

the catskill canister

Vol. XXI, No. 1

W I N T E R 1 9 8 8

OCCASIONAL SHOWERS ON SATURDAY

"Occasional showers on Saturday; clearing on Sunday," and then the weatherman added surprisingly, "Possible snow in Buffalo." I was glad we were headed for the Neversink Valley and not Buffalo.

The horn beeped. Shortly, Bill and I had our packs and supplies loaded into Ed's Bronco and off we went for lunch with Judy in Kingston. What a beautiful day it was for the two hour trip to Claryville on the Ashokan and Peekamoose roads. At Denning we loaded our packs with all the supplies we needed for our group and headed up the yellow trail. We were the first arrivals. There would be ten of us on this Bleecker's Creepers weekend.

We packed in along a trail where aroma and color were telling of the coming autumn. Some of the crossing logs were rotted away and getting across the Neversink with heavy packs was tricky. The place we picked to camp was a quarter of a mile upstream from the leanto along an unofficial green trail. There we formed a "kitchen" from stones of an existing fireplace and picked sites for the five tents. Ed and Bill went back to the trailhead to await the late arrival of Alice, Jean, Carolyn, and Marlene, while Judy and I remained to finish setting up the tents. The prospect of spending the night snuggled in sleeping bags beside a forest stream is always exciting. Day hiking in the CATSKILLS is surely enjoyable, but overnight camping is the ultimate Catskill experience.

In about an hour, John came up the trail. Soon after, as the sun was setting, Tim arrived. Our stomachs were reminding us there were spaces that needed filling. At last the rest of our group arrived, their approaching flashlights twinkling like fireflies. A candle lantern on a hemlock branch showed them where to cross to our camp.

With the aid of Ed's Peak 1 and my two Svea stoves, we soon had a great dinner going. Our planned fare we ate in courses. We started with soup and salad. Then it was on to the main course of macaroni and cheese with hamburger and gravy. There is nothing like a good hearty meal to add to a campout. My only disappointment was I had forgotten my backpack oven so the cake planned for dessert never was baked. Ahh well, no one is perfect.

Drinking tea, hot chocolate, and fresh coffee made with a whole egg, we chatted around the cheery fire. Later, in a tent filled with the mixed aroma of evergreens and campfire, I crawled into my sleeping bag. Dropping off to sleep, I thought what a nice place this is to camp and what nice people to be camping with.

The sun shined briefly during our hot breakfast and we made plans for the day. Four elected to stay at camp - reading, exploring the stream, or doing whatever else seemed pleasant. In high spirits, the rest of us crossed the Neversink and started off to the left on an unofficial red trail.

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What a lovely walk this is, even if the "occasional showers" were turning into a steady drizzle. Up along the rushing stream we filed through dripping beeches and maples. A bluejay called above a beaver meadow, and we passed crystal pools dotted with fallen yellow and red leaves, a trout's paradise. It was still raining when we stopped briefly, once to chat with a couple camped upstream and again later for a snack.

At the 2600 foot line on the map, Bill and Ed took a compass heading that would bring us within ten feet of the canister on Rocky. When climbing through the wet forest, there are always wonderful smells of damp moss, rich bark, mature ferns, and balsam. In such areas you can about tell your elevation by your nose. Whoever planted all those "Christmas Trees" up there surely put them close to one another; we were getting soaked from below as well as above. It rained even harder at the summit. When signing the register, we had to switch from pen to pencil to keep our signatures from smearing.

It got wetter and colder as we descended to the col between Rocky and Lone. There we ate a brief lunch. Those who decided to return to camp parted from us. Bill, Ed, and I proceeded up Lone to the canister. It was windy, wet, and cold when we signed in; and it was a relief to get moving again down to camp. The going was slippery and my thin gloves were as soaked as my jeans and shirt. I wished I had put on my Gortex jacket before I had reached the wet balsams on Rocky.

The campfire greeting us on our return to the camp was a welcome sight. How Marlene and Carolyn got it going in the rain was a feat in itself. Those arriving back at camp ahead of us had all gone to their tents and changed into dry clothes. I could hardly hold my cup of hot chocolate, I shivered so much. Soon, I too had changed and was in my sleeping bag. It was a half hour before the shivering stopped and I dropped off to sleep.

About 7:00 P.M., I awoke briefly and could hear that the "occasional showers" had now turned into a windy deluge. Although Bill had put extra logs on the fire, it was fading fast. Except for the wind that had picked up, the camp was quiet. Everyone was snug in their tents. They all had snacks with them, so I didn't feel bad about the big planned dinner we were missing. For me, a chocolate bar just hit the spot, and I was soon lulled back to sleep by the wind in the trees.

Nature called me at 3:00 A.M. The wind was still up and the sound of rain had given away to something plopping hard against the windy side of the tent. As I lay there, I could hear large branches slowly cracking and falling to the forest floor. I soon realized my suspicions when I shined my flashlight out through the tent flap. What a shock to see the light beam shining into a blinding blizzard! There was an inch of snow on everything. The snow was sticking to the tree trunks; they looked like so many marble columns. Was this really October 4th?

By now, the sounds in the windy darkness were interrupting everyone's sleep. Alice and Carolyn, I learned later, had been peeking out of their tent to check the level of the Neversink. The seriousness of our situation was on my mind. It would be foolish to attempt to evacuate in a snow storm at 3:00 A.M. My thoughts wavered between waiting for the sun, which I was convinced would be shining at breakfast, and planning an escape route if it was still snowing at that time. Then I dropped back to sleep.

Around 8:00 A.M., there was about five inches of blowing snow and no sign of it letting up. Everyone was awake. The word was passed for all to be dressed, ready to leave in 15 minutes. We would leave our gear behind. It would be hazardous, we agreed, to attempt a crossing of the swollen Neversink. Leaving by the green trail would be a wiser idea.

Following the green trail proved easier said than done because the snow on the tree trunks obliterated traces of green paint. Attempting to keep our feet as dry as possible, we worked our way around the tributaries of Deer Shanty Brook, through bent beeches and over fallen trunks. As we bent under and stepped over blowdowns, I was glad I had left my heavy pack behind. After getting our feet wet anyway, we ascended to the yellow trail which would take us the mile back to our cars. With all the trees bent under their snowy loads, the trail was hardly recognizable. We had to walk off the trail often to get around downed beeches and moosewood.

At last, through the darkened woods, we saw see the open field of blowing whiteness where our snow encrusted vehicles stood like so many lonely Arctic snowcraft. It was necessary to chip away the crust to unlock and unjam doors. I discovered also that I had left the window on the passenger side of Judy's car open. There was a drift of snow from the window ledge, down across to the driver's seat. Fortunately, she is a forgiving soul.

In a hour some of us were having a great breakfast at Grahamsville, where there was rain and only a trace of snow. When I arrived home at Red Hook, we were out of power. The storm had struck there too. It denied me that nice hot shower I was looking forward to.

Monday dawned sunny and bright. Ed, Bill, and I met for breakfast and then drove back to the trailhead. We headed in about 10:00 A.M. on a 55 degree day under a blue sky. We met John on his way out with a load; he had arrived earlier. How different the trail looked now in the daylight! Most of the snow had melted, and many of the trees had dropped their snowy burdens and sprung back up. We returned to camp by the green trail which was a cinch to follow in in these conditions. Looking around the campsite, it was evident that at least five additional inches of snow had fallen after our fast exit.

The camp site seemed so quiet now. The swollen Neversink was still high and still crystal clear. The tasks of dismantling the camp began. After two trips, with lunch in between, we finished loading the last of the wet gear into the Bronco and left for home at 5:40 P.M.

Riding home I kept thinking of the weekend with all the color, aroma, and excitement. I realized that after all is said and done, I had had a great time. I also knew I would always be reminded of those past four days whenever I hear a weatherman say, "Occasional Showers on Saturday."

Bleecker Staats, #272

RD3 - Box 192, Red Hook NY 12571

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

With this issue we begin a new era for The Catskill Canister. For twenty years under the direction of Franklin Clark, #33, and Elinore Leavitt, #2, as Editor and Associate Editor respectively, our newsletter has been nurtured and polished. It has evolved into the delightful journal that we all look forward to each calendar quarter. With its stories, new items, announcements, hike schedules and listings of new members, The Canister serves as an intimate and colorful history of the Club. As of last autumn's issue of The Canister, Franklin and Elinore have retired from the editor's desk. Both have done a truly outstanding job, and I am sure you will join with me in extending to them our heartfelt thanks for a task well done.

We are most fortunate to have experienced and enthusiastic volunteers among our members. Doug Robins, #153, and Mike Doehring, #144, have signed on as our new editorial team, and we continue to anticipate with pleasure our future Canisters.

