The 9.4-mile round trip, entailing more than 3,000 feet of elevation gain, up Wittenberg and Cornell in the rugged Burroughs Range on March 7th would finish my winter hikes. When the winter issue of the Canister arrived I circled the day on my calendar. I had already packed my gear a week in advance. I even entered the date onto my winter tally sheet prior to the hike (tempting fate?). The weather forecast called for a perfect day: clear skies and 50°. Actually it was too perfect, as the hike leader informed me when calling to cancel the night before; a recent spate of warm weather had thawed the snow pack – the conditions were impossible, similar to hiking in thick oatmeal.

That night I tossed and turned in bed, debating the merits of proceeding alone. Memories of past arduous winter treks, such as the exhausting solo ascents up Hunter and the back side of Thomas Cole and Black Dome in over two feet of fresh snow, haunted my deliberations. The worst had been the loonnnggg, thigh-searing hike up Big Indian through deep drifts in a post-flu state, with my bowels more ready to discharge their duty than my myalgia-racked legs. I had quickly discovered the difficulty of a winter hike had more to do with the conditions than the actual route. Then there were the screw-ups and near disasters. I had fallen on my back into Donovan Brook returning from Lone and Rocky and, in another episode, had survived a potential space launch off a 20’ bluff with a desperate pole plant, while hiking solo on Plateau without crampons.

I knew I could complete the hike, but wasn’t this supposed to be fun? What about the winter patch? It was late at night and I was too wound-up to sleep. I reached over, shut off the alarm clock, and… promptly drifted off. Three days later, hope sprung anew in an email from Duncan Still, offering to do the hike the following weekend after winter temperatures had returned.

At the 1876 Centennial Exposition, John Burroughs had recoiled from the horrors he envisioned would accompany the Industrial Revolution. Were he alive today, the Sage of Slabsides would be appalled at the Information Age, where knowledge is (Continued on page 3)
The President's Column

The club's annual winter weekend is scheduled for January 28-30, 2011. This year we are trying a new venue, the Frost Valley YMCA. I'm excited, as I've skied there many times in the past and I've always wanted to stay there. The club will be offering hikes to all four of the required winter peaks that weekend. In addition to the hikes there will be an opportunity to mix with other members and aspirants and to meet the club officers.

We will be occupying one of the cabins at the YMCA so lodging rates are very reasonable and a full course of meals is also available for a reasonable charge.

I would like to encourage everyone to join us for what is always a pleasant weekend in our favorite mountains. Please see the notice below from Maria Bedo for further details and registration information. I hope to see you there.

Jeff

Come join the 3500 Club Winter Weekend
January 28-30, 2011!

Do you need any winter peaks? Do you want to get more comfortable with snowshoeing? All 4 required winter peaks will be led by experienced hike leaders so you can pack in two fun-filled days in the outdoors and spend a great weekend in the beautiful Catskills. If you already have your required peaks and are working on your winter round, or if you just want to get away, you can join in too!

This year Winter Weekend will be at the Frost Valley YMCA - a great setting not only for hiking, but for cross-country skiing also. There are two housing options available: the Lakeview Lodge, which is a regular hotel-like setting at $126 per person double occupancy, both nights included, or a cabin with bunks (co-ed) at $23 covering both nights. Food costs for the entire weekend are only $74 per person and this includes breakfasts and trail lunches on both Saturday and Sunday as well as dinner on Saturday. On Saturday evening there will be ample opportunity to socialize with fellow club members (bring your own bottle), and enjoy the ambience of the Frost Valley setting. Check out www.frostvalley.org for photos and more. Housing is limited so please make your reservations soon!

To make a reservation or for more details please contact Maria Bedo: winterweekend@catskill-3500-club.org; 917-881-9272; or 61 Spring St., Tarrytown, NY 10591.

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power and technology is the chain that shackles us to our cubicles and renders us accessible “24/7”. As with most Americans, I work in the ubiquitous service industry. Nothing is ever good enough or fast enough. Civility is dead and gratitude for a job well done has been expunged from the collective consciousness. On a frantic Friday the 13th, the day before the hike, there were far too many telephone calls and pages, innumerable scans to interpret, and test results to communicate. Suddenly I was on Cornell’s Crown in my mind’s eye, arms raised in triumph, before taking another step from this world into the next – where no customer would ever find me. In my fantasy I achieved a permanent oneness with the mountains themselves; but in reality, it was my brain yearning to escape. Surely Burroughs was wrong in this instance: the next world will surpass the present one.

