HALF-DAY No. 10804-429
Dec. 21
Hard Times Road to Rocky Cove Road to Bent Creek Road
Hike 5, Drive 20, 500 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
No members, call leader, Paula Robbins, 828-281-3253, paulare@south.net

Note early start time. Second meeting place: Inges parking lot across from Biltmore Square Mall on NC 191 south of I-26 at 1:15 PM. A pleasant winter hike through the woods, parallel to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Hike 126 and US 25. Short shuttle car.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT:

HIKING INFORMATION: CMC hikes are open to all and we welcome guests, but hikers are expected to join CMC after participating in a few hikes. Non-members are expected to join CMC after participating in a few hikes. Non-members may participate in some trail maintenance activities are only open to members. CMC's website (www.carolinamtnclub.org) has a complete 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 a first aid kit. The Club cannot ensure the safety of any participant or its events or trail maintenance activities. Each participant agrees to hold harmless and free from blame event leaders and the CMC its offices and members for any accident, injury or illness which might be sustained from participating in CMC 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 local, state, national and international parks. Information about those hikes can be found in our hiking schedules online. Visit FMST's website www.ncmst.org for a complete listing of events all over the state.

COUNCIL CORNER

Since I began working with the council, I've learned that the club has valuable resources within the membership. This spring, Dave Wetmore and Tom Bindrum taught Map Reading and GPS courses at the new Destination Center. Teachers Kate Fisher, Becky Ledbetter-Gardner and Jan Olan are working with “Trail to Every Classroom” this summer to teach elementary students trail maintenance and principles of “leave no trace.” The education committee has the responsibility to develop a program of educational activities to meet the club’s needs, and the committee invites your participation and feedback. We are looking for members who are interested in leading these themes: talk to Charlie Ferguson, Lenny Bernstein, Joanne Tulip, or me. Another need is for a Red Cross instructor to provide annual training and certification for trail maintainers. If you would be willing to take the instructor training, contact a committee member.

For the fall, the committee is planning courses in Wilderness First Aid and Women’s Safety Awareness. The First Aid Course will be taught by Landmark Learning at the Destination Center on November 15-16 (Saturday and Sunday, 16-hour course). Women’s Safety Awareness will be a workshop with presentations from the National Park Service and self-defense instructors on Saturday, October 18. Look for more details about these events and registrations in the e-News.

Cindy McJunkin
Friday Crew builds walkway

By Pete Peterson

A couple of summers ago beavers built a dam across the stream in the middle of the Pink Beds. By the end of the summer, the water behind the dam had risen to the point where the Barnett Branch trail across the middle of the Pink Beds was marshy and sometimes impassable. At times the bridge across the stream sat like an island in the middle of the pond.

Marcia Bromberg takes over membership database

Many of those who make our club run efficiently till in relative obscurity. For two years, Jean Gard has managed the membership database. Responsibilities for this position included picking up the mail at the Asheville Post Office several times weekly, entering new member applications and member renewal information, sending financial and treasurer-related mail on to the CMC treasurer, sending challenge achievement records and award nominations to program chairman, entering all donations into Excel spreadsheets for the current year, changing e-mail and new address information on an ongoing basis, uploading the latest database to the CMC website several times weekly, entering dinner reservation information for the annual dinner, and changing non-renewed members to inactive status each May. We thank Jean for all her hard work.

Welcome, Marcia Bromberg, our new database manager. Marcia has over twenty-five years of experience in the economic and higher education sectors. Ms. Bromberg’s community interests include community development and public education. She is currently Board Treasurer of MANNA, the Western North Carolina Food Bank. Ms. Bromberg resides in Asheville.

Trail to Every Classroom provides many opportunities

By Kate Fisher and Jan Oman

The Trail to Every Classroom is a joint program of the National Park Service, Appalachian Trail Conservancy and other public and private partners. Three CMC members and local educators joined educators from Georgia to Maine this July at our National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. They engaged in activities that get students outdoors, connect to state curriculum standards, and promote civic responsibility and stewardship of the land.

