



Welcome CMC's New Vice President: Debby Jones

By Becky Smucker

"I began hiking with CMC before the moving boxes were unpacked," says Debby Jones, CMC's newly elected Vice President. She and her husband David moved into their second home in Black Mountain four years ago on a Saturday, and she was out with CMC on Sunday. She found us on the internet, and Jim Reel was leading that day's hike. "He was very kind and welcoming", she reports appreciatively.

Debby had been a little worried that the CMC hikers would all be very young and fast, and that she wouldn't be able to keep up. However, the main topic of the day was colonoscopies. Katherine Love was scheduled for the procedure the next day and couldn't eat, and was the gracious target of ribbing. "It was awesome, perfect," Debby says.

Don't take this as an indication that Debby is a slow hiker; she's not. She prefers the club's longer and more challenging hikes, and hikes with others outside CMC who also like the distance.

Debby was born and raised in Atlanta, and she and David continue to have a home there. About 20 years ago Debby and family started going to the Smokies to car camp and backpack. Also, they sometimes came to Asheville for her husband's business, and got hooked on the town. They now have a log cabin in

High Rock Acres south of Black Mountain where she spends a lot of time. They will move to a house in Asheville full time when he retires in about five years.

Three years ago, Debby retired from a 35-year career as a teacher, Athletic Director, and administrator in Georgia's largest school system. She continues to work part time for them on a contract basis as a "Hearing Officer", working every other week in hearings with and for kids who have been expelled. She loves her work, and feels that many of the strengths that she contributed and learned working in schools will transfer to her participation on CMC's Council. These abilities include a good work ethic, ability to tackle tough problems, awareness of community needs and issues, the ability to maintain a sense of humor and a positive outlook, understanding of organizations and what it takes to keep them running, and knowing how to look for the strengths in each individual.

While Debby did some trail maintenance on the A.T. in Georgia with GATC (Georgia Appalachian Trail Club), she has not yet participated in trail work with CMC. She plans to start by going out with Les Love's Saturday group, and later check out the other trail crews. She hopes that the crews will welcome her and be patient while she improves her skills and learns about the very extensive and complex trail work program CMC has.

Her strong background in public schools will no doubt lead Debby to a significant focus on education and outreach. She will have a big picture view of the importance of sharing what we know about valuing the outdoors. "I believe I am at a perfect time in my life's journey to commit to this position. It is important to preserve what we have for future generations and I would like to be an integral part of CMC in promoting this philosophy. I vow to participate actively, respectfully and constructively. I know I can bring a great deal 'to the picnic', and look forward to learning from others."

Debby has three children and three grandchildren. Besides her work and hiking, she likes to cook and travel, and is a volunteer with the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Thank you, Debby, for stepping up in service to CMC and our mission.