Cyrus B. Whitney, President

ANNUAL DINNER DATE

Save the date of Saturday, March 26, 1988 for the annual meeting of the Catskill 3500 Club. The dinner will be at Meadowbrook Lodge, New Windsor, NY, near Newburgh.

At the meeting, new members receive their membership certificates. Those completing all the peaks in winter during the past year receive their winter memberships. Members, aspirants, and all other people interested in the club's activities are invited to attend.

COMPUTERIZED ADDRESS LISTS

Howard Dash, #458, has written a program to put the address lists for The Catskill Canister into a computer file. This change is a great improvement in flexibility because it allows us to select and sort names and addresses by many different criteria.

Putting the information into computer format, however, required a conversion of our existing files. Possibly some mistakes could have occurred. Would you please check the name and address as it appears on the mailing label for this issue? If it is incorrect, please notify the subscriptions chairman, Cyrus Whitney, 41 Morley Drive, Wyckoff NJ 07481.

ASSUMED RISK

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

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Mar. 5 SHERRILL A moderate bushwhack.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent 2200' Elev.: 3540' Order: 31
 Meeting Place: Call leader for details.
 Leader: Roman Hrycun (#314), R.D.2, Box 419B, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
 914-876-2451

Mar. 19 PANTHER A Required winter peak. Moderate trail hike via
 Giant Ledge.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3720' Order: 18
 Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia at 9:00 AM
 Leader: John Fish (#27), R.D. 4, Box 42, Hudson, NY 12534
 518-851-9670

Mar. 26 KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK (and ROUNDTOP, conditions permitting)
 A Moderate trail hike and bushwhack.

Bad driving weather cancels.
 Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2110' Elev.: 3655', 3440' Order: 22
 Meeting Place: Howard Johnson's at Thruway exit for Saugerties at 9:00 AM
 Leaders: Neil Zimmerman (#306) and Stella Green (#418), 10 W. 65th St., New
 York, NY 10023
 212-644-1620 (days), 212-873-5209 (eves) (Neil Zimmerman)
 201-391-9410 (Stella Green)

Apr. 9 SHAWANGUNK CIRCLE A long circular hike at moderate pace with
 many interesting views.

Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: less than 1000'
 Meeting Place: Minnewaska State Park entrance and parking lot on US Rte 44/
 NYS Rte. 55, about 200 yds. west of Minnewaska Hotel Tollgate
 at 8:30 AM
 Leader: Vratia Zbusek (#431), 100 Manhattan Ave., Apt. 1314, Union City, NJ
 07087
 201-330-9046, after 7 PM

Apr. 16 SHOKAN HIGH POINT Moderate trail hike via the Kanape.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1980' Elev.: 3082'
 Meeting Place: Junction of 28 and 28A in Boiceville at 9:00 AM
 Leader: Angie Mahdavian (#372), R.D. 4, Box 2180, Kingston, NY 12401
 914-338-6263

Apr. 23 SOUTHWEST HUNTER A moderate bushwhack via Little and Big
 Christmas Trees

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1640' Elev.: 3740' Order: 15
 Meeting Place: Flagpole in Westkill on Rt. 42 at 8:00 AM
 Leader: Hamilton Topping (#481), Box 503 Tannersville, NY 12485
 518-589-6203

Apr. 30 DOUBLETOP and GRAHAM A long but moderate bushwhack.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600' Elev.: 3860, 3868 Order: 9, 8
 Meeting Place: Bridge over Dry Brook on Rt 28 in Arkville at 9:00 AM
 Leader: Ernest Mahlke (#72), R.D. 1, Box 178B1, Laurens, NY 13796
 607-432-2583

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

On January 16, 1988, Arlene Scholer, #441, JoEllen Elsener, #493, Richard Furman, #131, and Bill Swift were the first hikers to find the new canister on S. W. Hunter. Larry Leslie, #208, had put the canister in place on January 3rd. * * * * Franz L. Alt, #421, has complete the membership requirements a second time - all after reaching age 72. * * * * Sylvia Brown, #613, and Tom Sanders, #295, were married on December 4, 1987.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- 610 Bruno J. Walmsley 11/14/87 609-924-4679
- 611 Rosemary Walmsley 11/14/87
312 N. Harrison St., Princeton, NJ 08540
- 612 Anthony Amaral, Jr. 12/27/87 914-238-8164
575 Quaker Rd., Chappaqua, NY 10514
- 613 Sylvia Brown-Sanders 1/3/88 201-625-9458
51 Meriden Rd., Rockaway Twp., NJ 07866
- 614 Annice M. Alt 1/1/88 212-568-3280
250 Cabrini Blvd., Apt. 9H, New York, NY 10033
- 615 Tibor A. Panto 1/23/88 914-385-7438
11 Maurizi La., Woodstock, NY 12498

SURVEY ON THE ANNUAL DINNER SITE

The annual dinner chairman and the executive committee have been discussing moving the Annual Dinner to a site other than Meadowbrook Lodge (or similar catering facility). One option investigated is to hold the event at the Mohonk Mountain House near New Paltz.

There is no question of Mohonk's spectacular setting. Mohonk is a large historic hotel from the Victorian-Edwardian era. It is located at the edge of a small lake nestled between the cliffs and crags of the northeast end of the Shawangunk Mountains. The hotel grounds and associated private forest preserve cover thousands of acres; there are many miles of trails and bridle paths. Attendees would have day privileges on the Mohonk grounds. Rooms for changing and cleaning up before the dinner could be provided. Mohonk has excellent food and would serve us a first class meal.

There are, however, several disadvantages. First, Mohonk is more expensive than the ordinary catering facility; the cost of the meal would be approximately \$25.00. Second, Mohonk has room for only 150 diners in its banquet area. If more than 150 people signed up for the banquet, it would be necessary to turn away anyone whose reservation was received after the limit was reached. Recent banquet attendance has been slightly more than 150.

The annual dinner chairman is interested in your thoughts. After considering the advantages and disadvantages of Mohonk, could you please indicate your opinion on the survey included in the annual dues/subscription notice elsewhere in this issue. Please keep these thoughts in mind. No new arrangement will be made before 1989 at the earliest; this year's dinner and annual meeting will take place at Meadowbrook Lodge as planned. Although Mohonk has no bar the hotel does have a liquor license and alcoholic beverages are available.

DUES AND SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

Annual dues for members and subscription fees for aspirants are now payable for 1988. Please note that dues include a subscription to The Catskill Canister. Since delinquent payments make extra work for the volunteers who have to sent out reminders and also cost extra for postage, please send your money now. There is a space for those wishing to make a contribution to the treasury.

Only one payment is required - dues or subscription.

.....
Annual dues for members - \$3.00 Make check payable to The Catskill 3500 Club, Inc. and mail to Elinore G. Leavitt, 246 Joslen Blvd., Hudson, NY 12534. Sign and retain the enclosed membership card.

Name _____ # _____
Address _____ DUES \$3.00
_____ CONTRIBUTION _____
Phone (_____) _____ TOTAL ENCL. . _____
Social Security No. (optional*) _____ Please send roster suppl.
.....

.....
Survey on the annual dinner site:

I would be interested in moving the dinner to Mohonk. _____
I would prefer the dinner to remain at Meadowbrook Lodge
or similar catering facility. _____

Comment _____
.....

.....
Annual subscription fee for aspirants - \$3.00. Make check payable to The Catskill 3500 Club, Inc. and mail to Cyrus B. Whitney, 41 Morley Drive, Wyckoff, NJ 07481.

Name _____ SUBSCRIPTION . . \$3.00
Address _____ CONTRIBUTION . . _____
_____ TOTAL ENCL.. . . _____
.....

* Members of the Club "involved with operation, maintenance and development of trails on New York State Parkland" are eligible for the protection of Worker's Compensation coverage in the event of injury incurred while working on any trail maintained by the Club. Your name and social security number must be on file with the state. If you wish to be eligible, include your social security number above.



the catskill canister

Vol. XXI, No. 2

SPRING 1988

OPENING UP VISTAS

Myles was always happy to get out, but this was the greatest. What a day! The thaw and quick freeze covered his outdoor world with a white firm cover. Bright sunlight filled the blue sky that ran to cobalt over the ridges and summits. And the silence! Even his footfalls, crampons crunching in the styrofoam snow, seemed subdued. Quiet, solitary and beautiful - wilderness at its best.

As he approached the next summit, he suddenly stopped. His heavy breathing and rapid heart beats filled his ears. Myles strained to hear beyond his body sounds. "Why am I listening?" he asked himself. Then he heard it - the sound of a saw blade cutting through wood.

In a minute he saw a man - tall, blond, young, and obviously strong. The man was systematically cutting a swath in the trees below and away from the trail. Without warning, he finished and climbed back up picking up branches and throwing them down the slope far away from the cleared corridor.

Only ten feet from Myles and surprised to see the older mountaineer right before him, he suddenly halted. Recovering quickly, he gave Myles a bright "Hi!", walked up next to him, and turned. Myles watched the man's clear blue eyes look out over his recent lumbering.