This year, our team’s focus will be learning about invasive species, and the hopes that our enthusiasm will become infectious and spread to other schools. For more information or to explore volunteer opportunities, please contact Jan at janoman@bellsouth.net

Search and rescue team

The new Search and Rescue is compiling and maintaining a contact list of members who might be available to help in a possible search. Anyone interested can contact Frank Goldsmith at frankgold@earthlink.net, 828-255-6077, or Stuart English at stuangst@citcom.net, 828-883-2447. This information will be available only to SAR committee members. It is understood that everyone on the list might not be able to respond. This is makes it important to have a well-represented list.

Photo contest: Defining the CMC Experience

Effective immediately, you are invited to enter the club’s new photo contest. The plan has been greatly simplified this year in that there are no categories, just a theme. The contest will end March 31, 2009.

Theme for the contest this year is “Defining the Carolina Mountain Club Experience.” The members will select the top three winners at the Spring Social, April 25, 2009 after seeing a slide show of all entries. The theme will permit a wide range of subject matter as long as it defines the club experience. Entries should be emailed to contestmcnabb@charter.net.

Some results of CMC hiking survey

Thanks to all the CMC members who responded to the Hiking Preferences Survey that arrived with your Third Quarter Let’s Go. Ten percent of CMC members mailed in a response. Of those, 20% hike weekly, 40% hike monthly, 30% hike less than five times a year and 10% never hike.

The Hiking Committee is in the process of analyzing survey results. However, one message came through loud and clear: schedule Saturday hikes! Sixty-four percent of the respondents agreed with this suggestion, as well as 61% of those who responded in a specific day they prefer for hiking.

As a first step to address this interest, we have scheduled a moderate 7.5 mile hike for Saturday, October 18, meeting at 10:30 AM at Westgate. We’ll hike about seven miles in nearby Pisgah Nat’l. Forest and enjoy the bright leaf colors on the hike. See the schedule for more details on the hike. It’s too late to submit a survey. If you still have your survey form, please complete and return it as soon as possible. If you can’t find the form, contact Marcia Bromberg at mbromberg@yahoo.com for a copy or check the CMC website at www.carolinamtnclub.org. Results will be shared with the membership by the end of the year.

Remembering Jane Blodgett

On July 1, 2008, the Carolina Mountain Club lost a dear friend in Elizabeth Jane Blodgett. Along with her husband, Lew, she led many hikes, maintained trails, and participated in many club activities. Jane and Lew maintained the Sam’s Gap to Street Gap section of the Appalachian Trail for over 25 years. The two also maintained a section of the MST. Jane was a co-chair of the MST for 21 years. This was in the days before personal computers, and most of the work was done on a typewriter and with a telephone. Jane and Lew were an inseparable pair. It is hard to think of one without the other. Our hearts go out to Lew in his loss and remind him that he has a huge pair. It is hard to think of one without the other.

Marcia Bromberg with fellow hikers
The hike will end at the trailhead. After we leave the parking lot, we will take the Mountains-to-Sea Trail past Skinny Dip Falls and then go 135 feet south on MST, then get on Snowball Road. Continue on Snowball Road to the BRP/ALT intersection. This hike starts at 9:00 AM.

Second meeting place: Pisgah Ranger Station at 8:30 AM.

For information, contact John Gallemore, kelarco@aol.com.

