Most of you are already getting Let’s Go as a pdf attachment sent to your email address. Others have an email address and can receive it that way, but have opted for a copy to be mailed to them. And, a very few don’t have an internet connection, or don’t have a printer, and have depended on getting their Let’s Go by mail delivery.

The cost of producing and mailing to those who have the capability to receive and print it has been about $4,000 a year. That extra $2,500 made the difference in a balanced or deficit 2017 budget approved at the recent Annual Meeting.

There still will be costs of formatting the document, including the hike schedule, and for printing and mailing a few copies so that’s what the $1,500 for the newsletter is for in the new budget.

Starting with the next issue, the Let’s Go for the second quarter, April through June, virtually everyone will be getting Let’s Go by email – that is, everyone except for the very few who don’t have computers or email.

We understand your concern about some members who will not be able to receive electronic copies, and we don’t want to disenfranchise anyone. To solve this, Marcia Bromberg has volunteered to have a few copies and the lead page of eNews printed and do a mailed version for them. Call her on her home phone, 828-505-0471, to work this out.

Another thing that will be handled via email is your Diamond Brand voucher. Most everyone will get it as an email attachment, but it will still be mailed to folks who can’t get it this way.

Here’s the deal. The revised Let’s Go will have everything you’re used to seeing, except for the articles and pictures. You’ll use it for the Hike Schedule and can print it off to have at your fingertips. It will have the “boilerplate” that’s always there like the masthead, the information about Trail Maintenance and its crews, the information on the back page about upcoming Council meetings, and the information section you’re used to seeing on the bottom half of the back page.

Instead of taking up space here with articles, eNews will bring you up-to-date articles and information.

We want to be able to have something to advertise CMC other than using Let’s Go copies as hand-out materials. Instead, we’ll be developing a bookmark or rack card to hand out and put at stores and visitor centers that will lead people to our website for more information.

Efforts related to Conservation this year are focused on the revision of the management plan for Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. The plan encompasses recreation, water quality, rare habitats, wilderness designation, vegetation management including logging, and much more.

The National Forest Service supports the Stakeholders Forum, a collaborative process that brings together different interests such as recreation, logging, hunting, and conservation, in developing the management plan. CMC is an active member of the Forum. In addition, CMC is represented in the Nantahala Pisgah Forest Partnership, an ongoing group that collaborates on forest issues.

CMC submitted comments on potential additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System. We included comments on extending the Shining Rock and Middle Prong Wilderness Areas and the Craggy Mountains Area, adding the Daniel Ridge and Cedar Rock Areas, and giving the Black Mountains area a higher priority, among others.

CMC also submitted comments on recreation objectives supporting collaborative planning, improving trail conditions, and involving youth and underserved populations. We emphasized the need to focus on safe behaviors on trails and to raise the priority of recreation in planning.

The NFS seeks input from the public via open houses, email, and paper mail. Comments can be sent to ncplan-revision@fs.fed.us. We will send announcements on important opportunities for members to be involved. Check out www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/home/?cid=STELPRDB5397660. See what is involved in managing this great resource we love. We are proud to have a beneficial effect on forest management.

– Ruth Hartzler
Annual Dinner 'Chariot' ride was thrilling and eventful

by Bobbi Powers

We had quite an interesting ride in our “Chariot” (Hendersonville restaurant) at the 2016 CMC annual dinner. The ride started benignly with the usual happy chatter of 100+ members and invited dignitaries during the social hour and hearty dinner, accompanied by a slide show of member photographs.

The ride got slightly bumpy during the business meeting when Treasurer Ann Hendrickson announced that the print copy of Let’s Go would disappear after winter quarter and thereafter be only online. There were some comments and questions, but Ann explained the printing costs made the change necessary in order to have a balanced budget. Change is always difficult, but like it or not, we are now in the digital age. President Barbara Morgan gave a positive year-in-review speech in which she said we have 1,050 members, an increase over last year.

Then the Chariot became a thrill ride with a frenetic “lesson” in camera techniques taught by ace photographer Kevin Adams, author of his third edition of North Carolina Waterfalls. Kevin, an energetic, animated speaker, gave us a multitude of tips for taking waterfall photos, accompanied by a stacatto slide show of many of his drop-dead gorgeous photos. We learned the best time to get THE photo is while it’s raining. We also learned how to create “sunstars” and the many uses of flashlights and colored plastic wrap for night photography. We saw his umbrella invention on his tripod to keep his camera dry and also his tripod’s stemmed wine glass holder – another Kevin innovation - for killing time (and a bottle) waiting for that perfect dusk photo. He stressed that standing in a creek any time of the year is a great position to capture a beautiful photo and gives one soggy boots and pruny feet. So, of course he invented a boot dryer, a gizmo he concocted from 2 plastic hoses – one end attaches to his truck’s air vents and the other ends go into each boot. The man is ingenious, as well as a terrific entertainer and a superb photographer. It was an awesome ride to end our evening!

Congratulations to persons completing challenges this year!

Nineteen persons completed challenges in 2016:

Youth Partner Challenge
  Cameron Cox
  Jacob Cox

A.T.-MST Challenge
  Jack Fitzgerald
  Vance Mann
  Dennis Smith
  Bob Williams

Waterfall Challenge
  Gina Alberti
  Chuck Rosen
  Beth Bradshaw
  Mark Inman
  Andrew Kunkle

SB6K Challenge
  Robert Livezey
  Brad Thacker
  Jeffery Younginer
  Scott Gullberg
  Robert L. Keely
  Jeffrey L. Austin
  Caitlynnne Cash
  Christopher Randall

Challenge update

There has been a significant update to the challenges listed on CMC’s website. We have included all of the “completers” from 2000 to 2016. For the SB6K challenge, we have included “completers” since 1973. If you have completed a challenge, please check the CMC website to see if your name is listed. If it is not listed, contact Vance Mann. Listed below are some challenge statistics. We thank Peter Barr for helping to collect this information.

