



the catskill canister

Vol. XII, No. 1

W I N T E R 1 9 7 9

BLACK DOME IN 1924

The Catskill Mountains have been known to white men for three hundred years and their valleys have been settled more than a century. It would seem as if all their summits ought by this time to be easily accessible by well known trails. Yet there are a dozen or more of the higher ones, above 3500 feet, which have no trails to their summits and which are climbed only by the exploring hiker, or perhaps a bear hunter in winter.

I recently found another trackless peak, Black Dome, just under 4000 feet--3990 according to the Durham sheet of the United States Geological Survey--on a week-end climb in the northern Catskills. There is no trail over it, and the only paths that reach its flanks are faded out logging roads in the valleys north and south, attaining heights 1500 feet below its highest point.

Black Dome is the central and highest of the three peaks that make up the Blackhead Mountains, running east and west, Black Head being the easternmost, then Black Dome and the last Thomas Cole. The other two are about fifty feet lower than the Dome. South of them is the valley of the East Kill, north that of Batavia Kill. North of Black Head runs a long ridge to Acra Point, then turning west to Windham High Peak. South this ridge runs through North Mountain and Stoppel Mountain to Kaaterskill Clove.

Black Head is accessible by a good trail. Take West Shore Railroad to Catskill and get a flivver to take you west through Cairo or Purling to the Jones fruit farm at the foot of Black Head; the bus drivers all know the place. If you get in late in the afternoon strike north for the brook which comes down out of a long valley trending southwest and find a camping spot for the night. Even in very dry weather there will be pools with water for a mile up from the farm.

There is a trail up both sides of the brook, the one on the north side, an old road with rotted bridges, being the better. About a mile and a half up the valley the road turns south up the steep wall to reach a sloping spur that comes down from the hogback running south from the summit. It climbs this spur on the brink of the valley, with fine views down into the densely wooded gulch, and across to Acra Point.

Near the top of the spur is a hole in the rocks, which looks like a prospect of some kind, in which potable water is sometimes found. However, the brook at the crossing of the road is the last sure water and one should fill his canteen there. Better fill two, because if you are going over Black Head and Black Dome you will not find more water in dry weather for several hours.

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On the path over the Hogback, just before the last ascent, is an interesting species of clubmoss, *Lycopodium annotinum*, with general form much like the Shining clubmoss, *L. lucidulum*, also growing there but with spikes of spore cases instead of fruiting in the axils of the leaves. A trailing vine, like our common black bindweed in appearance, but larger leaved, proved to be *Polygonum cilinode*. Mountain ash with red berries is conspicuous. Blue *Clintonia* berries and the scarlet fruits of the painted trillium and the Twisted Stalk (*Streptopus*), brighten the thickets.

From the summit of Black Head a trail started north and west and we thought it would take us over Black Dome, but it didn't. It descended the northwest face of Black Head and kept on down. Evidently it goes out to roads leading down Batavia Kill to farms. We left it near the bottom of the notch and climbed straight up through the rough to the summit of Black Dome. The contours as presented on the survey map are wrong; it shows a drop of only three hundred feet between Black Head and Black Dome; it is really 800 or 900.

The climb was stiff, with many ledges and blowdowns. At the top the forest is straggling, but prevents good views, except to the east and west. The only evidence that anyone had been there before us was a line of blazes east and west over the summit. The older ones were overgrown with bark--they marked a town line--but some had been freshened within a year or two by a recent surveyor, perhaps by Conservation Commission employees, as the summits have lately been added to the State forest preserve.

We contented ourselves with a look at Thomas Cole, next to the west. He looked about as trackless as Black Dome. We climbed down and down the headwall of the valley between these two and finally reached a brook, but we had to go down-stream a mile before there was any water.

In some of the pools small brook trout had been imprisoned, and were threatened with imminent stranding. We camped under hemlocks and beeches, on the floor of the brook valley, in a spot with frequent plants of the great round leaved orchis, *Habenaria Hookeri*, a remarkable plant example of the wonderful variety of nature, with deep green orbicular leaves, eight inches in diameter, flat on the ground, around the stalk of greenish purple flowers.

