



# the catskill canister

Vol. XXX1, No. 1

JANUARY - MARCH, 1998

## BAD DAY ON THE MOUNTAIN

This is not a story about a bunch of people dying on a mountain or getting hurt or seriously injured. It's just a story about how a lot of little things can go wrong on a hike, particularly a winter hike when the weather is severe.

It was a day when there seemed to be a weather report every three minutes with warnings about wind chills and to keep indoors. Nevertheless, my wife, Kathy, and I, and two companions, Ralph and Pete, both of whom were strong and experienced, decided to climb South West Hunter and Westkill. In addition to plenty of clothing, food and liquid, we carried compasses, altimeters, and the Westkill topo on which I'd calculated our bearing, 130 degrees, from Diamond Notch to the summit of South West Hunter. But the summit was on the next quadrant, "Hunter," and I hadn't been able to find that map. We figured my bearing would get us in the ballpark; then we'd find the canister.

At the trailhead, another two hikers were getting ready to head out. One of them said, "Don't bring snowshoes, there's not enough snow yet." I walked up the trail a little way to see for myself, and decided to lash my snowshoes, as well as those of my wife, to my pack. Pete and Ralph decided to leave theirs in the car.

We started out, commenting how beautiful it was and what a great day it was to be in the mountains. After crossing the creek, we headed up towards Diamond Notch, and took turns breaking trail in the 6-8 inches of fresh snow. At the leanto just below the Notch, my plan was to turn left at the height of the land and head 130 degrees to South West Hunter, then backtrack to the Notch and take the trail to Westkill. The topo I had with me was too old to have the Westkill trail on it. We looked for the trail in the Notch, and figured we must have passed it back by the leanto.

The pitch in the Notch was exposed, steep and very slippery. We worked our way slowly upward - lurching and stumbling in the fresh snow. My pack was snagging on trees, the ski pole baskets were snagging on everything, and even the ski pole strap on my wrist caught on a branch. At one point, Pete said it might be a good idea for Kathy and me to put on our snowshoes. The snow was getting deeper, but I disagreed, out of grumpiness more than anything else. A short time later, I turned to Kathy and said, "Let's put the snowshoes on." After two or three steps, we were glad we did. I was also glad I hadn't been influenced by the hikers in the parking lot, and thought, belatedly, that I should have warned them that snow conditions in a 2100 foot elevation parking lot can be very different from conditions at a 3700 feet summit.

We were now at the stage of the hike where we were all hoping that the next place above us where the deep blue sky met the ridgeline was the summit ridge. Pete's altimeter and my altimeter disagreed at this point by several hundred feet, even though we had set them at about 2150 in the parking area. After battling through a dense stand of tough, small balsam, I finally crested the summit ridge. Ralph was way ahead, and Kathy and Peter were several hundred feet, or yards, behind me.

*Continued on page 3*

**THE CATSKILL CANISTER**

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

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**KEEPING THE TRAILLESS PEAKS TRAILLESS**

To its credit, New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) decrees that certain mountains remain trailless. We who enjoy the remoteness and solitude of these places and the challenges of bushwhacking are grateful.

I was dismayed last June when I came upon an act of vandalism between two of the trailless peaks, Rocky and Lone. This secluded area has been extensively defaced. The damage extends along most of the connecting ridge and even to the top of Lone. An illegal and unsightly attempt at a trail has been hacked out, and an orange spraycan used to mar trees and rocks. It would be a tragedy if this crime tipped the balance against us at the DEC, where the fate of peak canisters is being debated.

Besides showing ignorance of wilderness ethics, the perpetrators lack path-finding aptitude. An easier, natural route exists. From 1/8th mile south of Rocky's register, an open level bench leads to the foot of Lone.

The limited amount of trailless wilderness is precious. Those who aren't comfortable there should stay on the existing trail system instead of ruining the last pristine mountain tops.

Region 3 ranger, Patricia Rudge (914-254-4126), would like to hear from anyone with information about the event.

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

**Club Policy:** The Catskill 3500 Club is opposed to any illegal cutting of trees for views, building of trails or marking herdpaths with tape. If anyone wants a new trail, or feels a particular view needs enhancement, he or she must consult the DEC.

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**LEADERSHIP PATCH REQUIREMENTS**

The club awards the leadership patch to members who have led six separate hikes scheduled in the *Canister*. At least one hike must be to a trailless peak, and at least one other must be led during the winter. In addition, members are now required to attend at least one club-scheduled trail maintenance hike.

**ANNUAL DINNER MEETING SCHEDULED** Saturday, March 28, 1998 at the Hillside Manor in Kingston, New York. Invitations will be mailed in February.

I was the "link" between the two, feeling responsible for keeping everyone together. When I broke out of the balsam into the relatively clear area of the summit plateau, I encountered a maze of footprints leading in all directions. I had figured that we would all assemble at the canister, sign in and leave because it was bitterly cold. First, I had to find Ralph, then we would have to regroup with Kathy and Pete.

I walked around, adding to the footprint confusion, and when I thought I heard a noise, called out Ralph's name. He answered and we linked up. We estimated we had a little time before Kathy and Pete crested the ridge, so we set out to try to find the canister. We crashed through a lot of dense balsam and walked about a half mile or so, with no luck. I decided we should head back to link up with Kathy and Pete, which we did. For what was probably an hour, the four of us circled that plateau. Meanwhile, the sun got lower, and our faces, hands and feet got colder. I think that any one of us, on our own, would have had a better chance of finding the canister, but together, our energies were interfering with, rather than complementing, each other. Pete finally said: "Fifteen more minutes, then we've got to start heading down." We all agreed this was a good idea.

Some time in that fifteen minutes, we decided to head back to the "X" that Pete had drawn in the snow to mark where we had entered the maze of footprints. I was sure the "X" was in one direction, but the others thought it was in the opposite direction. Somehow, I had become disoriented. I was cold, tired, and possibly, in the first stages of hypothermia. It jolted me to see the looks on the others' faces. At that point, I relinquished what had been the unspoken leadership of the hike. Discouraged, I followed them to the "X". Then Pete asked: "Is it the red part of the compass needle that points North?" Kathy said: "First Ralph wants to lead us the wrong way, then Pete's not sure which way is North. Let's get the hell out of here!"

Kathy's feet were cold, my hands were cold, Pete had to go to the bathroom, and none of us had eaten. Kathy and I slipped and fell often, even with snowshoes on. By the time we reached the steep, open pitch above Diamond Notch, we had all warmed up a bit. We had decided not to descend that pitch, but to slab off to the right to try to find a safer way back to the trail. Ralph was ahead of us, and I asked him to wait at the top of the pitch so that we could regroup and descend to the trail together. When Pete, Kathy and I caught up, I looked over to where Ralph had been standing, and he was gone. My immediate thought was that he had fallen and lay unconscious. I yelled his name. He yelled back, saying he was on the trail. Pete, Kathy and I began slabbing down the slope, and ended up right above the Diamond Notch leanto, where Ralph was waiting. We headed back to the car, kidding about our failure and the "black mark" on my career. It was the first time in about twenty years of peak bagging that I had not found a canister on a trailless peak. We did find the red trail to Westkill, at the bottom of Diamond Notch. So much for my great plan of climbing to the Notch, turning left for South West Hunter, then going back to the Notch and climbing Westkill.

We had all learned lessons from this hike: Pete that he shouldn't be influenced by strangers in a trailhead parking lot; Ralph that he could eat his lunch while stumbling down a steep, snowy pitch; I learned not to be so ambitious and to make sure I had the summit map with me; and Kathy that maybe her tough male hiking companions were fallible.

