



the catskill canister

Vol. XXXVI, No. 1

JANUARY - MARCH 2002

A WINTER PILGRIMAGE TO KATAHDIN

An expanse of rock and snow seemed to fill the entire cabin window as the wind moaned and snow dashed against the glass in the waning light of day. "Show me again where our route is supposed to go?", I asked Thom Davis. A geology professor, he had spent three months in Baxter State Park doing his graduate thesis. The ranger had advised us to avoid the easier Saddle Trail because of avalanche danger and use the Cathedral Trail. Thom outlined the route rising out of the Great Basin, up the precipitous north face of Mt. Katahdin. He added some comments on the interesting features of the surrounding rocks, which I ignored as it sunk in - we were really going right up that needle of rock.

The seven of us prepared for the next day, most hiding our doubts through light chatter, while the normally garrulous Larry LaBonte was subdued and openly doubtful. He had reasons beyond the loose crampons and forgotten ice axe, which were easily remedied. On January 22, 1994 he became lost in a whiteout while climbing Mt. Pierce in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Trapped in thick brush on a steep slope, he shed his pack and snowshoes in his effort to make progress. Once in the open, he floundered in deep snow and fell in a brook. One of his fellow climbers, who also had gotten lost, happened upon him crawling in the snow. He was littered out the next morning, with frozen feet and frozen knees, and hospitalized for two months, losing a portion of one toe. That night the wind howled like a wolf, as if to scare us off.

Monday morning dawned windy, but sunny, with the forecast calling for the wind to drop in the afternoon, so we waited till 9:00 to start. The Cathedral Trail ascends 2000' up a buttress, over three rock spires, called cathedrals, in 1.2 miles, and if anything, seemed more daunting as we stood at its base, looking up. We started in a basin, that I later learned was an avalanche chute. I blithely led us up the center of an open slide, with a slope of about 30 degrees. We postholed for the first three hundred yards, then started to hit hard crust. Once on the crust, we crawled like flies on a wall, winding our way up to some very uninviting rocks. At the rocks, we saw the blue-blazed trail heading right up the crest, but found a route over buried scrub around the worst of the rocks. In this manner we worked our way up the three cathedrals, staying on the crest until bare rock forced us to skirt around the spires. The views that unfolded offered sheer drops to either side, with the Knife Edge paralleling our ridge on the left and the ridge to Hamlin Peak off to the right.

Sue Eilers had an eager peak bagger's gleam in her eye. She had organized the trip and was the expedition leader. Katahdin was her final peak for her winter New England 111's. It had been five years since her climbing partners finished their winter 111's here. She'd missed the trip for the birth of her grandson, and now, on his fifth birthday, she finally had her goal in sight. In between there had been one expedition when high winds made climbing impossible, and the onset of Lupus, a chronic auto-immune disease which left her unable to walk for months and still had her sick in bed a week before the trip. Willpower enabled this indomitable woman to push through the fatigue and nausea of her illness with a grin on her face.

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IN MEMORIAM

With sadness I inform you of the death of William Thomas Sanders (#295) early on the morning of November 1, 2001. Tom was taken ill about six months ago and had been hospitalized as a result of a diabetic coma. He died from various complications. He was 68.

A strong hiker who was also a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Tom's enthusiasm for "bagging" the Catskill peaks inspired others to take up the challenge and attain the coveted membership patch. Tom wasted no time in helping his wife Sylvia complete all the peaks. A story she tells is that soon after they started dating in September 1986 and Tom learned she had climbed four Catskill peaks, he consulted his calendar and calculated that she could climb the rest of them by the end of December. Sylvia in fact finished on Slide a week before New Year's Eve 1987.

Tom leaves behind his wife, Sylvia, and daughter, Catherine.

Darielle Graham, Editor

* * * * *

It is with a heavy heart that I report the passing of our compatriot, Alan J. Lederman, due to the recent World Trade Center disaster. Known to his friends as "The Dude," Alan was a 3500 Club aspirant with twenty peaks on his ledger. He'd hoped to complete his list and become a full member, a fact he discussed with me the day before the tragedy.

The Dude and I, along with Mutley the Wonder Dog, climbed Balsam, Eagle, Big Indian and Fir on the weekend prior to his passing. He loved the Catskills and the fitness he obtained from climbing its peaks and exploring its lands. During our last hike, we met a married couple atop Eagle who had recently completed the Northeast 111s and Alan became interested in pursuing this goal as one of his recreational life ambitions. This past summer, he had summited Mount Whitney in California, the highest point in the forty-eight states. He was quite proud of this accomplishment.

Alan was a resident of Manhattan, a husband to wife Nancy, a brother to Roni, Jean and Andy, an employee of the AON Corporation, a mountaineer, an ardent advocate for animal rights and a friend to many. He will be missed.

Ed Gilroy (#1,305)

* * * * *

It is with great sadness and disbelief that I tell you of the death of Len Sperl, a proud member of the Catskill 3500 Club, who became member #1,094 on October 6, 1997. One of the Catskill Club's most active trail maintainers, Len was on almost every trail maintenance hike. He was also a member of the Rip Van Winkle Hikers. It was while leading one of their hikes up Kaaterskill High Peak on Monday, October 8, 2001, that Len suffered a heart attack.

Along with his love of hiking in the Catskills, Len was an avid hunter. He and his wife Charlotte also made maple syrup in a shed behind their house, a year-round project.

Len's willingness to play a supporting role in club activities and his cheery presence will be sorely missed.

Susan Puretz (#1,208)

Once past the last cathedral, the gradient eased and the wind dropped completely. Sue and I raced up the rock-studded snowfield for the summit, with the others in our wake. An ice-encrusted sign announced our arrival at "Baxter Peak," as the Park prefers to call Mt. Katahdin. Next to it was a six foot high frozen pile of rocks, which Sue hugged in joy, before clambering up to sit on top for a picture. Larry LaBonte leaned against the summit cairn, turning away to hide his tears. Mary Lou Recor, who had led the previous unsuccessful expedition, shared a hug and kiss with her boyfriend Chris Hanna. John Jaeger and Thom joined us for the obligatory group shots. We basked in glorious sunshine, identifying the surrounding peaks and savoring our good fortune to have such a warm and tranquil summit day.

Descending the featureless snow field, I wished I had brought wands to mark the route. I had fretted about this on the way up, as I looked back trying to memorize features on a bare white slope. A white-out could have left us in quite a predicament. We carefully made our way down, and I paused to point out a memorial plaque and photo of a deceased climber. Approaching the steep drop to the top cathedral, I heard a yell and looked over my shoulder. Larry had fallen and slid when one of his feet broke through the crust, leaving him hanging upside down with his foot trapped at an awkward angle. I leapt beneath him, pushing up with all my strength to try and ease the pressure on his leg and prevent him starting a head-first fall. Larry is a big man, over 200lbs, and as I heaved, I felt one of my own crampons pop out from under me. Haunted by visions of us both tumbling down the 2000' slope, I kicked my crampon back in and stopped trying to lift him. Instead, I concentrated only on holding him, while he planted his ice axe. Once he had secured himself, Sue and I chopped up the crust with ice axes to release his trapped foot. After resting for a few moments, Larry regained his composure.

Chastened, we resumed our difficult descent of the Cathedral. After Larry's mishap, I kept a death grip on my ice axe, and had it firmly planted whenever possible. The slope dropped off so steeply, that much of the time I couldn't see our route down, and relied instead on our crampon marks to guide me. Once out on the crest of the ridge, the route was visible, though this was a mixed blessing, being able to see how far we would fall before hitting bottom. I found it better to concentrate on the section just ahead of me, looking around only from secure stances. Frequently, one of us would break through the crust, but though we did stumble, we suffered no more falls. Once we hit the loose snow at the base of the slope, I plunge stepped blissfully down an unbroken snow, totally oblivious to the danger of a slide. At the bottom looking up, our experience seemed slightly unreal, leaving me quiet and introspective as the rush of adrenaline drained away.

John B. Graham (#478)

BILL RIEMVIS HONORED AT ART SHOW

Bill Riemvis (#171) has found a new pursuit. In September he had a one-man show of his cartoon drawings at the Mountainside Residential Care Center in Margaretville, where he now resides.

Many of us would have had a lot more trouble completing the Catskill peaks without Bill's assistance. He was always willing to come out to help find a canister on a trailless peak. No one knew his way around the mountains better than Bill.

After Bill's wife, Anna, died two years ago, he gave up their home not far from the Panther Mountain trailhead and moved to Mountainside. Popular with both staff and residents, Bill's sense of humor and sharp wit, as well as his artistic skills, have helped him create a new life. When not painting or sketching, Bill enjoys reading adventure stories. His address is c/o Mountainside Residential Care Center, Margaretville, New York 12455.

Mary Sive (#595)

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: JANUARY-MARCH, 2002**ASSUMED RISK**

January through March the wind chill on exposed ridges may reach 50 below zero. Adequate and appropriate clothing is essential to prevent hypothermia and ensure added safety in case of an emergency. Avoid cotton. Once cotton gets damp from perspiration, it remains damp and the resulting chill of damp material against the skin can lead to hypothermia. Polypropylene, wool and/or fleece are the preferred choices of winter clothing, but cheaper alternatives such as polyester or nylon will suffice. Unless specified otherwise, full (not instep) crampons and showshoes should be carried on the hike. If you cannot buy, rent, or borrow snowshoes, avoid the mountains in winter. Leaders reserve the right to turn away any hiker who is not properly attired or equipped.

