



the catskill canister

Vol. XIII, No. 1

W I N T E R 1 9 8 0

A MOUNTAIN WHICH DOES NOT QUITE MAKE IT

There is an advantage to completing a hiking list. It gives you a better perspective of what you do not want to do again. It also raises your awareness of other areas which find less usage.

On the first autumn Sunday of this last year in the seventies, hikers were blessed with a gorgeous late summer day--a little brisk if you were in the shade, but beautifully warm in the sun. For two days it had rained heavily, but now a cold front from Canada had muscled its way into our area. It was one of those hiking days when one feels sorry for those who have other things to do.

My destination was the Dry Brook Ridge. Since I had only one car, I was prepared just to walk for a while, and then to return the same way. I wanted to do without bushwhacking, so I left my topo map at home. H.R. No. 67 will do, I thought. At the start of the trail at German Hollow, I looked at that map and gave my altimeter a try at 1460. The trail starts climbing immediately and continues to do so steadily for two miles, when it meets the ridge trail which comes from Arkville over Pakataken Mountain. Hiking conditions are marvelous. The dry trail is an old logging road, but not one of the washed out variety. The initial hemlock forest is soon replaced by hardwood. It really smells like woods. There is a piped spring to the right before one reaches German Hollow leanto. You do not have to be afraid of overcrowding; the trail tells you nobody else is there. You meet some squirrels which hurry away, some chipmunks which act disturbed, and scare up some grouse inadvertently.

The trail junction was at 2850 according to my altimeter, which is not what H.R. 67 says. Nevertheless, the terrain becomes level now. A minor dip of some 150 feet prepares the hiker for another short pitch after which comes a seemingly endless test for the ridge peak. On several occasions you feel you are there, but you are not. And you learn soon that it does not really matter. The trail does not go over the top, and the one be blessed who was responsible for that decision. Instead, it leads the hiker along an escarpment which offers several magnificent views to the west and southwest, particularly of the Huckleberry Brook Valley and the Mill Brook Ridge. In the distance can be seen dry arms of the Pepacton Reservoir. This sure beats Rocky, Eagle, and a whole bunch of others. I find solitude here in this beautiful setting, enjoying each look-out for long periods of time. Toward the next bump over to the south the trail is not as exciting in terms of views, but the walking remains very pleasant.

Of course, I had to leave the trail for a moment to poke around on the summit. One might as well once one is there. On most trailless peaks not frequented by hikers or hunters, you find some sort of game

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trail. That seemed to be the case here too. And when I looked at my altimeter, it read exactly 3500 feet.

Whatever its height may be, I thought, the views near the summit are certainly worth the effort. I went quickly back to enjoy them some more before returning. When I opened the car I glanced again at my Thommen; it showed just a fraction over 1500 feet. Strange, I thought, the weather did not change noticeably.

--Friedel Schunk, Ridgewood, NJ

HISTORICAL NOTE

Hikers were using maps based on the Geological Survey of c. 1890 until the new maps were published 1942-1960. The old map showed Dry Brook Ridge as being above 3500 feet, but the contours on the new map stop at 3460. Until 1960, there was no map showing Sherrill as being above 3500 feet, and even then it was given no name. In 1942, the elevation of Friday was shown as 3694, but the peak was nameless. As late as 1952 the founding father, C. W. Spangenberg, thought he had climbed them all, but in 1963 he had to rush out and do Friday and Sherrill in order to qualify for membership. It was President Ray Donahue who in 1969 persuaded the Board on Geographic Names to approve for Federal use the names Friday Mountain and Sherrill Mountain, old names which had been used locally in the nineteenth century.

--F. B. C.

SLIDE MOUNTAIN TEMPERATURES - II

In 1979 members of the Mohonk Trust staff again maintained a maximum-minimum thermometer on the summit of Slide Mountain (see Vol. XII, No. 2 for background). The thermometer was checked and reset less frequently this year--seven times in all--just often enough to record the highs and lows of the passing seasons.

The highest reading was 82 degrees in May (vs. 81 degrees in July 1978). The lowest was -24 in February (vs. -13 in January 1978). In both years only two months, July and August, were free of freezing temperatures. Sub-zero temperatures occurred in the four winter months of both years.

The snow drought of this autumn reached even to the summit of Slide. On New Year's Day only a thin frosting of snow and rime ice was scattered over the ground and trees at the top. The temperature had been as low as -6 in late December, so the frost must have reached deep into the soil.

