

**CMC Council Meeting, August 4, 2003**  
**6:00 p.m., Norton's Grill and Pub, Asheville**

**Council Members present:** Bruce Bente, Lenny Bernstein, Linda Blue, Les Love, Bill Ross, Becky Smucker, Stuart Tauber, Don Walton

**Other CMC Members present:** Danny Bernstein, Piet Bodenhorst, Carroll Koepplinger, Howard McDonald, Gerry McNabb, Dave Wetmore

**Guests:** Jonathan Griffith, Chief Ranger, Mt. Mitchell State Park; Morgan Sommerville, ATC

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by CMC President, Don Walton, at 6:10 p.m.

**Alan Barton Memorial Fund:** Don Walton reported that the interpretive sign at the Rattlesnake Lodge site on the MST that had been paid for by CMC using Alan Barton Memorial Fund money is now in place. Bob Caldwell of WLOS-TV has expressed interest in featuring the sign and site on his outdoor show. This is expected to occur before the end of August.

Jonathan Griffith, Chief Ranger of Mt. Mitchell State Park, presented two projects which could be funded by the money remaining in the Alan Barton Memorial Fund. The first would be to sponsor the webcam/weather station now installed near the summit of Mt. Mitchell at a cost of \$6637. The webcam shows weather and visibility data that is updated every 10 minutes. If Alan Barton Memorial Fund money was used for this purpose the Park would include information about Alan Barton and a link to the CMC website on its webpage. The second project would be to sponsor interpretive signage on the Balsam Nature Trail, a part of which is part of the MST, at a cost of \$2885. Additional signage about Alan Barton and the CMC would be included. Total cost of these two projects would be \$9522, more than the \$8965 remaining in the Alan Barton Memorial Fund.

The Council voted spend the funds remaining in the Alan Barton Memorial Fund on the two projects at Mt. Mitchell State Park. It asked Don Walton to negotiate with Park officials for the maximum recognition for both Alan Barton and the CMC.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the May 12 Council meeting, which had been posted on the CMC website, were approved. Lenny Bernstein reported that for the past six months he had been sending copies of the CMC's hike leader guidelines to hike leaders, but that only one hike leader had responded. The Council agreed with his plan to have these guidelines posted on the CMC website and to make hard copy available on request.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report, which is posted on the CMC website was approved. It includes a first estimate of the 2004 budget, which projects income of

\$11,850, expenses of \$14,600, resulting in a deficit of \$2,085. Becky Smucker characterized this as a conservative estimate, since it did not include some projects that were likely to be carried out in 2004, and allowed only a \$1000 subsidy for the Annual Meeting, less than we have spent for the past few years. The 2004 budget will be discussed again at the next Council meeting on October 27, before being presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting on November 1. Council members were asked to review the figures in the proposed budget as suggest changes if needed.

**Membership Report:** CMC now has 517 memberships (individual, family and Life), after dropping 88 memberships for non-payment of 2003 dues and 4 for other reasons, while adding 25 new memberships. The membership report appears as Attachments 1.

**AT Update:** Howard McDonald gave a brief report on the 2003 ATC Biennial meeting that he, Don Walton and others attended. A meeting will be scheduled in September with the CMC members who have volunteered to work on the 2005 Biennial Meeting, to discuss what was learned at the 2003 Meeting. (Who will schedule this meeting?)

Howard also reported that after the I-26 roadway opens through Sams Gap on August 5, he and Piet Bodenhorst will check that the AT signage in the vicinity is clear.

The public comment period on the environmental impact statement for the new Roaring Fork Shelter is now open. The shelter will be a log lean-to with a galvanized steel roof. It will have a wheelchair accessible privy to meet current legal requirements. Howard is collecting estimates of the cost of delivering the necessary logs to the shelter site. Once these estimates are available he will apply for an ATC grant to cover the cost of the shelter construction.

Morgan Sommerville asked for a 2-3 hour meeting with CMC members to obtain their input on the ATC's strategic planning documents. (Did anyone take responsibility for following up on this request?) He also said that the 2005 budget now working its way through Congress appropriates much less money than expected for land acquisition. ATC is lobbying to get the appropriation increased. Land acquisition around Big Bald is meeting resistance from local land owners who don't want to lose ATV access to the land.

Finally, Morgan said that a Friends of the AT license plate would soon be available.