--Raymond H. Torrey
 New York Post 1924

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

I read of the wildlife which abounds in the CATSKILLS, but I have never seen a bear. I have, however, found their tracks and droppings on numerous mountains. I have seen a few deer, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, and occasionally a mouse. Winter is the best

time to learn what is about, as the soft snow reveals much. Tracks go from tree to tree and then down a hole. They crisscross the trail frequently, and it just seems that all the wildlife in the woodlands is out to enjoy the snow. One time while resting on Panther and looking quietly about, "There, what was that? Looked almost like a ghost, so sudden and then lost. There it goes again. Why it's a snowshoe rabbit (varying hare). He really scoots! Hard to see, as his snow-white winter coloring is a perfect camouflage."

The winter climbs can be such great fun. I recall the many times we would slide and fall and toboggan down and laugh at the plight of the other fellow as he banged around a tree or across a fallen log.

Once we parked at a barn with permission from the owner and made off to climb North Dome in the deep snow. It was windy and cold. When we arrived back at the cars, I went to thank the owner for the parking privilege. She remarked that she had watched us getting ready to go, but "when I saw you fellars with all your gear I wasn't worried no more. I just knew it would be all right. You sure looked like you knew what you were doing."

Another time some of us needed a place to park while climbing Bear Pen up the old ski slope. We went over to the other side of Prattsville and stopped at the farmer's, whose land we must cross, for permission to park and climb. He looked out at us huddled in wind and snow and cold, and more snow coming down, and said, "Why of course--but do you have to?"

It is great to remember the friends and companions sharing the fun and struggles of the trails and mountains. The beautiful views upon reaching the top, along with the wonderful feeling of having accomplished something, make it all so worth while.

As I started this article I just felt like rambling along like a bushwhack. I have brought out a few of the things we all experience and then remember with an innerglow of good feeling.

--Walter Gregory, Valhalla, N.Y.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

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11 Oak Glen Place, Whippany, N.J. 07981
- #291 John Giuffrida 11/11/78 914-356-5417
260 N. Main St., Spring Valley, N.Y. 10977
- #292 Kathryn Griffin 12/17/78
#293 Richard K. Griffin 12/17/78 914-246-9483
7440 Timberwall Rd., Saugerties, N.Y. 12477
- #294 Anthony Ballato 12/17/78 914-779-8496
2 Bronxville, Rd., Apt. 4N, Bronxville, N.Y. 10708

- #295 W. Thomas Sanders 12/22/78 914-623-8262
Box 443, Bardonia, N.Y. 10954
- #296 Lawrence E. Futrell 12/27/78 914-382-1142
Lake Katrine Apts. 18H, Lake Katrine, N.Y. 12449
- #297 William W. Collier 12/28/78 914-297-5901
13 Gary Place, Wappingers Falls, N.Y. 12590
- #298 Gregory Horne 12/29/78 516-367-3451
196 Woodbury Rd., Huntington, N.Y. 11743
- #299 James R. Stone III 12/30/78 914-876-7676
West Chestnut St., Rhinebeck, N.Y. 12572
- #300 Andy Compert 1/18/79
1106 Ruth Place, North Bellmore, N.Y. 11710

THE PERAPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our New Jersey cousin reports that #117 was married to Lisé Harvey 16 months ago. * * * * #18 states that 1979 has the best snowshoeing he ever remembers in the CATSKILLS.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

- Mar. 10 BEARPEN & VLY Two outlying peaks not recently scheduled. Approach from Johnson Hollow.
Those who intend to take this hike must register with the leader by letter or phone no later than Mar. 7 p.m.
Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1530' Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 28, 31
Meeting Place: Jct. Rts. 28 & 42 at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Friedel Schunk (#248), 771 Hillcrest Rd., Ridgewood, N.J.
201-447-0923 07450
- Mar. 24 ANNUAL DINNER MEETING IN KINGSTON - No scheduled hike
- Mar. 31 DOUBLETOP Moderately strenuous bushwhack.
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev.: 3870' Order: 8
Meeting Place: Village Bakeshop in Phoenicia at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Ray Spies (#222), R. D. 2, Meadowbrook Rd., Boonton, N.J.
201-334-5945 07005
- Apr. 21 OVERLOOK MOUNTAIN & HIGH LEDGE ON SOUTHEAST RIDGE Part trail, part bushwhack (including top of Overlook)
Distance: 6-7 mi. Ascent: 1960' Elev.: 3140'
Meeting Place: A & P Parking lot in Woodstock, N.Y. at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Bill Lawson (#78), 395 Hudson Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12203
518-436-1781



the catskill canister

Vol. XII, No. 2

S P R I N G 1 9 7 9

SLIDE MOUNTAIN TEMPERATURES

From the fall of 1977 through the winter of 1979, members of the Mohonk Trust staff maintained a maximum-minimum thermometer on the summit of Slide Mountain in the CATSKILLS, elevation 4,180'. Our aim was to get a feeling for the extremes of weather to be expected on the summit. The initial suggestion came from Dr. Michael Kudish, the vegetational historian, who pointed out that year-round records are scarce or non-existent for the higher elevations.