But that canister was gnawing at all of us. When I did find the topo for Hunter, a glance showed me the little blip on the far eastern end that was the highest point. We hadn't gone quite far enough. I showed Kathy, and called Pete and Ralph. We'd be back, with that Hunter topo right up in the top of my pack.

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

**CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND - JANUARY 23 - 25, 1998**

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

Members and aspirants are invited to the club's annual winter weekend, which is again being held at Mountain Gate, a lodge and Indian restaurant, in the heart of the Catskills. Hikes have been, and will be, scheduled for aspirants who might need any of the required winter peaks. (See pages 5 and 6 of the hiking schedule for hikes already scheduled.) You don't have to hike or stay overnight at the Lodge, but if you're in the area, stop by for the Happy Hour and dinner.

**RATES:** \$132.57 per person for two nights, single or double occupancy, including two breakfasts and one dinner. For a group of at least 20 persons, Mountain Gate is offering a special discount rate of \$93.29 per person for two nights, single or double occupancy, including two breakfasts and one dinner. For those wishing to stay one night only, the cost, including breakfast and dinner, is \$84.69, double occupancy. Dinner only is \$18.41. For those taking the meal package, refunds are not given for meals not taken. In addition to Mountain Gate's regular menu of Indian specialties, an American menu will be available. The Happy Hour includes a selection of hors d'oeuvres, wine or beer, for \$9.82 per person. Dinner and Happy Hour only is \$28.23 per person. **All costs include gratuity and sales tax.**

**RESERVATIONS:** Please contact Arthur Zimmerman, 766 Neptune Boulevard, Long Beach, New York 11581; telephone: (516) 432-1205. It is advisable to reserve as soon as possible, since the discounted rate is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. A 50% deposit at the time of reservation is required. Checks should be sent to Arthur Zimmerman. For those wishing to reserve by credit card, please contact Sid at Mountain Gate at either of the numbers given above.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 48 hours advance notice is required for a full refund.

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**CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: JANUARY - MARCH 1998**

**ASSUMED RISK**

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

Thur. Jan. 1 **RUSK**

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

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Dec. 28 - 31.

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

Sat. Jan. 3 **HALCOTT**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'  
Elev.: 3537' Order: 32

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Dec. 28 - 31.

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

Sun. Jan. 4 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'  
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

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

Meeting Place: Parking area at trailhead on Platte Clove Road **FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 A.M.**

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

Sun. Jan. 4 **LONE and ROCKY**Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2300'  
Elev. 3721', 3508' Order: 17, 35

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Dec. 28 - Jan. 2.

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

Sat. Jan. 10 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2550'  
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

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

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

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

Sun. Jan. 11 **BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3300'  
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

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

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

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

Sat. Jan. 17 **BEARPEN and VLY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'  
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32

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

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

Leader: Bob Novick (#1,086), 201-385-3161 (7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Sun. Jan. 18 **THOMAS COLE and BLACK DOME**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2000'  
Elev.: 3940', 3980"  
Order: 3, 5

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

Meeting Place: Maplecrest Post Office at 9:00 A.M.

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

Sat. Jan. 24 **FIR and BIG INDIAN**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2200'  
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register by 10:00 P.M. Jan. 22.

Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411 (H) or 201-524-4669 (W)

Sat. Jan. 24 **SLIDE**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1650'  
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1

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

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

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

Sun. Jan. 25 **DOUBLETOP (and possibly GRAHAM)**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1900'  
Elev. 3860', (3868') Order: 8, (7)

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register by 7:00 P.M. Jan. 22.

Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411 (H) or 201-524-4669 (W)

Sun. Feb. 1 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2550'  
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Jan. 26 - 30.

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

Sat. Feb. 7 **Giant Ledge and PANTHER**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1600'  
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

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

Meeting Place: Panther Mountain trailhead on County Route 47 at 9:00 A.M.

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

Sun. Feb. 8 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER and HUNTER**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'  
Elev.: 3740', 4040' Order: 15, 2

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

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

Leader: Andrew Bagatta (#887), 914-236-7445 (7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Sat. Feb. 14 **BLACK DOME and BLACKHEAD**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'  
Elev.: 3980', 3940'  
Order: 3, 5

An all-weather, all-day bushwhack and trail hike. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Those who come unprepared will be turned back at trailhead.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register Tues., Wed., or Thurs. nights only.

Leader: Donnabeth Stewart (#1,003), 212-722-2028 (10:00 P.M. - 12:00 P.M.)

Sun. Feb. 15 **CORNELL and WITTENBERG**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000'  
Elev.: 3860', 3780' Order: 9, 14

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

Meeting Place: Phoenicia/East Branch Trailhead on County Route 47 at 9:00 A.M.

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

Sat. Feb. 21 **BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY**

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

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

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

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

Sun. Feb. 22 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1825'  
Elev.: 3524' Order: 34

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

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

Leader: Alan Kapitzke (#1,035), 860-345-3203 (8:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M., or leave message)

Sat. Feb. 28 **INDIAN HEAD Loop**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1600'  
Elev.: 3573' Order: 30

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

Meeting Place: Parking area at end of Prediger Road at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Jane Smalley (#1,068), 914-941-3918 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Mar. 1 **WESTKILL**

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

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

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

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

Sat. Mar. 7 **BALSAM and EAGLE**

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

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

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

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 (9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.)

Sun. Mar. 8 **GRAHAM and DOUBLETOP**

Distance: 6mi. Ascent: 2700  
Elev. 3868', 3860' Order: 7, 8

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

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

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

Sat. Mar. 14 **WITTENBERG and CORNELL**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2700'  
Elev.: 3780', 3860' Order: 14, 9

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between March 9 - 12.

Leader: Stephen Clark (#959), 914-452-8973 (7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. Mar. 14 **SOUTH WEST HUNTER, HUNTER**  
**(and possibly RUSK)**

Distance: 9 (13) mi. Ascent: 2500'(3900')  
Elev.: 3740', 4040', 3680'  
Order: 15, 2, (21)

An all-weather, all-day bushwhack and trail hike. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Those who come unprepared will be turned back at trailhead.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register Tues., Wed., or Thurs. nights only.

Leader: Donnabeth Stewart (#1,003), 212-722-2028 (10:00 P.M. - 12:00 P.M.)

Sun. Mar. 15 **BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME and**  
**THOMAS COLE**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600'  
Elev.: 3880', 3940', 3940'  
Order: 5, 3, 4

One-way trail hike at a moderate pace. Shuttle required. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place: Trailhead at Barnum Road FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 A.M.

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

Sat. Mar. 21 **BLACKHEAD**

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

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

Meeting Place: Maplecrest Post Office at 9:00 A.M.

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

Sat. Mar. 21 **FIR and BIG INDIAN**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2200'  
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19

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

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

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

Sun. Mar. 22 **PLATEAU and SUGARLOAF**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000'  
Elev.: 3840', 3800' Order: 12, 13

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

Meeting Place: Warms Restaurant in Tannersville FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Alan Kapitzke (#1,035), 860-345-3203 (8:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M., or leave message)

Sun. Mar. 29 **PEEKAMOOSE and TABLE**

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

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

Meeting Place: Trailhead on Peekamoose Road at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Andrew Bagatta (#887), 914-236-7445

**NEW MEMBERS**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u> <u>Finished</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u> <u>Finished</u>
1,087	Charles B. Brock	7/13/97	1,093	Jack Barnes	9/21/97
1,088	Derek Clement	8/16/97	1,094	Leonard Sperl, Jr.	10/6/97
1,089	Michael J. Smith	5/27/97	1,095	Laurence Montalto	10/9/97
1,090	Louis C. Baldanza	8/25/97	1,096	Donald E. Gjertson	10/13/97
1,091	Henry L. Chapman	9/7/97	1,097	James E. Chambers	10/26/97
1,092	Michael A. Higley	9/13/97	1,098	Chris A. Hedman	10/11/97





# the catskill canister

Vol. XXX1, No. 2

APRIL - JUNE, 1998

## HIKER GIVES THANKS FOR OUTSTANDING RESCUE

Help is what I needed and help is exactly what I got during a fall Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) hike in Bear Mountain State Park. It was a sunny day with the temperature hovering near 50 degrees, and 30 hikers were out enjoying themselves. At about 2:00 p.m., as we were descending Bald Mountain on the Cornell Mine trail, I stepped on what I thought was a secure rock. In an instant, I lost my footing and plunged down the trail, to wrenching pain, which I later learned was the result of breaking three ankle bones. We were about 1-1/4 miles from the trailhead, with three hours of daylight remaining. Twilight would bring lower temperatures and make the descent more treacherous.