**MST Update:** Piet Bodenhorst reported that the 30 miles of the MST in Haywood County that CMC took responsibility for last year is now open and hikable, but only 7 miles of it have been upgraded to CMC standards. Rockwork is required on the other 23 miles. Work is starting on building the 30 miles of new trail needed to complete the MST from Balsam Gap to Cherokee. The distance has been divided into 14 sections, all but five of which have been flagged. Three of the sections require walking on the Blue Ridge Parkway and Piet asked for any information available on how these sections should be signposted.

**Email Newsletter Expenses:** Don Walton asked the Council's approval to pay the \$30/month charge for maintaining the CMC's e-mail list on an annual basis. The Council agreed to paying this cost on an annual basis, but requested that it be paid on a monthly basis through the end of 2003 to make budget tracking simpler.

**Officer Nominations:** John Pawcio is Chair of the Nominating Committee, but in his absence, Don Walton gave the following report. Officer nominations for 2004 are:

President:	Don Walton
Vice President:	Gerry McNabb
Secretary:	Lenny Bernstein
Treasurer:	Carroll Koeplinger

There will be three vacancies for CMC Councilor positions, and the Nominating Committee is still considering the nominees for these positions.

**Liability Insurance:** Don Walton reported on a workshop on liability he attended at the ATC Biennial meeting. ATC specialists who have followed this issue for 20 years reported that hike leaders who are acting in the fashion normally expected of hike leaders are not liable for accidents that occur on hikes. A hike leader can be liable if he or she acts irresponsibly, for example, by asking hike participants to undertake acts that have been identified as unsafe. With its current program, CMC does not need liability insurance, the cost of which has quadrupled since 9/11.

**Hike Schedulers Meeting:** Bruce Bente reported that the hike schedulers met to discuss making their approach more uniform. All hikes will now use the hike numbering system that has been in use for the All Day Saturday and Sunday hikes for the past six months. Area codes will be included for all phone numbers. The minutes of this meeting appear as Attachment II.

The Council also discussed a letter from Diane Hankins expressing concern that there were no moderate all day hikes on Saturday or Sunday. Bruce Bente said that he agreed with this concern and was trying to schedule more such hikes.

**Fontana Weekend:** Bruce Bente reported that 27 people have already made reservations for the September 28 – 29 Fontana Hiking Weekend, and that another 29 have expressed interest.

**Annual Meeting and Banquet:** Les Love reported that this year's Annual Meeting and Banquet will be held at the Grove Park Inn Country Club on Saturday, November 1. The total cost of the event will be \$30, the same as last year. Last year members were charged \$20/person, with the Club paying the balance. The Council agreed to raise the price of the event to \$22/person, reducing the Club subsidy to \$8/person.

Jeff Brewer, President of the Friends of the MST has been invited to be the speaker at the banquet. We will also invite Katie Senechal and Nadja Miller, the two young women who recently completed thru hiking the MST, to attend the banquet.

**CMC-Nature Conservancy Agreement:** Don Walton reported that an agreement has been signed with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) allowing CMC to maintain the mile of MST that passes over TNC property. TNC also will allow CMC to lead hikes over its property. One is scheduled for November 2.

**Special Challenge Programs:** Dave Wetmore made several requests on behalf of the former South Above 6000 Committee:

- that it's name be changed to the Special Challenge Programs Committee in recognition that it is also responsible for the Pisgah 400 program and may recommend other challenges in the future;
- that its membership be expanded from three to five people; and
- that it be allowed to spend a maximum of \$275 on patches and certificates for the Pisgah 400 program.

The Council approved all of these actions.

Dave also reported that the South Above 6000 program is considering reconstituting the program to include only peaks on public land. The most pressing problem is that a house has been built on the route between Waterrock Knob and Lyn Lowery.

**CMC Dues:** A number of proposals were made concerning raising CMC dues to cover the deficits that we have been running for the past few years. Don Walton proposed raising the dues for members to \$25/year. This level found no support among other Council members, though several were willing to support lesser increases, to \$15-20/year. Les Love opposed any increase in the dues, but suggested that we solicit voluntary contributions from members as they renewed their dues. He suggested adding Silver and Gold levels of membership which would involve higher payments. Becky Smucker questioned the need to increase dues at this time since we have a sufficient surplus to cover deficits for 1 – 2 more years, and still leave 1 year's operating expense in reserve.

During the discussion questions were also raised about why CMC charges the same dues for individual and family members. Lenny Bernstein proposed eliminating the separate categories and not distinguishing between individual and family members. There was no support for this proposal. Several Council members suggested charging families 50% more than individuals for membership, but there was no consensus on this proposal.