"Great isn't it?" he said holding the saw in his heavily gloved hands.

"You call cutting down live trees in the wilderness great?" admonished an astonished Myles.

"That was unfortunately necessary. What's great is the view down the valley those trees had blocked."

Myles had been so incensed by the desecration of the woods he had not noticed the view that had been opened up. Looking down the cleft, the narrow valley was framed on both sides by trees and above by the clear blue sky. At its end rose a mountain with a classic summit.

"Last summer, when that view finally disappeared behind the growth of those trees I just cut, the Society decided it was time to open it up again," said the man matter-of-factly.

Myles Moore found himself in a quandary. The view was superb. It was a vast improvement over the tunnel of trees through which this trail had recently passed. But cutting live trees in the wilderness stood against the very idea of wilderness and the laws that protect it. The grand view somewhat softened his outrage of the downed trees and Myles was surprised to hear himself hedge a demand, "Who are you, and by what authority did you cut this gash in the forest?"

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Again matter-of-factly, the tall blond man answered, "I'm Sven Sawyer and I don't cut trees in wilderness willy-nilly. 'Vistas' carefully considers each potential viewpoint on its individual merits. It weighs the benefits of the view to the hiker against the cost of the damage to the environment. The decision is not taken lightly."

"What is this 'Vistas'?" Myles wanted to know.

"The View Improvement Society to Accentuate Scenery is an informal group of individuals dedicated to creating and preserving viewpoints in the mountains," Sven said. "What's the point of wilderness," he continued, "if it can't be seen and enjoyed by casual users who, collectively, form the political base that makes wilderness designation possible in the first place?"

"So 'Vistas' is responsible for opening up the trailside views," said Myles.

"And for keeping them open," smiled Sven.

Myles Moore looked down the valley with an admirering eye. "I have to admit it is a great view," he remarked.

Oblivious to the cold, they stood side-by-side for some time taking in the beauty. Finally Sven broke the silence, "Where are you headed?"

"I started from Mountain Glade below Bald Sam Mountain. I plan to make the loop over the Grange Trail to Stable Top Mountain then return by way of White Lace and Fester Mountains."

"That's a good piece of walking," observed Sven.

"Well, it's a beautiful day, and surface conditions are ideal for a winter hike. It's not a day for building views but enjoying them," noted Myles.

"Your point is well taken. Mind if I come along?" said Sven, folding his saw and packing up his gear.

After a little thought, Myles said, "Come on. Two pairs of crampons make make no more noise than one." He took one more look and turned down the trail. Sven hoisted his pack, imprinted the image of the valley in his mind, and started off after Myles.

VISTAS MAINTAINED NEAR SLIDE MOUNTAIN

The Department of Environmental Conservation is planning to maintain vistas near Slide Mountain. The DEC staff will do limited annual trimming to avoid the necessity of large scale one time cutting. Branches or small trees cut the DEC will dispose of down slope out of sight.

Maintained vistas on Slide Mountain are west of the summit at 4000', on the Curtis Ormsbee Trail at 3500', and east of the summit in the vicinity of the Burroughs Monument. Other views to be kept open are Balsam Cap Mountain south of the summit at 3400' and the summits of Cornell, Wittenberg, and Table Mountains.

Slide Mountain - Panther Mountain
Wilderness Unit Management Plan, p. 36

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

616	William F. Sewell 1/23/88 72 Hawthorne Ave., Albany NY 12203	518-489-3339
617	Sarah Fishman 2/6/88	914-331-1206
618	Stephen Fishman 2/6/88 202 Albany Ave., Kingston NY 12401	
619	Hilma L. Volk 2/7/88 P.O. Box 343, White Lake NY 12786	914-583-5234
620	John A. Sweeney 2/14/88 R.D. 1, Box 314, Princeton NJ 09540	201-297-0699
621	Philip Horman 2/15/88 261 Country Club Lane, Pomona NY 10970	914-354-0733
622	Dolores Grupp 2/15/88	516-481-4208
623	Joseph Grupp 2/15/88 660 Edgemere Ave., Uniondale NY 11553	
624	Gary M. Nielsen 2/20/88 240 First Ave., New York NY	212-228-1290
625	Lizabeth Lentz Fredericks 12/5/87	201-280-2366
626	Joseph Robert Yost 12/5/87 1604 Dumont Terrace, Wall NJ 07719	
627	Ruth L. Kates 3/6/88	914-626-4141
628	Sam Kates 3/6/88 198 Granite Rd., Accord NY 12404	
629	Salley A. Decker 3/6/88 Golden Drive F5, Hyde Park NY 12538	914-454-4206
630	William J. Embler 3/13/88 1 Regina Drive, Schenectady NY 12303	518-355-6529

IN MEMORIAM, EDWARD GRANT WEST

Edward Grant West, #45, died January 28, 1988, at his home in Allaben. He was 86. For over twenty years, Ed had been an active member of the Catskill 3500 Club. He contributed many articles to The Canister and was a frequent hike leader.

Ed West was born in East Jewett, March 21, 1901 to Nelson and Jean Garvey West. He attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. During World War II he served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. An employee of the Department of Environmental Conservation for 48 years, Ed retired in 1967 from the state-level position of Chief of the Bureau of Land Acquisition.

During the centennial celebration of the state Forest Preserve in 1985, Ed was among six individuals singled out by Governor Mario Cuomo for special recognition. At ceremonies in Albany, DEC Commissioner Henry G. Williams noted Ed "was directly involved in land acquisitions that saw a doubling of the Catskill Forest Preserve from 130,000 acres in 1919 to 250,000 in 1967."

Ed West was a principal of the firm of West and Brooks Professional Land Surveyors, Phoenicia, and was considered the dean of surveyors in New York state. Ed was also Shandaken town historian. He was a master of decyphering old deeds and had planned to compile his notes into a book on the Hardenburgh Patent. Ed also served on the Shandaken Town Planning Board, the Ulster County Planning Board, and the Onteora Board of Education. He was a director of the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development.

In addition to the Catskill 3500 club, Ed was a member of the Adirondack 46ers, and American Congress of Surveying and Mapping, the Society of American Foresters and many nature clubs, forestry organizations and professional land surveyors organizations. He also was a member of the Mountaintop Historical Society.

Ed's contributions to The Canister were subjects of Catskill historic interest. Articles he wrote include: "The Old Bark Road" (Vol. I, No. 2, Spring 1968), reprinted below; "Bluestone" (Vol. II, No. 4, Autumn 1969); "The Maltby Hollow Coal Kilns" (Vol. IV, No. 2, Spring 1971); "The Railroads at Devil's Acre" (Vol. IX, No. 1, Winter 1976); and "The Joseph Brant Fort", (Vol. IX, No. 4, Autumn 1976). He also reviewed a number of books for The Canister: Walks in the Catskills, (Vol. VIII, No. 1, Winter 1975), Guide to the Catskills, Vol. VIII, No. 4, Autumn 1975), On the Mountain, In the Valley, Catskill Architecture 1750 - 1920 as well as The Catskills, Land in the Sky, (both in Vol. XI No. 2, Spring 1968).

Ed led many club hikes. These were usually to historic or special areas. In September 1972 Ed and Franklin Clark, #33, led simultaneous experimental expeditions up Slide and Thomas Cole Mountains. Using signaling mirrors by day and lamps by night, they proved indeed the summit of Thomas Cole is visible from the summit of Slide over a shoulder of Hunter Mountain. Thomas Cole had long been thought the only Catskill peak which could not be seen from Slide. Results of this experiment were reported in The Canister in "Heliography of Thomas Cole," (Vol. VI, No. 1, Winter 1973).

THE OLD BARK ROAD

(reprinted from The Catskill Canister, Vol. I, No. 2, Spring 1968)

The route was from the West Kill valley, following the Bennett Brook up to the col between Sherrill and North Dome, and then along the height of land between the Schoharie and Esopus watersheds to the summit of North Dome. About a half mile from the col, we noticed an old bark road leading straight up to the left. This old road had not been used in over a hundred years, and could be discerned only by looking fifty yards ahead.

For two hundred years after Henry Hudson saw the CATSKILLS from the deck of the Half Moon, little interest was taken in their development. The mountains were rugged and forbidding, and the tales of wild animals, Indians, and supernatural creatures filled the imagination of the settlers with terror.

As a result of the War of 1812, the United States could enjoy free commerce with the rest of the world. Shiploads of hides were brought from South America to the United States to be converted into leather. Thus a use was developed for a resource which the CATSKILLS had in abundance: hemlock bark.

These mountains were almost a continuous forest of hemlock. Men flocked to the tanneries and the woods by the thousands; employers became wealthy, and prosperity was general. In order to make leather, large quantities of bark were necessary; one cord of bark was required to tan ten hides. The bark was all that was wanted and the giant trunks were left to decay where they fell under the axe of the bark peelers. Even today the half-rotted logs, with perfectly sound centers, may be found on many slopes.

