

P.O. Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802 • www.carolinamountainclub.org • e-mail: cmcinfo@carolinamountainclub.org

Paul Dickens and the Wilderness Crew

Becky Smucker and Bill Newton formed a new maintenance crew in the spring of 2008. Since then it has evolved a great deal, and Paul Dickens has become Becky's back-up

team leader and important cog in the machinery. We thought the best way to update the progress of this innovative crew was to talk with Paul Dickens.

through the Middle Prong Wilderness in 2007, I hiked other trails in the Middle Prong that were becoming overgrown and almost impassible from years of maintenance neglect. Something had to be done. I started by recruiting family members to help brush out the Green Mountain trail that connected to my section of the MST. At about the same time, Becky Smucker started the Saturday Wilderness Crew to meet two needs – to provide an opportunity for CMC members who work weekdays to do trail maintenance on Saturday and to address the serious need for trail reclamation in the Middle Prong and Shining Rock Wilderness areas.



The Wilderness Crew, all certified crosscut sawyers, from left are Wayne Steinmetz, Becky Smucker, Mike Goodman and Paul Dickens. Mike is holding a crosscut saw.

How did you get involved in trail maintenance and the CMC?

In summer of 2007, my wife and I hiked the Big Butt Trail near Mt Mitchell. Parts of that trail were terribly overgrown with blackberries, almost impassible. I found the CMC website and made a trail problem report. Shortly afterwards, I received an e-mail from the Asheville Friday Trail Crew asking if I would like to help them clear the blackberry mess. I took a day off from work, went out and helped clear the Big Butt Trail and really enjoyed it. That led to joining the CMC and then signing up as a section maintainer on the MST in the Middle Prong Wilderness.

How did you get involved in the CMC Wilderness Crew?

It was a confluence of opportunity and need. After I became the section maintainer of part of the MST

I met Becky and the Wilderness Crew in the fall of 2008 on a trip to brush out the Haywood Gap trail in the Middle Prong. I was hooked and have participated in the Wilderness Crew since then. Wilderness means hand tools only – no weed eaters or chain saws. We use hedge shears, swing blades, loppers, axes and cross
continued on page 7

COUNCIL CORNER

It seems like a very long time ago when our club decided that we needed a new website and we set out on that course. After some growing pains, we feel that our website is becoming the functional, user friendly, colorful wealth of information that we hoped it would.



I just paid for the annual dinner online and renewed my membership there as well. I was immediately sent two email receipts for those transactions. The new system should help our hike schedulers avoid some of the tedious, repetitive and error-prone aspects of the job and focus more on finding good hikes and matching them up with hike leaders. It's going to be very easy for hike leaders to turn in hike reports. They will appear immediately online, as do the hours and issues reported by trail maintainers.
 We have received excellent tech sup-

port from Nathan and Lynn Ebanks from Stratos Digital. But the biggest reason for the success of our website is the same reason we have been a successful hiking club since 1923. We have a great base of dedicated, hardworking volunteers that have made it happen. Sometimes a hike is too long and tough to be done alone. A group of people working together can make that hike seem easy. Individually we seem to be a group of many disparate personalities. But we can work together and accomplish great things. We've been doing it almost 90 years.
 – Stuart English

Club historian Pete Steurer keeps our records

Pete Steurer is one of our most important members that perhaps not many people know. Becky Smucker arranged an evening event several years ago that involved visiting the CMC history collection at the UNCA library. We need to retain our awareness of this. We recently got in touch with Pete and he had these words for us:

Harry Truman once said, "The only thing new in the world is the history you do not know." You may get to know some new things by discovering our Club's rich and diverse history.

CMC was organized in 1923. In these nearly 90 years, our Club has been a significant part of our local heritage and has also been a national influence in promoting and protecting the mountains of North Carolina. Four of our members were so prominent that they have mountains over 6,000 feet named in their honor. Others have major trails named for them. Some have done so many things over many years and have carried us on their shoulders for the next generation. We are currently a thriving Club of more than 1,000 members.

But we have also struggled. One time the Club shut down for almost three years. Two times our Club was so small that the entire

Archival *Let's Go* hike report

An excerpt from the 1st Quarter *Let's Go* from 1977...

"Heartbreak Ridge Lives Up to its Name"

This was a half-day hike in December near Andrews Geysers in McDowell County. Five hikers were ahead of the rest and went beyond the regular stopping point at the top of the ridge. It seemed safe enough and the trail was well defined. The rest... returned to their cars at 5:30 and eight remained after the other cars left. Five members were still unaccountable for: Ray Ertzberger, Jim Roddy, Dottie Burton, Don Harrison, and Dana Smith. Only Smith had an adequate coat. Ed Dunn and Gerry McNabb walked in the dark partway back up the trail at 7 PM to do some shouting when the others were not back by then. The decision was made to call the Rescue Squad. They made their headquarters in Brookside Church. By 10:45 all 23 members of the squad were on hand ... McNabb and Dunn were ready to lead a group of rescuers up the ridge where the five had last been seen. As soon as they started they were called back ... it was 11:20. The lost five had gotten off the return trail and had dropped off the opposite side of the ridge which took them 7-10 miles further than they had planned. Although they had no matches or flashlights, there was a full moon, there was no wind, the temperature was only 30, and they had plenty of snacks. The incident can serve to remind us how dangerous our mountains can be...

membership could have sat in someone's living room. Several times we had declining membership due to national issues, changing club goals,

and "family" feuds.