Sat., Jan. 5 PLATEAU

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3840' Order: 12

A moderate, scenic trail hike. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place/Time: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:45 A.M.
Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 845-687-7750 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun., Jan. 6 INDIAN HEAD and TWIN

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2265'
Elev.: 3573', 3640' Order: 30, 23

An easy-paced trail hike. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place/Time: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Dave White (#859), 315-853-6942 (between 8:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.)

Sat., Jan. 12 WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev: 3524 Order: 34

A moderate trail hike at a relaxed pace. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place/Time: Trailhead on Route 23 (3 mi. east of Windham) at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Laurie Moore (#1,337), 607-538-9484 (between 7:00 P.M.-9:00 p.m.)

Sat., Jan. 12 BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Jan. 7-10.
Leader: Bob Novick (#1,086), 201-385-3161 (between 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M. ONLY)

Sun., Jan. 13 BALSAM

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3600' Order: 28

An easy-paced trail hike. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Jan. 7-11.
Leader: Mick Dunn (#1,272), 603-595-2678, x 2 (between 11:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.); mdunn@genetics.com

Sat., Jan. 19 LONE and ROCKY

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 17, 35

A long, strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Jan. 14-18
Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 (between 9:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M. ONLY);
amc_leader@hotmail.com

Sun., Jan. 20 SOUTHWEST HUNTER (and possibly HUNTER)

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

A difficult bushwhack at a steady pace. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register before Jan. 18.
Leader: Tom Regan (#1,026), 516-822-3720 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sat., Jan. 26 **HALCOTT**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1650'
Elev.: 3537' Order: 32

A relaxed pace trail hike. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leaders to register between Jan. 21-24.

Leaders: Dave and Naomi Sutter (#1,110 and 1,111), 973-778-0992 ; dsuttr@aol.com

Sat., Jan. 26 **BEARPEN and VLY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 33

A strenuous-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Jan. 21-24.

Leader: John Swanson (#592), 732-613-1963 (between 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sun., Jan. 27 **RUSK (and possibly HUNTER)**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3680', (4040') Order: 21, (2)

An easy-paced bushwhack and possible trail hike. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Jan. 21-25.

Leader: Rocky Walberg (#886), 845-876-1061 (between 5:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M.)

Sun., Jan. 27 **WESTKILL**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

A short trail hike at a steady pace. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Jan. 21-24.

Leader: Nan Giblin (#1,328), 718-896-6829 (between 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sat., Feb. 2 **FIR**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3620' Order: 25

A moderate trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Jan. 28-Feb. 1

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710 (between 8:00 P.M.-9:30 P.M.)

Sun., Feb. 3 **PANTHER and Giant Ledge**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A moderate to fast-paced trail hike. Shuttle required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Jan. 29-31.

Leader: Pavel Litvinov (#1,348), 914-631-4861 (before 9:00 P.M.); pavellitvinov@hotmail.com

Sat., Feb. 9 **DOUBLETOP**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3860' Order: 8

A strenuous trail hike and bushwhack at a moderate pace. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Feb. 4-8.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun., Feb. 10 **SLIDE**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1

An easy-paced trail hike to a required winter peak. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Feb. 4-8.

Leader: Mick Dunn (#1,272), 603-595-2678, x 2 (between 11:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.); mdunn@genetics.com

Sat., Feb. 16 **EAGLE**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3600' Order: 27

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email (email preferred) leader to register between Feb. 11-15.

Leader: Roman Benke (#1,216), 718-357-2562 (before 9:00 P.M.); doodah-man@att.net

Sun., Feb. 17 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2775'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

An easy-paced bushwhack. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Feb. 11-15.

Leader: Rocky Walberg (#886), 845-876-1061 (between 5:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M.)

Sat., Feb. 23 **Mt. Tremper**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 2790'

A moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Feb. 18-22.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (before 8:00 P.M.)

Sun., Feb. 24 **BLACK DOME and THOMAS COLE**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3980', 3940' Order: 3, 4

A moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Feb. 18-22.

Leader: Jean Laverdure (#1,299), 518-562-0857 (if voice mail, leave number for return call)

Sat., Mar. 2 **INDIAN HEAD and TWIN**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3573', 3640' Order: 30, 23

A strenuous-paced trail hike. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Feb. 25-28.

Leader: John Swanson (#592), 732-613-1963 (between 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sun., Mar. 3 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

A strenuous trail hike at a steady pace. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Feb. 25-28.

Leader: Nan Giblin (#1,328), 718-896-6829 (between 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sat., Mar. 9 **HUNTER**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 4040' Order: 2

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Short shuttle required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Devil's Tombstone Campground at 8:45 A.M.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sat., Mar. 9 **WITTENBERG and CORNELL**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3780', 3860' Order: 14, 9

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. If trail breaking is necessary, all participants shall be required to contribute to the effort. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Mar. 4-7.

Leader: Anthony Amaral, Jr. (#612), 212-874-9242 (between 7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M. only)

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

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Mar. 4-8.

Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240; jbgraham@optonline.net

Sat., Mar. 16 BLACKHEADDistance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3940' Order: 5

A moderately-paced trail hike to a required winter peak. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Mar. 11-15.

Leader: Judy Weiner (# 1,287), 201-840-7078; jmw755@aol.com

Sun., Mar. 17 BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAMDistance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1890'
Elev.: 3723', 3868' Order: 16, 7

An easy-paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Jct. of NY 28 and Co. Rd. 49 (Dry Brook Rd.) in Arkville at 8:30 A.M.

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

Sat., Mar. 30 HUNTER and SOUTHWEST HUNTERDistance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 4040, 3740' Order: 2, 15

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Mar. 25-29.

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 212-486-2692 (between 9:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M. ONLY);
amc_leader@hotmail.com

CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND: JANUARY 25-27, 2002

Once again, this event will be held at Schwarzenegger's Sunshine Valley House located on Spruceton Road in Westkill, New York. Hikes have been, and will be scheduled for members and aspirants (see p. 5 of hiking schedule). Downhill skiing is available within a half hour's drive at Windham, Hunter Mountain, Belleayre and Cortina Ski Areas. Guests can also enjoy outside pavilions, Conan's Corner Bar and Lounge and a heated swimming pool. The hotel telephone number is 518-989-9794.

Rates: Double occupancy - \$70.00/night, which includes Friday night lodging, Saturday breakfast, trail lunch and dinner. Saturday night lodging and Sunday breakfast/trail lunch - \$53.00, totaling \$123.00, which includes sales tax and gratuity as well as a 10% discount. Saturday night dinner only - \$17.00, including tax and gratuity. Add \$10.00 per person for a single room. All rooms have a private bath, color television and telephone. Meals comprise a hearty breakfast, trail lunch and full dinner served family style. Before dinner, guests can enjoy free cheese and wine.

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

ANNUAL DINNER

The thirty-sixth annual dinner meeting of the Catskill 3500 Club will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2002 at the Hillside Manor in Kingston, New York. A social hour with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will precede dinner which includes a choice of three entrées. The guest speaker, Dr. Uldis Roze, Professor of Biology at Queens College, will present a program about lives of the Catskill porcupines. Members and aspirants will receive invitations early next year.

T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE AT ANNUAL DINNER

3500 Club t-shirts can be purchased for \$7.00 at the annual dinner on a first-come, first-served basis. No mail orders will be available.

PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Al Welenofsky (#949), after climbing seven 14,000-foot Colorado peaks in July (to acclimatize), reached Uhuru Peak, at 19,340 feet the highest point on Kiliminjaro, on August 11, 2001 - at age 63! • Dave Bourke (#468) completed his second round of the Adirondack 46 on Allen on August 20, 1997 with his son, Michael, who finished his first round. Dave is now halfway through his third round. He also finished the White Mountain 4000 Footers on Madison on September 6, 2001 and now has 105 of the NE 111.

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

NEW MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,363	Karen McKenney	8/18/01
1,364	Maria D. Vargas	8/18/01
1,365	Yoshiko Takeshita	8/26/01
1,366	Dennis J. Clarke	8/25/01
1,367	Eric Renz	8/25/01
1,368	Lisa Gizzarelli	9/22/01
1,369	Barbara A. Blum	9/9/01
1,370	Judith Harbison	6/24/01
1,371	Kenneth Harbison	6/24/01
1,372	Timothy Kase	10/7/01
1,373	Manuel A. Peraza	10/14/01
1,374	Hank Perrine	11/13/01
1,375	Eileen C. Berch	9/9/01
1,376	Wayne Ouderkirk	11/10/01

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Eileen C. Berch (#1,375)
 Tom Kasenchak (#1,183)
 Daniel Birnbaum (#1,147)
 Thomas W. Regan (#1,026)

The Black Dog

Arriving
 the black dog on the rock ledge
 an apparition
 on Wittenberg
 like the gray mist
 through a web
 of petrified wood
 and birch trees
 brightening
 in a sudden sun shower.
 Ascending through
 a funnel cloud
 loud wind surrounding.
 Ascending between a crevice
 perilous to a dog.
 The rock trail is relentless
 ascending, crescendo
 to a view of the world
 winded, wild with love
 for the wide beauty.
 The danger of rising to Cornell
 is ecstasy.
 Where to hold.
 So much depends upon
 strength
 before descending
 when the black dog appears again
 a guardian
 departing.

Kathryn Kurtz (#1,134)



the catskill canister

Vol. XXXVI, No. 2

APRIL - JUNE, 2002

NOT JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE WOODS

Wednesday, December 26th started out like many other winter days. My friend, Nan Giblin, was leading a group of seven hikers up Panther mountain. The temperature was below 20F, but not bitterly cold. After a brief introduction and gear check, we headed up the trail at a steady pace. There wasn't enough snow to require snowshoes - in places bare ground showed through. The trail was a little slippery, but we easily skirted any patches of ice. Two and a half hours later we reached the summit of Panther, where we stopped to snack and enjoy the view.