Immediately, the hikers lifted me to a sitting position and placed me on insulated sitting pads. They procured extra layers of clothing from my pack and helped me on with them. One of the hikers was a doctor, and he examined my ankle and wrapped it in an Ace bandage. Within minutes of the accident my foot and ankle had ballooned, and only my sock liner would fit on my foot in my boot. Meanwhile, Bill Schafer and John Swanson selected some blowdown logs and set to work sawing them to make a litter, a task made easier due to the fact that Bill carried a handsaw in his pack. In addition to the logs, the hikers constructed the litter from four donated zippered jackets and rope. Jack Kossover, an experienced AMC hike leader, led the rest of the group out, and reported the accident to the ranger station.

When I was placed on the litter, my whole body began to shake uncontrollably, one of the first signs of hypothermia, and several additional insulating layers were put over me to help keep me warm. Bill Schafer led the litter carry, and never relinquished his position. Nine additional men rotated on and off the litter, namely: John Swanson, Gabe Fisch, Joe Jannicelli, Joe Nigro, Howard Cho, John Frenzel, Alex Steinberg, Joe Lauda, and another AMC member who I did not know. I was also accompanied by the doctor who monitored me, Stu Gussoff who carried my pack, and Maria Vargas who swept debris off the trail to provide the litterbearers with more secure footing. Throughout the 1-1/2 hour journey out, the litterbearers talked to me, told jokes, and kept me in good spirits. Shortly after we reached the trailhead on Route 9W, a Stony Point ambulance arrived and I was taken to the Emergency Room of Good Samaritan Hospital, three hours after the accident occurred.

I owe my rapid evacuation off the mountain to the combined efforts, expertise and teamwork of the hikers who were on my hike, and I wish to thank them in print for the outstanding job they did.

*Irene A. Logan (#888)  
59 Edwards Street-2A  
Roslyn Heights, NY 11577-1100*

**Editor's Note:** Irene's accident, and the ability of the hikers to lend assistance, raises important issues of which every hiker should be aware. For further comment, please turn to page 3.

## THE CATSKILL CANISTER

### **President:**

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

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

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## CATSKILL 3500 CLUB WELCOMES NEW LIFE MEMBERS

The Catskill 3500 Club welcomes the following new life members:

Michael DeLuca  
Patrick DeMilia  
Crist Dixon  
Jean M. Dolen  
Carl B. Ford, III  
Frederic B. Franke  
Raymond B. Held  
Denis P. McLane  
Malcolm Spector  
Robert E. Walberg

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Club would like to thank all those who included donations with their dues and subscription renewals. These gifts enable us to monitor environmental and other concerns to the Catskills.

### TEWKESBURY ROAD

*It is good to be out on the road, and going one knows not where,  
Going through meadow and village, one knows not whither  
nor why;*

*Through the grey light drift of the dust, in the keen cool rush  
of the air,*

*Under the flying white clouds, and the broad blue lift of the  
sky;*

*And to halt at the chattering brook, in the tall green fern at the  
brink*

*Where the harebell grows, and the gorse, and the foxgloves  
purple and white;*

*Where the shy-eyed delicate deer troop down to the pools to  
drink,*

*When the stars are mellow and large at the coming on of the  
night.*

*Or to feel the warmth of the rain, and the homely smell of the  
earth,*

*Is a tune for the blood to jig to, a joy past power of words;  
And the blessed green comely meadows seem all a-ripple with  
mirth*

*At the lilt of the shifting feet, and the dear wild cry of the  
birds.*

John Masefield

ARE YOU AN ASSET OR A LIABILITY?

When Irene Logan broke her ankle leading a hike last fall, she was fortunate in many respects. It was not late in the day, the weather was mild, she was a short distance from the road and, most importantly, she had a host of experienced and well-equipped companions to help her out. Accidents can happen, even to those with plenty of experience. The fact that we are often hiking familiar ground can foster an unwarranted disregard for the potential hazards.

When we go on a hike, we need to ask ourselves whether we are an asset or a liability to the group. We are all responsible, not just the leader, for each other. It dismays me to see so many people venturing forth with little more than the clothes on their backs, even in winter. When people blithely assume that they will keep moving to stay warm, there is an unstated assumption that should they suffer a mishap, some better prepared person will come to their assistance. If they don't have enough clothing to be able to stop for any length of time, then clearly they are intending to abandon any one who becomes injured or cannot keep up. A person who comes on a hike without a map and compass, rain gear, extra clothing, first aid kit and flashlight can only be labeled a liability.

On the other hand, responsible, well-equipped hikers will support the leader in looking after the group. Fellow hikers should be discreetly monitored, and those who appear to be having difficulties offered assistance and encouragement. More experienced hikers can set an example by removing or adding layers of clothing as needed and drinking fluids periodically while advising other newer hikers to do likewise. By following the route on the map, they will be capable of assuming leadership should the group become separated, or if injured or worn out persons need leading out. They should know some basic first aid and be prepared to stay and render assistance to an injured person while help is summoned. Any leader will consider such group members as assets and count themselves lucky to have such responsible hikers along.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE RE-EMERGES

After several years of hibernation, the "Peripatetic Porcupine" column is being revived by Ralph Ferrusi (#122) and will start appearing in the *Canister* again. Originally created by Elinore Levitt (#2), a past President (1975-77) of the Catskill 3500 Club, who passed away in August, 1990, the column contained snippets about members' achievements and adventures. This column has long been a favorite of many of our members, and provides a means of sharing information. So, let us know about the peaks you have climbed, the trails you have hiked, the places you have traveled to, and any interesting trips you have taken. Items for the "Peripatetic Porcupine" column should be sent to Ralph Ferrusi at 34 Kim Lane, Stormville, NY 12582-5305.