About every two weeks one of us hiked to the summit to take readings and reset the thermometer. Quite aside from the data, we enjoyed seeing Slide Mountain through the seasons. In winter it can be an impressively Alpine peak.

For the sake of comparison we also kept track of the high and low temperatures for the same period at the Winnisook Lake station (elevation 2,664') and our own Mohonk Lake station (el. 1,250'). Incidentally, the station at Winnisook is listed in National Weather Service records as "Slide Mountain," even though it is 1,500 feet below the summit.

The highest temperature recorded during the summer of 1978 was 81 degrees. That compared very pleasantly with the 90 to 100-degree readings in the flatland at the same time. The coldest winter temperatures were -13 in January 1978 and -24 in February 1979.

In general we found that the temperature falls about 3 degrees for each 1,000 feet of elevation gain, just as the textbooks say. We did, however, note a couple of interesting exceptions. During wet weather--rain or snow--the air is homogenized, so to speak, by the falling precipitation, so that there is little or no difference between the summit, Winnisook, and Mohonk Lake. We also observed that the summit is not an extremely cold place, because of the tendency of cold air to slide downhill and collect in valleys on windless nights. The very lowest temperatures in the CATSKILLS might be found at a place like Frost Valley. Up on the summits the air is better mixed.

What the summit lacks in intense cold, however, it makes up for in strong winds. Quite regularly through the winter, the snow at about the 3,700-foot level began to show the marks of hurricane-force winds, and we felt we were entering a truly Alpine zone. Those winds can suck the heat and moisture out of any living thing, including a hiker. In the ecology of the summit zone, the wind is probably as important as the temperature.

For those interested in the specifics, our readings are avail-

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able on request. Now it would be interesting to know something about the annual precipitation on the summit. Would someone like to maintain a rain gauge?

--Bradley Snyder, The Mohonk Trust, New Paltz, N.Y. 12561

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- | | | |
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203 Radcliffe Rd., Glenside, Pa. 19038 | 215-826-1420 |
| #304 | James P. Higgins 3/16/79
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| #305 | Elizabeth Maury 3/17/79
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| #307 | Robert Speiser 3/21/79
113 Winter Place, Mahwah, N.J. 07430 | 201-529-3661 |
| #308 | James C. Hoyt 4/1/79
Route 5, Box 76, Kingston, N.Y. 12401 | 914-331-5565 |

WINTER MEMBERS

Eleven more members have qualified for the winter patch during the last two years: Friedel Schunk, John Kennedy, Joseph Oxnard, Julius Picuri, Don Rain, Fred Jordan, Cyrus Whitney, Timothy Watters, William Collier, Joseph Whitaker, III, and Joseph Whitaker, Jr.

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our New England cousin reports that #18 has finally finished the Long Trail in Vermont. We are told that he was seen wandering over Abraham and Ellen in a fog more than ten years ago. Meanwhile, a grandson has grown old enough to accompany and encourage him. * * * * Retirees do get around. Last summer, his brother took #18 boating on Lake Meade and the Colorado River, and some Westchester Boy Scouts took him to Switzerland and Italy. * * * * #85 missed the annual dinner because he was speaking to the Connecticut Section of the Green Mountain Club. * * * * #160 has been accepted at Clarkson College;

his goal is industrial distribution, * * * * #263 is studying in Europe. * * * * #302 is involved in a backpacking mountaineering trip to Montana. * * * * #151 & #152 bumped into #1 & #23 on top of Marcy one February day. * * * * #64 is busy designing and building unusual creative houses in the Pacific Northwest, where he goes hiking and skiing in the Olympics. * * * * While passing through Waitsfield, Vermont enroute to Pigeon Hill, Millbridge, Maine, #79 was married to Elin Barton.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