When we started down, I fell into my role as the sweep. About 400 feet below the summit, I heard someone yell. I couldn't see what had happened, but could tell something was wrong. The upbeat jovial conversation had changed to one of concern.

I had just completed my wilderness first aid re-certification course given by Jonathan Silver, Chairman of the Wilderness First Aid Committee of the Appalachian Mountain Club, and felt a need to rush to the scene to help. I had to restrain my urge to run. The first rule of rescue went through my mind: *Don't make yourself the second victim*. When I got to the group, one of the hikers, Russ Bebb, was sitting on the ground. He had slipped and fallen while stepping down a short rocky section of the trail. Nan thought Russ' arm might be broken and asked me to look.

We were in a situation most leaders hope they never have to experience. A participant was injured, miles from the road, in winter conditions. I knew we had to act in a controlled manner to prevent things going from bad to worse. The good news: we had a strong group with adequate gear, it was not bitterly cold and we were on a modest incline which posed no additional risk to the group, the patient or me.

In times of crises at home, we can pick up the phone and dial 911. Minutes later a trained EMT or paramedic arrives. In the field it's different. While it's possible to call for help with a cell phone, the response time is likely to be several hours. We needed to provide Russ with immediate first aid.

Handling a wilderness emergency efficiently requires teamwork and leadership. Many tasks need to be done simultaneously. Resources must be assigned to provide first aid and support the first aid effort, as well as plan and execute the evacuation. Additionally, the group must be adequately informed, nourished and protected from the elements. While Nan managed the accident scene and directed the group, I focused on the patient.

I started with the basics - A, B, C, D and E: Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Disability (Da Spine, Jonathan Silver's phrase) and Environment. I confirmed the first three then considered the possibility of spinal injury. We were fortunate that this was not a serious accident. Russ had simply slipped and fallen, injuring only his arm.

Cont'd on Page 3

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The *Catskill Canister* is published quarterly 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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PERSON SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN CANISTERS

The club is seeking someone to replace Harry Rampe to maintain the canisters on the Catskill trailless peaks. Responsibilities include replacing all books once a year and ensuring that writing utensils are in good order; mailing the books on Friday, Balsam Cap, Rocky, Lone, Fir and Big Indian to Doug Robins by the first week of May so that he can compile his reports for the Department of Environmental Conservation; checking the canisters throughout the year for damage inflicted by animals (mostly porcupines) or people writing on the canisters, in which case they get repainted.

Interested persons should contact the club president, Gerald A. Gervais, at (315) 685-2083 or ggervais@tessy.com

CLUB ADOPTS A HIGHWAY

Want to give something back to the Catskills? Through the State Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway program, the club has adopted the two-mile stretch of Route 214 south of Stony Clove North for litter control. Not only is this stretch one of the most beautiful and striking in the entire Catskill region, it is also currently on the route of the Long Path. Two yearly trips will be added to the outings schedule. For more information call Daniel Case at (845) 778-1090 or email dancase@frontiernet.net.

PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

In 2001, Ken Hubert (#1,351) climbed all the Catskill 3500 peaks, all of the Adirondack 46ers and was the 12th person to complete the ADK's New York State Forest Preserve Fire Tower Challenge. Ken estimates that the Catskills took 187 miles of walking, the Adirondacks 285 miles, the fire towers 90 miles. ♣ Phil McDonald completed all the Catskill 3500 peaks barefoot, making him the first to accomplish such a feat. He finished the last of the required winter four on January 17, 2002 with boots in order to wear snowshoes and/or crampons, as he didn't want to be accused of postholing. ♣ Ed Hominick (#1,139) became an ADK 46er on October 5, 2001, finishing on Seymour mountain. ♣ Kathy (#1,022) and Ralph (#122) Ferrusi saw Mount Everest from 12 miles away (and Lhotse, Nuptse and Ama Dablam) by moonlight from Deboche on a November/December 2001 trek in the Himalayas from the Lukla Airstrip to the monastery at Pangboche.

If there is a special event in your life, or that of another member or aspirant (graduation, engagement, marriage, promotion), or a special achievement on or off the trail, please let Ralph Ferrusi know (see masthead this page).

Environment: We had to keep Russ insulated from the cold. Cold ground sucks life-sustaining warmth from the patient at a rapid rate. In ten minutes, he would begin the deadly slide into hypothermia and, more importantly, shock. I asked him if he could move himself onto his pack if we helped. He thought it was possible, and John, another hiker, and I helped Russ off the ground. Now, we needed to ensure that Russ stayed warm. He was already wearing all his layers, so Nan wrapped him in her expedition-weight parka.

Priorities addressed, I reached into my pack and pulled out my first aid kit which is about half as big as a one-liter water bottle. It looked awfully small and inadequate but I knew we could put together what we needed. "The name of the game" in the field is improvisation.

Next, we had to work on the diagnosis and treatment of Russ' injuries. I keep an accident form in my first aid kit to use as a guide and ensure that I get all the details recorded. I questioned Russ and found him to be alert and oriented. I did not uncover any important medical conditions. Looking for other injuries that might have been masked by the pain in his arm, I found none.

I never doubted that the arm was broken. Russ was in serious pain and the arm was crooked. It needed to be splinted for support and immobilization during the evacuation back to the cars. I had no SAM splint (a common commercial splint), so I started with a small foam pad. This being too small, I tried my crampon bag, which had a rigid plastic liner, and found that worked better. But more padding was needed, so I decided to use the foam and a small towel which someone offered. I made a sling from a triangular bandage, inserted Russ' injured arm and tied it to his body with straps so the arm would be immobilized. Then adjustments were made to alleviate any discomfort.

We helped Russ to his feet. I asked him to take a little jump to test the splint. He jumped and confirmed that the splint felt secure. On the walk out, I supported Russ with his uninjured arm draped round my shoulders. Keeping our balance was difficult, so I shed my pack and the contents were divided amongst the group. I put on crampons for better traction and we started again. Along the way, we talked, told stories and jokes to pass the time and keep up our spirits. At 1:30 p.m. we reached County Route 47. Once in the hospital, the doctor confirmed that Russ' arm was severely broken.

We had been lucky in being able to perform a self-rescue. Had our efforts uncovered more serious injuries that prevented self-rescue, we would have called or sent someone out to get help from the NY-DEC.

John Swanson (#592)
3 Rutledge Court
E. Brunswick, NJ 08816

Analysis: This evacuation could have been far more difficult. Had the injured party needed to be littered out, all members of the group would be expected to assist in the evacuation, which could easily take four hours or more. Two people would go for help, and would return with the ranger and the litter. The others would aid the victim and protect him from the elements. If participants do not have enough clothing to stay warm for several hours, they are not adequately equipped and could become victims themselves. Participants in our hikes are urged to scrutinize what they carry and ask themselves if their gear would meet this test.

Post script: This article describes, in part, some of the steps taken to treat an injured hiker in the field. The reader should NOT use this article as first-aid instruction. The author recommends formal training courses such as the wilderness first aid course offered by SOLO.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: APRIL - JUNE 2002**Assumed Risk**

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

Sat., April 6 **HALCOTT**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1750'
Elev.: 3537' Order: 32

A steady-paced, moderate bushwhack. All will be out early to attend the 3500 Club dinner.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between April 1-5.

Leader: Tom Regan (#1,026), 516-822-3720 (before 9:00 P.M.)

Sun., April 7 **RUSK**

Distance: 3 mi. Ascent: 1560'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

A moderately-paced bushwhack.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register by April 2.

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan (#1,389), 845-657-7057 (between 9:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.)

Sat., April 13 **FIR, BIG INDIAN and EAGLE**

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3620', 3700', 3600' Order: 25, 19, 27

A moderately-paced bushwhack and trail hike.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between April 8-12.

Leader: Henry Jenkins (#808), 845-883-7853; gaymooseman@yahoo.com

Sat., April 20 **BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

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

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between April 15-19.

Leader: John Graham (#428), 914-241-2240; jbgraham@optonline.net

Sun., April 21 **SHERRILL**

Distance: 4.5 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3540' Order: 31

An easy-paced bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader between Apr. 15-19.

Leader: Michael (Mick) Dunn (#1,272), 603-595-2678, X2 (between 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.);
mdunn@genetics.com

Sat., Apr. 27 **BEARPEN and VLY**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 33

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between April 22-26.

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

Sun., April 28 **PANTHER and Giant's Ledge**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1545'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A moderately-paced, strenuous trail hike. Rain cancels.

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

Leader: Brian Sullivan (#681), 845-687-7750 (call before April 26).

Sat., May 4 **PEEKAMOOSE and TABLE:
Trail Maintenance**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3843', 3847'; Order: 11, 10

Give back to the woods and possibly bag one or both peaks. Rain cancels.

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

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

Sun., May 5 **BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3723', 3868' Order: 16, 7

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

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between April 29-May 3.

Leader: Laurie Moore (#1,337), 607-538-9484 (between 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat., May 11 **WITTENBERG and CORNELL**

Distance: 9.4 mi. Ascent: 3070'
Elev.: 3780', 3860' Order: 14, 9

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

Meeting Place & Time: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia for breakfast at 7:45 A.M.; leave at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Dave White (#859), 315-853-6942

Sun., May 12 **SLIDE**

Distance: 7.5 mi. Ascent: 1730'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1

A moderately strenuous trail hike at a steady pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Morra's Grocery at corner of Cty. Rd. 47 and Rte. 28 in Big Indian at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Carol White (#860), 315-853-6942

Sat., May 18 **BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME and
THOMAS COLE**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3940', 3990', 3940' Order: 5, 3, 4

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

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

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (call after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun., May 19 **ROCKY, LONE and TABLE**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3508', 3721', 3847' Order: 35, 17, 10

A moderately-paced but strenuous hike and bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels (rain date to be arranged).