--Bradley Snyder, The Mohonk Trust, New Paltz, NY 12561

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #318 Patrick T. O'Farrell 12/9/79 914-758-3494
P. O. Box 215, Red Hook, NY 12571
- #319 Arthur E. Church 12/22/79 914-223-3684
Charlotte Dr., LaGrangeville, NY 12540
- #320 Richard J. Kudlacik 1/20/80 914-246-5449
5151 Kings Highway, Saugerties, NY 12477
- #321 Richard Wolff 2/3/80 201-676-7773
648 Market St., Newark, NJ 07105
- #322 Kathleen M. Gill 2/9/80 518-881-5515
R. D. 3, Box 379, Schenectady, NY 12306

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Mar. 15 WESTKILL A moderate trail hike.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev.: 3880' Order: 6
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rt. 42 & Spruceton Rd. at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Tim Watters (#268), SUNY, 303 Pierce Hall, 221 Ontario St.,
Albany, NY 12203 518-455-6727

Mar. 22 ANNUAL DINNER MEETING Holiday Inn, Kingston, NY

Mar. 29 WINDHAM HIGH PEAK A moderate trail hike to the Great
Northeastern Viewpoint.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 3524' Order: 32
Meeting Place: General Store & Post Office at Maplecrest at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Don Seeger (#215), 32 N. Hillside Ave., Succasunna, NJ 07876
201-584-4681

Apr. 19 PLATEAU & SUGARLOAF (MINK) A moderate trail hike on
the Devil's Path.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2400' Elev.: 3840', 3800' Order: 12, 13
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Doug Robins (#153), 29 Willys St., East Hartford, CT 06118
203-568-5781

Apr. 26 CORNELL & WITTENBERG CLEAN-UP An opportunity for members
(27 alternate) 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 Schmeltzer (#140), R. D. 1, Box 433A, Pine Bush, NY 12566
914-361-3629



the catskill canister

Vol. XIII, No. 2

SPRING 1980

MY FIRST HIKE IN THE CATSKILLS

It was Decoration Day, 1961, and it started fair and warm, with no alarming predictions. Weather forecasting in those days was somewhat different from the present day method of 20 percent this or 50 percent that. The result, though, was much the same, leaving one uncertain about just what to expect. With plans all arranged for a great day in the CATSKILLS, and an early start to allow time for placing the cars for a shuttle, off we went, Harry Ackerly, Mac Monroe, and I. The goal was to hike over Wittenberg, Cornell, and Slide, in that order, leaving one car at the foot of Slide Mountain and the other in Woodland Valley. This would also be excellent training for my up-coming trip with the Boy Scouts that summer to Philmont Scout Ranch in the mountains of New Mexico. If I was to be a leader of boys in an area like that, where there is much rugged hiking in mountainous terrain, I had better be able to hike and keep up.

Our start soon turned to confusion, however, as Mac, who was in front, took off in so much of a hurry that he ran a red light and was immediately stopped by the State Police. What a beginning! We lost him completely, as we could not tell where they took him. What to do? Well, Harry and I decided to go ahead alone. On our way we made adjustments to the original plans and decided to enjoy the climbs despite Mac's disappearance. "Wait! Who's that? Why it's Mac!" He had been released and had caught up while we were on the Thruway. He surely must have traveled. That was in the days prior to the maximum 55-mile speed limit. Well, things looked better again, and we hoped all would now go as planned. It took over an hour to spot one car at the Slide trailhead, but we finally were on our way up Terrace Mountain.

On top of Wittenberg it was cold and overcast. But, this was almost summer, and cold weather just did not belong. By all standards and reasoning, it had to improve. Little did we know. As there was still a long way to go, and it was not too comfortable, we did not stay, but continued on. Before we reached Cornell, it started to snow slightly. What with the wind and the cold I began to feel a little uneasy. We kept on, however, and arrived at the top of Cornell, where there was four inches of snow, and it was coming down harder. This was my chilly introduction to hiking in the mountains, and I soon learned that chinos and a thin wind breaker were not quite proper for comfort in these conditions. We found, though, that if we kept moving we could stay almost warm.

Nearer to Slide Mountain the snow was over our shoe tops. We had now passed the half-way point and felt we should go on. The precipitation had changed to snow and sleet, and with the wind it seemed like a horizontal storm. The trees looked like gaunt figures from dreamland. All the leading edges of the branches into the storm had col-

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lected four or five inches of frozen rooster tails, looking for all the world like white fronds or setter tails waving stiffly in the cold wind. It was beautiful and different, but with that weather, surely no place to stop and gaze at the scenery.