The large majority of our Club's history is preserved in the Special Collections room at the D. Hiden Ramsey Library at UNCA. If you have access to the internet, you can search their systems to discover what is available and even look at scanned documents and photographs from years past. Or you can arrange to visit UNCA and look at the actual documents. A smaller portion of our history can be found on the shelves of the North Carolina Reference section of Pack Library and in their Special Collections archive.

This year marks my 30th year as a member of CMC. I became the unofficial club historian in 1992, when on my second duty as a CMC councilor, I was asked to research and write a history of the Club to celebrate our 70th anniversary. I became the official historian in 2002 when long-time member Bernard Elias had the foresight to arrange for the safe preservation of our collection at UNCA. Check out our history at: http://toto.lib.unca.edu/findings/mss/CMC/default_carolina_mountain_club.htm Maybe your future will be changed by what you learn there from the past.



From the Skinny Dip Falls hike earlier this summer, this is a view from Graveyard Ridge. Always respect your environment out here, never take it for granted.

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.

Monday

Barth Brooker, barthb@bellsouth.net

Monday Burnsville Crew

John Whitehouse,
johnwhitehouse@frontier.com

Wednesday Waynesville West*

Larry Sobil, lsobil@bellsouth.net

Thursday Asheville Crew

Bill Falender, billfalender@hotmail.com

Friday Asheville*

Skip Sheldon, shelhalla@bellsouth.net

Friday Pisgah

Pete (R) Petersen, roap@aol.com

Wilderness Crew (Saturday bimonthly)*

Becky Smucker, bjsmucker@gmail.com

Saturday quarterly*

Les Love, lesrlove55@gmail.com

MST sections

Barth Brooker, barthb@bellsouth.net

Les Love, lesrlove55@gmail.com

Pete (A) Petersen,

arpetersen11@morrisbb.net

Larry Sobil, lsobil@bellsouth.net

AT sections

Tim Carrigan, tim@newprisim.com

HIKE SCHEDULE Fourth Quarter 2012

Hike Ratings

First Letter Distance	Second Letter Elevation Gain
AA: Over 12 miles	AA: Over 2,000 ft.
A: 9-12 miles	A: 1,500-2,000 ft.
B: 6-9 miles	B: 1,000-1,500 ft.
C: Under 6 miles	C: Under 1,000 ft.

All hikes assemble at the far rear (north end) of Westgate Shopping Center near I-240 exit 3B unless otherwise noted.

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.

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.

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, pjbarr@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, pjbarr@gmail.com

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

WEDNESDAY HIKES

Wednesday hikes submitted by Ann Gleason, 828-859-9387, gleason.ann@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, and start times may vary. *Times listed are departure times – arrive early.*

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-383 **Oct. 3**
DuPont State Forest - Fawn Lake *8:30 AM

Hike 8, Drive 25, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Sawako Jager, 828-687-2547, Baiko70@aol.com
***Form carpools at Westgate, and meet hike leader at Pisgah Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM.** Have you hiked the Reasonover Creek Trail recently? The trail is improved and no more wet creek-crossing is necessary. Here is an opportunity to hike to two lakes, Lake Julia and Fawn Lake and a side trip to Bridal Veil Falls. An ideal hike destination to see the autumn colors! Bring your camera with you.
Topo: Standingstone Mountain

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-779 **Oct. 10**

Devil's Courthouse – Mt Hardy – Buckeye Gap *9:00 AM
Hike 7, Drive 90, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119, cell: 828-674-1374, ashok.kudva@att.net

SB6K, P400 *Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at BRP Cold Mtn. Overlook at 9:40 AM. *Wilderness hike, limited to ten hikers—call

SATURDAY WORK DAY

For the Saturday MST Trail Building Work Days in 2012 meet at 8:30 at the Home Depot at the Enka-Candler Exit 44 off of I-40. The last workday of the year is October 27. As in the past, we will be back in Asheville by 3:00. Call Les Love at 828-658-1489 (lesrlove55@gmail.com) to verify date.

leader for reservation. This new one-way CMC hike in the MST month hopes to capture peak fall color in addition to mountain vistas from Devil's Courthouse Overlook, Mt. Hardy, an open meadow and a scenic walk along an unmaintained but reasonable path on Fork Ridge. We will park cars at Devil's Courthouse Overlook and Rough Butt Overlook on BRP and the leader will decide the hike direction based on morning weather conditions for views. Car shuttle. Topo: Sam Knob, also NatGeo Map #780 and USFS Shining Rock & Middle Prong map