I met Duncan in the Woodland Valley parking lot at 7:30 a.m. He is an amiable British chap, an accomplished hiker (Mt. Hood, Mt. Whitney, and Ben Nevis in Scotland), and nearly a dozen years my junior. Fortunately for me, he was recovering from a cold, so I was able to keep up with his pace, albeit fueled by Gatorade, GU, and ibuprofen. Initially we wandered off the trail, before bushwhacking back on course and then taking a shortcut across the lean-to loop to reach the base of Wittenberg’s cliffs. After donning our crampons, we carefully picked our way up through several steep, icy sections. The crunch of the crampon teeth on ice (or was it the remaining cartilage in my knees?) continually reassured us of adequate footing. The Wittenberg peak seemed further than I remembered. Why do map distances always appear so deceptively short? Suddenly the summit amphitheater and its unparalleled view burst into the clear. Check off Wittenberg, on to Cornell.

The summit of Cornell, the final objective, beckoned from the tantalizingly short distance across the Bruin’s Causeway. When we reached the dreaded V-cut, however, we realized: 1) “V” stands for vertical and 2) we were in serious trouble. The recent thaw and refreeze had cloaked the cut in a diamond hard coat of sheer ice. Somehow Duncan made it up the chute with his crampons flailing wildly. I followed, assisted by a trekking pole pull from above. As I rolled over the lip, Duncan dryly remarked, “If our spouses knew what we were doing they would kill us.” There would be no return via that route! [It was in just those conditions at that same place that your editor learned the value of an ice axe.]

Before long, we reached the crown of Cornell. Exhala-tion, exultation, and exhilaration! Duncan snapped a few shots of me with my arms and trekking poles raised triumphantly overhead, just as I had imagined.

It would all be for naught, however, if we couldn’t figure out how to get down. We elected to try the work-around to the east as described in the guidebooks. After bushwhacking through a dense spruce-fir section we regained the trail and followed it down to the top of the V-cut - not a great help. Frustrated, I threw a few dead tree trunks into the chute, but they all slid ominously out the bottom. Duncan then led us west where we safely rappelled down a steep ice-covered 25’ bluff using our crampons and numerous branches and saplings as handrails. Once we reached the bottom we again bushwhacked back to the trail to finally emerge below the V-cut.

The remainder of the return trip was uneventful, as we savored our triumph together, traded hiking tales, and alternately took turns losing, and then re-finding the lower trail (not always easy to follow). As the mid-day temperatures warmed to a balmy 50° and the snow vanished at lower elevations we passed eighteen ‘hikers’ heading up the mountain. Incredibly, most were clad in jeans and cotton tee shirts and only one wore crampons. We warned as many as would listen of the ice ahead, who knows to what avail?

During the drive home, I pondered my hiking experiences and a seminal Burroughs’ quotation, “To learn something new, take the same path you took yesterday.” A walk in the wild is not a movie or a play; it cannot be scripted or rehearsed in advance. Each excursion is unique. Nature supplies the variables of changing weather, terrain, flora, and fauna; the hiker brings his or her powers of observation, knowledge, and experience. The spontaneous combination of those elements furthers an understanding of both nature and one’s self, creating a momentary and mysterious fusion between the mountain and the person. ▲

Submitted by Lawrence C. Swayne, #1622, and edited by the Canister.
Hike Schedule January–March, 2011

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

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

**Cancelations:** Please be aware that, **in the case of bad weather or bad driving conditions, most hikes will be canceled; if you are uncertain, please contact the leader before leaving for the hike.** As a matter of **courtesy to our volunteer hike leaders,** we ask that you let them know as early as possible if you have to cancel your attendance on a hike.

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

**Volunteer to Lead:** If you are a member of the Club please **consider becoming a hike leader.** Just contact Manuel Peraza (outings@catskill-3500-club.org; 718-698-4422 (7pm-9pm)), and Manny will arrange to add you to the low-volume private Yahoo list through which hikes are coordinated. You will be contacted via this means when hikes are needed.

**Group Size:** All Club bushwhacks are limited to 12 participants including the leaders. The DEC limits group size to 12 in the Wilderness Areas. Accordingly, one should assume that all Club hikes allow no more than 12 participants. If in doubt, please contact the leader.

