



**Catching Up With John Pawcio**

### **CMC President 2000-2001**

**By Stuart English**

Recently, I contacted one of our past presidents who moved away several years ago. As chance would have it, he became a Social Media friend. Contacting several people who knew him I found he was very popular with our members and is still missed. He was happy to share his thoughts with me about his days with us.

We were in an era when the internet was really starting to be a part of everyone's life. I was fortunate to have Don Walton as vice president and Don provided the expertise to get the CMC website up and online.

Joining the Carolina Mountain Club was a great opportunity to make new friends and enjoy the outdoors. It was a life changing experience. Sara Davis told me about the club and brought a copy of "Let's Go!" to our YMCA fitness class. Life just fell into place after that!

After all these years, there are many indelible memories. Walker Knob was memorable because we saw a live rattle snake, cactus plants, and waded through knee deep snow, all on the same hike. The Shining Rock Wilderness area was always a treat. The Coffee Pot Mountain Loop was the first hike that I led for CMC, so it's always been a special hike for me.

We traveled to Reno, Nevada several times in 2006 on business and really liked the feel of the west. We decided to sell our house in Asheville and moved there just for the adventure. The hiking was quite different in that part of the country in that there is not so much of a canopy shading the trails. You really need to wear clothing that affords sun protection. Hiking Tahoe Meadows and the Tahoe Rim Trail was great in the summer due to the high elevation (low temperature) and low humidity. We also got into sailing and I took lessons in San Francisco bay where we joined a sailing club. A group of us went on a two week sail on the Adriatic Sea down the coast of Croatia. It's a beautiful country with great people and outstanding food.

In November 2018 we sold our home in Reno and moved to St. Petersburg, FL-hence another adventure begins. My wife Sandy is a full time nurse educator. She loves her job and gets to work from home. I'm an Enrolled Agent and prepare tax returns at H&R Block during tax season. We still enjoy dancing. We do on occasion dance, but no place offers the dancing opportunities that you have in Asheville. Mostly we were doing the lounges in Reno and sometimes the Elks Club or a senior center dance. It's still a blast and you meet the nicest people, just like on the trail...