229 persons completed challenges since 2000.
2  Youth Partner Challenge (initiated 2015)
7  A.T.-MST Challenge (initiated 2015)
21  “90 in 90” A.T. Challenge (one year 2013)
21  “90 in 90” MST Challenge (one year 2013)
15  Lookout Tower Challenge (initiated 2000)
21  Pisgah 400 Challenge (initiated 2003)
122  *SB6K Challenge (initiated 1973)
20  Waterfall Challenge (initiated 2009)

* Not counted in totals above for SB6K

Eighty two persons completed the SB6K Challenge 1973 to 1999. For 32 of the 82 persons, we have no date when the SB6K Challenge was completed.

The New Council –

In the front row, left to right: Ruth Hartzler Conservation, Ann Hendrickson Treasurer, Paula Massey Secretary, Marcia Bromberg Technology, Kathy Kyle-Cornn Communications, Kay Shurtleff Education and Community Outreach. In the back row: Ron Navik Trail Maintenance, Randy Fluharty Vice President, Barbara Morgan President, Tom Weaver Councilor at Large, Lee Silver Communications. Not pictured: Steve Pierce Councilor at Large, Brenda Worley Hiking.
TRAIL MAINTENANCE
All members are encouraged to participate in trail maintenance activities. Non-members are invited to try it a few times before deciding if they want to join the Club and be a regular part of a crew. We train and provide tools.

Below is a general schedule of work days. Exact plans often are not made until the last minute, so contact crew leaders for details. Crews marked with an * are currently seeking new members. MST and AT section maintainers work on their own schedule.

Burnsville Monday Crew
John Whitehouse, johnwhitehouse@ccvnm.com

Waynesville West Crew *
Larry Sobil, lsobil@bellsouth.net

Thursday Crew
Bill Falender, billfalender@gmail.com

Asheville Friday crew *
Skip Sheldon, shellaall@bellsouth.net

Pisgah Friday Crew *
Ed Paukovits, epauko610@gmail.com

Wilderness Crew *
Mike Goodman, msg_53@hotmail.com

Quarterly Saturday Crew *
Les Love, leslove55@gmail.com

AT Maintainers
Tim Carrigan, tim@newprism.com

MST Maintainers
Heintooga Road to Old Bald
Larry Sobil, lsobil@bellsouth.net
Old Bald to Mt. Pisgah Parking Lot
Pete Petersen, roap@aol.com
Mt. Pisgah Parking Lot to Folk Art Center
Les Love, leslove55@gmail.com
Folk Art Center to Black Mtn. Campground
John Whitehouse, johnwhitehouse@ccvnm.com

HIKE SCHEDULE First Quarter 2017

Hikes are marked as either a YPC hike or a MST hike. The table of YPC hikes also includes the hike ratings for all hikes.

HIKE SCHEDULE First Quarter 2017

Hike Ratings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Letter</th>
<th>Second Letter</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Elevation Gain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A: Over 12 miles</td>
<td>AA: Over 2,000 ft.</td>
<td>AA: Over 2,000 ft.</td>
<td>AA: Over 2,000 ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B: 6.1-9 miles</td>
<td>B: 1,001-1,500 ft.</td>
<td>B: 1,001-1,500 ft.</td>
<td>B: 1,001-1,500 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C: Up to 6 miles</td>
<td>C: 1,000 ft. or less</td>
<td>C: 1,000 ft. or less</td>
<td>C: 1,000 ft. or less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If it’s not possible for a hiker to go on the regularly scheduled hike, it may be possible to accompany the leader when the hike is scouted. Call or email the hike leader.

Hike cancellations are announced on the CMC website in the “Breaking News Box.” Hike Leaders will announce a cancellation or significant change at least a few hours before the hike meeting time. Hikers that do not have internet access or live hours away from the meeting place: call the hike leader to ensure that you are informed about hike changes. See the Hike Schedule on the CMC website for more complete and timely information, including scout reports, at www.carolinamountainclub.org.

CHALLENGE PROGRAMS

SB6K For hiking all 40 peaks above 6000’. Contact Peter Barr, pjbar7@gmail.com

P400 For hiking every trail in Pisgah Ranger District. Contact Dave Wetmore, dwetmore@citcom.net

900M For hiking every trail in GSMNP. Contact Dave Wetmore, dwetmore@citcom.net

LTC For hiking all 24 lookout towers in WNC. Contact Peter Barr, pjbar7@gmail.com

WC100 For hiking the 100 best waterfalls in the mountains of WNC, SC and the Smokies. Contact Jack Fitzgerald, 828-685-2897, suejackfitz@bellsouth.net

A.T.-MST For hiking the combined 228 miles of the A.T. and the MST on sections maintained by the Club. Contact Vance Mann, hvancem@icloud.com

YPC For hiking eight different Land Management areas with youth 17 and under. Contact Kay Shurtleff at kshurtleff@msn.com

YOUTH PARTNER CHALLENGE HIKES
The Youth Partnership Challenge is designed to introduce youth to fun and educational hiking experiences. Hikes are open to CMC members as well as newcomers. Call the leader before the hike. YPC hikes submitted by Jan Onan, 828-606-5188, janonan59@gmail.com and Kay Shurtleff, 828-280-3226 or 828-749-9230, kshurtleff@msn.com. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. Meet at any location listed in the schedule.