Lenny also suggested creating a paid life membership. CMC currently has two Life Members, but these are honorary memberships awarded for long and meritorious service to the club. Creating a paid life membership category would take an amendment to the Club's by-laws. There was support for creating the paid life membership, and Lenny will

draft an amendment to the by-laws for consideration by the Council at its next meeting to create this category.

The Council agreed to proceed with Les' proposal to solicit voluntary contributions from members when they pay their dues. A page will be inserted in the next issue of Let's Go with the solicitation and reservation for the Annual Meeting and Banquet.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. The next CMC Council meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2003, at Norton's Grill and Pub, 1078 Tunnel Road, Asheville, NC.

Respectfully submitted,

Lenny Bernstein  
Secretary

## Attachment 1 - Membership Report: August 4, 2003

Members as of May 12, 2003	584
Members dropped for nonpayment of dues	100
Members dropped for other reasons	4
Subtotal	480
Members reinstated when they paid their dues	12
New members	25
Members as of August 4, 2003	517

### New Members

Linda Beja	Larry Odoski
Robert Canyon	Linda Patton
Myra Caraway	Mary Peel
Leonard Chalnack	Laura Riddle
Dave Charlton	Karen Rowe
Thomas Davis	David Rust
Patricia Feito	Kim Ryals
Harris Fields, Jr.	Mary Ann Schiller
Brenda Friedman	Ken Schmitt
Richard & Joanne Greene	Linda Seagle
Nancy Holden	Marilyn Smith
Adrian Lotherington	Yvonne Smith
Guy Morgenstein	

At its last meeting, the Council agreed to mail post cards to the 208 members for whom we were missing either home phone numbers, e-mail addresses, or both asking for the missing information. The response to this mailing was very positive. 169 members replied to the request and either gave us their contact information, told us that they did not have e-mail, or told us that they did not wish to supply phone or e-mail information. With new members who did not supply full contact information we now are missing information for:

E-mail:	48 members
Home phone	5
Both home phone and e-mail	24

I suggest waiting until next year before again soliciting contact information.

Lenny Bernstein  
Membership Chair

## Attachment II

### HIKE SCHEDULERS MEETING 22 July 03 @ Grove park Inn

#### Attendees:

Bruce Bente  
Ken & Carol Deal  
Pat Elias

Gerry & Paula McNabb  
Paula Robbins  
Richard & Anita Walkey

#### Items Discussed:

1. Hike database on CMC website.

The hike database was described and a printed copy was used to illustrate the content of each entry box. The advantages to the hike scheduler of using the hike database were explained and discussed.

2. Hike numbering system.

The numbering system that is being used for the all-day Saturday/Sunday hikes since the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2003 was described. The Wednesday and half-day hike schedulers agreed to start using this numbering system, starting with the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2003.

Bruce Bente volunteered to check the hike database for pre-existing database numbers (This applies mostly to the Wednesday hikes.)

3. Addition of elevation gain to hike description.

The Wednesday and half-day hike schedulers agreed to add the elevation gain for each hike, starting with the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2003. It will be added in the same location in the hike description as being done for the all-day Saturday/Sunday hikes.

4. Addition of area code to telephone number in hike description.

Everyone agreed to add the telephone area code to the phone number in each hike description.

5. Post-hike reports for CMC Newsletter.

We discussed Don Walton's request that each hike leader send a short hike report after the hike to Don, for inclusion in the CMC Newsletter. It was agreed that we would request the hike leaders to do this on a voluntary basis.

6. "Driving Mileages" sheet.

Some of the driving mileages in “Lets Go” have been hard to estimate or have been inaccurate. To help the hike schedulers, a sheet was distributed that lists driving mileages from Westgate to different trailheads. Everyone was requested to e-mail new mileages to Bruce Bente whenever known, and he will update and distribute the sheet.

7. Documents used to assist hike schedulers:

Each scheduler showed computer programs/spreadsheets/forms that that scheduler uses to assist with the scheduling tasks. This includes lists of hike leaders, past hikes and dates hiked, hike scheduling matrix, and hike schedule text format template.

Wednesday / all-day Saturday/Sunday hike overlaps

We discussed the occasional overlap of hikes that has occurred, with the same hike being offered in the same quarter on both Wednesday and Sunday, sometimes with different hike descriptions. In the future, the all-day Saturday/Sunday and Wednesday schedulers agreed to send their text to the other person before sending it to the Editor, to be able to harmonize the descriptions and hike numbers.