**Sat, Jan. 1 – NO HIKE SCHEDULED**

**Sun, Jan. 2 – SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU**
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3100’, Elev. 3800’, 3840’
A moderately paced but strenuous trail hike on steep trails. Well behaved dogs welcome.
**Registration:** Please contact leader Dec.19 – 30.
**Leader:** Doug Garrity #1757; garrid0@lycos.com; 845-471-1079

**Sat, Jan. 8 –THOMAS COLE & BLACK DOME**
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent 2100’, Elev. 3940’, 3980’
We will climb Black Dome and Thomas Cole and then bushwhack down to the parking area. This hike will be a “teen friendly” hike. This means you should ONLY go on this hike if you are willing to hike with and at the pace of teenagers.
**Registration:** Please contact leader.
**Leader:** Timothy Watters #268; twatters@wattersfinancial.com; 201-818-9542

**Sun, Jan. 9 – PANTHER**
Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1830’, Elev. 3720’
A moderately paced trail hike.
**Registration:** Please contact leader.
**Leader:** Ken Hubert #1351; hikeleader3500@yahoo.com; 718-463-5675 after 3pm (or 518-827-7327 Fri & Sat).

**Sat, Jan. 15 – SUGARLOAF**
Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1700’, Elev. 3810’
A moderately paced trail hike with the possibility of a short car shuttle.
**Registration:** Please contact leaders Jan 5 - 12.
**Co-Leaders:** Matthew Sweeney; Msweene5@nycap.rr.com and Alan Via #426; Peakbagr100@gmail.com

**Sat, Jan. 15 – HALCOTT**
Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1720’, Elev. 3520’
A moderately paced bushwhack
**Registration:** Please contact leaders.
**Leaders:** Mike & Ellen Dwyer #s1453, 1452; jemsdwy@optonline.net; 631-472-9290

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**Snowshoes and full crampons must be brought to the trailhead; the leader may advise that these do not have to be taken on the hike.**
Sun, Jan. 16 – EAGLE  
Distance: 6mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev. 3600'  
A relaxed-pace trail hike.  
Registration: Please contact leader Jan. 10 - 14.  
Leader: Manuel A. Peraza #1373;  
mapcolus1@verizon.net; 718-698-4422 (NCA 9 pm).

Sat, Jan. 22 – SHERRILL  
Distance: 5 mi. Ascent 2000', Elev. 3540'  
A moderately paced bushwhack. Possible bush-whack to North Dome if group desires. Well-behaved dogs welcome.  
Registration: Please contact leader Jan. 10−20  
Leader: Bill Winterbottom  
billw@usdsoftware.com; 973:222:1077

Sat, Jan. 29 – FIR  
Distance: 6mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev. 3620'  
We will bushwhack up to the peak at a moderate pace. This hike will be a "teen friendly" hike. This means you should ONLY go on this hike if you are willing to hike with and at the pace of teenagers.  
Registration: Please contact leader.  
Leader: Timothy Watters #268;  
twatters@wattersfinancial.com; 201-818-9542

Sat, Jan. 30 – PANTHER via GIANT LEDGES  
Distance: 6.8 mi. Ascent 1545', Elev. 3720'  
A moderately paced trail hike to a required winter peak.  
Registration: Please contact leader Feb. 7-11.  
Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; suzkna@msn.com; 718-455-3092 (after 7 pm).

Sun, Jan. 30 – INDIAN HEAD & TWIN  
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2200', Elev. 3575', 3640'.  
A moderately paced trail, through hike (shuttle required).  
Registration: Please contact leader.  
Leader: Ken Hubert #1351 hikeleader3500@yahoo.com;  
718-463-5675 after 3pm (or 518-827-7327 Fri & Sat).

Sat, Feb. 5 – NO HIKE SCHEDULED.

Sun, Feb. 6 – BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY  
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent 2200, Elev. 3694', 3623'  
A moderately paced, but very strenuous bushwhack to two of the more difficult peaks. Well behaved dogs welcome.  
Registration: Please contact leader Jan 23 - Feb 3.  
Leader: Doug Garrity #1757 garrid0@lycos.com; 845-471-1079

Sat, Feb. 19 – WINTER STRATEGIES & TACTICS  
Snow shelters, shelters, keeping warm, navigation with map, compass, and GPS.  
Registration: Please contact leader.  
Leader: Joseph Polcha; jpolcha@aol.com; 914-245-4717.

Sat, Feb. 20 – SOUTHWEST HUNTER & HUNTER  
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2225', Elev. 3740', 4040'  
A moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike.  
Registration: Please contact leader.  
Leader: Ken Hubert  #1351 hikeleader3500@yahoo.com;  
718-463-5675 after 3pm (or 518-827-7327 Fri & Sat).