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Topos:
We will meet at the meeting place: Ingles parking lot across from Sherman Stambaugh, 828-254-1736.
Hike 4, Drive 10, Rated B-C
WEDNESDAY No. W0804-619
Oct. 5
Isim Mine, Cattall Creek Trail
Hike 9, Drive 90, 1950 ft. ascent, Rated AB-Jack Blood, 828-319-5599, danny@ikerlikerike.com
We will continue on the Ingles Mine Trail to the Summit of Crow Knob, with great views, and then down Shining Creek. Two stream crossings that may have to be waded. If you don’t like wading, please let the leader know. Return down by the same route. Second meeting place: Trace Ridge Trailhead at 9:00 AM. Topo: Shining Rock, Near Ingles Rd PRD map #780, and MTS Profiles, pg. 55-56

ALL DAY NO. A0804-444
Nov. 2
Crescent Creek
Hike 140, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated B-Danny Bernstein, 828-236-4192, danny@ikerlikerike.com
We will hike up to Ingles Mine to see the falls and gorge from five spectator perspectives. After driving on dirt roads on the east side of Linville Falls we’ll go to the old Rock Mine. With its fantastic views and then The Chimney, a set of rocky columns and crevasses. If we still have time and energy, we’ll also climb Blackrock for an additional 1.4 miles. Optional dinner on the way back. Wilderess area hike, limited to 10 people - call leaders at 828-236-1040 to confirm parking. Second meeting place at Ingles Community Center on Cattall Creek Rd. 2.2 miles from NC 197 at 9:00 AM. Topo: Dassure, Near Ingles. Ga. Topo: Mcgilvare George Gorge Mount Mitchell map #779

SATURDAY No. A0804-447
Oct. 25
MTS Tover to Beaver Dam Overlook
Hike 6.5, Drive 45, 1700 ft. ascent, Rated B-Victoria Ferguson, victoriagrainger@icloud.com
We’ll hike to the historic old cabin of one of the hike leaders on the west side of the Black Mt. range. It ascends to 5700 ft. on an old logging railroad right-of-way. Lunch at an abandoned mine with spectacular views of the black and the upper Case river Valley. *Meet at Westport at 8:00 AM to confirm carpool and meet leaders at the Cattall Community Center on Cattall Creek Rd. 2.2 miles from NC 197 at 9:00 AM. Topo: Dassure, Near Ingles. Ga. Mitchell Mcgilvare George Gorge Mount Mitchell map #779

ALL DAY NO. A0804-620
Oct. 12
Devil’s Courthouse – Pilot Mtn. – *8:30 AM to form carpool and meet leader at BRT Cold Mtn. Loop Trailhead
Hike 8, Drive 75, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated B-Abhik Kudava, abhik.kudava@msci.com
*Note later start time. This moderate hike will start with a round trip up and down Mt. Pilot Mtn. We’ll hike with the MST northbound to Beaver Dam Overlook. Expect good views and bright leaf colors along the route. Short car shuttles to and from both trails. Return independently. *Meet at Westport at 9:00 AM. Topo: Dassure, Near Ingles. Ga. MTS PRD map #780 & BRT Profiles, pg. 55

SATURDAY No. A0804-578
Oct. 18
Flattop Laurel Creek, Little Sam Knob, MST Loop *10:00 AM
Hike 8, Drive 35, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated B-Marcia Bromberg, 828-515-0471, mstromberg@yahoo.com
*Note this is the first of our “7/3-day hikes” These hikes will be scheduled to begin in late summer mornings and will be moderate to easy hikes in the moderate pace. These hikes are intended to be a little longer than a half-day hike and a bit longer than a short hike. This is a pleasant loop trail with views of Big Sam Knob, Fork Ridge and Flat Laurel Creek. We’ll begin on the Flat Laurel Creek Trail, which ascends gradually until we are hiking next to the creek where we will stop for lunch. Small Lat Knob and Little Lehigh above Little Sam Knob and Knob, connects to the MST. A one-mile trip down Flat Laurel Creek Trail will add to our car pool. Second meeting place: MST Cold Mtn. Loop Trailhead at 9:30 AM. Topo: Catoctin

ALL DAY NO. A0804-355
Oct. 5
AT: Devil Fork Gap to Carowin *8:00 AM
Hike 11, Drive 95, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated A-Bushwhack down Little Sam Knob, 828-236-3102, lteben@soofulert.at
Crestline the 400th anniversary of the signing of the North Carolina State (SCSC) Act on designated the AT as the first National Scenic Trail with a hike along some of the most scenic miles on the AT.