The steep side of Slide, almost did us in. Harry, with a sort of untiring energy, kept climbing ahead to return with favorable reports of "almost there," and other words of encouragement. This proved to be our one ray of hope for continuing. I always had admired him, five years my senior, one of those thin, wiry, ageless people who could go up and down and all over the trails with ease. Boy! Were we bushed when we finally reached the summit and the limited shelter of the lean to. It still stormed and the wind seemed much stronger up there. The thermometer registered 20 degrees F. "Wow!" and "Brr!" I was cold now, and starting to shiver. The others were all for building a fire (can't imagine with what), but I said, "No way! Just half a sandwich and I'm getting out of here. Off this mountain as soon as possible; let's just get pointed in the right direction and go!" So, off we went, through the snow, which was now a depth of eight inches and getting deeper. On our way down we met a small group going in the opposite direction. Their goal was the summit and lean-to. Scouts with two leaders who had come up from Baltimore to enjoy a nice warm camping weekend in the CATSKILLS. And where did they go but to the highest mountain? Ugh! What a surprise they had!

It seemed to take forever, but we eventually reached my car. It was raining there, and my car was completely covered with snow. I was soaked, so off with the wet shoes, shirt, and windshell, and on with dry ones. Thank goodness for the foresight to bring extras. We stopped in one of the stores at Phoenicia to get a new (dry) pair of pants for me. There were no lights because of power failure, but with the aid of my flashlight and much fumbling around in the semi-dark, I found my size and hurriedly changed to get rid of the wet ones. We went for Mac's car in Woodland Valley and it looked odd, his with no snow and mine with four inches on top. Then back to Phoenicia for a hot meal and coffee, and all things seemed good once again.

That was quite an introduction to the CATSKILLS, and as I write this, the urge to shiver seems near. Since that Memorial Day, I have climbed these mountains many times, both winter and summer, and from every direction, but never have I had such varying weather as on that day. Also, my gear and clothing is now correct, and I know when to turn back because of unsafe conditions. This I have done on several occasions, both in the CATSKILLS and in the Adirondacks. The predictions may, at times, be similar, but I now feel ready for whatever turn the weather may take.

--Walter Gregory, Valhalla, NY

WANTED

1. Walkers to help the Map Committee of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference fieldcheck all trails in the Catskill Park. It is a good excuse to get out and hike in one of the best areas of the Northeast. Where necessary, the Conference will help out with gas, etc. If you could help, write to Hugh Neil Zimmerman (#306), 10 West 65th St., New York, NY 10023, and send him your name and address, daytime and evening telephone numbers, club affiliation, and the following information: have you a compass? an altimeter? maps of the CATSKILLS? what types (topos, Hikers Region...)? a car? any questions?

2. Male companions to climb 14,000-foot peaks in Colorado during August 1980. Anyone interested in all or part of period should get in touch with Sam Steen, 6 DuBois St., Kingston, NY 12401; 914-331-1010.

3. Articles for The Catskill Canister, double spaced on one side of the paper.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #323 Bradley Snyder 2/17/80 914-255-8252
Mohonk Lake, New Paltz, NY 12561
- #324 Kip Patnode 2/23/80 914-356-4090
266 N. Main St., Spring Valley, NY 10977
- #325 Barbara Badalato 2/25/80 914-338-0421
40 Wilkie Ave., Kingston, NY 12401
- #326 Gesa C. Adriance 2/22/80
- #327 Howard F. Adriance 2/22/80 914-338-4603
93 Johnston Ave., Kingston, NY 12401
- #328 Marilyn Varley 3/8/80
737 River St., Mamaroneck, NY 10543
- #329 Charles Churchill 3/8/80 617-738-8005
21 Regent Circle, Brookline, MA 02146
- #330 Paul Leikin 3/8/80 914-623-4426
5 Forest Ave., Manuet, NY 10954
- #331 J. Rudd Hubbell 3/22/80 914-586-4777
Downsville, NY 13755

WINTER MEMBERS

Eleven more members have qualified for the winter patch during the past year: James R. Stone, III, Kenneth Kleinberg, Alton Dieffenbach, Bradley Snyder, Elizabeth Maury, Kip Patnode, John Hornyak, Frances Jones, Hugh Zimmerman, Roman Hrycun, and Robert Speiser.

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our New England cousin reports that #14 has a new bushwhacking project: searching out the estimated 500 boundary markers bordering the cities and towns of Berkshire County, MA. * * * * #67 is a volunteer plant doctor for the houseplants at Olana. * * * * #79 had an encounter with a chain saw last June and set a new Club record with 150 stitches in his leg. * * * * #159 was given a shower by the Executive Committee last June. On August 11 she was married to Fred Glynn of Poughkeepsie. We saw him on Panther in January.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

May 10 PANTHER Moderate trail hike via Giant Ledge.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3720' Order: 5
Meeting Place: Village Bakeshop in Phoenicia at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Kathy & Rich Griffin (#292 & # 293), 7440 Timberwall Rd.,
Saugerties, NY 12477 914-246-9483

May 24 BALSAM & EAGLE Moderate trail hike.