Sat, Feb. 26 – WINDHAM  
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev. 3524'  
A moderately paced trail hike with lovely views.  
Registration: Please contact leader by Feb 24.  
Leader: Edna Blanchfield #1245;  
goatgirl_35r@verizon.net; 845-246-3362 (NCA 9pm).

(Continued on page 6)
Sun, Feb. 27 – PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE
Distance: 10 mi, Ascent 2600’, Elev. 3640’, 3800’
A moderately paced trail hike. Well behaved dogs welcome.
Registration: Please contact leader Feb 13 - 24.
Leader: Doug Garrity #1757; garrid0@lycos.com; 845-471-107

Sat, Mar. 5 – FIR & BIG INDIAN
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2400’, Elev. 3700’, 3620’
A moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike.
Registration: Please contact leader before March 2.
Leader: Joe Bogardus #1399; joe.adks@gmail.com; 518:576:9739.

Sat, Mar. 5 – WINDHAM
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1784’. Elev. 3524’
A trail hike at a moderate to slow pace. Point to point hike requiring a shuttle.
Registration: Please contact leader.
Leader: Bob Krisak #1600; boboc1oc2@verizon.net; 609:587:6174 (before 7:30pm)

Sun, Mar. 6 – BEARPEN & VLY
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2035’, Elev. 3600’, 3529’
A moderately paced bushwhack. Well behaved dogs welcome.
Registration: Please contact leader Feb. 20 - Mar 3.
Leader: Doug Garrity, #1757; garrid0@lycos.com; 845:471:1079.

Sun, Mar. 6 – WESTKILL & ST. ANNE’S PEAK
Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1700’, Elev. 3880’, 3420’
A moderately paced trail hike to Westkill Mt. and to one of the Catskills’ hundred highest peaks. Car shuttle required.
Registration: Please contact leaders.
Leaders: Tom and Laurie Rankin #s 1503, 1337; laurierankin@hvc.rr.com; 845-926-2182

Sat, Mar. 12 – NORTH DOME & possibly SHERRILL
Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1850’, Elev. 3610’, 3540’
A moderately paced but strenuous bushwhack. (Sherrill adds 2 mi. and 1000’ of elevation gain.).
Registration: Please contact leader by Mar 10.
Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; gvp@ms.com; 201-694-8344.

Sat, Mar. 12 – KAATERSKILL
Distance: 8mi. Ascent 1730’, Elev. 3651’
A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack.
Registration: Please contact leader Mar 7 – 11.
Leader: Jim Malumphy #890; lump63@hotmail.com; 203-206-0586 (NCA 8pm).

Sat, Mar. 19 – DOUBLETOP & possibly BIG INDIAN
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent 1860’, Elev. 3862’
A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack.
Registration: Please contact leader.
Leader: Jean Taylor; Taylor.Jean.E@gmail.com; 908:209:4750

Sat, Mar. 19 – WESTSKILL
Distance: 7mi. Ascent 1700’, Elev. 3880’
We will climb either up and back the same way or make it an end to end based on weather and group choice. This hike will be a “teen friendly” hike. This means you should ONLY go on this hike if you are willing to hike with and at the pace of teenagers.
Registration: Please contact leader.
Leader: Timothy Watters #268; twatters@wattersfinancial.com; 201-818-9542

Sun, Mar. 20 – NO HIKE SCHEDULED

Sat, Mar. 27 – GRAHAM & BALSAM LAKE
Distance: 8 mi, Ascent 2040’, Elev. 3723’, 3868’
A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Well behaved dogs welcome.
Registration: Please contact leader Mar 13 – 24.
Leader: Douglas Garrity #1757; garrid0@lycos.com; 845-471-1079

2011 annual dues for members are now payable. If you have web access you can download and print the renewal form from
http://www.catskill-3500-club.org/Dues%20Notice%202011-1.doc
Please save the expense of an additional mailing by, before January 1, sending the form, with your check payable to the “Catskill 3500 Club” to:
David S. White; 28 Mulberry St., Clinton, NY 13323-1541; Phone 315-853-6942
**Scree**

**Speaking of four letter words.** Fracking (the Sierra Club tells us) is "exempt from the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Air Act, parts of the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, as well as our country's hazardous waste and cleanup laws." Natural gas companies now have more than their collective eye on the Marcellus Shale deposit, whose region encompasses the Catskills; among other initiatives, they are in the process of acquiring land leases on which to erect their drilling rigs. If this bothers you a bit [npi], you might want to look into the Sierra Club's Activist Network, one team of which focuses on the Marcellus Shale (see connect.sierraclub.org/Team/Marcellus_Shale_Gas_Drilling) And do plug 'marcellus shale catskills' into your web search engine for more information.