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-437 **Oct. 17**
Slate Rock Creek - Pilot Cove *8:30 AM

Hike 5, Drive 40, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Jack Fitzgerald, 828-685-2897, suejackfitz@bellsouth.net

P400 *Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Pisgah Ranger Station at 9:05 AM. A moderate hike up the beautiful Slate Rock Creek trail, then to overlook on Pilot Cove Loop Trail for lunch. Lots of fall colors. Short car shuttle. Topo: Shining Rock

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-089 **Oct. 24**

AT: Max Patch to Lemon Gap and Return 8:00 AM

Hike 11, Drive 100, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Brenda Worley, 828-684-8656, clworley@bellsouth.net

We'll see the new AT shelter built by the CMC, along a beautiful section of the AT, beginning and ending at Max Patch with one of WNC's most stunning views. **Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop at exit 24 off I-40 at 9:00 AM.** Topo: Lemon Gap

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-142 **Oct. 31**

Jerry Miller Trail to AT 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

***Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at US 25/NC 208 intersection at 9:15 AM.** We'll hike up the Jerry Miller Trail to Bearallow Gap and right on the AT to Andrew Johnson Mtn., then right on the Fork Ridge Trail down to FS 111 and a short walk to the cars. Topo: Greystone; also NatGeo map #782

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-308 **Nov. 7**

Ox Creek Road to Rich Knob 9:00 AM

Hike 8.5, Drive 75, 1850 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Laura Frisbie, 828-337-5845, laurafrisbie@gmail.com

A pleasant gradual climb in the peaceful woods. We'll hike the MST from Ox Creek Road and climb to Rich Knob via Rattlesnake Lodge. **Second meeting place: Craven Gap at 9:20 AM.** Topo: Craggy Pinnacle

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-327 **Nov. 14**
Ridgecrest Ramble **9:00 AM**
Hike 6.5, Drive 40, 1600 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Ruth Hartzler, 828-251-0886,
ruthmtn@charter.net

A good cold weather hike in the Ridgecrest area, following the Rattlesnake, Rhododendron and Adventure Trails as they meander along ridge-lines, offering a number of scenic overlooks, including Rattlesnake, Copperhead and Lookout Mtns. **Second meeting place: Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 at 9:20 AM.** Topo: Montreat

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-778 **Nov. 21**
Bracken Mtn. - Brushy Creek ***9:00 AM**
Hike 7.5, Drive 70, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Stu English, 828-883-2447, stuengo@citcom.net
***Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:30 AM.** This will be CMC's first hike in the new Bracken Mountain Recreation Area near Brevard. This hike will include the Bracken Mtn. and Brushy Creek Trails. Topo: Rosman

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-307 **Nov. 28**
MST around Asheville/West Portion **9:00 AM**
Hike 10.7, Drive 15, 1450 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
Barbara Morgan, 828-738-3395,
barbc129@gmail.com

We will hike on the MST around Asheville, a pleasant MST section that is often overlooked. We'll hike from the Blue Ridge Parkway Destination Center to French Broad Overlook. Car shuttle. Topo: Asheville

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-780 **Dec. 5**
Montreat, Slatey Cliffs, Greybeard ***8:10 AM**
Hike 5, Drive 44, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated C-A
Ames Tryon, tryonaf@charter.net
***Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 at 8:30.** This will be a new hike in Montreat that will explore the old Slatey Cliffs trail. The hike will follow the Greybeard trail and ascend steeply up a bushwhack to connect with the West Ridge trail and go to Greybeard and down to the parking area. Weather could be a factor. Topo: Montreat

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-492 **Dec. 12**
Annual Cookie Hike,
Bent Creek Ramble ***8:30 AM**
Hike 7, Drive 10, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Ken and Carol Deal, 828-281-4530,
cnkdeal@charter.net

P400 *Only meeting place: Ingles parking lot on NC 191 across from Biltmore Square Mall. Moderate loop hike in the Bent Creek area. We will start from the parking area for Cold Knob Road (FS 479H off Bent Creek Road beyond Lake Powhatan). Using a variety of short sections of trails, we will hike up to the MST, follow it past Sleepy Gap, and descend by the Stambaugh Trail to the Lake Powhatan picnic area for lunch and a cookie feast. Bring cookies to share. The

afternoon walk back to the cars is approximately 2 miles. Topo: Asheville; also NatGeo map #780 and Bent Creek Trail Map.

ALTERNATE HIKE
WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-492 **Dec. 12**
Cookie Hike, shorter version ***10:00 AM**
Hike 4, Drive 10, Rated C-C
Diane Stickney, 828-254-9054
***Only meeting place: Ingles parking lot on NC 191 across from Biltmore Square Mall.** We will start on the Lake Powhatan Connector and hike to the picnic area to meet the other group for lunch and to share cookies. After lunch we will return to the cars.

