We have obtained permission to hike on land that has been protected by conservation groups. We will drive up a rough road (high clearance vehicles preferred), ford a stream by car, and then hike up old forest roads to enjoy the beautiful views from Pretty Place, and then return via the same route. Topo: Standingstone Mn.

HALF-DAY NO. H0901-172
Mar. 22
John Rock Loop
12:30 PM
Hike 5, Drive 7, 1230 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Nonmembers, call leader, Lucy Pinn, 828-693-6580, 32lucette@gmail.com
P040 *Note early start time. This loop hike will pass by a dam that has been constructed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, and a pulp mill that has been operating for some time. The hike will start at the Fish Hatchery parking lot. Second meeting place: Fish Hatchery parking lot, off FS 475 at 1:10 PM.

HALF-DAY NO. H0901-046
Mar. 29
Bent Creek Loop 512, NST side
11:00 AM
Hike 5, Drive 7, Rated C-C
Nonmembers, call leader, Gerry McNab, 828-274-6057, gerrymcnab@charter.net
P040 *Note early start time. This loop hike will pass by the Biltmore Estate, and a picnic area that has been developed by the county. The hike will start at the Fish Hatchery parking lot. Second meeting place: Fish Hatchery parking lot, off FS 475 at 1:10 PM.

HIKING INFORMATION: CMC hikes are open to all and we welcome guests, but hikers are expected to inform the CMC hike leader if they are not a regular CMC participant. CMC members need to call or e-mail the hike leader to reserve their space, and if so, call or e-mail 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 go 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.carolinamtnclub.org) has full hiking gear. Most critical are water/footwear/extra nutrition 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 downpour. Your first aid kit should include personal medications including allergy medication (if needed). Stash layered clothing - you may want to layer off and add layers on as the day progresses, then put them back on in cooler conditions.

TRAIL MAINTAINANCE AND CONSTRUCTION: CMC maintains 92 miles of the Appalachian Trail, 130 miles of the Mountains To Sea Trail, and over 100 miles of other trails in the area. CMC is also active in the construction of new trails. There are a variety of ways for individuals to become involved in these activities. Phone the Councilor for Trail Maintenance for details.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY, BERNARD!

On November 1, 130 CMC members and their families gathered at The Chariot in Hendersonville for the club’s annual dinner and meeting. Five people were elected to 2- year terms to fill existing Council positions. Kathleen Haniggan has been elected as the new Councilor for Conservation, and will continue for two more years. Don Gardner will be our new Treasurer. Don has served as Councilor at Large and Chair of the Challenge Committee. He will replace Bill Newton for his work in establishing the WHOS (Work Hike On Saturday) Crew. This crew is introducing relatively new hikers to trail maintenance.

Pete Bier and Jack Fitzgerald were available to discuss their two new challenge programs: the Lookout Tower Challenge and the Waterfall Challenge, respectively. Adrienne Wallace, Superintendent of Chimney Rock State Park, gave a slide show presentation about the future of this new area for public recreation.

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

COUNCIL CORNER

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Spring Social April 25

This year our annual Spring Social will take place on April 25 at the NC Arboretum. It will feature awards of the photo contests and a slide show of the pictures. More about the social will be in the next Let’s Go, and future editions of the eNews.

Further information about regulations is available at www.carolinamtnclub.org.
Jim Ariall: Maintenance Data Clerk

Jim Ariall has volunteered to be our new Maintenance Data Clerk. He will input trail hours and work done and help generate reports. Jim is a very enthusiastic new member, an active hiker, and a regular on the Ashevillian and WHOS (Work Hike On Saturday) crews.

Jim retired from federal service on February 3, 2006, and moved to Asheville the following month. Prior to his retirement, he was employed by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) as Assistant Director for Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness. Jim is a CPA and a Certified Government Financial Manager. During his federal career, Jim also was employed by the U.S. General Accounting Office and the Department of the Navy.

Jim and his wife, Carolyn, reside in the Riceville Community. They have two adult children and a granddaughter who reside in Northern Virginia. Jim and Carolyn are natives of Toccoa, Ga. Since retiring, Jim is enjoying hiking, trail maintenance, downhill skiing and fly fishing.