- May 5 NORTH DOME & SHERRILL Moderately strenuous bushwhack to two trailless peaks.
 Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2370' Elev.: 3610 & 3540' Order: 25, 30
 Meeting Place: Jct. Rt. 42 & Spruceton Rd. at Westkill at 9:30 a.m.
 Leader: Ernest Mahlke (#72), 39 Spruce St., Oneonta, N.Y. 13820
 607-432-4394
- May 12 PANTHER, SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG Strenuous conditioning forced march.
 Preregistration with the leader is required.
 Distance: 20 mi. Ascent: 4700' Elev.: 3720', 4180', 3865', 3780'
 Order: 17, 1, 9, 14.
 Meeting Place: Trailhead near Woodland Valley campground at 7:00 a.m.
 Leader: Robert Forrest (#278), 9 Maple Drive, Randolph, N.J. 07801
 201-361-7983 6:00-9:30 evenings.
- May 20 CORNELL & WITTENBERG CLEAN-UP An opportunity for members & aspirants to help remove litter from this heavily used area. Clean-up being coordinated by N.Y.-N.J. Trail Conference.
 (Sun.) help remove litter from this heavily used area. Clean-up being coordinated by N.Y.-N.J. Trail Conference.
 Distance: 7-9 mi. Ascent: 2700' Elev.: 3780', 3865' Order: 14, 9
 Meeting Place: Woodland Valley campground at 8:00 a.m.
 Leader: Fred Schmelzer (#140), R. D. 1, Box 433A, Pine Bush, N.Y.
 914-361-3629 12566
- June 2 LONG PATH TRAIL CLEARING Help is needed with spring maintenance of our section of the Long Path which traverses Table & Peekamoose mountains. Please bring tools.
 Distance: 1-9 mi. Ascent: 500-2300' Elev.: 3843', 3847' Order: 11, 10
 Meeting Place: Grocery Store at Sundown at 8:00 a.m.
 Leader: Fred Schmelzer (#140), R. D. 1, Box 433A, Pine Bush, N.Y.
 914-361-3629 12566
- June 16 BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM Moderate trail hike.
 Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev.: 3725', 3868' Order: 15, 8
 Meeting Place: Lower (novice slope) parking lot, Bellayre Ski Center at 8:30 a.m.
 Leader: N. Jansen Fowler (#250), 17 Wilke Avenue, Kingston, N.Y.
 914-331-3010 (res.) 914-331-0788 (bus.)



the catskill canister

Vol. XII, No. 3

S U M M E R 1 9 7 9

A CATSKILL ASTROBLEME

Many hikers and natural history enthusiasts would choose some part of the Southern CATSKILLS as their favorite stomping grounds. Here the lush vegetation, superb scenic views, and rugged wilderness make the Southern CATSKILLS a virtual haven for persons who revel being where "the works of man dwindle."

One special part of this wonderful area is Panther Mountain, and it may well be unique. A glance at the topographic map will display Panther dominating an area just north of Slide, easily ten kilometers in diameter. So large is the Panther Mountain mass that it could engulf the entire Blackhead Range with room to spare. Further scrutinization of the map, however, will yield curious details. The Esopus Creek, which begins flowing in a northwest direction from Winnisook Lodge, drains the western side of the Panther Mountain mass and then turns eastward toward Shandaken and Phoenicia. Woodland Creek, which drains the eastern side of Panther, begins to flow in a northeast direction but terminates flowing in a northwest direction and emptying into the Esopus at Phoenicia. These stream meanderings result in a circular valley around the Panther Mountain mass, unique among the CATSKILLS.

According to John Lyon Rich, a noted glaciologist from the middle of this century, the stream section draining the western flank of Panther Mountain during the last ice age formerly drained through Big Indian and Pine Hill to the east branch of the Delaware River. Continual erosion at the headwaters of the proto-Esopus, working in a westerly direction through Phoenicia and Shandaken, eventually captured this stream and diverted it into the Esopus itself. This is called stream piracy. Outwardly, this partially explains the circular drainage pattern about Panther, but a deeper lying explanation also exists.

It is a well known fact that water will follow a course of least resistance. Could the bedrock about Panther Mountain vary significantly in resistance to be responsible for Panther's unique circular shape? Geologist Y. W. Isachsen and his associates of the New York State Museum think so. Their investigations have disclosed a large amount of fracturing (more properly, jointing) in the bedrock about the periphery of Panther Mountain, and particularly in the circular stream valley, as compared to the mountain's interior. Sound wave profiles within the ground, an important technique of seismology, were made across the stream valley and were found to be of low velocity, an expected result of shattered bedrock. Furthermore, gravity profiles of the Panther area show anomalies with the surrounding terrain.