\*\*\*\*\*

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: APRIL - JUNE 1998ASSUMED RISK

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

- Sat. Apr. 4 **BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'  
Elev.: 3720', 3868' Order: 17, 7  
A somewhat strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Bring snowshoes and crampons. Steady rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Bridge over Dry Brook in Arkville at 9:00 A.M.  
Leader: George Sheedy (#806), 914-986-6807 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)
- Sun. Apr. 5 **HALCOTT and N.E. Halcott** Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2445'  
Elev.: 3520', 3408' Order: 34  
A strenuous bushwhack at an easy pace from Bushnellsville to Beech Ridge Road. Bring snowshoes and crampons. Shuttle required. Heavy precipitation cancels.  
Meeting Place: Call leader to register Tues. or Wed., 6:00-7:00 A.M., or 6:00-7:00 P.M.  
Leader: Joan Dean (#360), 973-762-0396
- Sat. Apr. 11 **INDIAN HEAD and TWIN** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'  
Elev.: 3573', 3640' Order: 30, 23  
A moderately-paced trail hike. Bring snowshoes and crampons. Rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Trailhead at Prediger Road at 8:45 A.M.  
Leader: Jane Smalley (#1,068), 914-941-3918
- Sat. Apr. 18 **FIR and BIG INDIAN** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2150'  
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19  
A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace. Bring snowshoes and crampons. Rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Apr. 13 - 17.  
Leader: Henry Jenkins (#808), 914-883-7853
- Sun. Apr. 19 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'  
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22  
A moderate trail hike. Bring snowshoes and crampons. Rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Trailhead on Platte Clove road FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 A.M.  
Leader: Alan Kapitzke (#1,035), 860-345-3203
- Sat. Apr. 25 **BEARPEN and VLY** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'  
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32  
A moderately-paced trail hike and bushwhack. Bring snowshoes and crampons. Rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Call leader to register Wed. and Thurs., April 22 - 23.  
Leader: Marty Cohen (#728), 201-670-8383 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)
- Sat. Apr. 25 **INDIAN HEAD, TWIN,  
SUGARLOAF and PLATEAU** Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 4500'  
Elev.: 3573', 3640', 3800', 3840'  
Order: 30, 23, 13, 12  
A very strenuous, fast-paced trail hike. Bring snowshoes and crampons. Heavy rain cancels. Shuttle required.  
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 11 - 15.  
Leader: Bob Novick (#1,086), 201-385-3161

- Sun. Apr. 26 **DOUBLETOP and GRAHAM** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'  
Elev. 3860', 3868' Order: 8, 7  
A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Bring snowshoes and crampons. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Call leader to register Wed. and Thurs. Apr. 22 - 23.  
Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)
- Sun. Apr. 26 **RUSK, HUNTER and SOUTHWEST HUNTER** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000'  
Elev.: 3680', 4040', 3740'  
Order: 21, 2, 15  
A fast-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Bring snowshoes and crampons. Rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Apr. 20 - 24.  
Leader: Veronica O'Neil (#932), 914-776-5256 (No calls after 9:00 P.M.)
- Sat. May 2 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2550'  
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31  
A strenuous bushwhack at an easy pace. Rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Call leader for details Mon.-Thurs., 6:00-7:00 A.M., or 6:00-7:00 P.M.  
Leader: Joan Dean (#360), 201-762-0396.
- Sun. May 3 **Van Wyck, TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE** Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 3200'  
Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11  
A fast-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Call leader for details between Apr. 27 - May 1.  
Leader: Veronica O'Neil (#932), 914-776-5256 (No calls after 9:00 P.M.)
- Sat. May 9 **LONE and ROCKY** Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2300'  
Elev. 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 35  
A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 4 - 8.  
Leader: Henry Jenkins (#808), 914-883-7853
- Sun. May 10 **PLATEAU** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1840'  
Elev.: 3840' Order: 12  
A moderate trail hike. Rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Sweet's Sue Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 A.M.  
Leader: George Sheedy (#806), 914-986-6807 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)
- Sat. May 16 **TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE Trail Clearing** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3190'  
Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11  
A rewarding hike which will allow you to give something back to the mountains. Come ready to work and bring hand tools if you have them; if not, the club will provide them. All who want to get to the top of both peaks will get there.  
Meeting Place: Trailhead at Denning at 9:30 A.M.  
Leader: Jerry Gervais (#687); 914-341-5515 (messages); 914-795-2116 (evenings before 10:00 P.M.)
- Sun. May 17 **RUSK** Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1600'  
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21  
A short but steep bushwhack at a slow to moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between May 11 - 15.  
Leader: Andrew Bagatta (#887), 914-236-7445 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. May 17 **DOUBLETOP, BIG INDIAN and FIR**

Distance: 15 mi. Ascent: 3000'  
Elev: 3860', 3700', 3620'  
Order: 8. 19. 25

A long strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Early start, late out. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register Thurs. (May 14) night by 10:00 P.M.

Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411 (until 10:00 P.M.) or 201-524-4669 (W)

Sat. May 23 **Mongaup Pond Circular**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1800'

A moderate trail hike in the S.W. Catskills, including Mongaup Mountain and Beaverkill Ridge. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Contact leader by April 30 re: meeting place and time and carpooling from N.Y.C.

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

Sat. May 30 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1700'  
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Warms Restaurant in Tannersville FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 A.M.

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

Sun. May 31 **FRIDAY and BALSAM CAP**

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

A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Probable combination of slide and ledge climbing for Friday. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register Thurs. (May 28) by 10:00 P.M.

Leader: Mike Selender (#1,083), 201-451-5411 (until 10:00 P.M.) or 201-524-4669 (W)

Sat. June 6 **EAGLE and BIG INDIAN**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2300'  
Elev.: 3600', 3700' Order: 27, 19

A moderate trail hike and short bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Bridge over Dry Brook at jct. of Rtes. 28 and 49 at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Stephen Schifani (#910), 914-883-7933 (till 9:30 P.M.).

Sat. June 6 **SLIDE**

Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 2000'  
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1

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

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

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

Sun. June 7 **PLATEAU**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1840'  
Elev.: 3840' Order: 12

A scenic trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 A.M.

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

Sat. June 13 **Escarpment Trail End-to-End**  
**North Mt., Stoppel Pt.,**  
**BLACKHEAD, Acra Pt., and**  
**WINDHAM HIGH PEAK**

Distance: 23 mi. Ascent: 5000'  
Elev.: 3940', 3524' Order: 5, 33

A strenuous trail hike of the whole Escarpment Trail at a very fast pace. Shuttle required. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between June 8 - 11 (until 11:00 P.M.)

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692

Sat. June 13 **North Lake Circular** Distance 10+ mi. Ascent: 1000'  
 A circular hike at a moderate pace around North and South Lakes, including North Point lookout.  
 Steady rain cancels.  
 Meeting Place: Schutt Road parking area at 9:00 A.M.  
 Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710

Sun. June 14 **BLACK DOME, THOMAS COLE and BLACKHEAD** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2400'  
 Elev.: 3980', 3940', 3940'  
 Order: 3, 4, 5

A strenuous trail hike at an easy pace. Heavy rain cancels.  
 Meeting Place: Maplecrest Post Office at 8:30 A.M.  
 Leader: Paul Hoyt (#315), 718-631-4784 (after 8:00 P.M.)

Sat. June 20 **WESTKILL, SOUTHWEST HUNTER and HUNTER** Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 3200'  
 Elev.: 3880', 3740', 4040'  
 Order: 6, 15, 2

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.  
 Meeting Place: Call leader to register between June 15 -18.  
 Leader: Marguerite Munch-Weber (#892), 718-387-7320 (before 10:00 P.M.)

Sun. June 21 **WITTENBERG, CORNELL and SLIDE** Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 3500'  
 Elev.: 3780', 3860', 4180'  
 Order: 14, 9, 1

A long and strenuous trail hike at a fast pace. Rain cancels.  
 Meeting Place: Call leader to register between June 16 -19.  
 Leader: Stephen Clark (#959), 914-473-1548 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat. June 27 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1825'  
 Elev. 3524' Order: 33

A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.  
 Meeting Place: Maplecrest Post Office at 8:30 A.M.  
 Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (call after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun. June 28 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'  
 Elev.: 3740' Order: 15

A moderately paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.  
 Meeting Place: Call leader to register between June 22 - 26.  
 Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (by 9:00 P.M.)

### **LEADERSHIP PATCHES AWARDED**

Congratulations to Margaret Freifeld (#929) and George Sheedy (#806), each of whom have been awarded the leadership patch. The club awards the leadership patch to members who have led six separate hikes scheduled in the *Canister*. At least one hike must be to a trailless peak, and at least one other must be led during the winter. In addition, attendance at least one club-scheduled trail maintenance hike is required.