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-282 **Dec. 19**
Black Mountain - Buckhorn Gap - Twin Falls ***8:00 AM**
Hike 9, Drive 62, 3000 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA+
Brenda Worley, 828-684-8656,
clworley@bellsouth.net
P400 *Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 8:30 AM. From the trailhead we will climb steadily up to 4286 ft Black Mtn and Clawhammer Mtn and then to Buckhorn Gap and Twin Falls, ending at FS 477. A great winter hike. Car shuttle. Topo: Pisgah Forest, Shining rock; also NatGeo. map #780

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-279 **Dec. 26**
Montreat Trestle Grade - Pot Cove Trail **10:00 AM**
Hike 8, Drive 35, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Heidi Swann, cell: 828-280-6527,
myfriendheidi@gmail.com
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. **Second meeting place: Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 in Black Mountain at 10:20 AM.** Topo: Montreat; also Montreat Trail Map.

ALL DAY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 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 near I-240 exit 3B UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. Some hikes will have second meeting places, and starting times may vary.

WEEKEND NO. A1204-776 **Oct. 5-7**
Mountain Treasures Camporee #3
Ted Snyder, 864-638-3686,
tedsnyderjr@bellsouth.net
and Jim Reel, 828-738-0751 (cell), 828-443-2532, jimr57@yahoo.com

The third in the series of car camping weekends will feature eight hikes into a cluster of nearby Mountain Treasures. Four Inventoried Roadless Areas will be explored. We will camp at the Curtis Creek Campground, just east of Old Fort, N.C. There will be a group Bar-B-Que supper Saturday night, for which reservations are required. The campground cannot be reserved, but we request you let Ted know if you plan to camp. For details go to the CMC website and look under "Hiking" for "Camporees." The website gives driving directions, hike descriptions, and plans for the Bar-B-Que. Any questions should be put to Ted or Jim.

SATURDAY NO. A1204-779 **Oct. 13**
Devil's Courthouse - Mt. Hardy - Buckeye Gap ***10:00 AM**
Hike 7, Drive 80, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119, cell: 828-674-1374,
ashok.kudva@att.net
SB6K, P400 *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at BRP Cold Mtn. Overlook at 10:40 AM. Wilderness area, limit 10, so contact leader for reservation. This new one-way CMC hike in the MST month hopes to capture peak fall color in addition to mountain vistas from Devil's Courthouse Overlook, Mt. Hardy, an open meadow and a scenic walk along an unmaintained but reasonable path on Fork Ridge. We will park cars at Devil's Courthouse and Rough Butt Overlooks and the leader will decide the hike direction based on morning weather conditions for best views. Car shuttle. Topos: Sam Knob, also NatGeo Map #780 and USFS Shining Rock & Middle Prong map

SUNDAY NO. A1204-364 **Oct. 14**
Buckhorn Gap - Club Gap Loop **8:30 AM**
Hike 11, Drive 80, 1320 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
Carroll Koeppinger, 828-667-0723,
carrollkoepp@bellsouth.net
P400 This will be a loop from the Pink Beds parking area to the gauging station, then over the S. Mills and Buckhorn Gap Trails to Buckhorn Gap for lunch at the shelter. Next we'll follow the Black Mtn. Trail to Club Gap and back to our cars. Topos: Pisgah Forest, Shining Rock; also NatGeo map #780

SUNDAY NO. A1204-781 **Oct. 21**
Shinbone Trail **8:00 AM**
Hike 9, Drive 110, 1700 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Jeff McGurk, cell: 864-921-6469,
jbsbestfan@hotmail.com
Near Erwin, Tennessee, we will drive about nine miles up a gravel road to the trailhead near Indian Grave Gap. This hike follows old logging roads in various forms of repair and disrepair and is a loop with the first 1.5 miles repeated on the way back. This trail will lead us to a rock outcropping known as Eagles Nest, where we will have first class views of the Nolichucky River and Gorge from 900 feet above the river. The view should be

spectacular with the fall foliage. Topo: Huntedale; also NatGeo map #783

SATURDAY NO. A1204-372 **Oct. 27**
Big Fork Ridge – Rough Fork Loop 8:30 AM
Hike 9.3, Drive 95, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Holly Demuth (NC Director of Friends of the Smokies) and Danny Bernstein, 828-236-0192, danny@hikertohiker.com

900M Cataloochee was one of the most successful communities in the Smokies. From the end of the Cataloochee Valley, we'll hike up Big Fork Ridge Trail, then turn right onto Caldwell Fork Trail. We'll pass by record-size tulip poplar trees, then go downhill on Rough Fork Trail. About a mile from the end of the hike, we'll stop at the Woody House, a well-appointed framed house. On the way out of the valley, we'll stop at the Palmer Chapel Cemetery. **Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop, Exit 24 off I-40 at 9:00 AM, but contact leader first.** Topo: Dellwood; also NatGeo. map #317