Distance: 7-8 mi. Ascent: 2700' Elev.: 3600', 3605' Order: 27, 26
Meeting Place: Village Bakeshop in Phoenicia at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Jim Stone (#299), 7 West Chestnut St., Rhinebeck, NY 12572
914-876-7676

June 7 MT. TREMPER Long Path from Phoenicia over Mt. Tremper
to Willow. (June 8, rain date)

Distance: 7-8 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev.: 2720'
Meeting Place: Village Bakeshop in Phoenicia at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Al Dieffenbach (#244), 42 Headley Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960
201-540-5146 (work) 201-267-8091 (home)

June 14 LONG PATH TRAIL CLEARING Help is needed with spring
maintenance of our section
of the Long Path that traverses Table & Peekamoose Moun-
tains. Please bring tools.
If you can't make this date and would like to help, please
get in touch with the leader for an assignment on another
day.

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, NY 12566
914-361-3629



the catskill canister

Vol. XIII, No. 3

S U M M E R 1 9 8 0

A CATSKILL CIRCLE

In planning a three-day hike, my map library led me to the Adirondacks, the Berkshires and the CATSKILLS. Where to go on this mid-April venture? Suddenly I recalled that several years before, while hiking on the Hardenburg Trail, I had seen a DEC sign indicating a blue trail heading roughly south to Mongaup and Long Ponds. The area is southwest of Frost Valley. My copy of HRM 68 did not show any trail there, but the scale indicated six miles from the Hardenburg Trail to Mongaup Pond and no roads. Six miles without roads in the CATSKILLS? This might be interesting.

Further study indicated that a circular hike could be achieved. From the junction of the yellow and red trails near Round Lake, use the red trail to Long and Mongaup Ponds. The sign I had seen at Hardenburg indicated that at Mongaup there should be a blue trail northward to the yellow Hardenburg Trail. Return on yellow to Round Lake. Total: 27 miles.

A very late start the first day, together with a new pack requiring many adjustments, resulted in a late lunch at the Long Pond lean-to. It was a quiet, pleasant place with numerous waterfowl seemingly enjoying the pre-summer season tranquility. Enroute to Long Pond, I had found myself on well-marked snowmobile trails, but hiking trail markers have not been well maintained. Eight-tenths of a mile beyond the lean-to, the Willowemoc Creek can be crossed using a snowmobile bridge. Even though my copy of HRM 68 was trailless at this point, beyond the bridge a red trail sign indicated 6.6 miles to Mongaup Pond.

In the first three miles, the trail took me over four unnamed heights from 2500 feet to 2989 feet. Just below the 2989 summit, I intercepted the blue trail from Hardenburg to Mongaup that I had anticipated. I turned left (south) to Mongaup.

The late morning start found me still walking at 5:00. Finally, there was Mongaup! From my elevation I could see it in the distance through the leafless forest. However, it was two miles farther before the blue trail ended at Mongaup's shore by a clean, primitive campsite. Nearby, a pleasant stream emptied into the pond. I used the remaining daylight for my camp chores, finishing dinner just before dark. Meanwhile, neighbors in the form of two beavers swam over, inspected me, decided I was acceptable, and continued their watery promenade.

The next morning, the percussive sounds of a woodpecker awoke me to a fine day for hiking. Breakfast was eaten while watching the acrobatics of nimble swallows catching their breakfast above the morning mist.

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Retracing the blue trail northward took me through handsome beech stands, over Sand Pond Mt. (3062'), down to an unnamed hump of 2852' and on to the highest elevation of the trip, Mt. Willowemoc, 3224'. It being the highest, there should be a view. Right? Well, sort of. Graham and Doubletop, six miles northeast, were nearly lost in the haze. The mile-and-a-half descent to the Beaverkill was a contrast of dropping 200' the first half and 800' the last half of the distance.

Recent rains presented me with a swollen Beaverkill. I could see the rocks normally used for crossing peering at me from under a foot of swift water. Walking upstream, I found rocks large enough still to be showing their dry backs for my crossing. After a climb up a steep bank, I was standing on the Hardenburg Trail, a dirt road at this point.

I detest hiking roads, but the heat of the day would not let me forget where I was. Thankfully, my dusty feet were soon at the intersection of blue to Balsam Lake Mt. and yellow toward Tunis Pond, my goal for the day. Shortly after, I was jolted by the sight of a long, low black creature darting across the trail ahead of me so fast that it was gone in a flash. Bear? Turkey? Coyote?