Our member from Mexico City

Recently it was our great pleasure to meet Andres Sarre, a CMC member from Mexico City. We talked to Andres about his involvement with the club, Western North Carolina, and experiences he has had hiking in Mexico.

"Because I love mountains, in 1980, I was attracted by the Appalachian Mountains and fell in love with Asheville. Altitude Changes Attitude. I first joined the CMC in 1980. At that time, to become a member, you had to do some voluntary trail maintenance. I returned to the club three years ago and I try to spend some time doing trail maintenance with my friend Jorge Munoz. He visits us in Mexico also. I try to come to Western North Carolina three or four times a year and I am very happy making new friends with the club. All of you are very kind people. My favorite hike is Max Patch. I hiked it 20 years ago."

Andres leads hikes in Mexico for a club called Club de Exploraciones de Mexico A.C., www.cemac.org.mx. It was founded in 1922 by Otis McAlister and has around 800 members. Each weekend they guide five or more hikes in Mexico. We recently asked Andres about his hiking experiences and what the club does. Andres says, "We are a family of hikers, my wife and three daughters."

Thank you, Andres: kindred spirit from a faraway place.

March 31 is deadline for Photo Contest

• Theme for the contest this year is "Defining the Carolina Mountain Club Experience," and members will select the top three winners at the Spring Social, April 25, 2009 after seeing a slide show of the best entries.
• Only digital entries will be accepted, for pictures taken in 2008 or 2009.
• To qualify for entry you must be a current paid-up member of the club at the contest closing.
• Members may enter up to three pictures.
• Photos may be modestly edited... nothing wild or unnatural.
• Entries should be as large as your camera can take to assure a quality image for presentation. Check your camera’s menu to make sure you are taking the highest resolution pictures. We will resize them for projection.
• Prizes will be awarded at the Social... first, second and third.
• No entries will be accepted after March 31, 2009.
• Photos received after the closing date will not be considered as entries.
• It would be helpful if you could rename your entries to include your name in the filename of the photo... to better identify the photos as yours. If you can’t do it, I will rename them for you.
• All entries submitted may be used by the club for publicity purposes.
• Entries should be emailed to contests@citcom.net.

Hike the three-state park weekend in April

Come hike on Stone Mountain, Hanging Rock, and Pilot Mountain State Parks. You’ll walk on Stone Mountain’s 700-foot granite rock dome and see an amazing field of quartzite rock. We also have high quartzite cliffs, moderate woodland trails, and isolation in the ancient Sauratown Mountains, have high quartzite cliffs, moderate woodland trails, and isolation from other mountain ranges.

We’ll stay in well-appointed cabins for two days at Hanging Rock or you’re welcome to camp. Watch the eNews for all details on how to register. If you have questions, call or email Danny Bernstein (828-236-0192 or danny@niketothiker.com).

Harmon Den trails

The Harmon Den area below Harmon Den Mountain in the Appalachian Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest is one of the remotest places we hike. It lies deep in the Pigeon River Gorge, where the only sign of civilization is Interstate 40. During the past year the Forest Service proposed closing two trails that connect to the AT in the Harmon Den area: Rube Rock Trail and Groundhog Creek Trail. CMC and other conservation organizations advocated against closing the trails, and CMC has volunteered to maintain them. The Forest Service is now proposing to retain the trails.

This spring and late winter we will schedule two hikes to reinforce our position and continue enjoying these great trails.

A new look for Let’s Go

If this newsletter looks different it is for a good reason. Beginning this quarter we have decided to print the Let’s Go on plain white paper. The primary reason is that it increases legibility. It is also more environmentally friendly, costs less, and lets our pictures show up better. Also in this newsletter we have inserted a Communications Survey. This survey asks about our three avenues of communication: this newsletter, the eNews, and our website. We have been doing the newsletter for three years and it has been a great pleasure, but how do you feel about it? The newsletter is the largest single yearly expense of our club’s budget, costing around $4000 annually. The deadline for this survey is January 15, 2009. Send the completed survey to Attn: Stuart English Carolina Mountain Club P.O. Box 68 Asheville, N. C. 28802

Send further comments that you may have on a separate piece of paper, or email me at stuengo@citcom.net.