**NEW MEMBERS**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,099	Gilbert W. Hales	10/8/97
1,100	Lucy Thompson	10/25/97
1,101	Alex Cashara	11/13/96
1,102	Kathryn Ferrusi	11/22/97
1,103	Joan I. Peters	11/30/97
1,104	Alfred O. Peters	11/30/97
1,105	George Solovay	12/21/97
1,106	Janet M. Stein	12/21/97
1,107	Erik Schlimmer	12/27/97
1,108	Eileen Edelman	12/29/97
1,109	Naomi Sutter	1/2/98
1,110	David Sutter	1/2/98
1,111	Thomas P. Burns	1/3/98
1,112	Kenneth King	7/4/97
1,113	Barnaby W. Rockwell	12/26/97
1,114	Karen Andrews	1/26/98
1,115	Carolyn M. Brightly	1/17/98
1,116	Timothy R. Stone	2/1/98
1,117	Edward A. McNally	2/7/98
1,118	Howard R. Lewis	2/7/98
1,119	Martha Lewis	2/7/98

**NEW WINTER MEMBERS**

378	Kenneth G. Morgan	3/16/97
379	Stuart Levy	1/25/98
380	James W. Donaghy	1/31/98
381	Edward J. Brophy	1/31/98
382	Mirjana Djordjevic	1/31/98
383	Jane C. Smalley	2/1/98
384	James C. Ruoff	2/8/98
385	Alan Kapitzke	2/8/98

**Correction:** The name of new member #1,075, Eric J. Mazurak, was misspelled as "Nazarak" in Vol. XXX, No. 4 of the *Canister*. Sorry, Eric.





# the catskill canister

Vol. XXX1, No. 3

JULY-SEPTEMBER, 1998

## IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, TRY, TRY AGAIN

On July 5, 1997, after 30 years, Ken King completed his requirements for membership in the Catskill 3500 Club by signing in at the canister on Friday Mountain.

By the 1980s, Ken had completed all his peaks except Balsam Cap and Friday, but held back from climbing them because he had no one to go with who hiked at his pace. Ken's friend, Andy Benesch, was finishing up his 3500 peaks so I suggested to Ken that they try to finish together. The first attempt the following June ended when they reached what they believed was the summit of Friday but stopped searching for the canister because of the lateness of the hour. The next day was hot and humid; because of fatigue, Ken and Andy made no second attempt. The previous day's failure had taken the fight out of them. They hiked out deeply disappointed, and Ken gave up hope of ever completing the Catskill 3500.

In August 1995, when Ken and I completed the Northeast 111 and New England 100 Highest on Katahdin, he asked me if I was interested in trying Balsam Cap and Friday again. I agreed, and decided that this time we would take three days: one to hike in and set up camp; another to bag the two peaks; and the third to hike out. The weather would also have to be ideal, cool and dry. Well, it all fell into place on the 4th of July weekend I had set aside for our climb.

Starting from Denning, we backpacked up the Neversink and set up camp where a stream flows down from the col between Rocky and Balsam Cap. The 3.5 mile trip to the campsite took six hours as we skipped back and forth across the stream on the poorly marked Fisherman's Trail. At one point, just past the Denning lean-to, we lost the trail and went up a dead-end herd path that led into an overgrown meadow. After searching and searching, I could not come up with the trail. We turned around and headed back towards the lean-to. I figured if we did not find the path soon we would have to call this trip off as it was already approaching 6:00 p.m. and we still had to backpack 2.5 miles with numerous stream crossings. Just in time, I found the real trail. We ate dinner in darkness and went to bed exhausted but excited about Ken's upcoming big day.

We awoke with the birds and after a quick breakfast were on our way. The weather was cool and breezy which made our tortuous battle with the balsam so much easier. By 11:00 a.m., after a relatively brief search, we found the canister on Balsam Cap, and lunched in the col, enjoying an unexpected view of the Ashokan Reservoir. Our trip over to Friday was uneventful, though we took care scrambling up the ledges on Friday as Ken is a bit afraid of heights. However, by 2:00 p.m., we had signed in on Friday; and Ken, having bagged his last two peaks to qualify for Catskill 3500 membership, was one happy camper.

Our only real adventure was getting down off Friday. Using the less frequented western side to return to our campsite, we had to cope with extremely thick balsam for about an hour, after which we came across a particularly abrupt stretch of ledges from which their appeared no way down. The

*continued on page 3*

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**REMINDER**

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

**NOTICE**

**Lost on Rusk:** Black, retractable hiking stick with wooden knob and rubber tip. If found, please call Kay Cyneman at 212-865-3245.

**LEADERSHIP PATCH AWARDED**

Congratulations to Alan Kapitzke (#1,035) who has been awarded the leadership patch. The club awards the leadership patch to members who have led six separate hikes scheduled in the *Canister*. At least one hike must be to a trailless peak, and at least one other must be led during the winter. In addition, attendance at a club-scheduled trail maintenance hike is required.

**THE DAISY**

*Having so rich a treasury, so fine a hoard  
Of beauty water-bright before my eyes,  
I plucked the daisy only, simple and white  
In its fringed frock and brooch of innocent gold.*

*So is all equilibrium restored:  
I leave the noontide wealth of richer bloom  
To the destroyer, the impatient ravisher,  
The intemperate bee, the immoderate bird.*

*Of all this beauty felt and seen and heard,  
I can be frugal and devout and plain,  
Deprived so long of light and air and grass,  
The shyest flower is sweetest to uncover.*

*How poor I was: and yet no richer lover  
Discovered joy so deep in earth and water;  
And in the air that fades from blue to pearl,  
And in a flower white-frocked like my small  
daughter.*

Marya Zaturenska

drop off the ledge to the forest floor below I estimated to be about 200 feet. I went ahead and attempted to find gaps in the ledge face and proceeded to work my way down. I tried this twice, getting as close as ten feet from the forest floor. I decided the drop off here was still too high and climbed back up. Working my way still further along the ledge, I found a chimney in which I was able to lower myself down, and wound my way around the cliff face, yelling for Ken to follow. The rest of the trip back to camp was uneventful, and by noon the next day we were out at the Denning parking area toasting Ken for his long sought achievement.

Lanny Wexler (#593)  
126 Ketchams Road  
Syosset, NY 11791

**CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: JULY - SEPTEMBER 1998**

**ASSUMED RISK**

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

Sat.-Sun. July 11-12 **Catskills Backpack**

An overnight base camp on the upper Neversink to climb Lone and Rocky and possibly Balsam Cap and Friday.

Meeting Place: Call leader for details.

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

Sat. July 11 **INDIAN HEAD and TWIN**

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

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Dale Road trailhead at 9:15 A.M.

Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M.; no calls Friday night)

Sun. July 12 **PEEKAMOOSE and TABLE**

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

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

Meeting Place: Peekamoose Road trailhead at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Marty Cohen (#728), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M.; no calls Friday night)

Sat.-Sun. July 18-19 **Catskills Backpack: Balsam Lake  
Mountain Wild Forest**

Distance: 8-10 mi.

A moderate two-day excursion on a scenic new trail in the Catskills. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader for details.

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

Sun. July 19 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER**

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

A moderately paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

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

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

Sat. July 25 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK, Burnt Knob, Acra Point, BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME and THOMAS COLE** Distance: 16 mi. Ascent: 4200'  
Elev.: 3524', 3940', 3980', 3940'  
Order: 33, 5, 3, 4

A strenuous trail hike at a fast pace. Shuttle required. Heavy rain cancels.

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

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

Sun. July 26 **RUSK** Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1600'  
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

A moderately paced bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

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

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

Sat. Aug. 1 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2550'  
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register Wed. or Thurs. nights.

