

**CMC Council Meeting, October 27, 2003  
6:00 p.m., Earth Fare**

**Council Members present:** Bruce Bente, Lenny Bernstein, Joe Cirvello, Les Love, Bill Ross, Becky Smucker, Stuart Tauber, Brad Van Diver, Don Walton

**CMC Members present:** Neal Andreae, Danny Bernstein, Piet Bodenhorst, Carol Deal, Ken Deal, Carroll Koeplinger, Howard McDonald, John Pawcio, Pete Steuer, Dave Wetmore

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

**Secretary's report:** The minutes of the August 4, 2003 meeting, which had previously been posted on the Club website, were approved. Danny Bernstein volunteered to take minutes at the Annual Meeting on November 1. Joe Wakefield, who had been picking up the Club's mail for the past three years, will stop doing this as of the end of the year. As in the past, the Secretary will pick up the mail. To reduce the size of the Secretary's job, it was agreed that the hike schedulers will send sign-up sheets to the hike leaders starting with the new year.

**Membership report:** The membership report appears as Attachment 1. We currently have 543 members, including 23 who joined since the last meeting. The response to the request for donations from members has been very positive; \$1607 has been collected thus far.

**AT update:** Howard McDonald reported that a new roof has been installed on the Walnut Creek Shelter, and that permission has been received from the Pisgah National Forest to replace the Roaring Fork Shelter. Howard distributed sketches of the shelter design and a map showing its location. A number of changes have been made to the design to make it wheelchair accessible. Estimated cost of the new shelter is \$3300, \$400 of which is available in the form of a gift from the Marching Mountain Mamas. A grant request has been submitted to the ATC for the remaining \$2900. Construction is expected to begin in spring, 2004.

**Nominating Committee report:** John Pawcio presented the following slate of 2004 Council members.

President:	Don Walton	
Vice President:	Gerry McNabb	
Secretary:	Lenny Bernstein	
Treasurer:	Carroll Koeplinger	
Councilors:	Bruce Bente	Les Love
	Linda Blue	Bill Ross
	Piet Bodenhorst	Stuart Tauber

The Council endorsed this slate which will be presented to the general membership at the November 1 Annual Meeting for their approval. The Council also thanked Joe Cirvello, Becky Smucker, and Brad Van Diver, who will be leaving the Council after this meeting, for their service to the Club.

**Treasurer's report:** Becky Smucker presented the Treasurer's report, which is posted on the Club website. We are currently projecting a deficit of \$3300 for 2003.

Becky noted that with the payment to Mount Mitchell State Park for the projects agreed at the Council's last meeting, the Alan Barton Memorial Fund has been drawn down to zero and will be closed out. Also, we need to handle the Phil Smith Memorial Fund as a separate account, rather than as part of our general funds.

**2004 Budget:** Five year budget projections based on our maintaining our current dues and on raising the dues to \$20/membership in 2005 were previously e-mailed to Council members. Discussion focused on the 2004 budget, in which no dues increase was assumed. Income was projected at \$10,600: \$6,600 from dues, \$2500 from contributions, and \$1500 from other sources. On-going expenses were projected at \$11,160, resulting in a deficit of \$560. The Council agreed that on-going expenses should be trimmed to match income. The budget for trail maintenance was reduced from \$3600 to \$3100, and \$60 will be timed from other categories.

The Council also considered new projects/programs, which would be funded from reserves. Potential projects/proposals costing \$7,450 were identified. The Council agreed to support two of these: \$1500 for education and training programs and \$1000 to reprint the Hiking the Mountains-to-Sea Trail brochure. A total budget of \$13,100, with a deficit of \$2,500, will be presented to the membership at the November 1 Annual Meeting for their approval.

The five year budget projections clearly show that unless CMC either raises its dues or significantly reduces its programs, in a short time, it will reduce its reserves to below the one year's operating expenses the Council agreed was needed for sound financial management. The Council agreed to consider presenting a proposal for a dues increase at the 2004 Annual Meeting, and to begin an informal program of educating members about the Club's financial situation.