In 1817, a man named Palen erected a tannery at Palenville. In the same year, Colonel William W. Edwards built one at Hunter. Shortly afterward, Colonel Zadoc Pratt erected at Prattsville one of the most complete tanneries in the region. Tanneries then sprung up everywhere throughout Greene, Ulster, and Sullivan counties.

The tanning industry flourished in the CATSKILLS for fifty years and came to an end after the Civil War. Export trade in leather was slow, but probably the main reason was that the hemlock itself was exhausted. The Simpson tannery at Phoenicia is said to have been the very last in operation and ceased in 1870.

And so, in following an old bark road on the side of one of the CATSKILLS we note with some nostalgia the fading evidence on another generation.

Edward G. West, #45
Shandaken, NY

LETTERS

I am both thrilled and proud to have completed the required climbs of the Catskill 3500 Club. This three year endeavor has been thoroughly challenging and has shown me the beautiful wild areas of New York just three hours' drive from my home on Long Island.

During these "Catskill 3500 years", I have acquired woods-wise knowledge of compass, maps, bushwhacks and snowshoes. I have learned the proper equipment and clothing to bring in all types of weather conditions. My knowledge of the plant, wildlife, and history of the area has grown too. Along the way, I made new friends as well as experiencing the mountains on my own. The vistas of forests, mountains, streams, and lakes in each of the changing four seasons was magnificent. The black flies, kripplebush, and long drives home, though, I could have done without.

Having completed the Catskill 3500, I look forward to new horizons. I have heard of the ADK 46'ers, the Northeast 111, and the New England 100 Highest. I would appreciate any information you have about them.

Larry Scott Wexler, #593
126 Ketchams Road, Syosset NY 11791

* * * * *

On February 27th, I completed the 111 4000-Footers of the Northeast in Winter on Hunter Mountain in the CATSKILLS. With Jerry Dwyer and Elmo Pratt, I climbed from Spruceton on the Devil's Path to the Devil's Acre Lean-to, where we set up camp. At dark, we proceeded to the summit by moonlight for the celebration. Then we returned to camp.

I climbed Southwest Hunter the next morning in warm, sunny, clear, calm weather. The bushwhack wan't bad. There were tracks to follow and only two tough spots on the way. There is still plenty of room in the new register book. This brings my winter Catskill 3500 total to 21 out of 35. I don't expect to have any more climbing time this winter, but I hope to complete the winter Catskill peaks next year.

The previous weekend, I had finished the ADK 46er's in winter, with a trip to Big Slide from ADK Winter Camp. Brian McKeller and Matt Sauer accompanied me on that climb. And I had had the 4000-Footers of New England "in the bag" since March of 1982.

Mike Bromberg, #479
120 Old County Rd., Brookline NH 03033

* * * * *

Although I have been hiking the portions of the CATSKILLS for many years, it was just recently I learned of the Catskill 3500 Club. Needless to say, once I undertook the effort to complete the required peaks it turned out to be a rewarding and educational experience. I would strongly recommend it to anyone physically capable of undertaking the effort.

I must admit I had some reservations about qualifying for a Winter Patch, but these were quickly dispelled last December when I experienced the beauty and majesty of Slide Mountain in its early winter blanket of snow. Accordingly please send me another Catskill 3500 Club tally sheet so I can record my winter peaks.

Anthony Amaral, Jr., #612
575 Quaker Rd., Chappaqua NY 10514

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

- 7 -

May 7 THOMAS COLE A moderate trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2000' Elev.: 3945' Order: 4
Meeting place: Sugarmaple in Maplecrest at 8:30 AM.
Leader: Sue Eilers (#337), 307 Anita Lane, Mamaroneck NY 10543
914-698-7219

May 7 WINDHAM HIGH PEAK A moderate trail hike with Bleecker's Creepers.
Heavy rain cancels.

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 3524' Order: 33
Meeting place: Exit 21 on Rte. 87 at 8:30 AM.
Leaders: Alice Boomhower (#570), 3 Primrose Hill, Rhinebeck NY 12572
914-876-7838
Marlene Alexander (#577), R.D. 2, Box 512, Red Hook NY 12571
914-758-6423

May 8 TABLE AND PEEKAMOOSE A strenuous trail hike for Mother's Day.
Heavy rain cancels.

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent 2900' Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 11, 12
Meeting Place: Junction of Rte. 28 and 28A at Boiceville at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 169 Pershing Ave., Ridgewood NJ 07450
201-696-7790

May 14 BLACKHEAD RANGE A strenuous hike with excellent views.
Heavy rain cancels.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent 2800' Elev. 3940, 3995, 3945 Order: 5, 3, 4
Meeting Place: Call leader for details.
Leader: Paul Wulff (#591), Fox Hollow Road, P.O. Box 213, Shandaken NY 12480
914-688-7559

May 21 GRAHAM AND DOUBLETOP A moderate trail hike and bushwhack.
Heavy rain cancels.

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent 2800' Elev. 3868, 3860 Order: 8, 9
Meeting Place: Phoenicia Diner in Phoenicia at 8:00 AM.
Leader: Richard Dabal (#555), 139 George St., Lambertville NJ 08530
609-397-0707

May 28 WITTENBERG, CORNELL, AND SLIDE An especially strenuous trail
hike.

Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 4600' Elev.: 3780, 3860, 4180 Order: 14, 10, 1
Meeting Place: Woodland Valley Campgrounds at 9:00 AM.
Leader: Bruno Walmsley (#610), 312 N. Harrison St., Princeton NJ 08540
609-924-4679

June 4 FRIDAY A strenuous bushwhack.

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2600' Elev: 3694' Order: 20
Meeting Place: Call the leader for details.
Leader: Roman Hrycun (#314), R.D. 2, Box 419B, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
914-876-2451

(continued on the next page)

HIKES (Continued)

June 11 ASHOKAN HIGH POINT A moderate trail hike, rain or shine.

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev.: 3082'
Meeting Place: Junction of Rte. 28 and 28A in Boiceville at 8:30 AM.
Leader: Ben Morelli, (#466), 117 Makaton Drive, Cranford NJ 07016
201-276-2200

June 18 MYSTERY HIKE This leader is full of surprises. Be forewarned!

Distance: ? mi. Ascent: ????' Elev.: ????' Order: ??
Meeting Place: Junction of Rte. 28 and 28A in Boiceville at 8:00 AM.
Leader: Tim Watters (#268), 30 Wagner Ave., Wallington NJ 07057
212-984-0373 (work)

June 25 PANTHER AND GIANT LEDGE A strenuous trail hike.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2700' Elev.: 3720', 3200' Order: 18
Meeting Place: Call leader for details
Leader: Barbara Reeves-Ellington (#442), R.D. 4 Box 415, Norwich NY 13815
607-336-1494

ASSUMED RISK

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

TRAIL CHANGES AT KAATERSKILL FALLS

The Department of Environmental Conservation has made several trail changes in the Kaaterskill Falls area. They have constructed a new parking lot near the intersection of Schutt Road and North Lake Road. The old parking lot at the end of Schutt Road has been closed since the bridge across the creek is unsafe. The new parking area now serves as a terminus for the Sleepy Hollow Trail System, the South Mountain trail system, and the Rock Shelter trail northerly from North Lake Road. More important, this parking lot is now also the southern terminus of the Escarpment Trail. A half mile section of new horse and foot trail parallels Schutt Road connecting the new parking area to the old.

The trail from Route 23A in to Kaaterskill Falls is now a deadend trail designated by yellow markers. There is no longer any trail connecting the top and bottom of the falls. This change was made for reasons of public safety and to preserve the falls as a scenic resource. The old eroded trail and the many herd paths are being revegetated.

These changes are part of the DEC's unit management planning process for the Kaaterskill Falls Wild Forest.



the catskill canister

Vol. XXI, No. 3

S U M M E R 1 9 8 8

WANTED: MANUSCRIPTS, STORIES, NEWS ITEMS, CLIPPINGS

Your editor needs manuscripts, stories, news items, and clippings for future publications of the Canister. Can you write about your personal hiking or travel experiences? Or can you provide an essay about the history, geology, flora, or fauna of the mountains? Fiction as well as non-fiction is welcome so long as the subject matter will appeal to the general audience of the Canister. Items which will result in up to three pages of final text are best. Longer works may have to be abridged or excerpted, but they are still welcome.

Your editor appreciates receiving news items and clippings of general interest. He would appreciate that items from other publications be accompanied by the name of their source so that he can make proper attribution.

LETTERS

In May, 1969, I climbed Peekamoose Mountain, my first Catskill 3500 footer. For the next fifteen years my count remained at four. Between November 1984 and May 15, 1988, I completed the remaining climbs.