SUNDAY NO. A1204-782 **Oct. 28**
Thomas Divide – Mings Mill 8:00 AM
Hike 11.5, Drive 125, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
Mike Knies, 828-628-6712, knies06@att.net
900M A scenic fall hike on the Thomas Divide, Newton Bald and Mings Creek trails. Should be good leaf color along the way. Note: 4000 ft. descent. **Second meeting place: Maggie Valley P.O. at 8:30 AM, but contact leader first.** Topo: Clingmans Dome, Smokemont; also NatGeo map #317

SATURDAY NO. A1204-204 **Nov. 3**
Max Patch Ramble 9:00 AM
Hike 7.5, Drive 100, 1100 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Lenny Bernstein, 828-236-0192, lsberns@att.net
We will do a scenic hike around Max Patch, following the AT north to visit the Roaring Fork shelter recently built by CMC, then returning on the Buckeye Ridge Trail and AT over Max Patch and back to our cars. Expect spectacular views from the summit of Max Patch. Mark Wenger, the Executive Director of the ATC, will join us on this hike. **Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop at Exit 24 off I-40 at 9:30 AM, but contact leader first.** Topo: Lemon Gap

SUNDAY NO. A1204-427 **Nov. 4**
Soapstone Ridge *8:30 AM
Hike 10, 1200 ft. ascent, Drive 90, Rated A-B
Les and Catherine Love, 828-658-1489, lesrlove55@gmail.com
P400 *NOTE: This is the first day of EST. We will begin at the gauging station and follow a mild bushwhack up Soapstone Ridge to the Black Mountain Trail, which we'll follow to our lunch spot at Buckhorn Gap Shelter. We'll then take the Buckhorn Gap trail down to the S. Mills River trail and back to our cars. **Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:05 AM.** Topos: Pisgah Forest, Shining Rock; also NatGeo. map #780

SATURDAY NO. A1204-295 **Nov. 10**
Pump Gap Loop and AT 9:30 AM
Hike 7, Drive 80, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Bev MacDowell, cell: 828-777-5806, bevmacdowell@charter.net
From Silvermine parking area, we'll follow the Pump Gap loop to the second AT crossing, then follow the AT past Lovers Leap down to and along the French Broad River back to our cars. **Second meeting place: trailhead at 10:15 AM.** Topo: Hot Springs

SUNDAY NO. A1204-214 **Nov. 11**
Kimsey Creek Trail – Standing Indian Circuit 8:00 AM
Hike 11, Drive 170, 2800 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Janet Martin, cell: 502-494-9309, jaykaymartin@msn.com
This great hike in the Nantahala National Forest is known for its beautiful forest, rushing streams and excellent vistas. We'll hike up the Kimsey Creek Trail to the AT at Deep Gap, and then along the AT to our lunch spot, Standing Indian. At 5498 ft., it is the highest mountain on the AT south of the Great Smoky Mountains, with outstanding views. From the summit, the hike will be down Lower Trail and Ridge Trail to loop back to the Standing Indian Campground. **Second meeting place: rest stop beyond Waynesville on US 23/74 at 8:30 AM.** Topo: Rainbow Springs; also NatGeo map #784

SUNDAY NO. A1204-326 **Nov. 18**
Pump Gap (non-AT) loop *8:00 AM
Hike 9.3, Drive 66, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Tish Desjardins, 828-380-1452, desraylet@aol.com
***Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at parking lot on US 25 at intersection with NC 208 at 8:45 AM. After the hike there will be a potluck supper in the nearby Bear River Community Lodge. Hikers are requested to contribute food for the supper. Food will be taken to a refrigerator before the hike. Please phone the leader to coordinate what food to bring.** This will be a moderate low-altitude ramble through the area between Tanyard Gap and Pump Gap. The hike won't include any of the AT; instead, we'll do all of Pump Gap Trail, connecting through woods roads and manways north and south of the AT. Topo: Hot Springs

SUNDAY NO. A1204-399 **Nov. 25**
Loop around John Rock and Cedar Rock Mtn. *8:30 AM
Hike 9, Drive 70, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Charlie Ferguson, 828-625-2677 cell: 828-424-0464, ccf108@gmail.com
P400 *Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM. Follow the Horse Cove Trail around John Rock to Cat Gap, then the Art Loeb Trail through Sandy Gap. Climb to Cedar Rock Mtn., then down to Butter Gap, and return to the Fish Hatchery via

Grogan Creek and Picklesimer Fields. Topo: Shining Rock; also NatGeo map # 780

SUNDAY NO. A1204-778 **Dec. 2**
Bracken Mtn. – Brushy Creek Trails *9:00 AM
Hike 7.5, Drive 70, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Stu English, 828-883-2447, stuengo@citcom.net
***Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:30 AM.** One of CMC's first hikes in the new Bracken Mountain Recreation Area near Brevard. This hike will include the Bracken Mtn. and Brushy Creek Trails. Topos: Rosman, Shining Rock