**Education and Training Programs:** As part of the budget discussion, Danny Bernstein, who has been chosen as Chair of the Education and Training Committee, presented three proposal for 2004 programs. First, a Hike Leaders Appreciation and Training Dinner to be held in late January at an estimated cost of \$750. Second, a June camping weekend at Elkmont Campground in the Smokies to see the fireflies and tour the Elkmont Houses. Participants would pay the total cost of this program. Third, Wilderness First Aid training to be provided in November. Participants would pay most of the cost of this program, but a Club subsidy of \$750 was recommended.

The Council endorsed the creation of the Education and Training Committee and a 2004 budget of \$1500 for its programs. It left decisions on program specifics to the Committee members (Danny Bernstein, Chair, Don Walton and Dave Wetmore).

**MST Update:** Don Walton announced that Piet Bodenhorst had been selected as the Blue Ridge Parkway Pisgah District Volunteer of the Year and inscribed on their Honor Role.

Jeff Brewer, President of the Friends of the MST, has completed hiking the MST end-to-end, the sixth person to do so.

Piet Bodenhorst informed the Council that the Club has been working with the Blue Ridge Parkway on a multi-year project to improve signage for the MST. The first stage of this project will be to install additional signs on the posts indicating Parkway overlooks wherever the MST crosses at or near an overlook. The signs would have a hiker symbol and an arrow indicating the location of the MST. Walt Weber is working with the Parkway to develop a GPS inventory of existing MST signs, and Nick Price, a Boy Scout, will help as his Eagle Scout project.

Piet also informed the Council that the questions about emergency medical information currently on the Maintenance sign-up sheets signed by Trail Crew members will be removed after several crew members complained. The information was optional, but still raised concerns.

**By-Laws Amendment:** Lenny Bernstein proposed a by-laws amendment that would eliminate the category of Associate Member (currently unused) and create a paid life membership. The Council tabled this proposal in light of the fact that it will be reconsidering the whole dues structure in its next few meetings.

**Annual Meeting and Dinner:** Les Love reported that to-date, 96 people have signed up for the November 1 Annual Meeting and Dinner. The speaker will be Phil Francis, the new Acting Superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, who will talk about some of the challenges facing the Park.

**Special Challenge Programs:** Dave Wetmore presented a report on the October 8 meeting of the Special Challenge Program Committee meeting. His report appears as Attachment 2.

**History Book:** Peter Steuer, Club Historian, presented a four page update to the Club History covering the last 10 years. Several members made comments on this update, either before or at the meeting. The Council approved the update, subject to inclusion of the comments made by members. The update will be added to the existing history and copies distributed to attendees at the Annual Meeting and Dinner. It will then be placed on the Club website and new members notified as to where they can find it.

**2005 ATC Biennial Meeting:** Lenny Bernstein has taken over from Joe Cirvello as Chair of CMC's portion of this effort and as a member of the ATC Steering Committee

organizing the event. He will attend the next Steering Committee meeting on November 9. CMC is responsible for scheduling workshops and excursions at the 2005 meeting. Tommie Boston has agreed to lead Excursion Committee. Lenny asked for either a volunteer to lead, or suggestions for a leader, for the Workshop Committee. Neither was forthcoming.

**BRP Foundation and AT License Tag Programs:** The State of North Carolina will issue two vanity license plates, the first featuring the Blue Ridge Parkway, and the second featuring the Appalachian Trail. A mailing has been sent to all CMC members living in North Carolina describing these programs and the benefits to CMC for purchasing one of these plates. The cost of this mailing will be split between the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and the ATC.

**MST Work Day:** The next MST Work Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 6.

**Next Meeting:** Council members agreed to hold their next meeting at Earth Fare. It is scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lenny Bernstein  
Secretary

**Attachment 1 - Membership  
Report: October 27, 2003**

Members as of August 4, 2003	517
Members dropped at their request	1
Subtotal	516
Members reinstated when they paid their dues	4
New members	23
Members as of October 26, 2003	543

