrise on Giant Ledge. Photo by Jay Hatfield

## Editor's Notes

By Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond



I hope you are continuing to enjoy the Canister, and I thank each and every one of you who has reached out with feedback and suggestions. Feedback, as well as submissions to future editions and ideas are very much welcomed and appreciated. Submissions on the topics of hiking with kids, pushing your limits, exploring something new and exciting, history of the Catskills, ecology and geology, your personal experiences, advice, etc. are just some of the examples of what we would love to include in the next issue of the Canister! For photo submissions, please ensure the photos are high resolution (several MB at a min) and the landscape format is preferred. We would love to see your photos of foliage, geological oddities, waterfalls, wildlife, views, flora, sunsets and sunrises. Please contact me at [editor@catskill-3500-club.org](mailto:editor@catskill-3500-club.org).

Department of corrections: please note that the location of the cover photo in the 2019 Fall issue was inadvertently identified as Platte Clove Rd, rather than MacDaniel Road in Woodstock.

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Devil's Path near the shoulder of Hunter. Photo by Moe Lemire #2921

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