Youth Partnership No. Y1701-867 Jan. 7 Triple, High and Hooker Falls *12:30 PM Hike 3.5, Drive 90, 300 ft. ascent, Rated C-C Jan Onan, cell: 828-606-5188, janonan59@gmail.com and Kay Shurtleff, 828-280-3226 or 828-749-9230, kshurtleff@msn.com. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. Meet at any location listed in the schedule.

YPC *Form carpools at Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets and meet leader(s) at DuPont Forest Hooker Falls parking lot at 1:15 PM. We’ll hike to Tripe Falls, then to the bottom of High Falls. Next will be a hike to see the top of High Falls, followed by hiking back to the trailhead and a short hike to Hooker Falls. Topo(s): Standingstone Mtn.; also DuPont State Park.

SATURDAY WORKDAY
For the Saturday MST Trail Building Workdays in 2017, meet at 8:30 at the Home Depot at the Enka-Candler Exit 44 off of I-40.

Workdays for 2017 are April 1, May 6, June 3, Aug. 19 and Oct. 24. As in the past, we will be back in Asheville by 3:00. Call Les Love at 828-658-1489 (leslove55@gmail.com) to verify date.

WEDNESDAY HIKES
Wednesday hikes submitted by Brenda Worley, 828-684-8656, bjdworley@gmail.com. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All hikes assemble at the far rear (north end) of Westgate Shopping Center near I-240 exit 3B unless otherwise noted. Some hikes will have second meeting places as described in the schedule; start times vary. Times listed are departure times – arrive early.

Wednesday No. W1701-422 Jan. 4 Pump Gap – Big Laurel Creek 8:30 AM Hike 7, Drive 70, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA Paul Benson, cell: 828-273-2098, pdbenson@charter.net

We will leave shuttle vehicles at Hurricane on Big Laurel Creek, then drive to the Silvermine Trailhead to begin the hike up to the A.T. past Lovers Leap to Pump Gap. We’ll then take the Pump Gap Trail and a manaway down to the confluence of the French Broad River and Big Laurel Creek to our lunch spot. After lunch we will explore the ruins of the old logging town of Runion and hike out the Big Laurel Creek Trail back to Hurricane. Expect beautiful river views, some interesting ruins, a short, steep bushwhack and a river crossing on a bridge. Car shuttle. Topo(s): Hot Springs; also NatGeo. map #782

Wednesday No. W1701-101 Jan. 11 Lower Big Laurel Creek 9:00 AM Hike 7.5, Drive 60, 345 ft. ascent, Rated B-C Mary Beth Gwynn, cell: 828-545-6487, mbgcmc@gmail.com

Hike along a beautiful stream with whitewater, big rocks and surrounding high cliffs to the railroad tracks where we will turn around. Topo(s): Hot Springs

Wednesday No. W1701-532 Jan. 18 Sassafras Mountain *8:00 AM Recreational Forest Trails Map Youth Partnership No. Y1701-316 Feb. 4 Carl Sandburg Park *12:15 PM Hike 4, Drive 70, 700 ft. ascent, Rated C-C Kay Shurtleff, 828-749-9230, cell: 828-280-3226, kshurtleff@msn.com

YPC *Form carpools at Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets and meet leader(s) at Carl Sandburg parking lot at 1:00 PM. Driving Directions: I-26 E to exit 53; right onto Upward Rd. to end; left onto US 225; right onto Little River Rd.; left into parking lot for Carl Sandburg Nat’l. Historic Park. Traverse the same trails that poet/author Carl Sandburg enjoyed. Hike to overlook on Big Glassy Mountain. Return via same route, but turn at barn trail. After hike, you may opt to tour on your own by visiting the goats in the barn or touring Carl Sandburg’s historic house for a small fee. Topo(s): Hendersonville
**Hike 9, Drive 140, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA**
Chuck Mills, cell: 240-385-4879, chuckmills@icloud.com

*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader(s) at NE corner of Cracker Barrel Parking Lot off Exit 53 of I-26 at 9:30 AM. This is a pleasant hike from US 178 up to the highest peak in South Carolina, following the Foothills Trail. Topo(s): Eastatoe Gap; also Guide to Foothills Trail, sections A4 to A2.*

Wednesday No. W1701-305 Jan. 25
DuPont Forest Lake Imaging P.L. #1 8:00 AM
Hike 13.4, Drive 82, 2300 ft. ascent, Rated AA-AA
Jay Bretz, cell: 828-658-1220, williambretz1220@gmail.com

This low-altitude hike will traverse a loop on the northern side of DuPont Forest, from Lake Imaging to Stone Mountain, including Grassy Falls, the Thomas Cemetery and Wintergreen Falls. Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest BiLo at 8:30 AM. Topo(s): Standingstone Mtn.; also DuPont State Recreational Forest Trail Map

Wednesday No. W1701-093 Feb. 1
Graybeard Mountain 8:00 AM
Hike 9.2, Drive 35, 3100 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Debby Jones, cell: 404-731-3119, djonese71@aol.com

*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader(s) at Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 in Black Mountain at 8:20 AM. We will take a loop using Big Piney Ridge up to Graybeard Mountain and return to Montreat via Walker Knob and Pot Cove Gap. There’ll be good views, a delightful hike and a good workout. We’ll take it at a moderate pace. The first mile is very steep. Topo(s): Montreat; also Montreat Trails Map

Wednesday No. W1701-555 Feb. 8
MST: NC 80 to Woods Mountain 8:00 AM
Hike 10, Drive 90, 2600 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Brenda Worley, 828-684-8566, cell: 828-606-7297, bdwolrer@gmail.com
AT-MST *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader(s) at Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 in Black Mountain at 8:20 AM. Hike on a little-traveled section of the eastbound MST north of NC 80 to Woods Mountain, with seldom-seen views of the Blacs and Mount Mitchell. Topo(s): Celo, Little Switzerland

