



Carolina Mountain Club

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Les Love Receives CMC's Lifetime Achievement Award

by Tom Weaver

I was deeply honored to present Les Love with the 2021 CMC Lifetime Achievement Award at the Spring Social. Les has been a cornerstone of the Club for over 30 years in both trail maintenance and hiking. He is currently Vice President and in 2024 will become CMC President. Les is the CMC liaison to the Friends of the MST trail and Co-Leader of the Secondary

Trails Section Maintainers. Les naturally exudes enthusiasm and passion for WNC hiking trails and in all of his CMC activities.

CMC is woven into the fabric of the Love Family. Les and Catherine met many years ago on a CMC-led hike and commenced dating. Catherine is very active on the hiking side along with being a section maintainer.

Congratulations to Les!

Ron Navik: New CMC Historian

by Tom Weaver

We are happy to announce that Ron Navik has agreed to take on the role of Carolina Mountain Club Historian! Ron will work with the UNCA library to help them archive our club records.

Special thanks to Stuart English, who has given up this role and to Rocko Smucker and Danny Bernstein who have helped get Ron up to speed on his new responsibilities.

Sallye Sanders First CMC Member to Complete Centennial Challenge

by Donna Bange

July 2023 will be CMC's 100th year Birthday! To celebrate this momentous event, CMC Leadership Council has established a Centennial Challenge which requires 50 miles of CMC hikes and 50 hours of CMC trail maintenance. Sallye Sanders is the first person to achieve this challenge. She is a hike leader and also a very active member of the Section Rovers weekly crew. Sallye will receive the custom CMC Centennial patch to acknowledge her completion of the challenge.

Sallye commented: "I am so pleased that CMC created this challenge, because, 1) it will encourage hiking members who have never experienced trail maintenance to try it and maybe some will become hopelessly hooked

like I did, and 2) it will encourage trail maintainers to get to know some of the hiking members they might not meet otherwise.”

Additional information on the Centennial Challenge can be found on CMC's website home page.



Mel Skiles Receives 2021 Blue Ridge Parkway Individual Volunteer of the Year Award

by Donna Bange

On July 7th Mel Skiles was honored with a catered lunch and presentation for being the 2021 Blue Ridge Parkway Volunteer of the Year. Mel is a regular trail maintainer on the Thursday Asheville weekday crew. He has been a CMC volunteer since 2012. Mel's family joined the celebration which included his wife Sandi, daughter Tamra, and granddaughter Clara. The lunch celebration also included

BRP staff, CMC President Tom Weaver, and CMC Vice President Les Love, along with the entire Thursday CMC crew.

Rachel Stasny, Chief of Staff of the Blue Ridge Parkway National Park, presented a letter and plaque to Mel. Tom Weaver and Todd Eveland also spoke. Mel spoke last and thanked everyone for their support and for championing trail maintenance.

Mel is the section maintainer on the MST from Fish Pond Road to Sweeten Creek Road. This section of the MST is very popular with hikers and local residents since it runs along the Parkway in the heart of Asheville. Mel has already logged over 500 trail maintenance hours this year.



Remembering Barth

by Marcia Bromberg

Barth Brooker--former CMC president, hike leader and trail maintainer—passed away last month at age 90. For those of you who never met Barth, he was a tall, lanky guy with a sneaky and, sometimes, wicked sense of humor. He was also a man who was not afraid to say what was on his mind.

To read more, [click here](#).

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