2008 Challenge completers

The South Beyond 6000 is a challenge program that encourages hikers to climb 40 peaks with elevations over 6000 feet. This year we hope to see patch-rewards for completing the SB6K: David Booker Bland, Jr., R. Michael Booker, Jennifer Daniels, Michael Booker, Andrew (Andy) Jones, Linda Jones, Mike Prince, and Joseph K. Sanders.

Next year, we hope to see patch-rewards for completers of the new Lookout Tower and Waterfall Challenges.
This trip features a variety of hikes, some in the Pisgah National Forest, with great views from both. Starting at the Fish Flirtch, we'll have our major climb up to Craggy Pinnacle and then on to Craggy Rock for lunch. We'll enjoy the view here before joining John for a second meeting place, Pisgah Fish Flirtch at 4:00 PM. Shining Rock.

ALL DAY NO. A0901-636
March 29
Covey – Bennett Gap – Pressey Cove Loop 7:00 AM Hike 8, Drive 75, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated B-B ashok.kads@sbcglobal.net 828-931-1119, ashek.kads@mcalchi.com 
*Note early start time. This hike features a couple of hard rock faces in the Pisgah National Forest, with great views from both. Starting at the Fish Flirtch, we’ll have our major climb up to Craggy Pinnacle and then on to Craggy Rock for lunch. We’ll enjoy the view here before joining John for a second meeting place, Pisgah Fish Flirtch at 4:00 PM. Shining Rock.

HALF-DAY SUNDAY HIKES
Newcomers are welcome, but non-members MUST call beforehand to make reservations. All hikes are limited to the number of hikers the requirements. Half-day hikes submitted by Lucy Prin, 321creative@gmail.com, 828-693-6390. Driving distance is round-trip from Hot Springs. All hikes assemble at the east end of the Westgate Shopping Center near Exit 3B of I-240 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. If it’s not possible for a hiker to go on the regularly scheduled hike, it may be possible to accompany the hike leader when the hike is scheduled to meet. Hikes have second meeting places as described in hike listings.

HALF-DAY NO. H0901-295 Jan. 4 Puho Gap, AT Loop 12:30 PM Hike 10, Drive 120, 3200 ft. ascent, Rated C-B Nonmembers, call leader, Dan Walton, 828-654-9904, downhogg@bellsouth.net 
*Note early start time. From Hot Springs we will ascend the Puho Gap Trail to the AT and then we will go south on the AT with Lowers Loop with outstanding views of the French Broad River, then hike back to Hot Springs.

HALF-DAY NO. H0901-407 Jan. 12 Laurel Mountain Trail 10:30 AM Hike 3, Drive 30, 800 ft. ascent, Rated C-C Nonmembers, call leader, Craig Goodman, 828-684-9703, greggoodman@bellsouth.net 
*Note early start time. This hike starts at the Destination Center Parking Lot at the MST blue blaze access. This includes the new 1.4 mile loop passing through the BRP Headquarters Building, then continuing up the BRP near US 74 to the Sugarloaf Gap Trail. This hike will be going to Triple and High Falls, and then we will proceed on to Lake Julia. After lunch at Lake Julia we will go to the old airotive, homestead, and then beautiful Bridal Veil Falls. Second meeting place: Bi-Lu at Pisgah Forest State Park. 

HALF-DAY NO. H0901-141 Jan. 14 Big Laurel River Hike 7, Drive 60, 300 ft. ascent, Rated C-C Becky Elston, 828-745-1898, bekelston@cytechusa.com Trail follows Big Laurel River to the confluence with the Broad River. A pleasant hike through the woods, steady 1700 ft. ascent to the 4370-foot summit of Steely Mountain. For information, contact John Gallimore, kearloco@comcast.net. For hiking all 40 peaks above 6000’, For information, contact Don Gardner, gardog3@bellsouth.net. For hiking all 40 peaks above 6000’, For information, contact Don Gardner, gardog3@bellsouth.net. For hiking all 40 peaks above 6000’, For information, contact Don Gardner, gardog3@bellsouth.net. For hiking all 40 peaks above 6000’, For information, contact Don Gardner, gardog3@bellsouth.net.
Tandy Gap – AT – Lovers Loop – Pump Gap loop

This hike will cover a series of trails in the Balsam Mountain Range. We’ll hike up and down through some beautiful woods on the Tandy Ridge trail.