Wednesday No. W1701-530 Feb. 15
Bent Creek #10: Stradley Mountain via Rice Pinnacle 9:00 AM
Hike 8, Drive 25, 900 ft. ascent, Rated B-C
Stuart English, cell: 828-384-4870, stuengo@comporium.net

P400 *Only meeting place: Toys-R-Us parking lot on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets. This moderate loop hike features great views of Hominy Valley. We will climb to the eastern part of Stradley Mountain, have lunch at Ingles Field and return by Boyd Branch and Deer Lake Lodge Trail. Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn.; also Bent Creek Trail map and NatGeo map #780

Wednesday No. W1701-438 Feb. 22
Rich Mountain, Round Top Trail and Lovers Leap 8:00 AM
Hike 9.5, Drive 70, 2200 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Randy & Beth Fluharty, cell: 828-423-9030, rfluharty54@gmail.com
From Tanyard Gap we will go north on the A.T. to the beautiful views from Rich Mountain, then descend to Hot Springs via Round Top Ridge Trail; we’ll culminate the day with a short climb to Lovers Leap and finish on the A.T. in Hot Springs. Car shuttle. Topo(s): Hot Springs; also FS Hot Springs Harmon Den map and NatGeo map #782

Wednesday No. W1701-279 Mar. 1
Montreat Trestle Grade – Pot Cove Trail 9:00 AM
Hike 8, Drive 35, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Laura Frisbie, cell: 828-337-5845, laurafrisbie@charter.net
*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader(s) at Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 in Black Mountain at 9:20 AM. A partial loop hike over Lookout Rock and along the East Ridge and Trestle Road Trails to Pot Cove. Return along the Mitchell Road and Trestle Road Trails. A moderately strenuous beginning followed by a very gentle return. Good winter views. Topo(s): Montreat; also Montreat Trail Map

Wednesday No. W1701-374 Mar. 8
MST: Good Road to Bald Knob 8:30 AM
Hike 10, Drive 80, 2500 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Barbara Morgan, cell: 828-460-7066, barbci29@gmail.com
AT-MST Park on Good Road in McDowell County off US 221. Hike on MST to North Fork of Catawba River, cross bridge, and ascend to top of Bald Knob. A steep hike, but spectacular winter views. This hike offers an opportunity to see how the forest has recovered from a forest fire 1-1/2 years ago. Return by same route. Second meeting place: Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 in Black Mountain at 8:50 AM. Topo(s): Little Switzerland

Wednesday No. W1701-268 Mar. 15
Hospital Rock – Rainbow Falls 9:00 AM
Hike 8, Drive 95, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Jim & Judy Magura, cell: 828-606-1409, jps290@gmail.com
WC100 This is a challenging hike in Jones Gap State Park in S.C. Hiking up past Hospital Rock on the rebuilt trail reopened in 2015, we will enjoy a great view at lunchtime from Pretty Place. After lunch we will walk along a road for a short distance, then turn downhill past beautiful Rainbow Falls onto a trail down to the river and back to our cars. NOTE: $2/person parking fee at trailhead. Second meeting place: NE corner of Cracker Barrel parking lot off Exit 53 of I-26 at 9:30 AM. Topo(s): Cleveland, Standingstone Mtn.; also Mountain Bridge Wilderness map

Wednesday No. W1701-644 Mar. 22
Mingus Mill Semi-circular 8:00 AM
Hike 10.4, Drive 110, 2800 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Steve Pierce, 828-724-4999, cell: 828-442-8482, stevepierce50@gmail.com
900M *First meeting place: Home Depot off Exit 44 of I-40. We’ll hike up Newton Bald to a former bald with good views from the ridge top, especially with the leaves down. We will then descend on the Mingus Creek Trail. Short car shuttle. Second meeting place: Maggie Valley Post Office at 8:30 AM, but contact leader first. Topo(s): Smokemont; also NatGeo map #317

Wednesday No. W1701-142 Mar. 29
Jerry Miller Trail to A.T. to Fork Ridge Trail 8:30 AM
Hike 10.5, Drive 92, 3300 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Tish Desjardins, cell: 828-380-1452, desraylet@aol.com
AT-MST *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader(s) at US 25/NC 208 intersection at 9:15 AM. We’ll hike up the Jerry Miller Trail to Bearwallow Gap, then right on the A.T. to Big Firescald Knob for lunch and exceptional views. Afterwards, we’ll turn right onto the Fork Ridge Trail down to FS 111 and a short walk to the cars. Topo(s): Greystone: also NatGeo map #782

**ALL-DAY WEEKEND HIKES**
All-day hikes submitted by Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, bbente@bellsouth.net. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All Saturday and Sunday hikes assemble at the far rear (north end) of Westgate Shopping Center at I-240 exit 3B UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. Some hikes will have second meeting places, and starting times may vary.

