



Carolina Mountain Club

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June 2016

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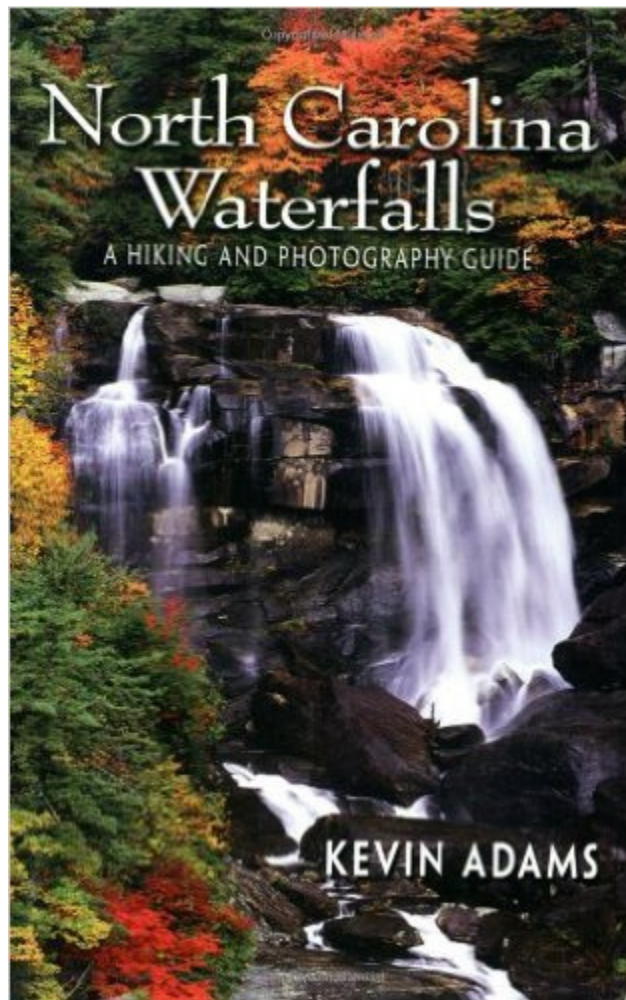
Register For Sept. 30- Oct. 1 Fall Camporee

Register now for the fall Mountain Treasures Camporee. The camporee will be held Friday, Sept. 30, and Saturday, Oct. 1, at Appletree Campground near Franklin, NC. A variety of hikes will be offered Saturday and Sunday. Dinner will be shared Saturday night.

The cost for a campsite is \$10 per person for two nights. Barbecue will be offered at a minimal cost on Saturday. Please bring a side dish, dessert or appetizer. Send \$10 to Bev Macdowell to reserve a space. Her address is 166 Mt. Royal Drive Arden NC, 28704

Indicate if you want barbecue and what you plan to bring Saturday night. Include your name and email address. If you have a Yeti cooler that could be used to store the barbecue, let Bev Macdowell know.

The CMC camporees are held to recognize the importance of North Carolina's Mountain Treasures. The North Carolina's Mountain Treasures are 41 areas within our Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests that stand out with special conservation, recreation, scenic, and cultural values. The United States Forest Service is now revising the management plan for our public forests in Western North Carolina. The current evaluation of Potential Wilderness Areas (PWAs) is our opportunity to gain better protection for these valuable places.



Annual Dinner- Save The Date

The Annual CMC dinner will be held November 5th at the Chariot. Author Kevin Adams will be speaking about waterfalls.

*The Department of Natural & Cultural Resources,
the NC Division of Parks & Recreation,
the National Park Service, and the Carolina Mountain Club invite you to the*

Centennial Celebration of the Mountains-To-Sea State Trail

*Highlighting years of collaboration,
cooperation and volunteerism that built the
Mountains-to-Sea State Trail on the Blue Ridge Parkway.*

*Saturday, June 4, 2016, National Trails Day - 1:00 p.m.
Milepost 451.2 at Waterrock Knob
Pre and post event hikes offered.
RSVP to state.parks@ncparks.gov or 919.707.9300*



CMC Trail Maintainers Honored During National Trails Day

National Trails Day 2016 at Waterrock Knob was a great success. We celebrated the official opening of a section of the Mountain To Sea Trail west of Balsam Gap. See the [story](#) on the event - See what President Barbara Morgan said about the [trail work](#).

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MST Dedication June 4, 2016
Barbara Morgan, President, CMC
I'm honored to have been asked to represent Carolina Mountain Club as its President on this important day. After I came on the Council four years ago, I became even more aware of the commitment made in 2002. It was for the construction of 20 miles of the MST between Heintooga Road and Balsam Gap.

At that time, the trail ran mostly on the edge of the Parkway. When the club's maintainers took on the project, they knew it would take many years to plan and construct the new trail. Now, 16 years later, the last and most difficult piece of the trail has been completed. The club has a good working relationship with the Blue Ridge Parkway, and they have said that CMC contributes more volunteer hours to Parkway projects than any other group. We're proud of that.

Planning the route took many years and was a true collaborative effort between the Blue Ridge Parkway, CMC's Trail Maintenance leaders, NC state Trail Coordinators, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation. It had to be constructed so that it would be safe, stable, enjoyable, and environmentally and culturally responsible.