SUNDAY NO. A1204-783 **Dec. 9**
Lickstone Bald *8:00 AM (Mountain Treasures hike #24)
Hike 11, Drive 90, 3000 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA+
Brent Martin, 828-587-9453, brent_martin@twsg.org
***Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Jukebox Junction on US 276 at NC 215 at 8:30 AM.** Beginning at FS 97 and NC 215 (Sunburst), we will follow a series of logging roads before bushwhacking to the summit of Lickstone Bald. Topos: Sam Knob, Waynesville

SATURDAY NO. A1204-751 **Dec. 15**
Bent Creek Loop #13 (sunny side) 10:00 AM
Hike 6.5, Drive 15, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Marcia Bromberg, 828-505-0471, mwbromberg@yahoo.com
P400 This moderate hike on the sunny side of Bent Creek will combine Ledford Branch, Sidehill, Ingles Field Gap, Boundary, Green's Lick and Laurel Branch roads and trails. Expect a steep downhill on parts of Green's Lick. Short car shuttle. Topo: Dunsmore Mtn.

SUNDAY NO. A1204-271 **Dec. 16**
Chestnutwood Mountain *8:00 AM
Hike 9, Drive 70, 2700 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Jim Reel, 828-738-0751, cell: 828-443-2532, jimr57@yahoo.com
***Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at McDonald's parking lot at Exit 73 of I-40 at 8:30 AM.** We will do our major climbing before lunch on this pleasant hike past streams, two nice cascades, a glimpse of the Black Mtns., and a 25-yr.-old timber harvest in the Grandfather District. Some bushwhacking and hiking on overgrown trails. Short car shuttle. Topo: Old Fort

SUNDAY NO. A1204-361 **Dec. 23**
Bent Creek Loop #8 – Stradley Mtn. 9:00 AM
Hike 9.8, Drive 15, 2100 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Martyn Easton, cell: 828-228-0136, mneaston@me.com
Starting at the Wolf Creek parking area, we will do a loop with a couple of variations from the #361 map, following the Wolf Creek and Ledford trails to the N. Boundary Rd.; then descending via the Side Hill Trail, Lower Side Hill and

Campground connectors to Lake Powhatan and the Hardtimes connector back to the starting point. Topo: Dunsmore Mtn.

SUNDAY **Dec. 30**
NO HIKE SCHEDULED. NO HIKE LEADER AVAILABLE.

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 Bonnie Allen, 828-645-0357, bonnie@allencats.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, and start times may vary. *Times listed are departure times – arrive early.*

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-717 **Oct. 7**
Sunburst to Waterfalls ***12:00 PM**
Hike 6.2, Drive 70, 600 ft. ascent, Rated B-C
Bobbi Powers, 828-667-5419, bobbipowers@live.com
***Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Dollar General Store on US 19/23, off Exit 37 of I-40 at 12:20 PM.** We will experience a burst of fall color as we walk along beautiful FS 97, with side trips to two waterfalls. Topos: Sam Knob, Waynesville

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-325 **Oct. 14**
Rich Mountain Fire Tower ***12:30 PM**
Hike 5.2, Drive 52, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Russ and Heather Cooper, 828-484-9562, cooper.hs@charter.net
LTC *Only meeting place: Rose's parking lot (opposite McDonalds), off Exit 19 of I-26 in Weaverville. This moderate in-and-out hike features great views from the Rich Mtn. Fire Tower near Hot Springs. We follow the AT and then a short side trail to the fire tower and return via the AT. Topo: Hot Springs; also ATC TN-NC map #4

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-453 **Oct. 21**
Max Patch Loop **12:30 PM**
Hike 5.4, Drive 104, 800 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Gail Lamb, 828-275-4500, glamb46@gmail.com
Awesome 360 degree panoramic views of fall color from summit of Max Patch make this a favorite hike. **Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop I-40 off Exit 24 at 1:00 PM, but call leader first.** Topo: Lemon Gap

HALF-DAY NO. H1204 784 **Oct. 28**
Big Ivy Ramble **12:30 PM**
Hike 5.2, Drive 55, 670 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Marcia Bromberg, 828-505-0471, mwbromberg@yahoo.com
Except for the first 1.2 miles where all of the

elevation gain occurs, this is a lovely fall stroll on an old forest service road. We should see lots of color and have long views. Short car shuttle. Due to relatively steep rocky ascent at the beginning of the hike this is not one for beginners. Topos: Mt. Mitchell, Montreat

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-054 **Nov. 4**
John Rock **12:30 PM**
Hike 4, Drive 72, 900 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Jim Ariail, 828-505-0443, cell: 828-778-8355, jimairail@yahoo.com
P400 This hike goes up Old Horse Cove Trail to the top of John Rock. At the top there is a great view of Looking Glass Rock and the Fish Hatchery. **Second meeting place: Fish Hatchery Parking lot off FS 475 at 1:10 PM.** Topo: Shining Rock