Sunday No. A1701-281 Jan. 1
Green River Gameland Feature: 7:30 AM Breakfast at Cracker Barrel, 9:15 AM Hike.
Hike 8, Drive 70, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, cell: 828-699-6296, bbente@bellsouth.net
*Form carpools at Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets and meet leader(s) at NE corner of Cracker Barrel parking lot off Exit 53 of I-26 at 9:30 AM. Topo(s): Cleveland, Standingstone Mtn.; also Trails of the Green River Gameland map
P400 *Only meeting place: Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets. We will start at the parking lot near the west end of the Campground Connector and walk along Boyd Branch Road, then take a left on Little Hickory Gap Trail to Five Points, left on North Boundary Road (FS 485), left on Green's Lick Trail, right on Laurel Branch Road, right on Lower Sidehill Road and right onto Boyd Branch Road which will take us back to our cars. Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn.; also NatGeo map #780

Sunday No. A1701-878 Jan. 15 Spivey Gap, Devil's Creek, Flattop Mountain Loop *8:30 AM Hike 12, Drive 85, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated A-A Les and Catherine Love, cell: 828-230-1861, leslove55@gmail.com

This new CMC hike will explore the mountain area above the Nolichucky River gorge. We'll park on US 19E at Spivey Gap and walk on Forest Service roads for 3 miles to Devil's Creek Trail, following it 2 miles to Lost Cove Trail. Instead of going into Lost Cove, we'll turn right, go up and over Joe Lewis Field, and walk around Flattop Mountain. Then we'll take closed woods roads back to our cars. Great long-range winter views of the Nolichucky River Gorge. Topo(s): Chestoa, Huntdale; also NatGeo map #783

Sunday No. A1701-509 Jan. 22 DuPont Forest: Sky Valley P.L. #1 *8:30 AM Hike 9, Drive 80, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B Stuart English, cell: 828-384-4870, stuengo@comporium.net

*Form carpools at Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets and meet leader(s) at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM. This pleasant hike will start at the Sky Valley parking lot in DuPont State Forest. It's mostly easy, with a steep climb up to Stone Mountain, the highest peak in Dupont State Forest. Topo(s): Standingstone Mtn.; also DuPont Forest Trail Map

Saturday No. A1701-489 Jan. 28 Bad Fork - Trace Ridge Loop *9:00 AM Hike 8, Drive 15, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated B-A Jim and Judy Magura, cell: 828-606-1490, jjs290@gmail.com

P400 *Only meeting place: Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets. This pleasant winter hike will start at Trace Ridge Trailhead, go up the Trace Ridge Trail, cross the closed BRP and follow the MST to Ferrin Knob and a scenic lunch stop; after lunch, we'll hike down the Bad Fork Trail and a side trail back to the trailhead. At the trailhead, we will see how the forest is recovering after being logged in 2014. Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn.; also NatGeo map #780

Saturday No. A1701-TBD Jan. 14 TO BE DETERMINED 10:00 AM Marcia Bromberg, 828-505-0471, mwbromberg@yahoo.com

The hike description will be determined later and posted on the online hike schedule and on Breaking News on the CMC website.

Sunday No. A1701-766 Jan. 8 Bent Creek Loop #10 *9:30 AM Hike 7.5, Drive 10, 1100 ft. ascent, Rated B-B Janet Martin, cell: 502-494-9309, jaykaymartin@msn.com

P400 *Only meeting place: Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets. We will start at the parking lot near the west end of the Campground Connector and walk along Boyd Branch Road, then take a left on Little Hickory Gap Trail to Five Points, left on North Boundary Road (FS 485), left on Green's Lick Trail, right on Laurel Branch Road, right on Lower Sidehill Road and right onto Boyd Branch Road which will take us back to our cars. Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn.; also NatGeo map #780

Sunday No. A1701-847 Jan. 29 The Pinnacle *8:30 AM Hike 8, Drive 125, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated B-A Brent Martin, 828-587-9453, cell: 828-371-0347, brent_martin@tws.org

*Form carpools at Home Depot off Exit 44 of I-40 and meet leader(s) at trailhead (end of Fisher Creek Rd.) at 9:20 AM. Driving route: About mile marker 85 on US 23/74, turn right at Excon station to end, then left, then right onto Fishers Creek Rd. to end of road. This hike is from the Fisher Creek Recreation Area near Sylva. We will ascend on the East Fork and Pinnacle Trails to see the great view from the Pinnacle. Our return will be via the West Fork Trail. Topo(s): Sylva North

Sunday No. A1701-280 Feb. 5 North Slope and Art Loeb Trails *9:00 AM Hike 7.5, Drive 62, 1600 ft. ascent, Rated B-A Chris Koebelin and Kathy McAuley, cell: 518-372-4130, chriskoebelin@gmail.com

P400 *First meeting place: Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets. We start at the Davidson River Campground and ascend on the Art Loeb Trail to the North Slope Connector. We'll eat lunch at the intersection before we start down the connector to the North Slope Trail, ending with a lovely, easy stroll along the river to the cars. Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:30 AM. Topo(s): Pisgah Forest, Shining Rock; also NatGeo map #780

Saturday No. A1701-182 Feb. 11 Green River Cove *10:00 AM Hike 6.7, Drive 75, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated B-C Marcia Bromberg, 828-505-0471, mwbromberg@yahoo.com

*First meeting place: Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets. This is a moderate in-and-out winter hike along the scenic Green River to the rocks jutting into the river. If we are lucky, we may see kayakers in the river at our lunch stop. Second meeting place: NE corner of Cracker Barrel parking lot (I-26 Exit 53) at 10:30 AM. Park near Upward Rd. Topo(s): Cliffsfield Mountain; also Trails of the Green River Gamelands map

P400 This hike is an extension of the popular half-day Coontree Loop hike. We ascend the left branch of Coontree Trail, proceed in-and-out on Bennett Gap and Pressley Cove Trails, and descend on the right branch of Coontree Trail to the cars. We will visit an old homestead chimney, a remnant of the farming community between Pressley Cove and Maxwell Cove. Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:30 AM. Topo(s): Pisgah Forest; also NatGeo map #780

Sunday No. A1701-1092 Feb. 19 Heartbreak Ridge *8:00 AM Hike 11.5, Drive 55, 2950 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA Carroll Koeppinger, 828-667-0723, cell: 828-231-9444, cakoepp9@gmail.com