There are two trips that stand out. The first was May 8, 1988. On a clear day, I hiked to Diamond Notch, bushwhacked to Southwest Hunter, and went on to Hunter Mountain via bushwhack and trail. Finally I completed the circuit with an ascent of Rusk Mountain. This hike was about 10.45 miles. On May 15, 1988, with beautiful weather, I went over Slide, Cornell, and Wittenberg. Then I bushwhacked to Friday and Balsam Cap, and I returned over Slide. This trek was 14.37 miles. It was on Balsam Cap that I completed my 39th ascent. On that peak I was pleased to see Norm Sills had finished there the week before. Norm and I hiked on the Long Trail years ago.

Abe T. Allen, #638
605 Amity Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525

We did it! On May 29, 1988, we finished our 38 ascents atop Peekamoose where we celebrated in the champagne tradition. Looking back, we must confess we enjoyed all the aches and pains, the sore muscles and burning feet. We relished the bug bites and the soaking rains, the endless mud puddles, the prickly brambles, and the slippery rocks, and the ascents on sherpas in the snow. But most of all we cherished the magnificent views.

Toby Appel, #635
5 FF, 30 East 9th St.
New York, NY 10003

Jacques Friedensohn, #636
2 F, 94-19 66th Ave.,
Rego Park, NY 11374

THE CATSKILL CANISTER

Published by The Catskill 3500 Club, Inc.

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Cyrus B. Whitney, Subscriptions, 41 Morley Drive, Wyckoff, New Jersey 07481

THE BURROUGHS RANGE

The U.S. Board of Geographic Names has approved naming a mountain range in the CATSKILLS the "Burroughs Range." The peaks designated to comprise this range are Slide, Cornell, and Wittenberg. The new designation will appear on future U.S. Geological Survey maps.

John Burroughs was a naturalist born 150 years ago in the CATSKILLS. He hiked through the mountains and wrote about them. Not only is the designation a commemoration of his 150th anniversary, but also it is a recognition of his conservation values.

BEAR HUNTING HARVEST DOWN

During the 1987 big game hunting season, 50 black bears were killed in the CATSKILLS. Nine of these bears were taken by archers. The number of 50 is below recent harvests which have averaged 62 bears. Poor weather conditions from the start of the regular season apparently caused early denning and resulted in the decrease.

By counties, the number of bears killed were: Delaware 3, Greene 7, Orange 1, Sullivan 17, and Ulster 22. 553 bears were taken in the Adirondacks.

from the Ulster County Townsmen

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

On April 23rd, Fred Francke (#389) completed the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's "Dogwood Half-Hundred"--a one day marathon hike of approximately 38 miles on the Appalachian Trail in Northern Virginia. 117 hikers started this hike but only 70 finished. * * * * A recent meeting of the Catskill 3500 Club Executive Committee was graced by the presence of a most beautiful guest, Daphne. Daphne, a Persian-Calico cat who likes to travel, was on her first trip ever to the CATSKILLS. * * * * Red Square, the Kremlin, and Saint Basil's Cathedral were all on the agenda of Ralph Ferrusi's (#122) recent trip to Moscow. He also spent several days in Tbilisi (Republic of Georgia), Sochia (Black Sea Riviera), and Leningrad. From an Aeroflot airliner, he caught sight of Mt. Elbrus (Order #1 in Europe). * * * * It took Clark Gittinger (#633) 33 years to complete his Catskill peaks. The reason? In the meantime he was doing his Adirondack 46, the Adirondack Winter 46 (including Slide and Hunter), the White Mountain 4000 Footers, the North East 113 4000 Footers, and 41 of the western peaks over 14,000 feet.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB POLICY ON NEW TRAILS

At the June meeting of the Executive Committee, the Club adopted the following policy:

"The Catskill 3500 Club is against any new trails in the CATSKILLS unless there is a demonstrated need."

The issue is complex and ongoing. On the one hand, the Department of Environmental Conservation claims public demand for more trails. On the other, the club feels the trailless peaks and wilderness areas are in danger of the fate which in the 1970's befell Westkill Mountain, previously a challenging bushwhack. Some areas like Slide and Hunter Mountains are subject to overuse; more trails in these areas would attract even more people. Meanwhile, other trails in less well known areas are underutilized and often not well maintained.

The club does not, however, want to appear totally negative on the subject of trail building. When need is demonstrated, the club supports new trails and would like to participate in the route planning process.

Under the 1980 National Trails System Act, eight National Scenic Trails were authorized. One of these is the 3,000 mile long North Country Trail from North Dakota to New York. Drafts of several Unit Management Plans now under consideration would have the North Country Trail entering the Catskill Preserve at Shinhopple on the Delaware and terminate at Denning, where it would join the Long Path. To accomplish this, several sections of new trail would have to be built in sensitive areas including a segment between Alder Lake and Balsam Lake Mountain on Mill Brook Ridge and a connection between the Neversink-Hardenburgh and Pine Hill-West Branch Trails. All of the North Country Trail within the Preserve would be on state land or roads.

In this case, the club is in favor with the concept of the North Country Trail and believes there is a clear and convincing need for it. The DEC's proposed route has been carefully planned with new trail construction kept to a minimum. In this case, we support this new portion of a National Scenic Trail passing through the CATSKILLS.

PEEKAMOOSE VALLEY COMMENTS SOUGHT

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is developing a unit management plan for the Peekamoose Valley Wild Forest. This 2,200 acre unit, approximately 1.5 miles north of Sundown in the Town of Denning, is limited to Forest Preserve lands near Rondout Creek.

Public participation is essential to the development of this plan. Comments, concerns, issues, suggestions, and other information can be sent to Preserve Management Forester William Rudge, New York State Department of Environmental Conversation Region 3 Office, 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561. He will need to receive your comments very soon since the department wants to have a draft plan prepared for public review by the end of 1988.

Conservation Chairman Ray Donahue represents the club in the unit management process. If you feel the club should take some position in formulating this plan, contact Ray at Box G, Downsville, NY 13755, 607-363-2565.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- 631 Frank J. Benenati 3/20/88 516-365-8796
2 Parkwoods Rd., Manhasset, NY 11030
- 632 Norman D. Sills 5/8/88
Box 695, Salisbury, CT 06068
- 633 N. Clark Gittinger 5/15/88 518-377-0671
1197 South Country Club Dr., Schenectady, NY 12309
- 634 Neil Bernstein 5/29/88 201-321-1079
16 Beverly Ct., Metuchen, NJ 08840
- 635 Toby Appel 5/29/88 212-475-4816
5FF, 30 East 9th St., New York, NY 10003
- 636 Jacques Friedensohn 5/29/88 718-897-3645
2F, 94-19 66th Ave., Rego Park, NY 11374
- 637 Laurie K. Hauser 5/29/88 516-423-7530
88 Green St., Huntington, NY 11743
- 638 Abe T. Allen 5/15/88 203-393-3508
605 Amity Rd., Woodbridge, CT 06525
- 639 Jen Oudemool 6/11/88 914-758-8068
91 Cambridge Dr., Red Hook, NY 12571
- 640 Elizabeth Klaber 6/26/88 212-799-5482
173 West 78th St. 5E, New York, NY 10024

WINTER MEMBERS

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 181 Dan A. Nielsen | 186 Bruce B. W. Ross | 191 Shawn Hand |
| 182 Joel Pomerantz | 187 John Swanson | 192 David Turnhull |
| 183 Gary M. Nielsen | 188 William F. Sewell | 193 Ilka Krochmal |
| 184 Peter Van de Water | 189 Anthony Amaral, Jr. | 194 Paul F. Pikula |
| 185 Paul Wulff | 190 William J. Embler, Jr. | 195 William E. Crump |

WINTER WEEKEND PLANS

After twenty years of planning exciting and successful winter weekends, Walter Gregory (#18) has resigned as Winter Weekend Chairman. The club would like to thank Walt for all his years of service to us.

Next year's Winter Weekend will be at Alpine Inn in Oliverea. Cy Whitney will be in charge of arrangements. Dates, prices, and the reservation procedure will appear in the autumn issue of the Canister.

NORTH DOME REMINDER

Mr. J. Jacobs of Timberlake Camp, Lexington, New York, reminds us that prior permission must be obtained from him at 516-367-6700 before using Timberlake Camp's trail to North Dome during the months of September through May. The trail is off limits to hikers during the camp's season from June through August. If you have any questions during the summer months, Timberlake Camp's telephone number is 914-688-2266.

1989 (AND BEYOND) ANNUAL DINNER MEETING UPDATE

The questionnaire concerning holding the annual dinner at Mohonk, which was included in the annual dues solicitation, produced a majority of responses in favor of Mohonk. When Annual Dinner Chairman Roy Messaros contacted Mohonk to follow up, however, he found there were conflicts.