The interpretation growing out of all these data is that Panther

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Mountain encompasses the site of an ancient meteorite or small comet impact with the Earth. The resulting crater (technically an astrobleme) was long ago buried by sedimentation forming the CATSKILL bedrocks, but after millenia of erosion, the crater is now approaching the surface. The fractured circular valley, embracing the Esopus and Woodland Creeks, is interpreted as the rim of this huge crater.

An interesting sidenote of such astroblemes is that they have been found to be good hydrocarbon reservoirs, but exploratory drilling in the Panther area for natural gas has given negative results.

If all this is true, then what can we suppose about the Panther Mountain region? Surely the force of the ancient impact caused the disruption of a large amount of land and bedrock, gouging, leveling, and making it more erodible. Had not this incident happened, would Panther Mountain have been the mostly lofty of the CATSKILLS, instead of Slide? It is something for Slide Mountain fans to ponder while enjoying the beautiful view from Slide's summit. The mysteries of creation are another addition to the list of attractions of the enchanting Southern CATSKILLS.

--Robert Speiser, Mahwah, NJ

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| #311 | Isaac Siskind 4/28/79 | |
| #312 | Marilyn Siskind 4/28/79
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| #313 | Paul Post 6/23/79
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CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

LONG PATH TRAIL CLEARING Help is needed in Peekamoose-
Table area. Please send card
to leader who will schedule small groups.

Leader: Fred Schmelzer (#140), R. D. 1, Box 433A, Pine Bush, NY
914-361-3629

Sept. 15 INDIAN HEAD & TWIN Moderate hike on the Devil's Path.

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2300' Elev.: 3573', 3640' Order: 29, 22
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Cy Whitney #266), Morley Drive, Wyckoff, NJ 07481
201-447-2653

Sept. 22 CORNELL & WITTENBERG CLEAN-UP Rescheduled from May 20.
An opportunity for mem-
bers and aspirants to help remove litter from this
heavily used area. Let's give Fred a hand.

Distance: 7-9 mi. Ascent: 2700' Elev.: 3780', 3865' Order: 14, 9
Meeting Place: Woodland Valley Campground at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Fred Schmelzer (#140), R. D. 1, Box 433A, Pine Bush, NY
914-361-3629 12566

Oct. 13 A WALK IN THE WOODS IN THE VICINITY OF VANWYCK MT. NEAR
TABLE MOUNTAIN.

Distance: 5-9 mi. Elevation: 3206'
Meeting Place: Grocery Store at Sundown, NY at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Roy Messaros (#97), 249 Mulberry Way, Franklin Lakes, NJ
201-337-5004 07417

Oct. 20 ADIRONDACK HIGH PEAKS Ranger's walk - 12 to 15
miles of central high peaks
in the Adirondacks including at least one major peak.
Start from either Garden parking lot at Keene Valley
or ADK Loj. Destination may be at discretion of group,
if priorities of patrol are not important. To be ar-
ranged with leader. Call for details, including equipment
Leader: C. Peter Fish (#12), Box 43, Hulls Falls Rd., Keene, NY
518-576-4796 12942

Oct. 27 RUSK Moderate bushwhack. Perhaps Hunter too if con-
ditions and time permit.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 3680' Order: 19
Meeting Place: Deming Road, first iron bridge west of Hunter, on left
about 1 mi. from flashing amber light, at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: David Mack (#267), 140 Couty Rd., Tenafly, NJ 07670
201-567-0991

Nov. 10 WITTENBERG Strenuous bushwhack from Traver Hollow
over Samuel's Point.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3100' Elev.: 3780' Order: 14
Meeting Place: Junction Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Sam Steen (#92), 6 DuBois St., Kingston, NY 12401
914-331-1010

Nov. 19 - Dec. 11 DEER SEASON (FIREARMS) IN CATSKILLS
No scheduled hikes.



the catskill canister

Vol. XII, No. 4

A U T U M N 1 9 7 9

BLACK BEAR PROJECT

The cabin smells of fresh perked coffee and frying bacon as another day begins in the CATSKILL Mountains. I am one of three or four fortunate people working for the Department of Environmental Conservation on the Catskill Black Bear Study. Within half an hour, we are in our four-wheel drive vehicle heading up some old logging road. At the end of a bumpy eye-opening ride, we begin the long hike farther up the mountain to examine the first of several carefully made "cubby sets." If we read our signs right and are somewhat lucky, our long hours and seven-day work weeks will be rewarded with the capture of a handsome Catskill black bear.