We will hike Heartbreak Ridge from Graphite to the Blue Ridge Parkway, stopping along the way to enjoy the view to the southwest and the valley below from Bernard's Rock (named for Bernard Elias). We'll eat lunch in a meadow at the top and return on the same trail. Expect good views of Greybeard, Rocky Knob and Blue Ridge Pinnacle as we follow the long ridge along the way up. Second meeting place: Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 at 8:20 AM. Topo(s): Old Fort, Montreat

Saturday No. A1701-374 Feb. 25 MST: Good Road to Bald Knob *8:30 AM Hike 10, Drive 80, 2500 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA Barbara Morgan, cell: 828-460-7066, barbe129@gmail.com

AT-MST Park on Good Road in McDowell County off US 221. Hike on MST to North Fork of Catawba River, cross bridge, and ascend to top of Bald Knob. A steep hike, but spectacular winter views. This hike offers an opportunity to see how the forest has recovered from a forest fire 1-1/2 years ago. Return by same route. Second meeting place: Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 at 8:50 AM. Topo(s): Little Switzerland

Sunday No. A1701-283 Feb. 26 Montreat Ramble #2 *9:00 AM Hike 8, Drive 40, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated B-B Danny Bernstein, cell: 828-450-0747, danny@hikertoohiker.com

This will be a moderate loop hike starting in Montreat, climbing to the great view from Lookout Mountain, then on to Pot Cove Gap and down the Graybeard Trail to our cars. If the weather is good, we might go up Walker's Knob, another mile or so. Second meeting place: Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 at 9:20 AM. Topo(s): Montreat; also Montreat Trail Map

Sunday No. A1701-355 Mar. 5 Devil Fork Gap to Carmencita *8:00 AM Hike 10.7, Drive 95, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA Tish Desjardins, cell: 828-380-1452, tishdes@yahoo.com

AT-MST *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader(s) at corner of US 25/70 & NC 208
Hike along nine of the most scenic miles on the A.T., featuring two shelters, a historic grave site and beautiful views from atop Big Butt. After the Jerry's Cabin shelter, we'll turn left and go down the Fork Ridge Trail to the parking lot in the Carolina area. Car shuttle. Topo(s): Greystone; also NatGeo map #782

Saturday No. A1701-256        Mar. 11
Moore Cove Figure-S Loop  *9:00 AM
Hike 7, Drive 70, 1050 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Jan Onan, 828-698-3237, cell: 828-606-5188, janonan@bellsouth.net

P400, WC100 *Form carpool at Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets and meet leader(s) at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 10:30 AM. This moderate double-loop trail follows two overgrown USFS paths. Expect a lot of scrambling over blowdowns, a couple of short steep sections and two minor creek crossings. There is one good view of Looking Glass Rock, several waterfalls, and other views visible only when there are no leaves on the trees. Topo(s): Shining Rock; also NatGeo map #780

Sunday No. A1701-519        Mar. 12
Raven Cliff Falls, Cathedral Rock, Dismal Trail Loop  *9:00 AM
Hike 9, Drive 95, 2300 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA
Norm Sharp, 864-268-9409, norm.sharp@att.net

WC100 *Form carpool at Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets and meet leader(s) at Caesars Head State Park visitors Center at 10:00 AM. Note: First day of DST. This scenic loop hike features waterfalls and spectacular stone cliffs. From the Raven Cliff parking lot, we take the #13 Gum Gap Trail, then #14 Naturaland Trust Trail descending down to the #12 Dismal Trail where we will cross the rushing waters of Matthews Creek, ascend the dramatic Cathedral Cliff alongside and over Raven Cliff Falls and back to cars. 2 person State Park fee.

Second meeting place: Bi-Lo parking lot at Pisgah Forest at 8:30 AM. Topo(s): Table Rock; also Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area trail map

Sunday No. A1701-712        Mar. 19
Purchase Knob -Hemphill Bald  *8:30 AM
Hike 7, Drive 95, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Laura Frisbie, 828-337-5845, laurafrisbie@gmail.com

900M *First meeting place: Home Depot off Exit 44 of I-40. This hike offers a good workout with beautiful scenery. We will hike from the Science Center access road via Ferguson Cabin to our lunch spot at Hemphill Bald in the GSMNP, and return via the Science Center. Second meeting place: Exon station on US 276 just off Exit 20 of I-40 at 9:00 AM, but contact leader first. Topo(s): Dellwood, Bunches Bald; also NatGeo map #317

Saturday No. A1701-555        Mar. 25
MST: NC 80 to Woods Mountain  *8:30 AM
Hike 10, Drive 90, 2600 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Brenda Worley, 828-684-8656, cell: 828-606-7297, bdjworley@gmail.com
AT-MST: *Form carpool at Westgate and meet leader(s) at Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 at 8:50 AM. Hike on a little-traveled section of the eastbound MST north of NC 80 to Woods Mountain, with seldom-seen views of the Blacks and Mount Mitchell. Topo(s): Celo, Little Switzerland

Sunday No. A1701-226        Mar. 26
Chastean Creek – Becks Bald  *8:00 AM
Hike 12.1, Drive 120, 3000 ft. ascent, Rated AA-AA
Mike Knies, 828-628-6712, knies06@att.net

900M *First meeting place: Home Depot off Exit 44 of I-40. This hike starts in the Smokemont Campground of GSMNP and goes up along scenic Chastean Creek to the crest of Hughes Ridge. From that point, it follows a fairly level course with great views through the late winter trees. Although the mileage is long, the park trails are well graded.