In 1989, Easter is the last Sunday in March. The club has traditionally avoided scheduling the annual dinner on the last Saturday in March if that day is the day before Easter. Consequently, Saturday, March 25, 1989, could not be considered; and the dinner should be scheduled for either the Saturday preceding or the Saturday following Easter. On Saturday, March 18th, the Mohonk Mountain House hosts their annual mystery weekend, and the West Dining Room will be in use for weekend guests. The Saturday following Easter, April 1st, a folk dance group that comes every year as weekend guests will be using the West Dining Room. There is not an available Saturday night that would fit into our time frame.

Since reservations at just about any banquet facility have to be made almost a year in advance, Roy has reserved Meadowbrook Lodge for April 1, 1989.

At the June meeting of the club executive committee, Roy expressed disappointment with the negotiations with Mohonk. Since Mohonk always (understandably) gives preference to its weekend guests and since they schedule such frequent "specials" to attract weekenders, almost any year it may be impossible to work out a successful dinner arrangement with them.

Another place having good facilities and meeting our price range is the Hotel Thayer in West Point. Roy had inquired about holding next year's Annual Dinner there, but they are completely booked for 1989. The club executive committee asked Roy to investigate booking our 1990 Annual Dinner there.

To make the Annual Dinner more accessible to various different people, the executive committee discussed a proposal to alternate the meeting between a site in the north and a site in the south. The northern site would be in the Hudson-Catskill-Saugerties areas, and the southern site would be near Newburgh-Beacon-West Point.

Finding suitable accommodations, however is always difficult. Suggestions continue to be welcome. Anyone with an idea or recommendation should contact Roy Messaros, 249 Mulberry Way, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417, 201-337-5004.

1988-89 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

President	Jonathan Clement
Past President	Cyrus Whitney
First Vice President	Paul Hoyt
Second Vice President	Roman Hrycun
Secretary	Joan Dean
Treasurer	David Clapper
Annual Dinner Meeting	Roy Messaros
Canisters	Lawrence Leslie
Conservation	Ray Donahue
Membership	Elinore Leavitt
Outings	Timothy Watters
Search and Rescue	Jonathan Clement
Subscriptions	Cyrus Whitney
<u>The Catskill Canister</u>	Douglas Robins
Trails	Michael Doehring
Winter Weekend	Timothy Watters
	Cyrus Whitney

REGULATIONS CONCERNING CAMPING ON STATE LANDS

Everyone not aware of the following rules and regulations regarding camping on state lands should read them carefully:

- Section 190.3 (b) Camping is prohibited within 150 feet of any road, trail, spring, stream, pond or other body of water except at camping areas designated by the department (of Environmental Conservation).
- (Designated sites are at leantos or are marked with small yellow camping permitted signs.)
- Section 190.4 (a) Temporary camping in one location for four nights or more is prohibited except under permit. Except during the big game hunting season, no temporary camping permit will be issued to any person for a period in excess of 14 consecutive nights. No temporary camping permit may be renewed, or a new permit issued, to the same person for the same location in the same calendar year.
- Section 190.4 (b) Temporary camping is restricted in certain posted areas and no person may camp on such areas without a permit.
- Section 190.4 (e) No group of 10 or more individuals may camp on State lands at any time except under permit.

Anyone with questions about these or any other state land rules and regulations should contact Frederick J. Gerty, Regional Forestry Manager, Region 3, 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561 914-255-5453.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

- Sep 10 KAATERSKILL TRAIL CLEARING Come help clear the blue trail on Kaaterskill High Peak.
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3655' Order: 22
Meeting place: Howard Johnson's on Rte 32 just north of Saugerties exit (#20) of the Thruway.
Equipment: Bring lopping shears or saws if you have them. Otherwise, just bring yourself and work gloves.
Leader: Dick Wolff (#321), 648 Market St., Newark NJ 07105
201-746-7415 (9:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. only)
- Sep 17 BLACK DOME AND THOMAS COLE A moderate trail hike.
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2000' Elev.: 3980', 3940' Order: 3, 4
Meeting Place: Maple Crest at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Cy Whitney (#266), 41 Morley Drive, Wyckoff NJ 07481
201-447-2653
- Sep 24 HUNTER AND WESTSKILL A strenuous trail hike.
Distance: 16 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev.: 4040', 3880' Order: 2, 6
Meeting Place: Junction of Rte 28 and Rte 42 in Shandaken at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Paul Wulff (#591), Fox Hollow Road, P.O. Box 213, Shandaken NY 12480
914-688-7559
- Oct 1 SLIDE A beautiful hike via the Curtis and Ormsbee Trails. All hikers, especially aspirants, are invited.
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1780' Elev.: 4180' Order: 1
Meeting place: Sweet Sue's Bakery, Phoenicia at 8:00 A.M. for breakfast
Leader: Paul Hoyt (#315)
516-968-4467
- Oct 8 PANTHER A moderate trail hike with scenic views. Rain Cancels.
Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3720' Order: 18
Meeting Place: Panther/Giant Ledge trail head on Winnisook Road at 8:00 A.M.
Leader: Stephen Fishman (#618), 202 Albany Ave., Kingston NY 12401
- Oct 8 TABLE AND PEEKAMOOSE A hike bound for the cutting edge.
Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2800' Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11
Meeting Place: Denning at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Timothy Watters (#258), 30 Wagner Ave., Wallington NJ 07057
- Oct 15 BLACKHEAD A short strenuous hike.
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3100' Elev.: 3940' Order: 5
Meeting place: Pickwick Hotel/Lodge on Winter Clove Road at 9:30 A.M.
Leader: Richard Wolff (#321), 648 Market St., Newark NJ 07105
201-746-7415 (9:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. only)

(continued on the next page)

HIKES (CONTINUED)

Oct 22 LAKE MINNEWASKA CIRCULAR Fall colors circular from Trapps
Bridge to Gertrude's Nose.
Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1000' Elev.: c. 1600'
Meeting Place: Trapps Bridge on Rte 44 at 10:00 A.M.
Leader: Harold Cohen (#451), 47 Cider Hill, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458
201-327-1180 (evenings)

Oct 29 NORTH DOME AND SHERRILL A strenuous bushwhack.
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600' Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31
Meeting Place: Rear Lot of the Drug Store in Phoenicia at 8:00 A.M.
Leader: Joan Dean (#360), 12 Crowell Place, Maplewood, NJ 07040
201-762-0396

Nov 5 SOUTHWEST HUNTER A moderate bushwhack from Spruceton.
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 3740' Order: 1533
Meeting place: Junction of Rte's 28 and 42 in Shandaken at 9:00 A.M.
Leader: Howard Dash (#458), 63 Montague St., Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-875-1513

Nov 6 INDIAN HEAD AND TWIN A moderate trail hike.
(Sunday)
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2000' Elev.: 3573', 3640' Order: 30, 23
Meeting Place: Howard Johnson's at Rte 32 just north of Saugerties exit (#20)
of the Thruway
Leader: Warren Hale (#576), 94 Dreahook Rd., Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889
201-236-9543

Nov 12 BEARPEN AND VLY A moderate trail hike; stragglers and infants
welcome. Rain Cancels.
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2600' Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 32
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Timothy Watters (#268), 30 Wagner Ave., Wallington, NJ 07057
201-777-5758

Nov 21 to Dec 13 HUNTING SEASON (FIREARMS) in the CATSKILLS
No Hikes Scheduled

ASSUMED RISK

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

REQUEST TO HIKERS CLIMBING DOUBLETOP

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is concerned about threatened species of plants on Doubletop Mountain. To protect them, hikers are requested to avoid the water courses, where these plants thrive, on the sides of this mountain. Please use the crest of ridges for access to the summit.



the catskill canister

Vol. XXI, No. 4

A U T U M N 1 9 8 8

BACKPACKING ACROSS THE LONG SIX

There is a place in the CATSKILLS, like no other, that epitomizes "bush-whack" and "forever wild." It is an area of lonely peaks so densely forested that a compass, although necessary, is often difficult to use -- a quiet place where only occasional wind and rain in the spruce tops breaks the summer stillness. At twilight, the fluted notes of the hermit thrush are heard from somewhere far below. In winter, it is a brilliant landscape of white silence where rime ice encrusted branches, pointing frosted fingers to the wind's direction, stand out against an azure sky. When referring to this place, Mr. Fish would use the term "The Long Six." His high school students and Red Hook Mountaineers knew he meant an all day hike to Friday, Balsam Cap, Rocky, Lone, Table, and Peekamoose.

It's been eleven years since we first looked from the deep snow of Slide's summit to the tops of the Long Six. It was Hop's and Kath's first climb in the CATSKILLS, and it was obvious the experience had smitten them. Pointing to the surrounding peaks, I shared with them a Memorial Day weekend adventure idea I had been mulling over since the previous October. It would be a backpack trip to the summits of nine peaks. Hop and Kath were enthused and we talked about it while descending beneath ice coated branches of birch and mountain ash, whose tinkling glassy fingers refracted the sunlight.