Leader: Thomas Murasso (#1,135), 516-487-5030 (7:00 - P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Sun. Aug. 2 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1900'  
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

A moderately strenuous end-to-end trail hike from Josh Road to Palenville, passing two waterfalls. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Jct. 23A and 32A in Palenville at 9:00 A.M.

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

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

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

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

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

Sun. Aug. 9 **FIR and BIG INDIAN** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2150'  
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19

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

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

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

Sat. Aug. 15 **BALSAM GAP and FRIDAY** Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 1700'  
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

A long, fast-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.

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

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

Sat. Aug. 22 PLATEAUDistance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1840'  
Elev.: 3840' Order: 12

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

Meeting Place: Rte. 214 at Stony Clove Notch at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Jane Smalley (#1,068), 914-941-3918 (before 10:00 P.M.)

Sun. Aug. 23 HALCOTTDistance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'  
Elev.: 3520' Order: 34

A moderately paced bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

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

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

Sat. Aug. 29 North MountainDistance: 11 mi. Ascent: 1000'  
Elev.: 3180'

A moderately paced trail hike via Escarpment Trail; return via Peck Shelter Trail. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: DEC parking lot on Schutt Road near North Lake at 9:00 A.M.

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

Sun. Aug. 30 DOUBLETOP (and possibly  
BIG INDIAN)Distance: 5 (8) mi.  
Ascent: 1900' (3000')  
Elev.: 3860' (3700') Order: 8 (19)

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register by Aug. 27.

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

Sat. Sept. 5 BEARPEN and VLYDistance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'  
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Aug. 31-Sept. 4

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

Sat. Sept. 12 WESTKILL, SOUTHWEST HUNTER,  
HUNTER and RUSKDistance: 17 mi. Ascent: 5000'  
Elev.: 3880', 3740', 4040, 3680'  
Order: 6, 15, 2, 21

A strenuous trail hike and bushwhack at a fast pace. Shuttle required.

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

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

Sun. Sept. 13 Mt. TremperDistance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800'  
Elev.: 2740'

A moderate trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 10:00 A.M.

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

Sat. Sept. 19 Garfield and PANTHER

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000'

Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike. Shuttle required. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register Wed. or Thurs. nights.

Leader: Thomas Murasso (#1,135), 516-487-5030 (7:00 - P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Sun. Sept. 20 LONE and ROCKY

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1550'

Elev. 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 35

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Sept. 14-18.

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

914-967-8540 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.)

Sat. Sept. 26 Mondgaup Pond Circular

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1800'

A moderate trail hike in the S.W. Catskills, including Mongaup Mountain and Beaverkill Ridge. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Contact leader by Sept. 24 re: meeting place and time and carpooling from N.Y.C.

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

Sun. Sept. 27 DOUBLETOP and GRAHAM

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'

Elev. 3860', 3868' Order: 8, 7

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

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

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

CANISTERS VANDALIZED

In May, we discovered vandalism to some of the trailless peak canisters, including several which disappeared completely. This is the first time in the history of the Club that we have had such a problem. Past damage to canisters has always been attributed either to porcupines or to winter hikers inadvertently trying too hard to open boxes frozen shut. The recent problem has been reported to the DEC rangers, who have promised to keep an ear to the ground to try to find out who is responsible. In the meantime, the Club wants to repair or replace vandalized canisters. Hike leaders and other climbers are asked to report any canister problems to the Outings Chairman or any other member of the Club Executive Committee.

*MOON COMPASSES*

I stole forth dimly in the dripping pause  
 Between two downpours to see what there was.  
 And a masked moon had spread down compass rays  
 to a cone mountain in the midnight haze,  
 As if the final estimate were hers,  
 And as it measured in her calipers,  
 The mountain stood exalted in its place,  
 So love will take between the hands a face ...

Robert Frost

**PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE**

Lanny Wexler (#593) has become a life member. Ken Kleinberg (#184) climbed Torre Norte (the North Tower, 2,600 meters) via the Monzino Route in Parque Nacional Torres del Paine, Patagonian Chile, on February 2, 1998, led by Denali and Aconcagua mountain guides Scott Woolums and Todd Rutledge. Mike DeLuca (#924) is back climbing the Catskills again after having his left hip replaced in June 1997.

The April-June 1998 issue of the *Canister* noted that Elinore Levitt (#2) originally created the "Peripatetic Porcupine" column. We would like to correctly attribute the inception of this column to Franklin Clark (#33). Franklin was editor of the *Canister* for its first twenty years, and Elinore assisted him in typing and producing the newsletter.

**Members and aspirants should send all items intended for the "Peripatetic Porcupine" column to Ralph Ferrusi, 34 Kim Lane, Stormville, NY 12582.**

*I MEANT TO DO MY WORK TODAY*

*I meant to do my work today  
but a brown bird sang in the apple-tree,  
And a butterfly flitted across the field,  
And all the leaves were calling me.*

*And the wind went sighing over the land,  
Tossing the grasses to and fro,  
And a rainbow held out its shining hand --  
So what could I do but laugh and go?*

Richard Le Gallienne

**SECOND CHANCE FOR CATSKILL 3500 T-SHIRT**

Because it proved so popular when introduced in 1991, the Catskill 3500 Club T-shirt is being offered for sale again. It is made from fine quality 50% cotton/50% polyester in sky blue, with an enlarged version of the club emblem in the center of the shirt. The price, tax and postage included, is \$11.25 for New York State residents and \$10.50 for all other states. **ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 10, 1998.** The T-shirts will be shipped in August 1998. If you would like to order a Catskill 3500 Club T-shirt, please complete the form below, and mail, along with your check payable to *The Catskill 3500 Club, Inc.*, to: **David Sutter, 575 Grove Street, #C-6, Clifton, NJ 07013.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member \_\_\_ Aspirant \_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Size            Quantity  
Medium        \_\_\_\_\_  
Large         \_\_\_\_\_  
X-Large       \_\_\_\_\_

**New York State residents must provide  
County of residence**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**NEW MEMBERS**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,120	Richard Rapold	2/18/98
1,121	Carsten Warnes	2/28/98
1,122	Ralph Ferrusi, III	9/20/97
1,123	Robert J. Barthel	12/21/97
1,124	Ryan Barthel	12/21/97
1,125	Mitchell V. Fitz	12/13/97
1,126	William J. Krouse	12/13/97
1,127	Brian Berry	3/1/98
1,128	Dean Gletsos	3/7/98
1,129	Edward R. Schreiber	3/7/98
1,130	Barbro Thelemarck	3/7/98
1,131	Fran Levy	3/8/98
1,132	John D. Nye	3/8/98
1,133	James W. Winslow	3/15/98
1,134	Kathryn Kurtz	3/15/98
1,135	Thomas F. Murasso	3/20/98
1,136	Steven E. Rhodes	3/25/98

**NEW WINTER MEMBERS**

386	Jean Doneit	2/14/98
387	Donald F. Mantell	1/4/98
388	Alfred O. Peters	2/22/98
389	Joan I. Peters	2/22/98
390	A. Dale Timpe	2/28/98
391	Robert W. Novick	3/1/98
392	Andrew Bagatta	3/2/98
393	Michael D. Selender	3/1/98
394	Craig Mitchell	3/7/98
395	Elizabeth E. Moloff	3/11/98
396	Robert L. Leonhardt	3/12/98
397	Jean A. Leonhardt	3/14/98
398	Mark A. Check	3/14/98
399	Carole Ehleben	3/15/98
400	John D. Nye	3/18/98
401	Timothy R. Stone	3/18/98
402	Bonnie Ann Schaller	3/20/98
403	Steven E. Rhodes	3/20/98





# the catskill canister

Vol. XXXI, No. 4

OCTOBER - DECEMBER, 1998

## PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE

I'll admit it right up front – for most of my life I thought the Catskills played second fiddle to the Adirondacks. Who could blame me? During my formative years in the Plattsburgh area, with views of Whiteface and even the Great Range constantly at hand, with the High Peaks only a 45-minute drive away, I conditioned myself to look down – almost literally – on the Catskills. After all, they had only two peaks over 4,000 feet, an elevation I somehow came to believe distinguished worthy mountains from pretenders to the throne. Their park was about a sixth the size of the Adirondacks', and six times more developed. There was no expanse of "wilderness." They were the home of snobbish resorts. And their proximity to New York City caused them to be packed to the gills every weekend.