Second meeting place: Ingles Parking lot from Balsam Slope on NC 191 at 8:45 AM. Hike 9, Drive 7, 2300 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA. Tom Dolan, 828-222-4277, tomj222@charter.net

Note later start time. This hike is a late winter hike to see the growth of the Trilliums and other Spring wildflowers.

Tandy Gap Rd. from the Bent Creek side via Explorer loop, then turn downhill past beautiful Rainbow Falls. We will hike up the Noland Divide trail to Deep Gap, across the dam to Lake Julia. After lunch at Lake Julia we will hike back to the cars.

Second meeting place: back of Post Office parking lot at 8:30 AM, but meeting place: Pisgah Ranger Station at 10:40 AM.

This was a longtime favorite of the scouts at Camp Daniel Boone years ago when the later start time turns out to be earlier due to higher elevations! We’ll hike part of the Foothills Trail in NC and SC, featuring one of the region’s best and most beautiful car parking lots. We will begin at the Upper Whitewater Falls parking lot, hike to the footbridge over the Thompson River. We’ll partially retrace our steps, then take the side trail to Lower Whitewater Falls, and finish at the Duke Power Co. Bad Creek parking lot. Short car hike to Lower Whitewater Falls parking lot at 9:00 AM.afil:Context: additional features and nice views.

ALL DAY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY HIKES

All-day hikes submitted by Bruce Bente, 828-684-3855, bdbente@bellsouth.net (rescheduled from October) From Bee Tree Gap to Cape Hatteras. We’ll get up early on MST South, then get on Snowball trout over high rocks (Hawkhill Mt.) to Snowball trout tower site or view. We’ll return at MST South.

ALL DAY NO. A0901-001
Jan. 11
Case Camp – Seaside Ridge Loop 8:00 AM hike or drive 9, Drive 400, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated A-A

DC Mtns.

Jan. 30
Dupont Rocky Knob (strenuous) 8:30 AM

Hike 9, Drive 400, 3400 ft. ascent, Rated A-A/A-

U.S. Forest Service Map

Note later start time. This hike goes through Big Piney and West Ridge trails, then take the manhood over to Rocky Knob for lunch. We’ll return via the Rocky Knob to the Old Toll Rd. to Greybeard Trail. Topo: Montreat

ALL DAY NO. A0901-631
Jan. 14
Dupont Forest Hooker Flats P.L. 8:30 AM

Hike 9, Drive 80, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B

F400

Note later start time. This hike is a moderate hike through some nice views. We will see some beautiful old growth forest with the views of the Black Mtns. and surrounding areas. About half of the hike will be on trail, the rest is on a steep section and two minor creek crossings. We will hike up to the AT and then retreat our steps to Tanyard Gap. We’ll climb up to 4286 ft. Black Mtn. and Chimney, following an old logging railroad suspension bridges and a couple of unusual cascades. On our return, we’ll take some

ALL DAY NO. A0901-632
Jan. 31
Cantrell Lodge History Hike 8:30 AM

Hike 9, Drive 55, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated B-B

Danny Bernstein, 828-236-0192, janonan@bellsouth.net

Note later start time. This hike is a moderate hike through some nice views. We will see some beautiful old growth forest with the views of the Black Mtns. and surrounding areas. About half of the hike will be on trail, the rest is on a steep section and two minor creek crossings. We will hike up to the AT and then retreat our steps to Tanyard Gap. We’ll climb up to 4286 ft. Black Mtn. and Chimney, following an old logging railroad suspension bridges and a couple of unusual cascades. On our return, we’ll take some

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DC Mtns.

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Dupont Rocky Knob (strenuous) 8:30 AM

Hike 9, Drive 400, 3400 ft. ascent, Rated A-A/A-

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