Lack of landmarks made it difficult to know when to enter the woods for the short bushwhack to Tunis Pond. New POSTED signs told me the pond was not going to be reached this day. Since my last visit in this area to bushwhack Graham Mt., the Catskill Center For Conservation and Development had acquired and posted the pond and all the land surrounding it. I decided to push on to where the wilderness-born Beaverkill first meets the Hardenburg Trail--a pleasant place to be along with the pleasant thought that the acquisition of these lands by the Center has saved this wilderness.

With the coming of morning, reassurance that I was on the fringe of a CATSKILL wilderness came in the form of the gobbling of wild turkeys. I recalled the bear tracks I had seen on my earlier bushwhack through the region. I was reluctant to leave my campsite as I knew that in a few miles the trail would again become a dirt road which would take me from this pristine area. A drizzle of rain, however, prodded me to leave.

By the time I reached a large, derelict beaver dam, it was raining steadily. It appeared the dam had been breached purposely, as a four-foot hole gaped at its base. Nearby was a monstrous old beaver lodge.

A little later, four-wheel-drive tracks jostled my thoughts sharply. These vehicles have violated the trail to the extent of reaching the Hardenburg Trail lean-to, where drivers have told us by their graffiti that they were there. A perfect example of adding insult to in-

jury. My hike was about over.

The last two miles were dully spent passing hunting-club buildings and logging sites, and my twenty-seven mile circle was completed at my car and Round Lake.

--Howard F. Adriance, Kingston, NY

CATSKILL WILDERNESS AREAS

Some of the last remaining wilderness in the Eastern United States is located within the boundary of the CATSKILL Park. These Forest Preserve lands, designated by the State as Wilderness Areas, must meet several criteria. Perhaps most important is that these areas are characteristically primeval environments which are practically untouched by man and where man himself is just a visitor. These Wilderness Areas are protected and managed by the Department of Environmental Conservation to preserve their natural state. Any manmade structures which do not conform to wilderness standards, such as fire towers and snowmobile trails, are being removed, and in most cases, only foot trails and primitive structures (lean-tos) remain. Lastly, these areas must be of sufficient size, usually at least 10,000 acres, and offer the opportunity for solitude and unconfined types of recreation, such as hiking, backpacking, and cross country skiing.

Four Wilderness Areas are proposed for the CATSKILL Park.

<u>CATSKILLS (Proposed)</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Miles Hiking Trails</u>	<u>Leantos</u>	<u>DEC Region</u>
Slide-Panther	38,745	25	2	3
Big Indian-Beaverkill	26,480	25	7	3
Northdome-Westkill	12,859	5	0	4
Plateau-Indianhead	14,239	16	3	4

Environmental Conservation Commissioner, Robert F. Flacke, has announced that six Wilderness Park Rangers will patrol four of the CATSKILL Wilderness Areas during the 1980 camping season. The Rangers provide protection, education, and information to backcountry users, as well as protecting the resource itself. On the trail and in wilderness camping areas, they will answer questions on backpacking trails, camping sites, water supply, weather, plants, animals, rules and regulations, and even history. The Park Rangers are also available for first aid, search and rescue, fire suppression and law enforcement. In addition, they keep detailed records on trends in use of the Wilderness Areas and comments by users, to assist in management planning for the Areas. Data are also gathered on trail, campsite and facility conditions, to aid the Department in scheduling maintenance programs. Recognizable in their dark green uniforms, the Park Rangers will be on the trail five days a week until Labor Day.

Following are the DEC regional offices where further information (including copies of "Catskill Trails") may be obtained.

Big Indian-Beaverkill
Slide-Panther

Region 4
21 S. Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, New York 12561
914-255-5453

Northdome-Westkill
Plateau-Indian Head

Region 3
439 Main Street, P.O. Box 439
Catskill, New York 12414
518-943-4030

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #332 John R. Gyula 4/19/80 914-338-6274
148 Pine St., Kingston, NY 12401
- #333 Robert M. Gowling 5/6/80 201-891-3610
328 Pine St., Wyckoff, NJ 07481
- #334 John E. VanHook 5/20/80 518-783-2300
Siena College, Loudonville, NY 12211
- #335 Harvey Gurien 5/25/80 201-746-5284
180 Walnut St., Montclair, NJ 07042

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

The 1980 Wilderness Park Rangers for the whole state received their training at the AMC Mountain Gate at Oliveria. * * * * #92 and #234 celebrated on Kaaterskill High Peak 5/17/80 the completion of their project of climbing every one of the CATSKILL 3500 peaks in every month of the year--408 ascents. #171 and #248 presided as judges and joined in the festivities, but lacked the stamina to go the route.