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register by May 14.

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan (#1,389), 845-657-7057 (between 9:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.)

Sat., May 25 **WESTKILL**

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

A moderately-paced trail hike.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between May 20-24.

Leader: Roman Benke (#1,216), 718-357-2562 (before 9:00 P.M. If ans. machine, leave # for return call)

Sun., May 26 **TWIN and SUGARLOAF**

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3640', 3800' Order: 23, 13

A moderately-paced trail hike. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader for details by 1:00 P.M. on May 24.

Leader: Richard Barr (#604), 212-877-2694; richardedbarr@aol.com

Sat., June 1 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER**

Distance: 5.5 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3740' Order: 15

A moderately-paced bushwhack and trail hike.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register by May 25.

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan (#1,389), 845-657-7057 (between 9:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.)

Sun., June 2 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3524' Order: 34

A moderately-paced trail hike.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader for details between May 27-31.

Leader: Jean Laverdure (#1,299), 518-562-0857 (if voicemail, leave message for return call).

Sat., June 8 **INDIAN HEAD, TWIN, SUGARLOAF
and PLATEAU**Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 4000'
Elev.: 3573', 3640', 3800', 3840'
Order: 30, 23, 13, 12

A strenuous trail hike at a steady pace. Shuttle required.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between June 3-7.

Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 845-278-2770; nyestreet@aol.com

Sun., June 9 **HALCOTT**Distance: 3 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3537' Order: 32

An easy-paced bushwhack.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between June 3-7.

Leader: David Galvin (#1,201), 607-538-9518; porcupine@dmcom.net

Sat., June 15 **SLIDE, CORNELL and WITTENBERG**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 4180', 3860', 3780' Order: 1, 9, 14

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

Meeting Place & Time: Woodland Valley Campground FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (call after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun., June 16 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

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

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader for details between June 10-14.

Leader: Michael (Mick) Dunn (#1,272), 603-595-2678, X2 (between 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.);
mdunn@genetics.comSat., June 22 **Van Wyck, TABLE and PEEKAMOOSSE**Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 3500'
Elev.: 3206', 3847', 3843' Order: 64, 10, 11

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a steady pace.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between June 17-21.

Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 845-278-2770; nyestreet@aol.com

Sun., June 23 **DOUBLETOP and GRAHAM**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2360'
Elev.: 3860', 3868' Order: 8, 7

An easy-paced bushwhack.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between June 17-21.

Leader: David Galvin (#1,201), 607-538-9518; porcupine@dmcom.net

Sat., June 29 **BLACK DOME and BLACKHEAD**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2400'
Elev.: 3980', 3940' Order: 3, 4

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader for details between June 24-28.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (before 8:00 P.M.)

You are cordially invited to attend the
THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
of the

Catskill 3500 Club

Saturday, April 6, 2002

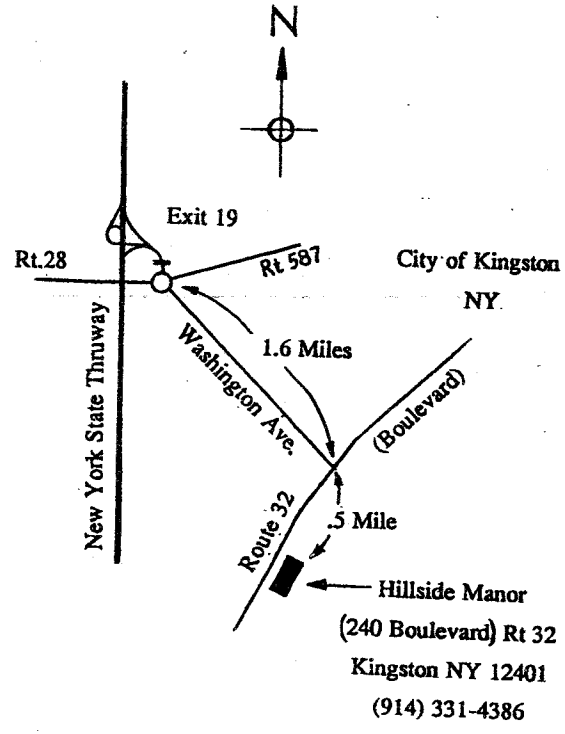
Location: Hillside Manor
Route 32 (240 Boulevard)
Kingston, New York 12401
(845) 331-4386

Social Hour: 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Cash bar, hors d'ouvres served

Dinner: 6:15 p.m. - Choice of Entrée:
Prime Ribs au Jus
Chicken Française
Mixed Vegetable Lasagne

Program: "Lives of the Catskill Porcupines"
By: Dr. Uldis Roze, Professor of Biology,
Queens College, C.U.N.Y.

Cost: \$28.00 per person
Check payable to "Catskill 3500 Club, Inc."
Name card reserved seating for everyone,
round tables seat 10
Reservations required by March 31, 2002



Detach and mail to: Roy Messaros (201) 337-5004
249 Mulberry Way
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

Reservations received later than
March 31, 2002 will not be accepted.

Catskill 3500 Club

Reservations \$28.00 per person. Amount of Check: _____

Circle Choice of Entrée

Name: _____	Prime Ribs	Chicken Française	Mixed Veg. Lasagna
Name: _____	Prime Ribs	Chicken Française	Mixed Veg. Lasagna

Use back of this form for additional names and choice of entrée.
Also list names of others with whom you want to be seated.
Name card reserved seating provided for groups and individuals.

NEW MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1,377	Phil E. Seward	11/23/01
1,378	Eric Pitcher	11/18/01
1,379	Joseph A. Roth	10/14/01
1,380	Daniel F. Mulvihill, IV	5/28/01
1,381	Carol F. Moran	12/24/01
1,382	Robert G. Michell	12/26/01
1,383	John C. Fontana	12/26/01
1,384	Jon Bentley	12/26/01
1,385	Susan Lisa Smith	12/29/01
1,386	Kenneth J. Wamsley	12/29/01
1,387	Colin R. Smith	12/29/01
1,388	Stuart C. Falls	12/30/01
1,389	Edward Ripley-Duggan	1/01/02
1,390	David Moore	1/06/02
1,391	Maria Walsh	1/06/02
1,392	Inge Aiken	1/09/02
1,393	Walter Tomforde	1/11/02
1,394	Michael Strich	1/12/02
1,395	Jeffrey Cohen	1/15/02
1,396	Yvonne Merck	1/28/02
1,397	Stanley Drezek	1/27/02
1,398	Lonnie Rood	1/26/02
1,399	Joseph B. Bogardus	2/03/02
1,400	Robert L. Gram	2/08/02
1,401	Paul R. Cote	1/27/02
1,402	Thomas P. Logan	1/06/02

NEW WINTER MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finishe</u>
488	Justin Giuliano	12/30/01
489	Kenneth Hubert	1/13/02
490	Patrick M. Desbiens	1/19/02
491	Judith M. Weiner	1/27/02
492	Susan Degutz	12/23/01
493	David A. Kocian	1/27/02
494	Lonnie Rood	1/27/02
495	Anthony P. Russo	2/03/02
496	Jeff Rand	2/09/02
497	Roelli Johansson	2/10/02
498	Suzanne Knabe	2/17/02
499	Al C. Welenofsky	2/18/02
500	Lawrence S. Driever, Jr.	2/09/02
501	Paul R. Cote	1/27/02
502	Kenneth Henneberry	2/09/02
503	Thomas P. Logan	1/06/02
504	Lorraine Chirico Smith	2/04/02
505	Edna Gundersen Blanchfield	2/23/02

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Herbert J. Coles	Karl L. Lehman
Richard D. Martin	Donna Wamsley
James W. Havender	Dawn Hamilton
Kay Cynamon	Dennis J. Clarke
David Galvin	Susan C. Smith
Greb Labas	Kenneth Wamsley
Margo Moss	Julia O'Connor
Kevin A. Wagner	David Lublang
Cristina Enriquez-Bocobo	



the catskill canister

Vol. XXXVI, No. 3

JULY - SEPTEMBER, 2002

CHILEAN PATAGONIA - THE COMPLETE PLAYGROUND

Looking out of the airplane window at the ocean below, watching huge surges of waves break out to sea in the Strait of Magellan, I feared the unfriendly weather advertised for Punto Arenas was all too true. I could almost hear the water being manhandled by the wind. Minutes later, alighting down the airplane ladder, I was pelted with cold, hard, horizontal rain. Bienvenido a Patagonia !

Punta Arenas, population 120,000, is located on the Strait of Magellan and is the world's most southerly city. It is isolated from the rest of Chile by the extended archipelago south of Puerto Montt (600 miles or so to the north), which leads to shortages, since supplies can only reach Punta Arenas via plane or boat.

My wife, Wanda Davenport and I, along with sixteen other people, had arrived in Punta Arenas by way of a trip to Patagonia led by Nancy DiMeo for the Appalachian Mountain Club. The day after our arrival, we headed north by bus in order to approach the scenic national parks of Chilean Patagonia, which feature plains, mile after mile of ice-capped mountains (after all they are Los Andes), numerous Lake-Champlain-sized lakes, fiords to the Pacific, streams everywhere (with ambitious to ferocious whitewater), abundant waterfalls, cascades, some good old Adirondack-type mud), highly changeable weather, and lots of wind in the open areas and at heights of land. At one of our stops on the plains, the wind buffeted our bus so much that it rocked like a ship in a rough sea.