Second meeting place: Maggie Valley Post Office at 8:30 AM, but contact leader first. Topo(s): Smokemont; also NatGeo map #317

HALF-DAY SUNDAY HIKES

Newcomers are welcome, but non-members MUST call the leader before the hike to determine the requirements. Half-day hikes submitted by Gail Lamb, 828-338-0443, glamb46@gmail.com and Lee Silver, 828-668-7147, leehsilver@aol.com. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All hikes assemble at the far rear (north end) of Westgate Shopping Center near I-240 exit 213. We are not responsible for your safety. If you are not on land the Cherokee treasured long before and Carolina Mountain Trails, and also visit The World of Giant Insects (so cool!). If you are an Arboretum member, please bring your pass. Topo(s): Skyland; also NatGeo map #780 and USFS Bent Creek Trail Map

Half-Day No. H1701-320        Jan. 22
Historic Highlights on Warren Wilson Trails  *12:00 PM
Hike 5, Drive 12, 300 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Mar. 15
Renate Rikkers, 828-298-9988, rerrikkers@gmail.com

*Only meeting place: Back parking lot of Folk Art Center. We'll have a chance to combine our hike with learning about the history of the Swannanoa River Valley from a Davidson/ Alexander family descendant who still lives on land her great grandfather purchased in the 1890s. Following his death in the 1950s, his estate sold a large tract of valley land to the former Farm School, which is now Warren Wilson College. This winter hike will be on trails that take us to a number of historic landmarks and points of interest on land the Cherokee treasured long before the first white settler, Samuel Davidson, arrived. Topo(s): Oteen; also Warren Wilson College Trails Map

Half-Day No. H1701-172        Jan. 29
John Rock Loop  *12:30 PM
Hike 5, Drive 72, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Marcia Bromberg, 828-505-0471, mbromberg@yahoo.com

P400, WC100 *First meeting place: Toys-R-Us parking lot on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets. This moderate loop hike, with good views from John Rock, starts at the Fish Hatchery parking lot. Second meeting place: Fish Hatchery parking lot off FS 475 at 10:10 PM. Topo(s): Shining Rock; also NatGeo map #780

Half-Day No. H1701-347        Feb. 5
Twin Falls  *12:30 PM
Hike 6, Drive 80, 1050 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Lee Bellmap, 828 698-9394, rivergypsy@sprintmail.com

P400, WC100 *Form carpool at Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets and meet leader(s) at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 10:30 AM. This moderate double-loop trail follows two overgrown USFS paths. Expect a lot of scrambling over blowdowns, a couple of short steep sections and two minor creek crossings. There is one good view of Looking Glass Rock, several waterfalls, and other views visible only when there are no leaves on the trees. Topo(s): Shining Rock; also NatGeo map #780
In Memoriam: Lenny Bernstein

In the fall of 2016, Lenny Bernstein passed away after a long bout with cancer. He was a 21st century Renaissance man. His talents ran the gamut from devoted family man to successful business career to tackling jobs protecting our environment to published author.

For a man who did not start hiking until age 28, he made up for lost time by hiking in many national parks in the U.S., and segment-hiking the A.T. with wife Danny over 24 years. When he and Danny settled in Asheville in 2001, he quickly became involved with CMC as Secretary, VP, and two times as President, during which time the Club doubled in size.

His involvement with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy was also dear to his heart. A major success came when he organized the biennial ATC Conference at Western Carolina University in 2013. He devoted two years of his life to this monumental feat.

Let’s not forget his part in Al Gore’s Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. He was one of the writers who allowed Mr. Gore to collect the glory. Always modest about his input, it really was a BIG deal. Lenny was also a published author of Part I of an alternative history of the Revolutionary War, The Great Rebellion. Parts 2 and 3 may yet go to press. His writing group was an important part of his life.

Lenny was a multifaceted man. His intelligence, curiosity, and organizational skills allowed him to lead a rich, full and diverse life. He will be sorely missed by family and friends.

How to join the CMC
1. Go to www.carolinamountainclub.org
2. Click on Join (top left) or Join CMC! (right center).
3. You will see instructions for joining online or via mail.
   or... write to us at CMC, PO Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802
   and we’ll mail you an application

leader(s) at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 1:00 PM.
This is a moderate hike in the Pisgah National Forest, starting on the Buckhorn Gap Trail, taking the Twin Falls Bypass to view two nice waterfalls and returning on the Clawhammer Cove Trail with its beaver dam. The hike will be completed with a short walk on a Forest Service road. Note: In case of bad road conditions on US 276 in the forest, we’ll determine an alternate hike. Topo(s): Pisgah Forest; also NatGeo map #780

Hike 5, Drive 24, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Dennis Bass, 828-367-8619, dbass3607@gmail.com
*Only meeting place: Ingles on US 74-A 1-1/2
miles south of I-40 Exit 53. This hike is a loop in the Florence Nature Preserve, a 600+ acre tract in Hickory Nut Gorge. We’ll be hiking part of the hike as described in #511 to keep it to about 5 miles. We’ll take the new Yellow Diamond Trail, Blue Trail, White Trail and Red Trail to a nice overlook and return via the Blue and Yellow Trails. Topo(s): Bat Cave

Half-Day No. H1701-815 Feb. 19 Sams Gap to Street Gap on the A.T. *12:00 PM
Hike 4.6, Drive 60, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Ron Navik, 585-662-8047, ron.navik@gmail.com
AT-MST This is a pleasant section of the Appalachian Trail. After a somewhat strenuous uphill at the start of this hike, the trail levels off on a ridge that runs along the NC-TN border. We should have nice views. Topo(s): Sams Gap; also NatGeo map #782