Though I had never hiked the route, I had covered it often in my mind, memorizing almost every contour on the map. I tried to picture the wooded miles and elevations. In retrospect, I had no idea of how physically ambitious bushwhacking with a backpack would be. It all seemed like such an exciting adventure. My enthusiasm for the plan sparked the interest of six others who asked to join us. In that group, we were fortunate enough to have Matt, Patrick, and Jim. They had been over the peaks before on a day hike with Mr. Fish. To them, the idea of such a backpack would be a snap. But then one has to remember they were teenagers.

The day of the big trip arrived. Sid drove some of us in one of the cars to the trailhead. He and I had been on other backpacks trips with Scout Troop 42. Though he was aware that some of my "jaunts" turned out to be more than we expected, he came anyway. Jim, Patrick, and Matt had hiked in the day before and camped on Giant Ledge. They would be joining us on top of Slide. Completing our group of nine was Jim's eleven year old sister Kathlene and my daughter Amanda, thirteen. The girls looked so small under those packs.

In delicious spring air under a clear sky, we ascended Slide and met the boys as planned. After a brief snack and some picture taking, we descended into the col between Slide and Cornell. I was impressed with how well the little

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Cyrus B. Whitney, Subscriptions, 41 Morley Drive, Wyckoff, New Jersey 07481

ones handled the descent of Slide's east slope. We ate lunch at the spring in the col and decided to pick a spot off the trail in that area to set up camp.

In the afternoon, we climbed Cornell and walked over Bruin's Causeway to Wittenberg. The view east over the rich greens and blues of the Ashokan landscape was so breathtaking we hated to leave that breezy spot. Reluctantly, we returned to camp. The "teacher-teacher- teacher" call of an ovenbird serenaded as we ate a relaxed dinner. Later, drifting clouds cast shadows on our moonlit camp. My pack with all our food was suspended from a high limb because porcupines were everywhere. Hop and Kath were under a tarp and spent much of the night defending their territory from those spiny creatures. In the morning, Matt told us of having awakened at 2 A.M. with some difficulty breathing. He had been alarmed to see a large porcupine curled up on his chest. The sleeping bag had protected Matt from the spines; but nevertheless he had been very careful sliding out of the bag before encouraging his "guest" to rest elsewhere. I discovered it was not a porcupine but some other small creature who had climbed up into my pack in the dark. It had taken a bite out of each package of instant oatmeal. Fortunately boiling water kills most bacteria so we ate it anyway.

After breakfast, we broke camp and began climbing our way into day two of the adventure. Sore muscles from the previous day's efforts slowed us when we started, but soon the packs seemed easier to bear. About 10 A.M. we left the trail for the serious bushwhack of the Long Six. Without a backward glance, Matt and Patrick took the lead down the slope toward the right that heads to Friday. Bushwhacking downhill with a pack is an odd experience. First we would step out into the air. But soon we were hanging from limbs by our pack frames -- our feet dangling in air like limp puppets. If we were lucky, we could touch ground and wiggle till both feet were ready to try the next step. I soon learned bushwhacking in the Long Six was seldom in a straight line. On level ground, of which there was very little, we went through heavy spruce -- over and under downed trunks with hidden stubs that could get quite personal.

Going uphill was a different challenge. Keeping balance and gaining elevation at the same time seemed impossible. It is remarkable we reached Friday in two hours. Peering through the weathered trunks, I will never forget the thrill to see that orange box for the first time. Worn, scratched, and hungry, we sat among the stubs eating our lunch beneath my very first canister. I began to figure out where all these young leaders in our group got their energy; that they were 30 years younger than I had something to do with it.

Following Matt and Patrick who were undaunted by the obstacles, we plunged back into the dense forest in a light rain. It was nice having Jim as the trail sweep to keep us all together. Soon we came to that "wall" on the south slope of Friday which at first seemed impossible to descend with packs. Using downed

trees and roots to check our fall, we managed the feat and were soon at the col between Friday and Balsam Cap. What a great place to camp someday! I was reminded of John Burrough's account, written almost 100 years before, about spending a night with friends there sitting around a campfire and telling eerie tales of the ghost of a screaming girl who haunts that area at night. At that point in the Long Six I was convinced I would never go back the way we came; we had probably been through the worst. I was soon to learn differently.

The rain let up as we struggled to the top of Balsam Cap and our second canister. More than once several of us fell descending the damp slope of Balsam Cap. At the saddle before Rocky, Sid suggested that for safety sake and the lateness of the hour we should consider spending the night there. I too was exhausted and realized my goal to make Lone that day was too much with packs. We took a vote, and the young ones, who insisted we at least climb Rocky, won out. Pushing and crawling through the dense blowdowns, we reached the tiny clearing at the top of Rocky. After signing in at our third canister, we rested and shared snacks. It wasn't easy getting back up again; I knew that my limit had been reached. To be closer to water, I had hoped we could make the saddle between Rocky and Lone. Shortly after leaving the summit I remember calling to Matt to stop at the first flat place he could find. I do not know how he found that level spot; but he did, and there was ample room for the tents. I have been over the route many times since but have never come across the spot again.

It was 6:30 P.M., and we had been moving since morning. I had not planned on the lack of water at that elevation, but a personal sacrifice of great magnitude saved the day. Jim and Patrick volunteered to take all our canteens down to the creek bed in search of water. Exhausted, they were back an hour later. Their quest took them down 500 feet and a half mile before enough running water could be found. To this day, I remember the gratitude I felt for their service "above and beyond." Thanks to their efforts, we not only had another great meal, but also had water for the rest of the trip. I do not recall much conversation that evening, and we hit the sack during an early evening shower.

Awaking at dawn to the sweet song of the white throated sparrow is joy itself. We breakfasted in patches of sunlight filtering through the translucent leaves of moosewood. That wonderful scent of rain drenched spruce and fern was everywhere. It was the third and last morning. We broke camp and pushed laboriously through blooming hobble bush toward the summit of Lone. The rain of the previous night made the going slippery while at the same time glistened on the beautiful faces of painted trillium and bunchberry blossoms. Now in that third day of the Long Six, we felt we could hike forever. It takes two good days with a pack to get your muscles in shape. Compared to the other peaks, Lone's canister tree was in a meadow. I remember how we sprawled out on the sunny aromatic carpet of green to rest and snack beneath a cloudless sky.

Patrick was singing about a "Yellow Submarine" as he and Matt led us down a shoulder of Lone into the saddle to begin the climb of Table. The going seemed easier. Just before we reached the flat top, we found a place to sit and view the magnificent profile of Slide and the peaks we had so recently climbed. The air was cool and clear, and the mountains of the Devil's Pathway and Blackhead range were clearly visible. The panorama from this spot is one of the best in the CATSKILLS.

On Table's top we were surprised to find a path leading to the high point of the summit. We stashed our packs and hiked with ease to the other end of Table and our fifth canister of the trip. Hop passed around pepperoni for a snack. What a delightful treat that was -- even though Kathlene lost a filling in the process of enjoying it! I have a slide of that incident that shows Hop and Kath, both dentists, looking into her mouth to examine the tooth. I half wondered what Kathlene's parents would say if they received a dental bill for an examination done on a "Table." As Kathlene was in no pain, we returned to our packs and then took the short trail over to Peekamoose.

On the shoulder of Peekamoose, we rested where the east panorama includes the Hudson Valley and Mohonk. Finally came the knee weary, three hour, 2700 foot descent to Peekamoose Road. Jim's father was waiting as planned to take the drivers and some others back to Slide for the rest of the cars. Exhausted, Amanda, Matt, and I relaxed with our feet in the clear cold of Rondout Creek. Oh, how good it felt after that long downhill! Our three day nine peak backpack was over. Watching a trout in a deep pool, we waited by the cool stream. The sweet scent of hawkweed was in the air and I recall thinking of how proud I was of my "child," Amanda, who had done the whole trip in those heavy shoes without complaint. The afternoon wore on, and a veery filled the glen with rich downward spiraling notes.

Just thinking about that time reminds me of so many other memories that would fill pages. There was the humor, the camaraderie, and the feeling of accomplishment we all shared. And then on that last day there was the terrifying eternity, it seemed, when the brakes failed on Sid's car; and we went racing down Peekamoose Road. Sid had to force the emergency brake to save our lives. Last of all there was that unforgettable view when we crossed the spillway of the Ashokan at sunset. There was the silhouette of the Long Six against a burnt orange sky mirrored in the placid water. What a final curtain to a memorable experience!