A wide variety of fauna greeted our eyes: guanacos, a llama-like animal reputed to spit at unwelcome approachers; rheas, called nandu here, similar to small ostriches; grey fox; Magellanic penguins; magnificent Andes condors; several species of carra carra, eagle-like hawks; humming birds (although they moved so fast I never got a good look at one); striking black-necked swans; and variations of the pelagic birds familiar to us, such as white geese, ducks, cormorants, and gulls. Sheep, cows, and horses were numerous throughout the "estancias" (ranches) of the area.

After a 150-mile drive we reached Puerto Natales, a not charmless town which, with its abundance of youth and internet cafes, is reminiscent of Moab, Utah (but with water). From the docks of this fiord port, we were afforded a magnificent 200-degree view to the west of snow-covered mountains bordering the many channels of the fiord, while, to the rear, was the contrasting view of the squalid business and residential town center. As in the other Patagonian towns, multitudes of untethered dogs and cats roamed its streets. Black-necked swans and other pelagic birds swam in Puerto Natales harbor, a great place from which to take the cutter excursion through Parque Nacional Bernardo O'Higgins (named after the George Washington of Chile) to the spectacular Monte Balmaceda and Serrano glaciers. A particular highlight occurred on the short walk to the Serrano glacier, when an iceberg floating in the fiord suddenly erupted into two, each piece oscillating in the water for about twenty seconds. Continuing on our cruise, we passed the Monte Balmaceda glacier, which fifteen years ago reached to sea level and now terminated several hundred feet up the mountain, a graphic reminder of global warming.

Cont'd on Page 3

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MENTORS AND ROLE MODELS

I can think of no way to adequately thank Larry Larsen (#1,295) and Lou Fitzpatrick (#1,258) who spent countless hours helping my son Justin complete his goals of first, securing his 3500 Club regular member status and, second, completing his winter hikes. Larry and Lou, who we didn't even know when we started hiking seven years ago, became mentors and role models to a teen they could easily have ignored. They not only accepted the responsibility of taking him along on ice-slicked mountains in frigid temperatures, they actually planned their hiking days around his need to attend school! I hope that all Catskill Club hikers and aspirants have a chance to meet such fine people as Larry and Lou. Many thanks to you both.

Mary Lou Guiliano (#1,239)

PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

On November 26, 2001, as the culmination of a 15-day trek in Nepal's Everest region, Margaret Freifeld (#929), Roeli Johansson (#1,187), Patricia Johnson (#1,233), Barbro Thelemarck (#1,130) and aspirant Jane Restani climbed 18,192 foot Kala Pattar to enjoy the spectacular views of Mount Everest and surrounding giants. The women ranged in age from 49 to 69-year-old Roeli who sports two artificial hips. Margaret's climbing resume includes Mt. Kenya's Point Lanana at 16,350 feet in 1993 and Mount Kilimanjaro at 19,340 feet in 1996. She completed the NE 111 in July 1999 and climbed four of Colorado's 14,000 footers in the summer of 2001. In addition, Roeli, Barbro and Margaret are Long Path end-to-enders, and Pat and Margaret hiked the 122-mile Northville-Lake Placid Trail in the summer of 2001 • Sid Borthwick (#1,327) completed the 48 required peaks of the Four Thousand Footer Club of the White Mountains on Bondcliff on May 12, 2002.

If there is a special event in your life, or that of another member or aspirant (graduation, engagement, marriage, promotion), or a special achievement on or off the trail, please let Ralph Ferrusi know (see masthead this page).

MY FAVORITE PLACE

The cliff out in the woods behind my house is a beautiful place to be. The air smells of pine trees. The beautiful mountains in the distance summon you to climb them. Overhead, the birds fill the area with their songs; farther up the hawk circles once and then flies away.

Bradley Whistance
(Aged 10 years)

Although Patagonia is not right around the corner, its incredibly beautiful mountains, lakes, rivers, fiords, waterfalls, spectacular glaciers and plains, its temperate climate and colorful fauna, the friendliness and helpfulness of its people, the democratic government of Chile, all coupled with Patagonia's uncrowded, indeed, sparsely settled landscape, make it a wonderful and accessible playground for day hikers and backpackers.

Martin Cohen (#728)

Continuing Marty Cohen's theme of Chilean Patagonia being the "complete playground," Ken Kleinberg (#184) writes: This is a fantastic part of the world to visit, with some of the finest trekking and climbing in the world, particularly for those who wish to avoid high altitudes but not give up on any excitement.

On February 2, 1998, during a spell of unusual and windless weather, I climbed Torre Norte (North Tower, 2600 meters) via the Monzino route in Parque Nacional Torres del Paine, Patagonian Chile. Denali and Aconcagua mountain guides Scott Woolums and Todd Rutledge led the trip. Three days of load carrying, including use of horses on day one and two days of double carries of 30 kg. loads over stream crossings and large boulder fields, were needed to establish an advanced base camp.

On summit day, a 1000-meter snow and ice gully led to a few pitches of mixed climbing to Col Bich between the North and Central Towers. From the Col, a few pitches of 5.10 (free climbed by Scott and Todd and jumared by me in plastic boots) led to a broad shoulder. From there, we free climbed in rock shoes another half dozen pitches from 5.3 to 5.9 on perfect granite up an exposed ridge to the final knife-edged summit tower, which was climbed on the southwest face (5.8).

The first half of the descent involved numerous rappels, the last of which dislodged some large rocks which cut halfway through one of our climbing ropes. We finally reached the top of the snow and ice gully at sunset. Due to the warm weather and mushy snow conditions that would not hold snow pickets for protection, we were forced to front-point down unroped. Moonlight made the towers look like Giant tombstones, which we viewed the tedious four hours it took to return to the advanced camp. The total elapsed time on summit day was twenty-two hours.

It is also possible to combine a trip to Torres del Paine with a visit to Parque Nacional Los Glaciares in Argentina where, if the weather cooperates, one can summit Cerro Torre and Fitzroy.

Ken Kleinberg (#184)

Because

there are streamsides of cobblestones,
unmoving witnesses to winter's whispers turned to river's roars;

because rock giants with placid faces stand stolid,
hold up the sky in a land fraught with expansive passion;

because gregarious autumn leaves crackle with delight,
as if tickled by a hiker's boot;

because brook, and dirt, and granite, and maple,
mingle into nature's sweet potpourri;

because sweat settles equally damp on faded flannel
and the summit smile --

trial and trail merge to form mettle and solace.

Chris Tripler (#915)

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: JULY-SEPTEMBER 2002**Assumed Risk**

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

- Sat., July 6 **PANTHER** Distance: 7.5 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18
A moderately-paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy rain or thunderstorm conditions cancels.
Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register by July 3.
Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan (#1,389), 845-657-7057 (9:00 A.M.-9:00 P.M.); erd@wilsey.net
- Sun., July 7 **FRIDAY AND BALSAM CAP** Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3694', 3623' Order: 20, 24
A moderate to fast-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between July 1-5
Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)
- Sat., July 13 **PLATEAU, SUGARLOAF, TWIN
AND INDIAN HEAD** Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: +4700'
Elev.: 3840', 3800', 3573', 3640'
Order: 12, 13, 30, 23
A long fast-paced hike with good views.
Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between July 8-11
Leader: Nan Giblin (#1,328), 718-896-6829 (7:00 p.m.-9:00 P.M.)
- Sun., July 14 **RUSK AND HUNTER** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: +3800'
Elev.: 3680', 4040' Order: 21, 2
A fast-paced bushwhack and trail hike. A good opportunity to learn map and compass skills.
Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between July 8-11
Leader: John Swanson (#592), 732-613-1963 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)
- Sat., July 20 **PEEKAMOOSE AND TABLE** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3843', 3847' Order: 11, 10
A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place & Time: Jct. of Route 28 and Route 28A in Boiceville at 9:00 A.M.)
Leaders: Dave and Carol White (#860, #859), 315-853-6942 (Mon.-Th., 8:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.)
- Sun., July 21 **BALSAM LAKE AND GRAHAM** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3723', 3868' Order: 16, 7
An easy to moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place & Time: Parking area on Mill Brook Road at 9:00 A.M.
Leader: David Galvin (#1,201), 607-538-9518 (before 10:00 P.M.); porcupine@dmcom.net
- Sat., July 27 **WITTENBERG** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3780' Order: 14
A moderately-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place & Time: Woodland Valley parking lot at 9:00 A.M.
Leader: Judy Weiner (#1,287), 201-840-7078; jmw755@aol.com
- Sat., Aug. 3 **LONE AND ROCKY** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 17, 35
A strenuous bushwhack at an easy to moderate pace.
Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between July 29-Aug. 1st.
Leader: Rocky Walberg (#886), 845-876-1061 (5:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M.)

Sun., Aug. 4 **SHERRILL AND NORTH DOME**Distance: 5.5 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3840', 3610' Order: 26, 31

A strenuous bushwhack at an easy to moderate pace. Shuttle required. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register on Fri., Aug. 2.

Leader: David Galvin (#1,201), 607-538-9518 (before 10:00 P.M.); porcupine@dmcom.net

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

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between Aug. 5-9.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun., Aug. 11 **BEARPEN AND VLY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 33

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between Aug. 5-9

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

Sat., Aug. 17 **SOUTHWEST HUNTER (AND
POSSIBLY HUNTER)**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3740', (4040') Order: 15, (2)

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

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between Aug. 12-15.