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-102 **Nov. 11**
Coontree Loop ***12:30 PM**
Hike 3.7, Drive 65, 1100 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119, cell: 828-674-1374, ashok.kudva@att.net
P400 *Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at the Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 1:00 PM. This moderate loop hike going along Coontree Creek and over Coontree Mtn. is steep in places. An optional extension to Saddle Gap with a panoramic mountain vista of John Rock, Looking Glass Rock and Cedar Rock would make this hike 5.2 miles and 1400 ft ascent (Rated C-B). Topo: Shining Rock

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-785 **Nov. 18**
Duckett Fire Tower ***12:45 PM**
Hike 4.5, Drive 70, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Jack Dalton, 828-622-3704, jckdalton9@gmail.com
LTC *Form carpools at Westgate, take Patton Ave. west, then right on NC 63 (New Leicester Highway) to Trust, and meet leader at Trust Store at junction of NC 63 & NC 209 at 1:45 PM. This in-and-out hike is a joint hike with the Hot Springs Mountain Club. An uphill hike to Duckett Fire Tower. with 360-degree views of surrounding mountains, including Max Patch, Turkey Mtn. and Spring Creek Mtn. Bring maps and compass. Topos: Spring Creek, Sandy Mush

HALF-DAY **Nov. 25**
NO HIKE SCHEDULED — NO LEADER AVAILABLE

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-035 **Dec. 2**
Looking Glass Rock **11:00 AM**
Hike 5.8, Drive 70, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated C-A
Jane Laping, 828-277-7342, janelaping@sbcglobal.net
P400 A moderately difficult, well-graded trail leads to the top of this mountain with beautiful views along the way. In-and-out hike. **Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 11:30 AM.** Topo: Shining Rock

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-153 **Dec. 9**
Cove Creek /Caney Bottom ***11:20 AM**
Hike 5 Drive 75, 300 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Tom Joyce, 828-885-2152, tominbrevard@webtv.net
P400 *Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Pisgah Fish Hatchery at 12:00 PM. This is a pleasant walk in the valley below Looking Glass Rock. The trail follows a moderate grade as it wanders through the woods along a number of streams and cascades, and includes Cove Creek Falls as its feature attraction. Topo: Shining Rock

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-534 **Dec. 16**
Turkey Pen, Pounding Mill, Mullinax Loop ***11:00 AM**
Hike 6.5, Drive 55, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Charlie Ferguson, 828-625-2677, ccf108@gmail.com
P400 *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Turkey Pen Trailhead at 11:30 AM. This is a nice late-fall hike, with low elevation and close to Asheville. We'll cross the S. Mills River footbridge, then do a loop on the scenic Pounding Mill and Mullinax trails. Topo: Pisgah Forest

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-786 **Dec. 23**
Bracken Mtn. – Brushy Creek ***12:00 PM**
Hike 5.5, Drive 70, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Stuart English, 828-883-2447, cell: 828-384-1759, stuengo@citcom.net
***Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 12:30 PM.** One of CMC's first hikes into the new Bracken Mtn. Preserve near Brevard. Great winter views and several stream crossings over bridges. Should be spectacular views without leaves on the trees. Topo: Pisgah Forest

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-170 **Dec. 30**
Butter Gap Trail to Pickleshimer Fields **12:30 PM**
Hike 7, Drive 40, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Laura Frisbie, 828-337-5845, laurafrisbie@gmail.com
P400 From the Fish Hatchery parking lot, we will follow the Cat Gap Trail to its junction with the Butter Gap Trail for this in-and-out hike along Grogan Creek. **Second meeting place: Fish Hatchery at 1:10 PM.** Topo: Shining Rock



Annual Dinner November 2nd at Pack's Tavern

Our annual dinner and meeting will be held again this year in the Century Room at Pack's Tavern, 20 Spruce Street in Asheville, on Nov. 2nd. The Social Hour will start at 5:30, followed by the dinner at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:30.

Mark Wenger, Executive Director of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, will be our guest speaker.

Our website has been updated to allow members to pay for the dinner and membership renewal with a credit card. Just log in on our home page and you will see an "Annual Dinner" tab. Click on the tab and it will take you to a screen that will allow you to pay for yourself and guests. On the same page you will see a tab to renew membership.



Will one of these hikers win an award this year at the annual dinner?

Award nominations are now open

Inserted in your newsletter this quarter are two documents. One is the renewal of membership and annual dinner reservation form; the other is the Nominations Form for CMC members who have made a difference in the club. The CMC Distinguished Service Award is for someone who over their membership has made consistent and cumulatively extraordinary contributions to the operation of the Club. The other is the award of appreciation. This award is made to any member who, during the calendar year prior to the annual meeting, has rendered such exceptional service to the operation of the club that its goals were significantly advanced. Please enter your nominations and send them to the Awards Committee at

Carolina Mountain Club
PO Pox 68
Asheville, NC 28802

Wilderness Crew learns special skills to do work

continued from page 1

cut saws. It is good physical and mental activity and an opportunity to give back and save Wilderness trails so that others can enjoy the Middle Prong and Shining Rock without having to wade through thick brush, fall on bad tread or climb over downed trees.