At this point, the bear will be darted with a tranquilizing drug and removed from the foot snare unharmed. He or she will then be ear tagged and a small premolar tooth will be removed to determine later the age of the bear. Body measurements will also be taken, and, depending on the size and sex of the bear, a radio collar may be fixed around his neck. Finally, the bear will be given another drug to cancel the effects of the first, and then released at the capture site. This bear will now become a valuable part of our study, and will give us important information about himself and his species so that we may always have these magnificent animals in the CATSKILLS.

The Catskill Black Bear Study was initiated several years ago when a decline was detected in the number of bears annually harvested during the hunting season. The study is an intense effort to gain a better understanding of the black bear and his habitat in the CATSKILLS. In the past few years, several of our captured bears have been radio collared and their movements monitored from aircraft. With the aid of these collars we can learn about home range, habitat preference, seasonal movement patterns, and reproductive success. The method used in live trapping these animals is safe to both man and animal. The area around the trap is marked with signs explaining the purpose. If, however, you should somehow miss the notices and step into the foot snare, the cable can easily be removed. Chances are that you will never see one of these traps, because they are in remote locations. We have concentrated our trapping efforts in the past in the Blackhead Range, the Panther-Slide Range, and the Doubletop-Fir area.

In the winter of 1975-76, a Greene County man was hunting snowshoe rabbits when his dog stumbled into a den and managed to rouse a hibernating sow from her winter quarters. Upon inspection of the den, the hunter was surprised to find three very young cubs left behind by their mother. The incident was reported to us and an attempt was made to reunite the family group. Unfortunately, the attempt failed, leaving the fate of the three young foundlings in doubt. We took over the task of caring for the cubs, while increasing our den studies that were going on at the time. That winter we had four radio-collared sows, and

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we wondered about the possibilities of foisting our waifs onto one or more of these bears. It would be a way of returning these young cubs to the wild where they belonged. In the past, we had found that if cubs were born to a sow in the den, we could not only determine their presence, but usually the number of cubs as well. This was accomplished by lowering a microphone into the den and making a tape recording. When the tape was played back, the cubs, if any, could be heard. After investigating all four dens, we found only one sow to have young, and it appeared that she had only one cub. The decision was made to attempt placement of two of the abandoned cubs with her. We did not want to take the chance of taxing the sow's milk supply, and felt that two additions to her small family was enough. After all, we knew three cubs to a sow was not uncommon. The next step was determining how best to place two screaming cubs into a den without the intended foster mother objecting to the whole process. The Bear Project came up with what we later affectionately called "the cub placer." This contraption consisted of a bucket at the end of a long pole with a rope attached from the top of the bucket to the pole handle. By jerking the rope, the top of the bucket would release and pivot on a hinge, spilling the cubs into their new home, or so we hoped. With spring rapidly approaching, the day for the cub drop was set. We needed a cold spell to take advantage of the bear's sleeping tendency during this time of the year. This might help in the sow's acceptance of her new additions. Well, the cold spell came, and we were ready to attempt something no one had ever tried. Except for a few moments of extreme tension, the cub placer worked, and the little critters tumbled down into the den as planned. We watched from a distance for a few hours, and seeing no signs of rejection decided to leave the new family alone to get acquainted. It seemed the fostering had been a success.

We were able to document the acceptance of the cubs the following winter. With handling equipment and drugs, the Bear Project went to the sow's new den and found her and two cubs (now yearlings) together. One was her natural cub and the other was one of the foster cubs (a lip tattoo had been placed for identification). The other foster cub could have denned nearby, but it was never found. With one of the foster cubs surviving the placement, there was no reason to assume the other cub had not. This important technique developed here in New York is now being used in other states. Needless to say, we were quite pleased with the results and their application.

The black bear is usually a timid and wary animal, and, unlike some of his western cousins, will flee at the mere presence of man in an area. If you are lucky enough to catch sight of one of these elusive and interesting animals, enjoy the experience, and consider yourself fortunate indeed.