Bleecker Staats, #272
RD 3 - Box 192, Red Hook, NY 12571

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

641	Jonathan Fishman	8/27/88	914-331-1206
642	Ariel Fishman	8/28/88	
	202 Albany Ave., Kingston, NY 12401		
643	Doris A. Wall	9/6/88	212-308-9612
	450 East 63rd St., Apt. 4G, New York NY 10021		
644	V. Anthony Reddy	9/10/88	518-449-7321
	353 Madison Ave., #7, Albany NY 12210		
645	Ed Coombs	9/18/88	914-473-5266
	1 Fox Hill, Apt. 1E, Poughkeepsie NY 12603		

WINTER HIKING IN THE CATSKILLS

December through April, the windchill on exposed ridges may reach 50 below zero. If you do not know whether your boots, socks, pants, sweaters, jacket, mittens, and hat will be adequate, telephone the hike leader for advice. If you cannot buy, rent, or borrow snowshoes, avoid the mountains in winter. Either full or instep crampons should be carried. Properly dressed, properly equipped, and in proper physical condition, a hiker can enjoy the CATSKILLS in what many people consider the most beautiful season of the year.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

Nov 21 to Dec 13 HUNTING SEASON (FIREARMS) in the CATSKILLS
No Hikes Scheduled.

Dec 17 SHERRILL AND NORTH DOME A moderate bushwhack from the Devil's Path to Deep Notch
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2500' Elev.: 3540', 3610' Order: 31, 26
Meeting Place: Call leader for details
Leader: Jonathan Clement (#68), R.D. #1, Box 223, East Greenbush, NY 12061
518-477-6602

Jan 7 SOUTHWEST HUNTER A moderate bushwhack. Joint Hike with the ADK.
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1640' Elev.: 3740' Order: 15
Meeting Place: Call leader for details. The number of hikers will be limited.
Leader: Alan Via (#429), 27 Bookview Ave., Delmar, NY 12054
518-439-3514

Jan 14 BLACKDOME AND BLACKHEAD A combination bushwhack and trail hike of strenuous difficulty.
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2400' Elev.: 3940', 3980' Order: 5, 3
Meeting Place: Call leader for details.
Leader: David Mack (#267)
914-358-4325 Friday night 516-263-4292

Jan 20 - 22 CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND AT ALPINE INN

Hike leaders will be available for hikes to any of the three winter required peaks in the area: Slide, Panther, and Balsam. Hikes will leave Alpine Inn at 9:00 A.M. See the announcement on page 7 for directions and details about the winter weekend.

Jan 21 FIR Moderate bushwhack from the winter weekend gathering.
Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 3625' Order: 24
Meeting Place: Alpine Inn near Oliveria at 9:00 A.M.
Leader: John Hornyak (#290), 14 Doby Road, Mendham, NJ 07945
201-927-0527

- Jan 28 RUSK AND (maybe) HUNTER A strenuous bushwhack. Snowshoes required.
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2400' Elev.: 3680', 4040' Order: 21, 2
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 8:00 A.M. Leave for the hike at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Timothy Watters (#268) 30 Wagner Avenue, Wallington, NJ 07057
201-777-5758
- Feb 4 WITTENBERG AND CORNELL A moderate trail hike from Woodland Valley. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancel. Snowshoes required; full (not instep) crampons recommended.
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3120' Elev.: 3780', 3865' Order: 14, 9
Meeting Place: Sweet Sue's Bakery in Phoenicia at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Anthony Amaral (#612), 575 Quaker Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514
212-490-7400 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
- Feb 11 LEADER'S CHOICE The leader will be taking participants on a surprise trip. The destination depends on conditions.
Meeting Place and Other Information: Call leader for details.
Leader: Steve Fishman (#618), 202 Albany Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401
914-331-1206
- Feb 18 SHAWANGUNKS A moderate hike or cross country ski trip. Type of outing and length depend on conditions.
Distance: 5 to 12 mi.
Meeting Place and Other Information: Call leader for details.
Leader: Vratiss Zbuzek (#431), 100 Manhattan Ave. Apt 1314, Union City NJ 07087
201-330-9046 after 7:00 P.M.
- Feb 25 HALCOTT Moderate bushwhack for the winter patch.
Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev.: 3520' Order: 34
Meeting Place: Call leader for details.
Leader: Roman Hrycun (#314), R.D. #1, Box 419B, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
914-876-2451

ASSUMED RISK

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

NEW OUTINGS CHAIRMAN

Starting with the next issue of the Canister, Tony Amaral (#612) will take over the duties of outings chairman from Tim Watters (#268). The outings chairman is responsible for obtaining leaders, preparing the hike schedule, and reviewing the hike reports returned by the leaders. Tony's address and telephone are 575 Quaker Road, Chappaqua NY, 10514, 914-238-8164.

Tim Watters will continue to be the trails chairman. The trails chairman is responsible for maintaining our section of the Long Path over Peekamoose and Table Mountains.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TREASURY ACKNOWLEDGED

David Clapper, the club treasurer, reports contributions to the Catskill 3500 Club Treasury -- over and above the annual dues or subscription fee -- have been excellent this year. These contributions now constitute an important portion of our revenues. Contributions help meet some of the club's expenses and allow us to keep required dues and fees very low.

The Executive Committee would like to thank all those who were willing to contribute an extra few dollars. Those dollars really help.

CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND

January 20, 21, 22, 1989: The Alpine Inn, Oliverea, NY 12462, 4 miles on County Rt. 47, south of Rt. 28 at Big Indian NY, Tel. 914-254-5026

Members and aspirants are invited to our annual winter weekend in the heart of the CATSKILLS. Hikes will be scheduled and leaders will be provided for aspirants who might need any of the required winter peaks in the area: Slide, Panther, or Balsam. Any questions on the weekend should be referred to Cy Whitney, 41 Morley Drive, Wyckoff, NJ 07481, Tel. 201-447-2653.

Reservations: \$40.00 per person must arrive by January 2. Make check payable to "The Alpine Inn" and mail to The Alpine Inn.

All rooms have two twin or double beds. All rooms have private baths. Rates are based on double occupancy. Please specify preference of roommate, if any. Room assignments will be in the order of receipt of reservations. Saturday night only accommodations can be arranged if available. Extra dinner Friday night and Sunday afternoon - \$15.50 plus tax and gratuity. Extra dinner Saturday night - \$17.50 plus tax and gratuity. \$4.00 will be added for the Saturday P.M. "Happy Hour." Saturday dinner is available by reservation only. Trail lunch - \$4.75 (1 sandwich) and \$8.00 (2 sandwiches).

.....
2 nights = 2 lodgings, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner (tax and gratuity included)

Deluxe accomodations have 2 double beds, standard have 2 twin beds.

Deluxe.....des Alps _____ \$115.00 Edelweiss _____ \$115.00

Standard....Ski Hut _____ \$102.00 Edelweiss _____ \$102.00

\$ _____ deposit enclosed for _____ persons. Roommate _____

_____ Friday evening dinner. _____ Sunday afternoon dinner.

Signed _____ Address _____

Phone () _____

CHRISTMAS SKIING IN QUEBEC

The past two Christmases, my wife Nancy and I have spent the week in Quebec province. A year ago, we stayed just outside the gate of Parc Ste. Anne, an hour from Quebec City. The entire day we drove up it was raining; indeed it rained up to within five miles of the hotel. Then just as we left the road running alongside the St. Lawrence and started to climb a bit, the rain turned to snow. When we arrived a large snowplow was clearing out the parking lot, making huge piles. The skiing was excellent, with well-set tracks on many miles of trail. The food was great, but the lodge left a bit to be desired. It was flimsily built. Until late hours every night, we were bothered by the noise from the bar downstairs. Nevertheless, it was an enjoyable vacation, and the noise was our only complaint.

But last Christmas! We stayed at Far Hills Inn, an hour from Montreal. The lodge is charming and the setting beautiful. The trails start at their door. It is a great trail layout -- the most extensive privately-owned layout in Quebec. And the food is spectacular! Sample menus would include six appetizers, three soups, nine main courses (including, at no extra charge, steak, sweetbreads, roast beef, or lobster), and nine desserts! I can't understand how I lost two pounds on the vacation. But we we did ski up a storm.

The place is easy to get to. It is just eight hours of expressway driving, on the Thruway, Northway, and then Candian Route 15 all the way from the border through Montreal to Val Morin, the town where the inn is located. It is up on a plateau, so the conditions were better there than other ski centers we went to during the week. A Canadian we skied with said conditions were usually this good at the holiday season, although last year had been somewhat icy. Nancy and I have never repeated a vacation, either winter or summer, but we were so pleased with the Far Hills Inn that we have made reservations there for this Christmas. Maybe we'll never go anywhere else again!

Dick Wolff, #321
648 Market Street, Newark, NJ 07105

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The 1989 Annual Dinner Meeting will take place on Saturday, April 1st at Meadowbrook Lodge near Newburgh. The meeting is one week later than customary to avoid conflict with Easter.