It features two shelters, including Jerry’s Cabin, a historic, picturesque and breathtaking view at atop Big Butt. We then go down Fork Ridge trail to a low spot, then up to Carowin, with some great views, and then down Shining Creek. Two stream crossings that may have to be waded. If you don’t like wading, please let the leader know. Return down by the same route. Second meeting place: Trace Ridge Trailhead at 9:00 AM. Topo: Shining Rock, Near Ingles Rd PRD map #780, and MTS Profiles, pg. 55-56

ALL DAY NO. A0804-603
Nov. 2
East Fork, Art Loeb Trail, *8:00 AM (moderate)
Hike 70, Drive 28, 200 ft. ascent, Rated AA- Tom Sanders, 252-252-6327, tommy2@charter.net
*Note later start time. This is a nice loop hike that the leader has a family trail that begins at the Trace Ridge Trailhead. We will hike up Bad Fork to the BRT (a steep 700 ft. ascent for the second mile) to Bent Creek Gap, and then follow the MST to the Chestnut Pom program to the Chestnut Ridge Trailhead. Return by the same route. Second meeting place: Trace Ridge Trailhead at 9:00 AM. Topo: Shining Rock, Near Ingles Rd PRD map #780, and MTS Profiles, pg. 55-56

ALL DAY NO. A0804-328
Nov. 17
Bent Creek Loop #5 – Ingles Field *9:00 AM
Hike 8, Drive 20, 800 ft. ascent, Rated B-Confined to the Bent Creek area. Hardtimes trailhead, we’ll do a loop hike around Lake, Expeditor and Skydell Hills, and descend past Ingles Field to our cars. Topos: Dunsmore; Near Ga. Topo: Mcgilvare PRD map #780 and Bent Creek Trail Map

ALL DAY NO. A0804-537
Dec. 7
Coggins/Rim of the Gap/ Pine Knoll Pass/ Naturaltd Rd. *8:00 AM (strenuous)
Hike 10, Drive 5, 1100 ft. ascent, Rated B-Confined to the Bent Creek area. Jeff McGuck, 864-921-6469, freetaxi@freeserve.com
We will form car pools and make stop at BRT in Flat Laurel Creek at 8:30 AM for additional hikers. Meet leader at BRT Cold Mtn. Trailhead at 9:30 AM. From the Visitor Center, we’ll do a loop hike in the Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area. We’ll hike along the Ancient Organs Trail and time on the Rim of the Gap, then cut over to the Pisgah Pass Trail. We’ll follow this steeply down and up the MTB trail to Mount Tryon Trail back to our cars. Caution: If the weather is cold, there will be ice on the Rim of the Gap Trail. Topos: Dunsmore, Table Rock; also Mountain Bridge Wilderness Trail Map

ALL DAY NO. A0804-538
Dec. 7
Vineyard Gap – Forge Mtn. Loop *9:00 AM (moderate)
Hike 7.5, Drive 55, 800 ft. ascent, Rated B-Carmen Marianne Newman, 828-257-2136, carmen@newmanriver.com
*Note later start time. This is a nice loop hike from the Turkey Pen parking area, including a walk along the Forge Mtn. ridge, a pleasant stroll along the Mills River, and ending with a short, steep climb over a ridge to the parking area. Second meeting place: Turkey Pen parking area at 9:30 AM. Topo: Pisgah Forest, Near Ga. Topo: PRD map #780

ALL DAY NO. A0804-609
Dec. 14
Rich Mtn., Round Top Ridge Trail and AT *8:00 AM
Hike 11.5, Drive 70, 2700 ft. ascent, Rated AA-