--Charles Hackford
Fish and Wildlife Technician

WINTER WEEKEND 1979

We were again at the Alpine Inn in Oliverea, which is located at the foot of Fir Mountain. The owners are Eric and Edna Griesser, who are most capable hosts. They are the second generation at the Inn. Forty-two persons had accomodations, and there were fifty-one for dinner on Saturday. One family came from as far away as Philadelphia.

One need only go out back to be nose to nose with the climb. Just across the road is the pleasant bushwhack up a long ridge to the top of Eagle Mountain. Also in the area are seven more 3500 footers. The weather was in our favor and except for occasional fog on some summits it was grand: cool and about two feet of snow. Snow shoes were the order for the most part, and many were equipped with crampons.

There is always a group of house folks, who for one reason or another do not frolic out of doors. Rather a good hot game of scrabble. We call them the scrabble-eers. The champ is Elinore, and that is partly due to ownership of the latest two-letter word list.

We now come to the "Happy Hour." With that number of people, there are several parties. This is the time for all to hear the bragging of the fellow climber who implies that his trip was the greatest. There surely are a variety of stories. At the last minute before dinner, along come the stragglers who had gone far afield for a remote peak. Each one, of course, had the best time and the most challenging experience.

Dinner time now and, Wow! What a feed! No one leaves the table hungry. A great evening of slides and discussions of tomorrow.

After all is said and done, an epilogue would be: "Let's have another next year."

--Walter Gregory, Valhalla, NY

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The Executive Committee voted unanimously on October 27, 1979, to proceed with the incorporation of the Catskill 3500 Club. This action had been under consideration for some time, and was taken in order to establish the Club as a separate entity under the New York State Not-For-Profit Corporation Law. The Executive Committee views the incorporation primarily as a technical change, and does not foresee the new status as having any impact whatsoever on the operation of the Club, its members, or its activities.

In order to meet the requirements of the law, the following changes will be presented to the membership for ratification at the Annual Meeting in March 1980.

Proposition 1. Shall Article IV, Section 1, of the Constitution, and Article III, Sections 3 and 4, and Article IV, Section 2 of the By-laws be amended to read as follows?

Constitution - Article IV. This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of those present and voting at any meeting of the Club.

By-laws - Article III, Section 3. Ten percent (10%) of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

By-laws - Article III, Section 4. Only active members, defined as those who have paid dues as set forth below, shall be entitled to vote or be counted for meeting and quorum purposes, and each such active member shall be entitled to one vote at such meeting.

By-laws - Article IV, Section 2. Active (voting) members will pay yearly dues of two dollars, April 1 being the beginning of the Club year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At present, a two-thirds majority is required to amend the Constitution, but only a majority to amend the By-laws. A quorum now is twenty-five members. Section 4 of Article III is new. The dues were changed to \$2 in 1969 by vote of the Annual Meeting, but the By-laws have never been amended. There is no change in Article IV, Section 3, which provides for family dues.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #314 Roman Hrycun 7/14/79 914-229-7558
6 Lister Drive, Hyde Park, NY 12538
- #315 Paul J. Hoyt 7/29/79 516-775-2059
9 Fairmount Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530
- #316 Bruce Zakalik 9/23/79 212-671-6522
4180-4F Hutchinson R. Pkwy., Bronx, NY 10475
- #317 Mary M. Fowler 11/17/79 914-331-3010
17 Wilkie Ave., Kingston, NY 12401

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Dec. 22 HUNTER & RUSK Hunter first and then Rusk if time and conditions permit.
Distance: 8-9 mi. Ascent: 2700' Elev.: 4040', 3680' Order: 2, 20
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rt. 42 & Spruceton Rd. at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Ray Spies (#222), R. D. 2, Meadowbrook Rd., Box 324, Boonton, NJ 07005
201-334-5945

Jan. 5 (Alternate Jan. 6) KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 7-8 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3655' Order: 21
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Bill Lawson (#78), 395 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY 12203
518-436-1781

HYKES (continued)