What about crosscut saws?

As the Wilderness Crew evolved, we worked with the Forest Service to understand their standards for Wilderness trails and also conform to Forest Service safety rules. Any use of axes or saws larger than a pruning saw for trail maintenance work on Forest



Paul Dickens

Service land requires training and certification. In the fall of 2009, a group of four Wilderness Crew members including me participated in a two-day Forest Service crosscut saw certification class. I was certified as a B crosscut sawyer and set out to learn how to restore and maintain the technology of these old saws that are used for Wilderness trail work. I have gotten to meet and work with other more experienced sawyers and have learned a lot of practical details to safely use these traditional tools for trail maintenance. In May 2012, I attended the Wilderness Skills Institute at the Pisgah Cradle of Forestry and achieved C certification as a crosscut saw trainer. CMC sponsored my participation in the C sawyer class.

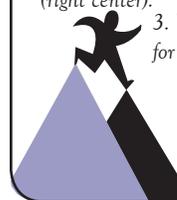
What do you enjoy about the CMC Wilderness Crew?

The Wilderness Crew is great exercise and stress relief for both mind and body. There are technical aspects to trail work, especially around safe use of tools and

conforming to Forest Service standards. There is sharing, learning and teaching with others. There can be long hikes in and out carrying tools to clear a downed tree or other problem. What I really like is seeing immediate results. Unlike my day job, on Wilderness Crew I can do a hard day's work and have the satisfaction of seeing a job done and a trail problem fixed. And there is a sense of stewardship – helping maintain sustainable trails in the important public resource of Wilderness.

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

Hiking as a Gateway Drug

By Stuart English

If you don't want to activate your body, wake up your mind, stimulate your senses – make sure you don't hike. If you don't want to meet people from all walks of life, all occupations, all nationalities, all economic backgrounds, and probably have some of these people become your friends – just don't hike. If you don't want to learn the physical geography of your area, the names of all the mountains as well as what they look like on top, where the streams and rivers go and what the water in them feels like on your feet – you'd better not hike. If you don't want to learn about all the trees, flowers, plants, mosses, lichens, mushrooms, insects, and animals – then hiking is probably not for you. If you don't want to learn all the back roads that go through places like Cruso, Springdale, Loafers Glory, Beuladean, Micaville, Walnut, Trust, Luck, Elk Park, Cranberry, and Pensacola – don't hike. If you don't want to get involved, start leading hikes, start maintaining trails, and accept all the personal satisfaction that involves – don't start hiking. If you don't want to one day meet all the challenges, climb all the mountains, hike all the trails, and see all the waterfalls and fire towers – don't go on that first hike. If you don't want to leave all your troubles and worries at home behind the door and let your world open up to become the splendid, spectacular place that it really is – then it's up to you. Don't take that first step.

Carolina Mountain Club

P.O. Box 68
Asheville, NC 28802

NEXT CMC COUNCIL MEETING

When: October 4, 2012
Where: West Asheville Library meeting room
Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Info: Call Marcia at 505-0471 if you would like to attend.
All CMC members are welcome.

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 e-mail 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. Dogs 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 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 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

Further
information about
regulations is available at [www.
carolinamountainclub.org](http://www.carolinamountainclub.org)

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 completing a Membership Application Form and paying dues. Membership Application Forms are available on the Club website or by mail. Annual dues are \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families. Applications should be sent to Carolina Mountain Club, P.O. Box 68, Asheville, NC, 28802. Hikers are expected to join CMC after participating in a few hikes. Some trail maintenance activities are only open to members.

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB OFFICERS

President: Marcia Bromberg, 828-505-0471, mwbromberg@yahoo.com
Vice-President: Don Gardner, 828-754-4067, gardog3@bellsouth.net
Secretary: Danny Bernstein, 828-236-0192, danny@hikertohiker.com
Treasurer: Jim Ariail, 828-505-0443, jimariail@yahoo.com
Immediate Past President: Barth Brooker, 828-299-0298, barthb@bellsouth.net
Councilor for Communication: Stuart English, 828-883-2447, stuengo@comporium.net
Councilor for Conservation: Tish Desjardins, 828-656-2191, desraylet@aol.com
Councilor for Education: Jim Spicer, 828-891-1026, js15@earthlink.net
Councilor for Hiking: Jim Reel, 828-738-0751, jimr57@yahoo.com
Councilor for Membership: Barbara Morgan, 828-738-3395, barbc129@gmail.com
Councilor for Trail Maintenance: Pete Peterson, 828-692-7813, arpetersen11@morrisbb.net
Councilor at Large: Lee Silver, 828-668-7147, leehsilver@aol.com

Editor: Stuart English, 828-883-2447, stuengo@comporium.net
Deadline next issue: November 15, 2012