Half-Day No. H1701-295 Mar. 5 A.T./Lovers Leap/Pump Gap/Silvermine Loop *11:00 AM
Hike 5, Drive 80, 1100 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Jack Dalton, 828-622-3704, jckdalton9@gmail.com
*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader(s) at NC parking area off US 25 along the French Broad River at 11:45 PM. A variation on hike #295, this is a loop hike heading north on the A.T. up Lovers Leap, along the ridge above Hot Springs to Pump Gap, down the Pump Gap Trail to Silvermine Campground and back to the parking area. This will be a joint hike with the Hot Springs Mountain Club. Topo(s): Hot Springs

Half-Day No. H1701-182 Mar. 12 Green River Cove *11:30 AM
Hike 5.5, Drive 75, 800 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Paula Massey, 828-299-0226, massey.paula@gmail.com
*Form carpools at Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets and meet leader(s) at NE corner of Cracker Barrel parking lot, off Exit 53 of I-26 at 12:00 noon. Note: First day of DST. This is a moderate in-and-out hike along the scenic Green River to the junction with the Pulliam Creek Trail. Expect a few early wildflowers and maybe even kayakers on the river. Topo(s): Cliffsides Mountain; also Trails of the Green River Gamelands map

Half-Day No. H1701-702 Mar. 19 DuPont Forest: Buck Forest P.L. #1 *12:00 PM
Hike 5.6, Drive 94, 680 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Bonnie Allen, 828-707-6115, Bonnie@allencats.com
We’ll see spectacular High Falls, three lakes and the site of an old DuPont film manufacturing plant where once 1000 people worked. Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 12:30 PM. Topo(s): Standingstone Mountain; also DuPont State Recreational Forest map, 2014 revision

Half-Day No. H1701-591 Mar. 26 Bent Creek Loop #13 *12:00 PM
Hike 5, Drive 6, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Stuart English, 828-384-1759, Stuart@carolinamountainclub.org
P400 *Only meeting place: Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets. A pleasant early spring walk along lesser-hiked trails and roads in Bent Creek, including Sidehill Connector, Lower Sidehill Trail, South Ridge Road, Chestnut Cove and Explorer Loop Trail. Topo(s): Skyland; also NatGeo map #780; also USFS Bent Creek Trail Map
CMC awards two for distinguished service

At our Annual Dinner, Marcia Bromberg awarded two long-time members for service to the club that extended over a significant period of time. Jack Fitzgerald was given the Distinguished Service Award for his many years on the Asheville Friday Crew, long and influential work with the Challenge Committee, service on the Council in 1997 and 1998, and years and years of hike leading and sharing his knowledge of trails and challenges with others. Jack created the waterfall challenge that we offer today and has tirelessly helped people complete this challenge.

Pete (Richard) Petersen was the leader of the Pisgah Friday Crew for many years, Councilor for Trail Maintenance for four years, and forged many agreements with the Forest Service and other entities for whom we perform maintenance. These are things that can easily be overlooked but in the long term are invaluable.

Hiking Information: CMC hikes are open to all and we welcome guests. Non-members need to call or email the hike leader to introduce themselves and find out more about the hike. All hikers are encouraged to call or email the leader if they have questions about the hike or the location of the meeting place. Hikes may be canceled by the leader due to adverse weather or dangerous roads. Minors are welcome on CMC hikes, if accompanied by a responsible adult. Pets are not allowed on CMC hikes. Hikers will carpool from the meeting places to the trailhead and back. Passengers are expected to contribute 10 cents per mile towards the driver’s operating expenses. Most CMC hikes do not require reservations. However, check the hiking schedule to determine whether a reservation is required, and if so, call or email the leader to reserve your space.

Hike leaders have the right to reject participants who are not properly equipped for the hike or who are unlikely to be able to complete the hike. All hikers are expected to follow the leader’s instructions. No one should get ahead of the leader, or lag behind the sweep, without specific permission. Hikers should obtain the leader’s permission if they wish to leave the hike before its completion.

Clothing and Equipment: CMC’s website (www.carolinamountainclub.org, click on Hiking) has a full list of day hiking needs. Most critical are water, footwear, rain gear and a first aid kit. Carry at least two quarts of liquid (water, Gatorade, juice) for a full day hike, no matter what time of year. Hiking boots are recommended for all hikes. They should be broken in before the hike. Weather changes quickly in the mountains. Even if there is no sign of rain in the morning, you need to be prepared for an afternoon shower. Your first aid kit should include any personal medication, including allergy medication, if needed. Wear layered clothing — you’ll want to take layers off during a strenuous climb or as the day proceeds, then put them back on in cooler conditions.

Responsibility for Safety: Each CMC member and guest agrees to accept personal responsibility for his or her own safety and for the safety of accompanying minors. The Club cannot ensure the safety of any participant on hikes or trail maintenance activities. Each participant agrees to hold harmless and free from blame event leaders and the CMC, its officers and members, for any accident, injury or illness which might be sustained from participating in Club hikes and other activities.

Conservation: CMC works with other organizations concerned about the protection of our natural heritage to protect trails and the hiking experience in our hiking area. Phone the Councilor for Conservation for details.

Membership: Everyone is eligible for CMC membership by joining and paying dues. To join online or by paper application, go to www.carolinamountainclub.org and click on the green Join button just below the Member Login. Choose either Join CMC online or CMC application form (pdf). Don’t have internet access? Mail a note to the CMC address requesting an application form be mailed to you. Annual dues are $20 for individuals and $30 for families. Hikers are expected to join CMC after participating in a few hikes. Some trail maintenance activities are only open to members.

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

NEXT CMC COUNCIL MEETING

When: February 14, 2017
Where: West Asheville Library
Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Info: Call Barbara at 828-460-7066 if you would like to attend. All CMC members are welcome.