1980 OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

President, Jonathan Clement; Past President, Roy Messaros; 1st Vice President, Deborah Glynn; 2nd Vice President, Fred Schmelzer; Secretary, N. Jansen Fowler; Treasurer, David Clapper; Canisters, John Kennedy; Conservation, Ray Donahue; Information, Deborah Glynn; Membership, Elinore Leavitt; Outings, James Stone; "The Catskill Canister", Franklin Clark; Trails, Fred Schmelzer; Winter Weekend, Walter Gregory.

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 12566

Sept. 13 BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY Strenuous bushwhack.

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 3100' Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 18
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Roman Hrycun (#314), 6 Lister Dr., Hyde Park, NY 12538
914-229-7558

Sept. 21 HALCOTT & N.E. HALCOTT A moderate bushwhack not
(Sunday) recently scheduled.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev.: 3520', 3408' Order: 33
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts 28 & 42 in Shandaken at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Kip Patnode (#324), 266 N. Main St., Spring Valley, NY
914-356-4090 10977

Sept. 27 ADIRONDACK HIGH PEAKS Ranger's walk: 12-15 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 the discretion of group, if
priorities of patrol are not important. To be arranged
with leader. Call for details, including equipment.
Leader: C. Peter Fish (#12), Box 43, Halls Falls Rd., Keene, NY
518-576-4796 12942

Oct. 4 PLATEAU Moderate trail hike from Mink Hollow to
Devil's Tombstone.
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1600' Elev.: 3840' Order: 12
Meeting Place: Big Scot parking lot in front of Ramada Inn in Kingston
at 9:30 a.m.
Leaders: Gesa & Howard Adriance (#326 & #327), 93 Johnston Ave.,
914-338-4603 Kingston, NY 12401

Oct. 25 FIR & BIG INDIAN Strenuous hushwhack that may include
Eagle if time & conditions permit.
Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100' (2600') Elev.: 3625', 3700' (3605')
Order: 23, 19, (26)
Meeting Place: Winchell's Corner Antique Store, Rt. 28 in Shokan
at 8:00 a.m.
Leader: H. Neil Zimmerman (#306), 10 W. 65th St., New York, NY
Days: 212-644-1620 Eve: 212-873-5209 10023



the catskill canister

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A U T U M N 1 9 8 0

THE THREE PORCUPINES

On May 16, 1979, I spent the night near the beautiful "Ed West" Lookout on the Escarpment Trail just south of the top of Blackhead Mountain. As the sun set at 8:15, a solitary white throat called to say, "Good night!" A nighthawk shot up past the lookout, and the resident porcupine waddled around the big rock to investigate the food situation, which for him was rather poor. To keep him occupied, I left an empty beer can at the lookout, and retired to my bag well off the trail. Though the sky was clear, it was a bit too cold to remain up long.

At 3:00 a.m. I was awakened by something brushing my sack. The resident porky, whom I spotted with my light, apparently could not finish his rounds without investigating me! But he had done me a favor, for I could now see the waning full moon in all its glory in the clear cold sky before going back to sleep.

I got up at 4:30 to find an ice crust on my outer bag. Then, to the morning song of many white throats, the sunrise began and continued spectacularly. Just in front of the escarpment a magnificent curtain of mist clouds allowed the sun to beam through off and on as they moved southward past the lookout. The curtain split over Arizona with some clouds passing over Stoppel Point and others heading into the East Jewett Valley.

After a bite to eat, I enjoyed the view for a while, then stowed things away, including the gnawed beer can that my companion had enjoyed during the night. I proceeded to stroll over Blackhead and down its northeast side over Acra Point. A winter wren cheered my trip with his beautiful warbling song. Acra Point was full of black-throated blue warblers, which croak enthusiastically rather than warble! As always on Acra Point, I paused at each of the lookouts, and especially at the rocky one just before the descent to the col with Burnt Knob. The peace and beauty of the mountains were especially wonderful that morning. It was nearly noon when I started down the red trail back to my car in the valley.

About half way down I spotted a second porcupine in the trail ahead. Thinking of old Nessmuk's dictum, "And do not despise the fretful porcupine; he is better than he looks," I decided to give this one a merry chase to see if I could have caught him for meat. In fact, I could have easily had him before he scrambled up a tree. It is certainly worth remembering--for emergencies, of course--that porcupine is the easiest food to catch in the woods.

