



Carolina Mountain Club

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February 2019

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2019 Hike Leaders' Dinner

In appreciation of those who led a CMC hike during the past year (and the first quarter of this year), CMC is graciously saying "thank you" with a program/dinner on February 22nd at the Hilton Biltmore in Arden, NC. Invitations have been distributed so please RSVP to Gregory Bechtel at gabechtel@yahoo.com

Additionally, if you have some favorite hiking or outdoor photographs, Jim Reel is coordinating a slide show for the social hour and would appreciate up to 10 pictures in a .jpg format. Please send those Jim Reel at jimr57@yahoo.com

-Gregory Bechtel

NC High Peaks Announces Black Mountains Hiking Challenge

Hikers looking for adventure and gorgeous views are invited to test their endurance and earn a cool patch by completing the Black Mountains Hiking Challenge, a rigorous set of 23 hikes that includes all the trails in the highest mountain range in the Eastern United States.

The Challenge was developed by the NC High Peaks Trail Association as a way to promote hiking in Yancey County by offering dedicated hikers a program that will introduce them to the best of our local trails.

For a complete list of the hikes, the Challenge rules and more details, visit the High Peaks website at www.nchighpeaks.com/challenge.

-Chris Koebelin

Interested in Leading a Hike?

Are you interested in leading a hike through CMC but a tad apprehensive about the process or have a limited knowledge of the trail system? Why not consider co-leading a hike with one of our established hike leaders! We're able and willing to show you the ropes, from selecting a hike and time that works with your schedule through garnering accolades at the end!

If interested, please contact Gregory Bechtel at gabechtel@gmail.com and I'll work to match you with one of our exceptional hike leaders. No obligations or commitments - just a fun experience!

-Gregory Bechtel

Friends of the Smokies Hosts Smokies 900M Panel

by Danny Bernstein

Great Smoky Mountains National Park has over 800 miles of trails. Many CMC members have walked all of the trails in the park, and many others are working on the challenge right now.



On Tuesday, February 19th at 7:00pm, [Friends of the Smokies](#) (FOTS) and Nantahala Brewing's Asheville Outpost will host a panel discussion featuring three hikers who have done all of the trails in the park.

I, yes, the author of this article, will moderate the panel. We will hear from our own CMC leader, Steve Pierce who's about the finish all the trails for a second map. JP Smith, who has been in law enforcement her whole career, will talk about how she is going about finishing her map. Dave Worth, a former National Park Service Ranger in the Smokies, will give his perspective as a runner and a dad of a young son. How did they do it, why did they do, and what advice do they have?

There will be prizes, lots of laughter, and of course beer. Proceeds from Nantahala Brewing special FOTS beer for the entire month of February, including the evening of the panel, will benefit Friends of the Smokies. The organization is the national park partner that raises money for Great Smoky Mountains National Park, now more important than ever.

Nantahala Brewing's Asheville Outpost is located at 747 Haywood Road. Parking is available behind the brewery and along Haywood Road.

Mark your calendars! Spring Social - April 20th

The 2019 Spring Social, along with a new photo sharing opportunity, will be Saturday, April 20 at the NC Arboretum.

The theme for the Photo Sharing is **Focus on Fascinating F-words: Ferns, Flowers, Fungi**. Look through your photo folder; get ready for the flora that will pop up in spring; include friends, fairies, or even frogs in your photos.

Details about this fun day will be forthcoming in a later eNews.

SECONDARY TRAILS ADOPTION UPDATE

by Les Love

Check out the spreadsheet now and see how many people have stepped up to adopt a CMC Secondary Trail Section (not A.T. or MST, but still important trails). Several of these new people have never worked on one of the weekday crews, so we are giving more folks a way to give back to our trails and get involved in trail maintenance.

We are looking for people who would like to adopt these sections and walk them 3 to 4 times per year as either:

1) A non-tool carrying maintainer (observer) who is only scouting the trail to report issues on the website for the weekly crews to address. If they don't know about it, they can't fix it.