**The electronic Canister.** as publicized in the last issue, is now available on the Club’s website. Webmaster, Tom Rankin, informs us that 400 (unique) people visit our website each day, and that the electronic Canister is downloaded dozens of times a week. Based on the success of this innovation, the Club has decided to make such electronic availability the default method of transmitting the Canister. However, the Club does intend to accommodate those members who still wish to receive their Canisters via paper mail, provided they notify the Club by May 1, 2011. (But please don’t wait, if you make your notification soon the Club will save even more money on printing and postage). Such notice should be sent to Dave White at ei: connect.sierraclub.org/Team/Marcellus_Shale_Gas_Drilling) And do plug ‘marcellus shale catskills’ into your web search engine for more information.

**News from the Top:** After a decade of truly yeoman service, Club Treasurer, Ed Gilroy, has announced his intention of heading out to the proverbial pasture. Ed has been instrumental not only in keeping, and faithfully reporting the status of, the Club’s finances, but also in handling T-shirt distribution, serving on the nominating committee, and performing other Club functions. Jay Hui, former Nominating Committee member, has been designated to replace Ed as Treasurer. After many years as Winter Weekend Chair, Art Zimmerman, has stepped down to spend his winter weekends at the beach. We are grateful to Art for coordinating many fun-in-the-snow times. Our new Winter Weekend Chair is Maria Bedo (take a look at page 2 to see what she has arranged for us in January). We also would like to thank Cindy Kuhn for her year of service as Aspirant Chair, and to welcome her replacement Terri Maxymillian. In addition we would like to extend warm greetings to Cathy O’Neil, a new Nominating Committee member, and Maret PANZENBECK, a new Audit Committee member.

Last, and most certainly not least, Club Secretary, Laurie Rankin, was the recipient of the Ken Lloyd Award bestowed by the NY/NJ Trail Conference. This award is given for exemplary service to trail maintenance, management and/or trail land protection, particularly citing Laurie’s volunteer coordination work, on Catskill lean-tos.

**Our New Members**

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<td>1868 Yanny Hecht</td>
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<td>1873 Naishad Shah</td>
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<td>1881 Gary McGraw</td>
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**Winter**

737W Laurie Schweighardt  1638R  03/20/10

**New Life Members**

1876 Jim Barnshaw
Asp Jim Davenport
Asp Trudy Pojman

**Not even old enough to drive.**

Arlo Cusmano, #1874 became a member on Sep. 5 last, not bad for a 7-year old.

**In Memoriam**

Chet Schramm, #1518, passed away at age 79 on August 9, 2010. Chet was an avid outdoorsman and the Immediate Past President of the Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club. He loved hiking the Catskills and the Gunks, and fishing for trout in the Ashokan Reservoir. Chet will be dearly missed by his family and friends.
Members and aspirants are cordially invited to attend the

**FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL DINNER MEETING**

Saturday, April 2, 2011

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

**Social Hour:** 3:30 P.M. — 5:00 P.M.  
Cash bar, hors d’oeuvres served

**Dinner:** 5:15 p.m.

**Program:** Ranger Rick Dearstyne, who was instrumental in helping the club re-build several lean-to’s, and who has participated in numerous search and rescue missions, will discuss his career with the DEC, and address us on the *State of the Forest*.

**Tariff:**  
$33.00 per person.  
Name-card reserved seating for everyone.  
Round tables seat 10.

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**Reservations must be received by March 19, 2010**

**Please detach and mail to:**  
Michael Doehring  
7 Cloverdale Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10603

**Questions:** Clover7med@aol.com (preferred)  
or (914) 761-7225

Reservations $33.00 per person.  
Amount of Check: $________  
Check payable to “Hillside Manor” (but mail to Michael Doehring, see box on left).  
(Note: Checks will be deposited after the dinner)

**Please Circle Choice of Entrée**

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<th>Name</th>
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<th>Chicken Française</th>
<th>Mixed Veg. Lasagna</th>
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If you intend to sit with a large group, print the names of the people you would like seated at your table, and please verify that the people listed will actually attend and wish to sit with you

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Reservations must be received by March 19, 2010**