Back at the car I filled a couple of big bottles from the Bataviakill for home use and got ready to leave. But although the motor turned over, it would not go! I am no mechanic, but after an

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hour's tinkering I was convinced that no gas was getting to the engine. The reason was that a third porky had gnawed a short stretch of flexible tubing in my gas line to shreds. He had also chewed on the axle and gas tank, but these are of good Swedish steel.

A kind fisherman gave me a ride to Maplecrest, where I obtained tubing and clamps. During the walk back to Big Hollow, aided by another friendly ride, I pondered the lowly porcupine, who sometimes amuses us, but also shows us our place in the scheme of things in the mountains. He aids the cause of conservation by annoying slovenly campers. Later that summer I saw a message in the sign-in book in Big Hollow: "Don't run over the porcupine at the parking lot." Reading this gave me mixed feelings, but after all it is his home.

--William B. Lawson, Albany, NY

THE LONG PATH

The Catskill 3500 Club maintains approximately six miles of the Long Path from Gulf Road near Sundown, New York, to the Denning Lean-to on the East Branch of the Neversink River. The Long Path from New York City to Lake Placid was first proposed in 1931 by Vincent J. Schaefer of the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club of Schenectady. With W. W. Cady of New York City assisting, some marking was done south of the CATSKILLS. In the north the Northville-Lake Placid Trail had been completed by the Adirondack Mountain Club. In 1960 Robert Jensen of the Ramapo Ramblers rekindled interest in the trail and pool-blue markers gradually extended from the New Jersey end of the George Washington Bridge, the trail's starting point, to Windham High Peak in the CATSKILLS. The latest proposed terminus for the Long Path in the north country is White Face Mountain in the Adirondacks.

Members of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference maintain the southern end of the trail, as well as 60 other trails totalling over 700 miles. Hundreds of people give their time freely so the hiking public can enjoy the woods and mountains. Our section of the Long Path over Peekamoose and Table mountains covers some of the wildest country in the CATSKILLS. Bear, white-tailed deer, wildcat, fox, and many kinds of smaller animals roam the woods of the area. The Trails Committee has tried to maintain this trail as a wilderness path from the start, with minimal construction of water bars, corduroy and bridges; only those logs, blow-downs, etc., that seriously impede progress are removed. All rocks and all logs and sticks that are flat on the ground and can be stepped over easily are left to control erosion and prevent gullying. Chainsaws are not used except in extreme situations where bow saws would be unsafe or too small to remove a blow-down that can't be bypassed. Brush along the way is cut back to allow a clear path of about 24 inches. Brush cutting should be done in late spring and again in early fall. Blazes should be no closer than "in sight" from the last one. For obvious reasons,

we have tried to remove all root loops and stumps from the path.

As you may have guessed from all this, we are asking the members to come out to help. Although you carry a bow saw or clippers, or a paint can and brush, trail maintenance is really just another hike. The more people come out, the less work we each do.

The present trail on Peekamoose was laid out by Peter Fish, #12. It follows a winding ridge from bottom to top; it is an easy grade (compared to the old trail), and contains some of the loveliest woods in the CATSKILLS. There is a splendid lookout on the high shoulder of Peekamoose, and the view from the north face of Table is one of the finest in the CATSKILLS, taking in most of the high peaks.

If you cannot make the next regular trail maintenance day, please call or write Cy Whitney,* the new Trails Chairman, to tell him when you can go. He will be glad to assign you a portion of the trail work you can do on your own or with a buddy. If you are not working hard on trails for another club, do come out and give us a hand. We need it.

--Fred Schmelzer, Pine Bush, NY

LETTERS

On Saturday, 17 May, Dick Davis and I, charter members of the "Over the Hill Gang," reached the summit of Kaaterskill High Peak to achieve our goal of climbing the Catskill 3500 peaks in every calendar month; a total of 408 ascents. The prize was the self-bestowed "Man for All Seasons Award."

Our climbing dates extend back several years, but the quest began in earnest two or three years ago when we both realized that completion was within reach, and that by adopting the commitment we would provide ourselves with a motivation to get out hiking more often.

We estimate that in the process we have hiked at least 1,800 miles, and that our climbs stacked end to end would put us over 100 miles into space.

The final climb was witnessed by Bill Riemvis and Friedel Schunk; two stout-hearted observers who pretend to have no such aspirations for themselves. Although Bill climbs in the CATSKILLS quite often and has accompanied us on many of our recorded climbs, we were never able to influence him to take our objective seriously. But Bill did contribute to our success with his humor, and he is responsible for our calling ourselves the "Over the Hill Gang," an informal hiking group of which Bill is an unofficial member.

Our exploits were the subject of a lot of good-natured banter among our hiking companions, but we prevailed, however, and it is with a great deal of satisfaction that we announce to one and all our triumphant completion. This will be our claim to fame until something more significant comes along.