Had I ever been to the Catskills, to see for myself? Of course not. I was guilty of accepting what other people, a few maps and some reading were telling me. Call it parochial arrogance. Editing the Adirondack Mountain Club's Catskills Guide Book a few years ago, though, caused me to consider whether I was giving the region a bum rap. I determined to investigate.

My opportunity came one spring day, when I had a couple of hours to kill on a business trip. I swung off the Thruway, drove up through Palenville, parked at the Kaaterskill Falls trailhead, and donned trail shoes. Then, after surviving the scariest road walk of my life, complete with 18-wheelers, school buses and assorted other vehicles threatening either to plaster me against a rock wall or hurtle me into oblivion, I headed up the path to the falls. I made a more leisurely return visit with my wife this past summer on a day when the hurtling traffic came more in the form of pedestrians on the trail than of drivers on the road.

Each visit was a revelation. The Catskills, I realized, are not inferior to the Adirondacks or any other place. They're just different. There's nothing to be gained from judging them against anywhere else. They are what they are, unique unto themselves, and deserve to be accepted as such.

And how are they different? Not that two visits, both to the same place, qualify me as an expert, but here are a couple of impressions.

For one thing, they're a lot more compact. Distances are less. Each time I left the Thruway, I was astonished at how quickly I arrived at my chosen trailhead. In the Adirondacks, one can spend a lot of time on the road, staring at the backsides of log trucks and Winnebagos, in search of intimacy with nature, wonderful as that state is once it's achieved.

For another, the Catskills look different, both above eye level and below. The horizon is more smooth in comparison to the Adirondacks', the rock underfoot more ragged. This, if I understand my geology correctly, is because the Adirondacks are a glaciated granitic dome, whereas the Catskills are a much younger, eroded sedimentary Appalachian-style plateau. In going from one to the other, the

*Cont'd on Page 3*

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

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**CATSKILL 3500 CLUB**  
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<b>First Vice President</b>	Michael Doehring	914-761-7225
<b>Second Vice President</b>	Gerald Gervais	914-795-2116
<b>Secretary</b>	Amy Whitney	201-327-9420
<b>Treasurer</b>	Wanda Davenport	201-670-8383
<b>Annual Dinner Meeting</b>	Roy Messaros	201-337-5004
<b>Canisters</b>	Harry Rampe	914-292-6736
<b>Conservation</b>	Howard Dash	914-255-3409
<b>Membership</b>	Cyrus Whitney	201-447-2653
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<b>Trails</b>	Gerald Gervais	914-795-2116
<b>Winter Weekend</b>	Art Zimmerman	516-432-1205
<b>NY/NJ Trail Conf. Rep.</b>	Sue Eilers	914-698-7219

**NOTICE FROM NY-NJ TRAIL CONFERENCE**  
**CALL FOR TRAIL MAINTAINERS**

Want to reach new heights, be mentally rewarded and have a great excuse to get into the woods? The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is asking for volunteers to maintain trails in the Catskill Forest Preserve.

There are currently several adopt-a-trail vacancies, as well as some adopt-a-leanto vacancies. Maintenance sections are short, training is provided, and you have a great crew behind you for help when needed. All segments have great views or pleasant glens from which to contemplate the world.

If interested, please call Pete Senterman at 914-221-4392. Leave a message if he's out wandering in the woods. You can also contact Pete by mail c/o the Trail Conference office, 232 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016, or E-mail him at [nynjtc@aol.com](mailto:nynjtc@aol.com)

**DATES SET FOR WINTER WEEKEND**

Keep the dates of January 22 - 24, 1999 free for the Catskill 3500 Club winter weekend. Full details will appear in the January - March, 1999 *Canister*.

observant hiker can see radically different natural histories a relatively few miles apart. Kaaterskill Falls reminds me of places I've seen in the southern Appalachians, and even the hill country of Ohio; the Adirondacks resonate with the auras of the north.

Even the water looks different, at least that in Kaaterskill Creek. It's clear, running over magenta rock; much Adirondack water is the color of tea, thanks to tannin in its content, and there's little, if any, hint of red in the streambeds under it.

But the differences aren't really important. What's important is being able to experience the outdoors wherever it happens to be and gain from that experience. We can see as much in one square foot in the Catskills, or anywhere, as we can in millions of acres, if we but look for it, if we truly scrutinize the soil, the water, the vegetation, the signs of animal life.

The transcendentalists, philosophical ancestors of today's environmentalists, argued 150 years ago that one does not need space to appreciate and gain from nature; one needs only sharp eyes, ears and focus. I'll keep that in mind the next time I visit the Catskills. Perhaps I'll climb one of those 4,000 footers, open up my senses and really see the region.

*Neal S. Burdick  
35 Woods Drive  
Canton, NY 13617*

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

### UTAH BECKONS: CATSKILLS NOT FORGOTTEN

In July 1997, my wife, Karen, and I moved to St. George, in the southwest corner of Utah, from Port Washington, New York where we had lived for the last thirty-two years. Several factors influenced our move, with the natural splendor of southern Utah perhaps the strongest. For those who love the mountains and the out-of-doors, and who can't get enough of hiking and climbing, southern Utah is Disney World, as many of you already know. My primary intention in writing this is to make my address and telephone number available to friends and fellow hikers of the 3500 Club so that they can contact me to hike or get information when in southern Utah.

The Catskills will always represent one of the most important and enjoyable chapters in my life. From my first Catskill experience, bushwhacking to the summits of Sherrill and North Dome in January 1991, to climbing Vly and Bearpen on snowshoes in thick clouds in the winter of 1997, the Catskills became the most special group of mountains for me. The good things I associate with them are their beauty, especially in winter, the captivating vistas from high points, the tranquility of the wood, the challenges on the way to the summits, the friendships developed on the trail, and the feeling of accomplishment going from being an aspirant to a member of the Catskill 3500 Club.

Hopefully, I can return from time to time to Delaware, Ulster and Greene Counties. But in the meantime, it would be my pleasure to treat any 3500 Club member to a day or more on the trails of southern Utah. So, if you're out this way, or plan to be, give me a call, or write. I have a growing list of favorite hikes and climbs.

*David Pehlke (#909)  
1610 West 100 North, #43  
St. George, UT 84770  
(435) 688-2889*

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1998ASSUMED RISK

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

Sat. Oct. 3 FRIDAY and BALSAM CAP Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3000'  
Elev.: 3694', 3623' Order: 20, 24

A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Probable combination of slide and ledge climbing for Friday. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register by Thursday, Oct. 1.

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

Sat. Oct 10 TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3190'  
Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11

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

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

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

Sat. Oct. 17 Overlook, INDIAN HEAD, TWIN Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 3800'  
and SUGARLOAF Elev.: 3573', 3640', 3800' Order: 30, 23, 13

A strenuous but scenic trail hike at a fast pace. Shuttle required.

Meeting Place: Rte. 212 and Mink Hollow Road in Lake Hill FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Thomas F. Murasso (#1,135), 516-487-5030 (Call Oct. 12-15, 7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Sun. Oct. 18 HALCOTT Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'  
Elev.: 3520' Order: 34

A moderate bushwhack at a comfortable pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Oct. 14-16.