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

Sun., Aug. 18 **SLIDE AND CORNELL**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2400'
Elev.: 4180', 3860' Order: 1, 9

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between Aug. 12-16.

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

Sat., Aug. 24 **SLIDE CIRCULAR**Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1

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

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between Aug. 19-23.

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

Sun., Aug. 25 **HALCOTT**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1750'
Elev.: 3537' Order: 32

A moderately paced bushwhack. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between Aug. 19-23.

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

Sat., Aug. 31 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Warms Restaurant in Tannersville at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Howard Dash (#458), 845-255-3409; howiedash@aol.com

Sat., Sept. 7 **BIG INDIAN AND EAGLE**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3700', 3600' Order: 19, 27

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

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader between Sept. 2-5.

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

Sun., Sept. 8 **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. Rain cancels.

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

Leader: Laurie Moore (#1,337), 607-538-9484 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sat., Sept. 14 **DOUBLETOP AND GRAHAM**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2360'
Elev.: 3860', 3868 Order: 8, 7

A moderately paced bushwhack. Heavy rain or thunderstorm conditions cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register by Sept. 12.

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan (#1,389), 845-657-7057 (9:00 A.M.-9:00 P.M.); erd@wilsey.net

Sun., Sept.15 **WESTKILL**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

A moderately paced trail hike. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Flagpole on Rte. 42/Spruceton Road in Westkill at 9:00 A.M.

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

Sat., Sept. 21 **ROCKY, LONE (AND POSSIBLY
TABLE AND PEEKAMOOSIE)**

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3508', 3721', 3847', 3843'
Order: 35, 17, 10, 11

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

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email (email preferred) leader between Sept. 16-20.

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861), 516-487-2374 (no calls after 10:00 P.M.; no calls returned);
amc_leader@hotmail.com

Sat., Sept. 21 **BALSAM, HAYNES AND EAGLE**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3600', 3600' Order: 28, 27

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Bridge at Dry Brook Road in Arkville at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Larry Armstrong (#827), 607-783-2730

Sun., Sept.22 **GIANT LEDGE AND PANTHER**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1545'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A relaxed paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Panther Mountain trailhead on County Rd. 47 at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Laurie Moore (#1,337), 607-538-9484 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.)

Sat., Sept.28 **SUGARLOAF AND PLATEAU**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2800'
Elev.: 3800', 3840' Order: 13, 12

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Warms Restaurant in Tannersville at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Pavel Litvinov (#1,348) 914-631-4861 (Mon.-Th., by 9:00 P.M.); pavellitvinov@hotmail.com

Sun., Sept.29 **BALSAM CAP AND FRIDAY**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

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

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between Sept. 23-27.

Leader: John Nye (#1,132), 845-278-2770; nyestreet@aol.com

"RANGE OF LIGHT": HIKING THE HIGH SIERRA

The call came from my son in April. *Dad, Richard has an opening for you if you would like to hike in the Yosemite Park High Sierra in August and stay at some of the camps.* Run under the supervision of the National Park Service and the Curry Company, a private concessionaire, the seven camps, two of which can be accessed by road, are situated in settings such as an alpine lake, meadow, or along a river, and ringed by granite crags and domes. The camps consist of wall tents, a dining hall, flush toilets and showers, all under canvas. Reservations are required, sometimes as long as two years in advance. College students handle breakfast and dinner chores. We only had to carry clothes and personal gear, though the additional water needed to prevent dehydration at high altitude added a lot more weight to our packs.

On our first morning, we took a bus from Yosemite Valley along Tioga Road to Tuolumne Meadows. John Muir was right when he dubbed the Sierra the "range of light." Half-Dome, the back of El Capitan, the Merced River and Glacier Point were all visible, as were the Clark and Cathedral Ranges to the south and beyond the Ansel Adams Wilderness area. We reached Tuolumne Meadows (8,600 ft.) at 12 noon, enough time to try and summit Cathedral Peak (10,490 ft.) From the Tioga Road trailhead we hiked the John Muir trail for three miles then bushwhacked through groves of beautiful lodgepole pines to the beginning of the talus slope that led along a ridge to the summit. The scramble was very difficult; finding a route through boulders and over loose rock was rough. Most of the exposed rock in the Sierras is granite in nature. Much of the older rock has been stripped away by erosion. The rock encountered on the higher elevations are sections that have literally been peeled away by the forces of tremendous snow pack and subsequent melt. I lost steam about 500 feet below the peak. My son and Richard made it to the top. Coming down was just as difficult as going up, trying to avoid the large holes between the huge granite slabs and slippery loose gravel.

Our next goal was a 7.2 mile hike on steep grades to Vogelsang high camp (10,300 ft.). The trail (Raffery Creek) went through pine groves and alpine meadows, always up, up, up. I was feeling the altitude and had a foot problem that compounded my discomfort. For the last two miles of the hike I moved really slowly, hoping for this uphill, lung-burning odyssey to end soon. Finally, the last steep pitch up through Tuolumne Pass brought us to Evelyn Lake on our right and the camp, visible on a boulder-strewn, windswept plateau, with Fletcher Lake on one end and 11,100 ft. Fletcher Mountain on the other.

Vogelsang Peak, elevation 11,493 feet, entailed a bushwhack up a very steep talus slope to a ridge that led to the top. Loose gravel made the going slow. We were in the alpine zone with large boulders and thick low pine bushes to negotiate. At last the top! The view was stupendous. On one side was an enormous glacial cirque with six or seven small lakes. Snow pack was still visible in some of the deep fissures of the rocks. Around the opposite side, the lower slopes were filled with dozens of glacial lakes with a view of Sunrise Mountain, Tressider Mountain, and beyond, Yosemite Valley.

The following morning we started the climb up Vogelsang Pass on the Lewis Creek Trail to the Merced Lake Camp, a distance of nine miles. As we descended from the pass, we hiked through some of the most beautiful areas I have ever seen. We had one of those high-elevation mountain mornings – clear, crisp, with an azure sky. The Lewis Creek went along alpine meadows with magnificent rock faces and granite domes on either side of the trail. Bleached marble-like slabs marked the course of the creek during the spring runoff. As we got lower, red fir and incense cedar formed cathedral-like columns above the trail. Other trails branched off to Gallison Lake, Bernice Lake and the Florence Trail to Florence Lake. A mule train passed us coming from Tuolumne Meadows and going to Merced Lake. The vegetation changed to aspens, big leaf maples and many small shrubs.

Merced Lake is one of the largest lakes in Yosemite, with a depth of 100 feet. The campsite is in a beautiful setting, with the Merced River on one side and high rock faces on the other side. The tents are at 7,150 feet and because of the altitude the area is almost Adirondack in appearance, with aspen, oak and small shrubs scattered among the ponderosa and Jeffrey pines.

Before leaving the camp at 6:30 the next morning, we took a six-mile hike to Washburn Lake. The intense blue of this glacial lake reflected the Sierra sky. It was almost synthetic or surrealistic in the early morning light and looked like an Ansel Adams print in color. Then began the longest segment of our hike, a thirteen-mile trek to the Yosemite Valley floor. As we descended, Jeffrey pines, red fir and lodgepole pines became more prevalent. Most of the tall trees showed evidence of having been struck by lightning – the upper branches were split and charred and there was no underbrush. The shade of the high trees evidently prevented the growth of small shrubs.

At every turn in the trail, the landscape took our breath away. Unlike in the east where you're hiking mostly in trees and views are obscured unless you're on top of a summit, here, rock faces, water courses and rock domes were in constant view. As we hiked through the little Yosemite Valley and crossed the trail to Half-Dome, we began to see other hikers climbing from the valley floor and Nevada Falls on their way to Half-Dome. We stopped for a quick lunch at Nevada Falls and then started the slow descent amid heat and dust on a horse trail of loose gravel and slippery rocks to Vernal Falls. When we reached the trailhead at 2:00 p.m., we were ready for a cold beer.

Mike De Luca (#924)

Neversink

It is the Fourth of July
on the Peekamoose Trail.
A set of walking sticks
leans against the register,
a courtesy to hikers.
I choose one, well carved to
a point, with a smooth knob
burnished like blue stone.
Near the summit,
federal mountains roll
free of settlement.
The sky deflects, darker still,
gradient gray.
A band of yellow light below
grows wider as the blackness blows over,

an odd force to contend with on the ledge.
I blazon to the bottom
of Table, the cobblestone river bed
of the Neversink
a parched path in places,
through lime-lit moss and ferns
and tumbled pastel pebbles
banded by rich sediment.
I settle in a clearing, anxious
for morning,
or a lull in the jamboree of campers.
The flow of distilled river
here and there
will laminate the rocks
at sunrise.

Kathryn Kurtz (#1,134)



the catskill canister

Vol. XXXIII, No. 4

OCTOBER - DECEMBER, 2002

CELEBRATING APPALACHIA: A HIKER'S IMMERSION IN VIRGINIA

While living in northern Appalachia in the 1970s, I developed an abiding interest in the entire region. In 1998, the intersection of that interest and my obsession with hiking encouraged me to journey to Tennessee and the Smokies. Late last summer, to enrich my Appalachian and hiking resumes, I traveled to the mountains of Virginia and nearby West Virginia (in 1863, during the Civil War, the anti-slavery stance of many people in western Virginia caused them to secede and establish West Virginia).