Dick and I wish to thank all those fellow hikers who have pro-

*Cyrus Whitney, 41 Morley Dr., Wyckoff, NJ 07481, 201-447-2653

vided companionship and encouragement on the many outings along the way.

--Sam Steen, Kingston, NY

SEARCH AND RESCUE

The Catskill 3500 Club is considering organizing a group of volunteers who could be made readily available to assist DEC in search and rescue efforts in the CATSKILLS. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please send your name, address, and telephone number (home and work) to Jonathan Clement, R. D. #1, Box 223, East Greenbush, NY 12061.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #336 Tony Badalato 3/22/80 914-338-0421
40 Wilkie Ave., Kingston, NY 12401
- #337 Sue Eilers 6/28/80 914-698-7219
307 Anita Lane, Mamaroneck, NY 10543
- #338 Ikuko Dohnomae 8/15/80 914-679-2683
15 Overlook Dr., Woodstock Gardens, Woodstock, NY 12498
- #339 James T. Amrod 8/31/80 914-758-6144
R. D. 1, Box 104, Red Hook, NY 12571
- #340 Leif Savery 8/31/80 212-642-7428
1515 Pennsylvania Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11239
- #341 William T. Barnett 9/21/80 201-946-4276
2 Highfield Lane, Colts Neck, NJ 07722

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our New England cousin reports that #329 completed the AMC's 100 highest in Baxter Park, Maine. His companions that day included #199, #305, and #306. * * * * From the Adirondacks we have word that #33 and #140 have completed the ADK 46. #110 was last seen headed for his final peak, but we have not heard whether he got out or if he is still wandering in the forest.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

- Nov. 8 WITTENBERG Strenuous bushwhack from Traver Hollow over Samuel's Point.
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3100' Elev.: 3780' Order: 14
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Sam Steen (#92), 6 DuBois St., Kingston, NY 12401
914-331-1010
- Nov. 16 RUSK Slow-paced bushwhack from Spruceton Road. (Sun.) Beginning bushwhackers welcome.
Distance: 3 mi. Ascent: 1680' Elev.: 3680' Order: 20
Meeting Place: Big Scot parking lot in front of Ramada Inn at 8:30 a.m. or Jnct. Rt. 42 & Spruceton Rd. at 9:30
Leader: John Kennedy (#247), P. O. Box 122, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
914-876-3269 home; 914-876-2055 office

HIKES (continued)

- Nov. 17 - Dec. 9 DEER SEASON (firearms) in CATSKILLS
No scheduled hikes.
- Dec. 21 THOMAS COLE & BLACK DOME Moderately strenuous trail hike
(Sun.) not recently scheduled.
Distance: 5-6 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev.: 3940', 3980' Order: 4, 5
Meeting Place: General Store & Post Office in Maplecrest at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Bradley Snyder (#323), Mohonk Lake, New Paltz, NY 12561
914-255-8252
- Dec. 27 SLIDE A required winter peak. Slow paced.
Beginners welcome.
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1650' Elev.: 4180' Order: 1
Meeting Place: Parking lot behind Drug Store in Phoenicia at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Jim Stone (#299), 7 W. Chestnut St., Rhinebeck, NY 12572
914-876-7676 Home; 914-876-3535 office
- Jan. 3 PEEKAMOOSE & LONE (TABLE) Table will be included if
time & conditions permit.
Strenuous trail & bushwhack. Order: 11, 16, (10)
Distance: 9-10 mi. Ascent: 3200' (3400) Elev.: 3843', 3721' (3847)
Meeting Place: Winchell's Corner Antique Store, Rt. 28, Shokan, 8:30
Leader: Norman Smith (#199), Box 154, Circleville, NY 10919
914-361-3971
- Jan. 10 NORTH LAKE SKI TOUR Easy ski tour in the scenic es-
carpment 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: Deborah Glynn (#159), Traver Rd., Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
914-635-8756
- Jan. 17 PANTHER A required winter peak.
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3720' Order: 5
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop in Phoenicia at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Cy Whitney (#266), Morley Dr., Wyckoff, NJ 07481
201-447-2653
- Jan. 23, 24, 25 CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND at Alpine Inn.
- Jan. 31 ROCKY A strenuous bushwhack from Gulf Road.
Distance: 7-8 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elev.: 3508' Order: 34
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 28A in Boiceville at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Roy Messaros (#97), 249 Mulberry Way, Franklin Lakes, NJ
201-337-5004 07417
- Feb. 20, 21, 22, 23 ADIRONDAK LOJ WEEKEND at Heart Lake,
near Lake Placid