- Jan. 12 NORTH LAKE SKI TOUR Easy ski tour in the scenic escarpment area at North Lake.
 Distance: 5 mi.
 Meeting Place: Entrance to North Lake Campsite (follow signs from Haines Falls) at 10:00 a.m.
 Leader: Sam Owen (#206), 52 Newman St., Metuchen, NJ 08840
 201-548-5875 weekdays; 914-657-6736 weekends
- Jan. 12 BLACKHEAD A required winter peak. Strenuous trail hike which may include Black Dome.
 Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1780' Elev.: 3940' Order: 5
 Meeting Place: Maplecrest Rd. & Main St. in Maplecrest at 9:00 a.m.
 Leader: Cy Whitney (#266), Morley Dr., Wyckoff, NJ 07481
 201-447-2653
- Jan. 25, 26, 27 CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND Snowshoeing & ski touring in the area around Alpine Inn at Oliverea.
- Feb. 2 GRAHAM (& DOUBLETOP) Doubletop if time and conditions permit.
 Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elev.: 3868' (3870') Order: 8, (7)
 Meeting Place: Village Bakeshop in Phoenicia at 8:00 a.m.
 Leader: Jim Cunningham (#211), 3505 St. Davids Rd., Newtown Square, PA
 Telephone contact: Ray Spies (#222), R. D. 2, Meadowbrook Rd., Box 324
 201-334-5945 Boonton, NJ 07005
- Feb. 16 NORTH DOME & SHERRILL
 Distance: 7-8 mi. Ascent: 2400' Elev.: 3618', 3540' Order: 25, 30
 Meeting Place: In front of Ramada Inn on Rt. 28 just off Kingston exit of the Thru-way at 8:00 a.m.
 Leader: John Kennedy (#247), P. O. Box 122, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
 914-876-3269 home; 914-876-2055 office
- Mar. 1 BALSAM LAKE (& GRAHAM) Moderate ski tour on jeep road. Graham will be included if time and conditions permit. Snowshoers welcome.
 Distance: 5-7 mi. Ascent: 1700'(2000') Elev.: 3725'(3868') Order: 15, 8
 Meeting Place: Bellayre Ski Center upper lodge for interm. & expert trail trails at fireplace closest to parking lot at 9:00 a.m.
 Leader: Sam Owen (#206), 52 Newman St., Metuchen, NJ 08840
 201-548-5875 weekdays; 914-657-6736 weekends
- Mar. 8 FRIDAY (& BALSAM CAP) Balsam Cap will be included if time & conditions permit.
 Distance: 6-7 mi. Ascent: 2800'(3100') Elev.: 3694'(3623') Order: 18, 24
 Meeting Place: Winchell's Corner Antique Store, Rt. 28 in Shokan at 8:00 a.m.
 Leader: Norman Smith (#199), Box 154, Circleville, NY 10919
 914-361-3971
- Mar. 22 ANNUAL DINNER MEETING at the Holiday Inn, Kingston, NY

CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND

January 25, 26, 27, 1980 - at The Alpine Inn, Oliverea, NY 12462.
South of Route 28 at Big Indian, NY. Telephone: 914-254-5026.

Reservations: \$10.00 per person must arrive by Jan. 15. Make check payable to Deborah F. Glynn, registrar, and mail to Deborah F. Glynn, Traver Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569. Tel: 914-635-8756

All rooms have twin beds. Rates are based on double occupancy. Please specify preference of roommate, if any. Room assignments will be in the order of receipt of reservations. Edelweiss has 4 rooms with private bath & 8 rooms with semi-private. des Alps and Ski Hut have private bath in all rooms. Extra dinner Friday evening - \$7.00 plus tax & gratuity. Extra dinner Sat. evening and/or Sun. - \$8.75 plus tax & gratuity.

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Arrival Friday evening after dinner (2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts,
1 dinner)
_____ Edelweiss - semi-private \$44.00 per person)
_____ Edelweiss - private \$48.00 per person) includes
_____ des Alps - private \$55.50 per person) tax &
_____ Ski Hut - private \$51.00 per person) gratuity

Arrival Saturday for dinner (1 night lodging, 1 breakfast, 1 dinner)
_____ Edelweiss - semi-private \$29.00 per person)
_____ Edelweiss - private \$31.25 per person) includes
_____ des Alps - private \$37.00 per person) tax &
_____ Ski Hut - private \$32.50 per person) gratuity

\$ _____ deposit enclosed for _____ persons. Roommate _____

_____ Friday evening dinner. _____ Sunday afternoon dinner.

Please notify registrar if you plan Saturday dinner only.

Signed _____ Address _____

Phone _____