**New Members**

Dave and Peggy Beaman  
Donna Buis  
Jack and Maxine Dalton  
Warren Davis  
Angie Elkins  
Steven Fee  
Kiva Fuller  
Gene and Linda Gambrell  
Warren Gearrick  
Frank and Janet Konchar  
Carlette Lewis  
Arnie Lingle  
Marianne Newman  
Elizabeth O'Shea  
Frank Parker  
Thomas Riley  
John Robinson  
Nancy Rogers  
Tom Snyder  
Josh Spurling  
Jack Thomas  
Tim Wagner  
Jo Wicker

Other Information:	Total Donations to date:	\$1607
	Dinner registrations	96

Lenny Bernstein  
Membership Chair

Attachment 2

MINUTES, CHALLENGE COMMITTEE  
8 OCTOBER 2003

Present: Paul Benson, Bob Byrd, Tom Sanders, Amy Treverton, Dave Wetmore (Chair).

1. There was no old business
2. It was proposed that we request that symbols denoting a hike as meeting SB6K and/or P400 standards be placed beside the relevant hike description in each issue of *Let's Go*. The proposal was approved, and D. Wetmore will work on implementation
3. There seemed to be general agreement that some of the confusion regarding the SB6K web page arises from having two sets of hike descriptions, those in the Club database and those in the SB6K material.

D. Wetmore proposed a possible solution. First, see that all legal summit hikes are in the Club database. Second, for each non-obvious summit publish a description of how to reach that summit, a description which supplements but does not duplicate the descriptions in the Club hike database.

D. Wetmore will, in conjunction with D. Walton, modify the Great Balsam section as a demonstration of this solution. The Committee will then decide if it is feasible.

4. It was agreed by the Committee that the application procedure as currently described on the Web site is difficult to understand and possibly too cumbersome. We decided to implement the following procedure:
  1. All challenge program applications should be mailed to the Committee Chair. If there is a membership application enclosed, it will be forwarded to the Club Secretary. If there is not, the Committee Chair will verify that the member is an applicant.
  2. The Chair will then send the applicant's validation materials, along with a completed certificate and patch to the appropriate Sub-Committee Chair.
  3. If the Sub-Committee approves the application, their Chair will handle the disposition of the certificate and patch, either at the Annual Meeting or by mailing them to the applicant.
  4. The Sub-Committee Chair will notify the Committee chair of the fate of the application.
  5. The Committee Chair will maintain the Challenge Program roll and notify the Club Secretary of the new status of the member.
5. There was a lengthy discussion of various aspects of the SB6K program. Most of the discussion was over the unresolvable tension between making the program safe and keeping the program a challenge.

Copies of the SB6K roll were distributed. We have 135 members, 13 new so far this year. We agreed that if a Committee member knows a completer for whom we have no date of completion they will contact that person and get a date.
6. The Committee unanimously moved to offer honorary membership in the Pisgah 400 program to Bernard Elias and Tom Bindrum. D. Wetmore will implement this.

7. There was considerable discussion of the proposed WNC Loop program. The following decisions were made:
1. All the SB6K peaks should be included.
  2. The Loop sub-committee should prepare a formal WNC Loop program, complete with maps, for approval by the Committee and subsequent presentation to the Council for approval.
8. Sub-Committee memberships and responsibilities were agreed upon. There will be three subcommittees. As the P400 workload should be minimal for a few years that program can be handled by a committee of one. The considerable on-going work in the SB6K program and the developmental work in the WNC Program will require two-person committees.
1. The Sub-Committee assignments are as follows: SB6KK (Benson and Treverton, chair); Pisgah 400 (Wetmore); and WNC Loop (Wetmore and Sanders, chair).
  2. The SB6K sub-committee will prepare an alternate SB6K program involving only summits accessible by public lands.
  3. The WNCL sub-committee will prepare a formal program as outlined in 7.2 above.
9. There was some discussion as to recognition procedures at the annual banquet. We feel that it would be good if
1. The Committee Chair makes a few introductory remarks and recognizes any members who have completed relevant external challenge projects. By “external challenge projects” we mean such things as AT or goo-Miler completion.
  2. The Sub-Committee chairs will present the awards made in their areas.
10. Near the end of the evening Bob Byrd, influenced by the pleadings of all the other Committee members and the hospitality provided by our host, agreed to remain on the Committee.