I began in Roanoke, a mid-sized city in southwestern Virginia. Originally called Big Lick by frontiersmen of the 1600s, Roanoke lies between the Blue Ridge Mountains in the east and Allegheny Plateau in the west. In Roanoke, similar to most U.S. cities, you can eat a faux bagel, catch a ride with a jazz-singing cab driver from New Jersey, see a futile attempt at urban restoration and find yourself surrounded by wall-to-wall mall three steps outside town. On the other hand, from anywhere, you can look up at the mountains of the Blue Ridge. A local resident described the area as a "hikers' paradise."

Long aware of the 469-mile Blue Ridge Parkway, my initial foray was in that direction. Itself a national park, this 45-mph two-lane blacktop running the crest of the ridge links Shenandoah National Park in the north to Great Smoky National Park in the south. In Virginia, the parkway both parallels and crisscrosses the Appalachian Trail. Encased in greenbelt, significant destinations are denoted by milepost numbers. An annual folk festival at Explore Park (mile 115) introduced me to a number of local customs and historical traditions - flatfooting to the trains of old-timey music, the bateau camp, even phrenology.

North of Roanoke (mile 86), I climbed Sharp Top (3870'), once supposed the highest mountain in Virginia. With 1500 feet of elevation gain in 1½ miles, it provides a 360-degree view, with an exceptional outlook on the piedmont (the uplands between the tidewater of the Atlantic Coast and the Blue Ridge). If the climb wears you out, for \$3.00, take the small tourist bus down an adjacent road. Otherwise, assay the trail to Flat Top (mile 83), 2½ miles of gradual ascent, actually 75 feet higher than Sharp Top. For the faint of lung, directly opposite Flat Top's trailhead is an easy circular trail (1.6 miles) featuring a beautiful cascade. It is probably a quirk of the route of settlement that Sharp Top was ever thought highest, as Mount Rogers, among others, in extreme southwestern Virginia is much higher (5728'). Perhaps the most needlelike appearance of Sharp Top contributed to the illusion.

After driving to Covington, about 100 miles northwest of Roanoke, I ascended the Allegheny Plateau. Near the Greenbrier River, I discovered serious bear country in West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest. Alone, constantly hearing noises, I virtually ran for four miles through a very dark, mushroom-floored forest. The more timid can opt for nearby Sterling Lake, where swimming, boating and fishing beckon. For the culturally curious, the first week in September brings Marlinton's annual riverside tent crusade. If you're lucky enough, either walking or driving, you'll find yourself in the midst of a pack of a pack of hounds on a local foxhunt just over the border back in Virginia. Reflecting the lack of a natural boundary between the two states, the border seems extremely permeable, some might say fluid, as, until the 1950s, precise demarcations were still legally unsettled.

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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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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A replacement is sought for Dave Sutter to take charge of the Catskill 3500 Club t-shirts. Responsibilities include: (1) determining the number of t-shirts to order and deciding size distribution; (2) confirming with the supplier the quality and color of the t-shirts, as well as the color of print paste, price and delivery date; (2) following up with the supplier before the delivery date to ensure performance parameters; (3) at the delivery date, picking up and paying for t-shirts and obtaining receipt; (4) distributing t-shirts to members and aspirants by mail or at the annual dinner meeting; (5) submitting all invoices and cash received to the club treasurer. Regular attendance at executive committee meetings is also expected. Dave would be willing to work with the new candidate. Interested persons should contact me by phone at 315-685-2083 or by email at nanny-poppy@msn.com.

Roy Messaros has decided to step down as chairman of the annual dinner committee after 24 years of making the annual dinner a successful, well-attended affair. The club is searching for someone to replace Roy. Responsibilities include: (1) selecting an appropriate banquet facility located between Kingston and Newburgh, negotiating price, establishing date and time, signing contract and making a deposit (this has been done for 2003 and 2004); (2) printing invitations (existing format can be used with updated information for date, price and guest speaker), and providing a separate mailing of the invitations to all members several weeks in advance of the dinner date; (3) recording reservations as they come in, noting seating requests and entree choice, and forwarding checks to the club treasurer for deposit in groups of approximately 40 to 80 people at a time; (4) arranging table seating groups based on requested seating; (5) giving final count to banquet facility four days prior with breakdown for entree choices; (6) preparing a table layout diagram with table numbers and number of place settings per table and faxing to banquet facility three or four days prior; (7) preparing name tag labels; (8) preparing place cards for table seating; (9) preparing a table seating chart. (All persons must have a pre-assigned table/seat; no walk-ins can be accommodated.) Regular attendance at executive committee meetings is also expected. Interested persons should contact me by phone at 315-685-2083 or by email at nanny-poppy@msn.com.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is seeking volunteers who are willing to act as interpreters at the Balsam Lake Mountain fire tower. If desired, interpreters can stay overnight in the observer's cabin. The NYSDEC is also looking for volunteers to perform occasional maintenance work at Balsam Lake Mountain and Hunter Mountain fire towers. Anyone interested should contact George Protous, Senior Forester, at 845-256-3082.

As members of the club we will also want to support Dan Case with our new responsibilities in the Adopt-A-Highway program, as well as our obligations in maintaining the trail over Peekamoose and Table Mountains. Thanks to all who volunteer and work hard to make the Catskills such an enjoyable place.

Gerald A. Gervais

To give myself a challenge and the Appalachian Trail its due, southwest of Roanoke I drove over Catawba Mountain to the Blacksburg Road (home of football-obsessed Virginia Tech) where I picked up the AT going north. Entry to the trail, which runs through a cow pasture fenced with barbed wire, is gained by climbing over a five-step ladder. In fact, before heading up a long meadow and finding my way into the woods, I had climbed three more such ladders. In the woods, the trail assumed the look and feel generally associated with the AT - rock-strewn, full of dips and rises, canopied by foliage of a wide variety of hardwoods. Following the AT for 7+ miles brings you to McAfee's Knob, with spectacular views of the valley of Virginia, with Roanoke at its center.

Before leaving Virginia, at the last free-standing movie theater, the Grandin, in Roanoke, I saw *The Songcatcher*, set in the early 1900s "somewhere in the southern mountains." Sentimental, melodramatic, cliché-ridden, but nevertheless authentic, the film conveys the sheer beauty of the landscape, as well as the importance of music to Appalachian life. Every event, unusual or commonplace, joyful or sad, is punctuated by a musical celebration or lamentation. The Scots-Irish and African-American people of Appalachia have certainly known their share of both good and hard times. Their music - bluegrass, gospel, country - and their culture leave all of us so much richer.

Arnold I. Gittell (#962)
2-12 Seaman Avenue
New York, NY 10034

DOWNHILL

I plunge downhill avoiding
the spruce traps that could suck you in
and discharge you next spring.
My snow shoes are like skis.
I float ten feet above where I would stand in summer.
I stop and sink and sit.
Silence, my son looks back and sits himself.
No words, none needed. I feel the chill on my legs.
I see the vast gulf below me.
Two hours ago I was looking up,
wading up this deep hill, my face almost touching
the snow, wondering if we'd find the summit.
Now we are going back to where we started,
an endless cycle of discovery.
The summit was there, it looked like the highest point,
but it was nothing compared to the up and the down
and the pause above this gulf with my son.

Dick Sederquist (#905)

PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

On June 30, 2002, Daniel Case (#1,238) became the twentieth person known to have successfully reached the highest point in all eight counties of Connecticut; Ken Henneberry (#979) summited Mount Rainier on July 8, 2002; Kathleen Gill (#322, trail name "Story Walker") finished the Appalachian Trail on Springer Mountain, Georgia, on July 25, 2002. Kathleen walked for three summers and one month, always southbound; Sid Borthwick (#1,327), completed the 115 Northeast 4000 footers on Baxter Peak (Katahdin), on August 19, 2002 to become a Northeast 111'er.

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

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2002**ASSUMED RISK**

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

Sat., Oct. 5 **SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000'

Elev.: 4180', 3860', 3780' Order: 1, 9, 14

A moderate to fast-paced trail hike. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Woodland Valley Campground FOR DEPARTURE at 8:30 A.M.

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

Sun., Oct. 6 **PLATEAU**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2340'

Elev.: 3840' Order: 12

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

Meeting Place & Time: Corner of NY 212 and Mink Hollow Road in Lake Hill at 8:30 A.M.

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

Sat., Oct. 12 **RUSK**

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1700'

Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

A moderately paced bushwhack.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between Oct. 7-10.

Leader: Chris Post (#1,409), 518-537-5165; cbone@webjogger.net

Sun., Oct. 13 **TWIN & SUGARLOAF**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2900'

Elev.: 3640', 3800' Order: 23, 13

A moderately paced trail hike. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Parking lot of Bear Creek Landing Restaurant (Rt. 214 just south of junction with 23A) at 9:15 A.M.

Leader: Richard Barr (#604), 212-877-2694; richardedbarr@rol.com by 1:00 P.M., Oct. 11.

Sat., Oct. 19 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'

Elev.: 3524' Order: 34

A moderately paced trail hike.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between Oct. 14-18

Leader: Jean Laverdure (#1,299), 518-891-8117.

Sun., Oct. 20 **BIG INDIAN**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1600'

Elev.: 3700' Order: 19

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

Meeting Place & Time: Biscuit Brook-Pine Hill Trailhead parking area at 8:30 A.M.

Leaders: Dave & Carol White (#859, #860), 315-853-6942 (Mon.-Thurs., 8:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Sat., Oct. 26 **HUNTER & SOUTH WEST HUNTER**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2500'

Elev.: 4040', 3740' Order: 2, 15

A strenuous trail hike and bushwhack at a moderate pace.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between Oct. 21-24.

Leader: Chris Post (#1,409), 518-537-5165; cbone@webjogger.net

Sun., Oct. 27 **TWIN & INDIAN HEAD**

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

An easy-paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Trailhead at end of Prediger Road at 8:30 A.M.