Before the route was decided, it took six trips and lots of bushwhacking. Pathfinders Dwayne

Stutzman, Tim Johnson, Piet Bodenhorst, and several others of the club were instrumental in working out the route and getting it approved by the various agencies.

Work began from the Balsam Gap end in 2006. Work went on, week after week, for all this time. The final two sections, just under four miles, on either side of where we stand (Hornbuckle Overlook to Fork Ridge Overlook), took 6 years to complete, and was just completed this year. I hiked this section last week, and I was amazed at the work that has been done. On the 2.2-mile section to the east, there are 120 locust wood steps winding the hiker gently down a steep ridge. Why locust? Because it lasts! This part alone took about 6,000 volunteer hours to build.

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On the section to the west, the first mile and a half was the most challenging of the entire 20 miles. This area was held off until last because it was so difficult.

Why? The terrain is very steep, with shear rock faces, large drop-offs, water running everywhere, and tangles of many downed trees. It took a lot longer than the other sections and it has the most amazing trail work I've ever seen. Parts were so steep and rocky that they had to be built up with rock just to make a place to have the trail. The many steps are made of rock and required hours of expert work with rock bars, chain hoists, and pulleys to move them into place. Other rocks were resized or broken up with hand sledges. No mechanized equipment was used other than chain saws. Overall, there were over 250 workdays dedicated to building the trail between Heintooga and Balsam. Over 240 different individuals spent over 25,000 hours actually constructing what we're celebrating today. Trail crewmember's ages range from folks in their teens to a few in their 90s. On a recent workday, the crew helped Lew Blodgett celebrated his 93rd birthday! Most crewmembers are in their mid-sixties to mid-eighties, and they do it because they love it. They work about 5 hours at a stretch, and finish tired, muddy, and happy. I've had the pleasure of working with some of these folks – I don't run a chain saw, move rocks three times my weight, or pull large stumps like the REAL trail experts do, but I know how to dig sidehill tread, lop brush, and put in water bars. I'm grateful that I've seen enough to have some inkling of what it takes to create what these incredibly dedicated individuals have completed this year. I got to work with a great crew just this morning as we worked on the trail to the overlook that is above the MST here at Waterrock. Many of these people who did so much work for so many years are here today – please stand up or wave your arms! Give them a huge hand!

My hat goes off to Skip Sheldon and Piet Bodenhorst. Skip has been the crew leader for the last 6 years. He tells the volunteers "Don't walk by a problem. Fix it." Piet was a critical part of the team that laid out this trail and was crew leader for the first 10 years of the project. He's a master at organizing the work for the day and matching the job to the worker's skill level. He has an eye for how things should be done and can teach how to make it happen. He starts his workday telling the volunteers to "Be safe, get something done, and have fun!" Larry Sobil's crew just spent days weed eating and making it look really nice for today. I hope you'll hike this trail, whether it's today or some other time. You'll find it well marked and easy to follow. It will take you places you could never have gone before.

But as you do, think about the hard working individuals who put it on the ground and keep coming back to keep it maintained. CMC has committed to that, and to maintaining all of the 140 miles of MST in our section, between here to just past Mt Mitchell.



Schedule, Attend A CMC Meetup Hike

Would you like to hike, but there isn't one on the schedule that matches your schedule? Would you like to advertise your CMC hike? Use the Carolina Mountain Club Meetup and schedule or find a hike. Paul Benson is managing the site that allows people to create, find and join hikes during non regular CMC hiking days.

The website address is <http://www.meetup.com/Carolina-Mountain-Club/> Join meetup to sign up for a hike. It's simple. You will then get emails telling you of upcoming hikes. If you would like to schedule and lead hikes on the Meetup site, contact Paul Benson at pbenson@charter.net

Summertime and the hiking *is* easy.



Swain County Broadcasting

— The Cherokee Voice 1590 —

Bernard L. Elias
November 2, 1967
page 2

P. O. BOX 488
BRYSON CITY, N. C.

In reading several letters written to our region, I have noticed a multitude of insinuations to the effect we were being selfish in wanting a transmountain highway and were willing to destroy mountain beauty in order to obtain such highway. Only a blind man could not see that a second transmountain highway would benefit the whole of Western North Carolina, and, therefore, the whole State. The selfishness, I believe, comes from the few hikers who would deny the majority of the population this second scenic drive through the Great Smoky Mountains.

All I ask you to do is to consider these thoughts and ask yourself if you are not retarding the future of Western North Carolina, as well as the whole of North Carolina, in your attempt to save an exceedingly small part of the area.

Is your loyalty with North Carolina?

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Gill, Manager
RADIO STATION WBHM

G/c

cc: Mr. Arthur Whiteside
WLOS TV-Asheville, N. C.

Hon. Roy A. Taylor
Hon. Sam J. Ervin
Hon. B. Everett Jordan
et als.