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

Sat. Oct. 24 SOUTHWEST HUNTER and Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2400'  
HUNTER Elev.: 3740', 4040' Order: 15, 2

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

Meeting Place. Call leader to register Wed. and Thurs., Oct. 21-22.

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

Sat. Oct. 24 THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME Distance: 16 mi. Ascent: 4500'  
BLACKHEAD, Acra Point Elev.: 3940', 3980', 3940', 3524'  
Burnt Knob and WINDHAM Order: 4, 3, 5, 33

A long, strenuous trail hike at a steady pace. Beautiful views. Early start, late out. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: Call leader to register by Thurs., Oct. 22.

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

- Sun. Oct. 25 **Evergreen and RUSK** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1900'  
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21  
A moderately-paced bushwhack and trail hike. (We'll do Evergreen if the river is low!) Bring map and compass because leader will instruct in their use.  
Meeting Place: Call leader to register Wed. and Thurs., Oct. 21-22.  
Leader: Marty Cohen (#728), 201-670-8383 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)
- Sun. Oct. 25 **INDIAN HEAD and TWIN** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'  
Elev.: 3573', 3640' Order: 30, 23  
Devil's Path to Pecoy Notch to new trailhead. Shuttle required.  
Meeting Place: New parking lot off Elka Park/Dale Rd. just west of junction with Wase Rd. at 8:30 A.M.  
Leader: Alan Kapitzke (#1,035), 413-796-7260 (8:00 A.M. - 12:00 noon)
- Sat. Oct. 31 **BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'  
Elev.: 3720', 3868' Order: 17, 7  
A moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Bridge over Dry Brook in Arkville at 8:30 A.M.  
Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730 (7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.)
- Sat. Oct. 31 **Van Wyck, TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3200'  
Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11  
A moderately-paced trail hike and bushwhack. Steady rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Oct. 26-29.  
Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 (until 9:00 P.M.)
- Sun. Nov. 1 **LONE and ROCKY** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300'  
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 16, 35  
A long, strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Oct. 26-30.  
Leader: Veronica O'Neil (#932), 914-776-5256
- Sat. Nov. 7 **DOUBLETOP** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2700'  
Elev.: 3860' Order: 8  
A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Call leader for details.  
Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 914-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)
- Sun. Nov. 8 **BIG INDIAN and FIR** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2200'  
Elev.: 3700', 3620' Order: 19, 25  
A moderately-paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Nov. 2-6.  
Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 914-967-8540 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.); 914-278-2770 (7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.)
- Sat. Nov. 14 **FRIDAY and BALSAM CAP** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3300'  
Elev.: 3694', 3623' Order: 20, 24  
A strenuous bushwhack at a fast pace. Heavy rain cancels.  
Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Nov. 9-12.  
Leader: Bob Novick (#1,086), 201-385-3161 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun. Nov. 15 FIR

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1800'  
Elev.: 3620' order: 25

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Steady rain cancels.

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

Leader: Jane Smalley (#1,068), 914-941-3918 (7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.)

**Nov. 16 - Dec. 8: HUNTING SEASON (FIREARMS) IN THE CATSKILLS.  
NO HIKES SCHEDULED IN THE CATSKILLS.**

Sat. Nov. 28 Escalator Hike and More

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1600'

Harriman bushwhack. Moderate hike at relaxed pace to unique, rarely visited and long forgotten sites.

Meeting Place: Jones Point parking lot on Rte. 9W at 9:30 A.M.

Leaders: Dave and Naomi Sutter (#1,110 and #1,109), 973-778-0992; Dsuttr@aol.com

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

Sat. Dec. 12 DOUBLETOP and GRAHAM

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

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

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

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

Sun. Dec. 13 NORTH DOME and SHERRILL

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

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

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

Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 914-967-8540 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.); 914-278-2770 (7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.)

Sat. Dec. 19 VLV and BEARPEN

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

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

Meeting Place: Call leader for details.

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

Sat. Dec. 19 Little Rocky, Mombaccus and  
Ashokan High Point

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'  
Elev.: 3080' (High Point)

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

Meeting Place. Call leader to register between Dec. 14-17.

Leader: Thomas F. Murasso (#1,135), 516-487-5030 (7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Sun. Dec. 20 **PANTHER**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'  
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

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

Meeting Place: Trailhead on Rte. 47 at 9:00 A.M.

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

### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

Fri. Jan 1, 1999 **DOUBLETOP**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1850'  
Elev.: 3860' Order: 8

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Dec. 28-31.

Leader: Henry Jenkins (#808), 914-883-7883 (6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

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### **LEADERSHIP PATCH AWARDED**

Congratulations to Doug Robins, Club President (#153), who has been awarded the leadership patch. The club awards the leadership patch to members who have led six separate hikes scheduled in the *Canister*. At least one hike must be to a trailless peak, and at least one other must be led during the winter. Also, attendance at least one club-scheduled trail maintenance hike is required.

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### **PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE**

Life member, Mary Sive (#595), is the author of Lost Villages: Historic Driving Tours in the Catskills, published by the Delaware County Historical Association, Route 2, Box 201C, Delhi, NY 13753. It costs \$14.95 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling and New York State sales tax. ... Bob McElroy (#797) summited Rainier for the second time, and the Devil's Tower. ... Wanda Davenport (#523) and Marty Cohen (#728) completed the White Mountain Four Thousand Footers on Middle Carter on July 30, 1998. ... Veronica O'Neil, accompanied by Ed Goldstein (#861), completed the ADK 46ers, in the rain, on Marshall on July 4, 1998. ... Kathy (#1,102) and Ralph (#122) Ferrusi placed first overall in the Open Canoe 2-person racing category in the 10-race whitewater New England Downriver Championship Series this past spring.

**Members and aspirants should send all items intended for the "Peripatetic Porcupine" column to Ralph Ferrusi, 34 Kim Lane, Stormville, NY 12582.**

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### ***THE BIRTHPLACE***

Here, further up the mountain slope  
Than there was ever any hope,  
My father built, enclosed a spring,  
Strung chains of wall round everything,  
Subdued the growth of earth to grass,  
And brought our various lives to pass.  
A dozen girls and boys we were.

The mountain seemed to like the stir,  
And made of us a little while –  
With always something in her smile.  
Today she wouldn't know our name,  
(No girl's, of course, has stayed the same.)  
The mountain pushed us off her knees.  
And now her lap is full of trees.

*Robert Frost*

NEW MEMBERS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,137	Carl W. Klinowski	5/24/97
1,138	Benjamin S. Tennyson	5/23/98
1,139	Ed Homerick	5/25/98
1,140	Stephen H. Brill	5/27/98
1,141	Michael A. Vetrano	5/22/98
1,142	Dennis M. Lewis	5/31/98
1,143	Keith Keator	6/7/98
1,144	Rolf Reiss	6/7/98
1,145	Austin Reiss	6/7/98
1,146	Andrew W. Thompson	6/30/98
1,147	Daniel Birnbaum	2/28/98
1,148	Anthony J. Elia	1/22/97

*A VAGABOND SONG*

*There is something in the autumn that is native to my blood --  
Touch of manner, hint of mood;  
And my heart is like a rhyme,  
With the yellow and the purple and the crimson keeping time.*

*The scarlet of the maples can shake me like a cry  
of bugles going by.  
And my lonely spirit thrills  
To see the frosty asters like a smoke upon the hills.*

*There is something in October sets the gypsy blood astir;  
We must rise and follow her,  
When from every hill of flame  
She calls and calls each vagabond by name.*

Bliss Carman