

Hike • Save Trails • Make Friends

Carolina Mountain Club eNews



November 2024

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, the Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) members have been stepping up in extraordinary ways, offering help to fellow members and their communities. The resilience, cooperation, and service ethic of CMC volunteers have been on full display, from clearing debris to restoring homes and power.

Bev McDowell's story is just one example. After posting on Facebook about a massive oak tree that had fallen onto her roof, Bill Sanderson from the CMC's Search and Rescue (SAR) team reached out to help. Bev, who has been training with CMC/SAR for almost three years, was overwhelmed by the support. Eight people worked for six full hours to clear the limbs and reveal the damage for the insurance adjuster and roofer. Although her home was damaged, she and her husband are safe, thanks to the quick action of their CMC friends.



Tom Belt, another CMC member, also experienced the power of the club's camaraderie. When he returned from overseas to find his power out and a massive tree on his power line, he turned to fellow Thursday trail crew member Ben Kickert. Ben, a skilled sawyer, quickly removed the tree with the help of another CMC member, Mark Goldstein. Their teamwork not only restored power to Tom's home but also to four neighboring households, all thanks to the swift collaboration between CMC members and the utility crew.

Meanwhile, the Asheville Friday Crew got back to work clearing trees in Black Mountain with the Red Truck Men at the Railyard. They spent the day tackling large downed trees and root balls, sawing and removing debris. With expert sawyers Bill Sanderson and Carrie Tweeten leading the way, they managed to clear one yard, leaving behind a massive pile of debris for pickup.



CMC and SAR member Nicolas Nouvel gathered a team of neighbors to clean and repair the Lake Louise playground. This allowed the Public Works crews to focus on clearing roads and larger projects.

CMC members aren't just helping each other; they're also making a difference in their broader communities. Through partnerships like the one with the Equal Plates Project (EPP), CMC is supporting local farms like Wildwood Herbal, which sustained tree damage during the storm. Despite the challenges, Wildwood's greenhouses remain intact, enabling them to continue providing fresh, nourishing meals to underserved communities. Since the storm, EPP has served over 5,500 meals, and CMC's connections with these efforts highlight the wide-reaching impact of their support.

Carolina Mountain Club members are coming together to rebuild and support one another during these tough times. Whether it's clearing trees, restoring power, or helping feed the community, CMC's spirit of service is stronger than ever. If you'd like to join us in these efforts, please contact us at volunteer@carolinamountainclub.org.



Carolina Mountain Clubs is the oldest and largest hiking and trail maintenance organization in the Southeastern United States. As a member-run volunteer organization, we embody the spirit of community and shared passion for the outdoors, welcoming everyone who wishes to participate in its activities.

Leading over 200 hikes per year, the club maintains more than 400 miles of trails in Western North Carolina, including 94 miles of the Appalachian Trail and 150 miles of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

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Carolina Mountain Club | P.O. Box 68
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