CMC Archives

By Rocko Smucker

CMC and Bernard Elias patriotism questioned,
new 100 Favorite Trails Map-1971 (photo), and Roaring Fork Shelter completion-1990 (photo)



Hiking The Primitivo

By Janet Martin

Spring was the perfect season for the Camino Primitivo. Every day in Spain was filled with "cherry pink and apple blossom white."* But the showy blossoms on the fruit trees were eclipsed by the profusion of wildflowers. Imagine full pastures of waving buttercups interspersed with hugh, crimson oriental poppies. Then, pass along a raging creek with its banks covered with blues, pinks, whites and yellows. At 2,000' and up, hellebores were blooming in numbers like our dandelions. My favorites were the masses of euphorbia blooms as high as my waist.

The albergue experiences were more positive than I had anticipated. As they were spaced about a day apart, you know everyone after the first night.

By sharing around community dinners augmented by vino tinto, one quickly becomes part of a camino family. Only had to wait for a shower once, and surprisingly, the occasional hotel was noisier! During the day we would join each other at roadside bars for tortillas or a pastry with a cafe con leche, and later, tapas washed down with cervaza. The difficult part was responding to the questions about recent legislative action in NC. Learned to just say: Asheville. If anyone asked where, best answer was in the south, and if pushed, beneath Virginia.

Vegetarian options were limited with many dishes seasoned with chorizo. Local farms provided an abundance of fresh eggs and white asparagus. Nearly every dish was covered with huveos fritos. The eggs were good, but four a day including over fries was too much after a week. I did eat more French fries in one week than during the past year----make that three years!

Outside cities, desserts were limited to rice pudding and caramel flan. Best to skip desserts and get double pastries in the cities. Yummy!

Seafood was always available and pulpo a fiera was offered throughout Galicia.

Every day brought spectacular views--distant snow covered peaks and nearby moss covered rocks. Awesome to realize that pilgrims walked down the some of the well-worn paths a thousand years ago. And today, the ridge ahead is lined with wind turbines.

Had twelve trekking days with no rain while walking-that's akin to a miracle in Asturias. But, lots of muddy track, which was easier on the feet than occasional tarmac. My key purchase was a stiff brush to clean dried mud off my boots each morning. No level terrain, always up or down.

An unanticipated delight of this camino was the music. The start from Oviedo was accompanied by a youth drum and bugle performance. Then, awakening to the strains of "Ave Maria" in an

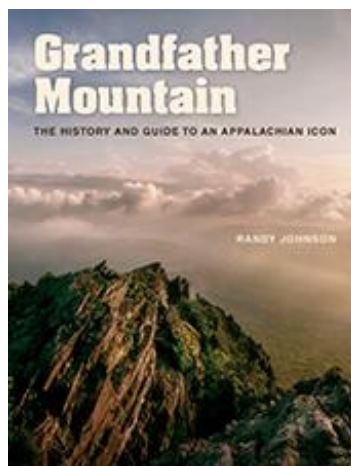
albergue in Bodenaya was a serene way to greet a new day. Later, I found myself dancing to mid-century Broadway show tunes in a bar. The energetic Galician bagpipe music had me dancing again in a bar further along the way. Finally, an accordion player in Santiago was an inspiration for a polka in a narrow lane. And, every sunny morning was filled with birdsong. Were they chirpier in Spain, or am I too preoccupied with chatter to hear them near home? Started the Primitivo in Oveido outside its cathedral and walked to Melide and then into Santiago on the Frances for a total of 343 km.

*Georgia Gibbs, circa 1955



Volunteers Needed For 2017 ATC Conference

The next Appalachian Trail Conservancy Conference will be held Aug. 4- 11 in 2017 at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. Now is the time to save the date and contact the club if you are interested in volunteering at the event. Hikes, excursions and workshops are offered.



Grandfather Mountain: The History and Guide To An Appalachian Icon

With its prominent profile recognizable for miles around and featuring vistas among the most beloved in the Appalachians, North Carolina's Grandfather Mountain is many things to many people: an easily recognized landmark along the Blue Ridge Parkway, a popular tourist destination, a site of annual Highland Games, and an internationally recognized nature preserve. In this definitive book on Grandfather, Randy Johnson guides readers on a journey through the mountain's history, from its geological beginnings millennia ago and the early days of exploration to its role in regional development and eventual establishment as a North Carolina state park.



Send eNews articles to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org

The newsletter usually goes out the last Friday of every month. ***There will be no eNews in July.*** Normally, the deadline to submit news is the Friday before it goes out.

The next issue will come out on Friday, August 26, so send your news by Friday, August 19, to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org. Include your email address at the end of your story. Thank you.

Westgate parking - Park in the northernmost part of the lot - past EarthFare, in the last row of parking spaces.

To join Carolina Mountain Club go to: www.carolinamountainclub.org. Click on "Join CMC" on the right side. Follow the instructions. Send all address and email changes to Gale O'Neal at gogalemail@gmail.com. Do not resubscribe yourself to the eNews. That will be done automatically. If you are a non-member subscriber, you need to go back to the eNews and make the change yourself.

Carolina Mountain Club | P.O. Box 68
Asheville, NC 28802



[CMC Calendar](#) [Hike Reports](#) [Future Hikes](#)

Carolina Mountain Club, P.O. Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802