Leader: Laurie Moore (#1,337), 607-538-9484 (between 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sat., Nov. 2 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

A moderate trail hike with possible bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between Oct. 28-Nov. 1.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (before 8:00 P.M.)

Sun., Nov. 3 **Northeast Halcott & HALCOTT**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3537 Order: 32

A moderately paced bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between Oct. 28-Nov. 1.

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

Sat., Nov. 9 **BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3940', 3980', 3940' Order: 5, 3, 4

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

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

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

Sun., Nov. 10 **BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3694', 3623' Order: 20, 24

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between Nov. 4-7.

Leader: David Galvin (#1,201), 607-538-9518; porcupine@dmcom.net

Sat., Nov. 16 **BEARPEN & VLY**

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

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

Meeting Place: Call leader to register between Nov. 11-15.

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

Sat., Nov. 16 **PANTHER, Giant Ledge, SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG**

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

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

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between Nov. 12-14 only.

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

Sun., Nov. 17 **PANTHER and Giant Ledge**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A moderate to fast-paced strenuous trail hike. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia FOR DEPARTURE AT 8:15 A.M.

Leader: Pavel Litvinov (#1,348), 914-631-4861 (Mon.-Thurs., before 9:00 P.M.);

pavellitvinov@hotmail.com

NOV. 19 - DEC. 10: HUNTING SEASON (FIREARMS). NO HIKES IN THE CATSKILLS SCHEDULED.

In December, the wind chill on exposed ridges may reach 50 below zero. Adequate and appropriate clothing is essential to prevent hypothermia and ensure added safety in case of an emergency. Avoid cotton. Once cotton gets damp from perspiration, it remains damp and the resulting chill of damp material against the skin can lead to hypothermia. Polypropylene, wool and/or fleece are the preferred choices of winter clothing, but cheaper alternatives such as polyester or nylon will suffice. Unless specified otherwise, full (not instep) crampons and snowshoes should be carried on the hike. If you cannot buy, rent or borrow snowshoes, avoid the mountains in winter. Leaders reserve the right to turn away any hiker who is not properly attired or equipped.

Sat., Dec. 7 **South Taconic Trail** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1200'

A moderate trail hike with views of the Catskills. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between Dec. 2-6.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890); 860-355-5573 (before 8:00 P.M.)

Sat., Dec. 14 **DOUBLETOP** Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1850'
Elev.: 3860' Order: 3868'

A strenuous bushwhack at a relaxed pace. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register between Oct. 21-25.

Leader: Laurie Moore (#1,337), 607-538-9484 (between 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.)

Sun., Dec. 15 **BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3723', 3868' Order: 16, 7

A moderate trail hike. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Parking lot on Mill Brook Road where Dry Brook Trail crosses at 9:00 A.M.

Leader: Ed Goldstein (#861); amc_leader@hotmail.com

Sat., Dec. 21 **BALSAM** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3600' Order: 28

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Rider Hollow parking lot FOR DEPARTURE AT 9:00 A.M.

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

Sun., Dec. 22 **FIR** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3620' Order: 25

A moderately paced bushwhack. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between Dec. 16-19.

Leader: David Galvin (#1,201), 607-538-9518; porcupine@dmcom.net

Sun., Dec. 22 **NORTH DOME & SHERRILL** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2800'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call leader to register before Dec. 19.

Leader: Tom Regan (#1,026), 516-822-3720 (no calls after 9:00 P.M.)

Sun., Dec. 29 **WESTKILL** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place & Time: Call or email leader to register between Dec. 23-27.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710; mfreifeld@att.net

NEW MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1403	John M. Pecoroni	02/28/02	1420	David M. Marcy	03/16/02
1404	Patricia J. Schwankert	02/28/02	1421	Lorraine Comito	03/18/02
1405	Bonnie B. Prushnok	02/23/02	1422	Claudia R. Rosenholz	03/31/02
1406	Carl E. Schiller	03/02/02	1423	Jerry Licht	03/09/02
1407	Richard Siegelman	03/02/02	1424	Martha McDermott	03/16/02
1408	Varick Stringham, Jr.	03/08/02	1425	Henry Lamont	04/05/02
1409	Christopher R. Post	03/09/02	1426	Douglas G. Egeland	04/20/02
1410	Faye D. Rossi	03/12/02	1427	James C. Bonadonna	04/0/02
1411	Cecelia Brien	10/07/01	1428	Diana S. Edelman	05/18/02
1412	Keith Kral	03/16/02	1429	Susan H. Haynes	05/24/02
1413	Roger Brandt	03/16/02	1430	Narciso Torres	05/26/02
1414	Annette Burgess	03/17/02	1431	Jamel Torres	05/26/02
1415	Joyce B. Gannon	03/17/02	1432	Emil K. Lienau	03/17/02
1416	Beverly A. Anderson	03/17/02	1433	Irma S. Graf	06/24/02
1417	Alex Lantino	03/15/02	1434	Thomas V. Walsh	07/22/02
1418	Donna L. Anderson	03/19/02	1435	Mark A. Traver	08/11/02
1419	Kevin R. Perry	03/16/02	1436	Carol K. Traver	08/11/02

NEW WINTER MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
506	Timothy Kase	02/23/02	527	Kenneth J. Wamsley	03/10/02
507	Carol Moran	03/02/02	528	Pauline Lavery	03/09/02
508	Edward S. Slattery	02/24/02	529	Robert W. Messerschmidt	03/13/02
509	Ralph Ferrusi	03/02/02	530	Barbara L. Geistfeld	03/10/02
510	Richard Siegelman	03/03/02	531	Laurie Moore	03/11/02
511	Maria Vargas	03/03/02	532	Nancy Lawson	03/11/02
512	Lutz Heinrich	03/03/02	533	David E. Bourque	03/09/02
513	Emerson Ellett	03/03/02	534	Yvonne Merck	03/15/02
514	Stephen Barlow	03/03/02	535	Alfred A. Seymour-Jones	03/15/02
515	Bonnie B. Prushnok	03/03/02	536	David Moore	03/17/02
516	James G. Geistfeld	03/03/02	537	Benjamin S. Tennyson	03/16/02
517	Phil Seward	03/03/02	538	Carl W. Klinowski	03/16/02
518	Frederick C. Bloom	03/03/02	539	Rose Dittus	03/17/02
519	Stanley Drezek	03/03/02	540	Eileen Berch	03/17/02
520	Varick Stringham, Jr.	03/08/02	541	Barbara Blum	03/16/02
521	Jon Bentley	03/08/02	542	Paul M. Levine	03/14/02
522	Lou Baldanza	03/10/02	543	Patricia Schwankert	03/16/02
523	Walter Tomforde	03/11/02	544	David Marcy	03/16/02
524	John B. Lounsbury	03/11/02	545	Carolyn Harting	03/17/02
525	Addie Haas	03/11/02	546	Claudia R. Rosenholz	03/05/02
526	Donn J. Dwyer	03/12/02			

NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

John B. Graham
 Stephen E. Sadowski
 Libbie Hood
 Gary Hood
 Ed Gilroy
 Margaret Douglas
 John L. Kolp

Jon Bentley
 Stuart Kurtz
 Rosanne T. Dobbin
 Jean G. Taylor
 Richard M. Taylor
 Donald P. Pagani
 Robert W. Messerschmidt

BOOK REVIEW

CATSKILL DAY HIKES FOR ALL SEASONS

By Carol and David White

Carol and David White's *Catskill Day Hikes for All Seasons* confirms that they know of what they write. Their authoritative addition to the Adirondack Mountain Club's day-hiking series covers sixty hikes in the Catskills, including most of the popular routes and several that are off the beaten track. Important nuances of the terrain that can only be discovered with long experience are described. For example, the new guide provides detailed directions on how to find the many overlooks and viewpoints on peaks that don't reach above treeline. Information is also provided for several hikes not found elsewhere.

Every hike in the book appears on one of thirty-three page maps created by the Whites, providing large-scale blow-ups of areas that aren't well mapped in competing guides and are difficult to pick out on the typical small-scale trail map. The maps include road approaches to trailheads to complement detailed text descriptions. Other details include viewpoints, lean-tos, campgrounds, elevations and prominent landmarks. Combined with references to U.S. Geological Survey maps and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference maps, navigation in the region has never been simpler.

In addition to being active members of the Catskill 3500 Club (Dave is Membership Chairman and both he and Carol lead hikes in every outings schedule) and the Iroquois Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (Dave is past chair), Dave and Carol are also members of the Adirondack Forty Sixers Club (they're both winter 46'ers), the 4000 Footer Club of the White Mountains, the New England 4000-Footers Club and the 111'ers of Northeastern USA, and must have found it hard to find time to spend at the computer preparing their book. But the result will prove rewarding for all Catskill hikers.

Reproduced, in part, from an article published in the September/October 2002 issue of Adirondac.

***** ADVANCE NOTICE *****

The following dates have been scheduled for the Catskill Club winter weekend and the annual dinner meeting: January 24-26, 2003 and March 29, 2003, respectively. The winter weekend will once more be held at Schwarzenegger's Sunshine Valley House in Westkill, New York, and the annual dinner meeting will again take place at the Hillside Manor in Kingston, New York. Details regarding both events will appear in the January-March 2003 issue of the *Canister* due out in early December 2002. In the meantime, mark the dates on your calendar.

Correction

Page 2, column 1, of the July-September 2002 issue of the *Catskill Canister* noted the President as being Geoffrey Hoderath when in fact it is Gerald A. Gervais. Apologies go to Geoffrey and Jerry for this error.