OR

2) A maintainer who walks the trail with hand tools, cleaning ditches, lopping branches, and sawing small trees that have fallen across the trail. Anything requiring a chainsaw would be reported on the website. You would also be responsible for string trimming the weeds and grass (swing blading in wilderness areas) once or twice per season, as well as keeping the blazing fresh. CMC provides all the tools and the training.

We need more eyes and boots out on these "secondary" trails to help us keep them open and enjoyable for everyone to hike.

If you would like to step up and get involved, please email Les Love at lesrlove55@gmail.com

Andres Sarre, Our Member from Mexico City

By Stuart English and Susan Canale

Andres Sarre lives in Mexico City with his wife Reyna Lazcano for most of the year, making Asheville their second home. He is a dedicated hiker, trail maintainer, and cartouche maker! Although the mountains around Mexico City are higher and more spectacular than the Appalachians, Andres finds our local mountains equally beautiful and gets great joy from hiking in them.



Mexico City is nestled in a highland plateau in central Mexico with 25 million people surrounded by mountains and volcanoes. Andres has loved those mountains since he was a child and vowed to some day summit them. At 18, Andres joined the Alpine Rescue Unit and after several months of training, was able to reach the summit of Popocatepetl, at 17,800 feet. That was just the beginning. As a solo climber, he climbed "Popo" 102 times, Iztaccíhuatl 22 times, and Citlaltepetl, the highest mountain in Mexico at 18,400 feet, three times. His favorite mountain, the dormant volcano Nevada de Toluca or Xinantecatl, is the fourth highest mountain in Mexico at 15,200 feet which contains two lakes inside its crater. After more climbs and more summits of many more majestic mountains, he became a high mountain guide, leading people through lava fields and dormant volcanoes. Andres has carried his love of hiking around the world to hike in Peru, Chile, Argentina, Italy and Alaska's Mount Denali. Asheville became his second home in 1985 where he found CMC and began doing our AA hikes and sometimes helping with trail maintenance. While hiking in Cinqueterre in Liguria, Italy, he and Reyna became lost because one of the trail blazes was missing and their hiking adventure turned into an overnight stay in the mountains! On returning to Asheville, they decided to check out the round white blazes of the Mountains to Sea Trail (MST) and the rectangular blazes of the Art Loeb Trail (ALT). Starting at the Folk Art Center, they hiked

west all the way to Bear Pen Gap access and found that in some places, the blazes were missing. This sparked the idea to design the new MST and ALT logos and make wooden cartouches. His woodworking company in Mexico City has a CNC, a computer-aided machine, making it easy to carve out the designs. Each time they or a friend flew from Mexico

City to North Carolina, they would bring 10 or 20 of the wooden plaques, getting smiles from customs agents who were hikers. When asked about his most memorable experiences in trail maintenance and hiking with CMC, Andres mentions the friends he has made, including Ashok Kudva, Barth Brooker, John Soldati, Stuart English, Jorge Munoz among others. He also acknowledges the help of wife Reyna, who “is always at my side, with a big heart, carrying tools and happiness to the trail.” Andres philosophizes that each hike is a wonderful and different experience. “Each trail curve gives us a surprise, a flower, a root, an animal, a lake, a creek, or another hiker for a chat.” And he appreciates the thousands of hours the volunteers spend maintaining our trails and their willingness to share their expert knowledge of the plants, trees, and minerals of the area. The greatest reward of trail maintenance, Andres says, comes from long-distance hikers, who “with much happiness, give us a big loud ‘Thank you so much’.” And we give a big “Thank you so much” to Andres for all that he has contributed to CMC



The eNews is published on the first Friday of each month. Articles are due on the last Friday of the previous month. send your news to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org. Please limit articles to no more than 1,000 words. You may send up to two photos as jpg attachments.

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