

828-749-1886, belston@cytechusa.com

***Note early start time. Meet at Westgate at 12 noon to form carpools, and meet hike leader at Hooker Falls parking lot in Dupont Forest at 12:50 PM.** A leisurely paced walk down old logging roads through some beautiful forests.

HALF-DAY No. H0804-429

Dec. 21

Hard Times Road to Rocky Cove Road to Bent Creek Road *12:30 PM

Hike 5, Drive 20, 500 ft. ascent, Rated C-C

Nonmembers, call leader, Laura Stallard, 828-697-1579

***Note early start time.** We will hike in the Bent Creek area from the Arboretum recreation parking lot in an easy loop including the Hard Times Road to Rocky Cove Road to Bent Creek Road. **Second meeting place: Ingles parking lot across from Biltmore Square Mall on NC 191 at 1:15 PM; from there we will carpool with drivers who have Arboretum member parking privileges.**

HALF-DAY No. H0804-500

Dec. 28

French Broad River to US 25 *1:00 PM

Hike 5.4, Drive 15, 900 ft. ascent, Rated C-C

Nonmembers, call leader, Paula Robbins, 828-281-3253, paularvw@bellsouth.net

***Note early start time. Second meeting place: Ingles 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 between I-26 and US 25. Short car shuttle.

Carolina Mountain Club

P.O. Box 68

Asheville, NC 28802

Return Service Requested

NEXT CMC COUNCIL MEETING

When: Thursday, October 2, 2008

Where: Greenlife Community House, Merrimon Avenue

Time: 6:00 PM

Info: Call Becky at 828-298-5013 if you would like to attend. All CMC members are welcome.

Further information about regulations is available at www.carolinamtclub.org

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 need to call or e-mail 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.carolinamtclub.org) 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.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION: CMC maintains 92 miles of the Appalachian Trail, 130 miles of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, and over 100 miles of other trails. It is also active in the construction of new trails. There are a variety of ways for individuals to become involved in these activities. Phone the Councilor for Trail Maintenance for details.

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 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: Becky Smucker, 298-5013

Vice-President: Barth Brooker, 299-0298

Secretary: Kathleen Hannigan, 298-4591

Treasurer: Carroll Koepplinger, 667-0723

Immediate Past President: Lenny Bernstein, 236-0192

Councilor for Conservation: Ruth Hartzler, 251-0886

Councilor for Education: Cindy McJunkin, 213-1794

Councilor for Hiking: Charlie Ferguson, 398-0213

Councilor for Membership: Ashok Kudva, 698-7119

Councilor for Trail Maintenance: Bill Newton, 693-4033

Councilors at Large: Don Gardner, 754-4067; Jim Reel, 738-0751

Editor: Stuart English, 883-2447, stuengo@citcom.net

Deadline next issue: Nov. 15, 2008

LET'S GO!

FOURTH QUARTER 2008
Quarterly News Bulletin
and Hike Schedule



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

MST month offers chances for recreation and prizes

Governor Mike Easley has proclaimed October as Mountains-to-Sea Trail Month in North Carolina.

Carolina Mountain Club will participate in a month-long celebration being organized by the Friends of the Mountains-

to-Sea Trail (FMST) and co-sponsored by Great Outdoor Provision Company (GOPC). CMC has organized several hikes on the MST for October. Information about those hikes can be found in our hiking schedules online and in this newsletter.

The Mountains-to-Sea Trail is a linear state park that will eventually stretch from the Great Smoky Mountains to the Outer Banks. Approximately half of the 1,000 mile length has been completed, most on federal and state lands in the mountains and on the Outer Banks. The trail is roughly equivalent to the distance from Raleigh to Boston.

"This is the first time the trail has been so honored by the Governor of North Carolina," said Kate Dixon, FMST executive director.

"We are excited that Carolina Mountain Club, which does such great volunteer work building and maintaining the trail, is participating in the celebration."

GOPC will conduct a raffle at each of its stores during the month with all proceeds going to help pay for additional construction of the trail. Visit FMST's website www.ncmst.org for a complete listing of events all over the state.

CMC Annual Dinner Nov. 1

Set aside time on your calendar to attend the Annual Dinner and Meeting.

Location: The Chariot, Hendersonville

Date: November 1, 2008

Time: 5 PM for social hour (cash bar); 6 PM for dinner

Cost: \$21 per person

This is the last day of daylight savings time, making more light available for driving. Arrangements will be made for carpooling from the Westgate shopping center in Asheville. Check the *e-News* and the insert in this issue of *Let's Go* for more details.



CMC hikers enjoy the one of the many scenic vistas along the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

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 Bindrim taught Map



Reading and GPS courses at the new Destination Center. Teachers Kate Fisher, Becky Ledbetter-Gardner and Jan Onan 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 theme hikes; 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, con-

tact 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 *eNews*.

Cindy McJunkin

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," and members will select the top three winners at the Spring Social, April 25, 2009 after seeing a slide show of the best entries. The theme will permit a wide range of subject material as long as it defines the

club experience.

Entries should be emailed to contestmclub@charter.net

Our theme this time around is broad enough to permit almost any club-related image and could include vistas, forests, streams, waterfalls, close-ups, wildlife, flowers, the seasons, weather... even club meetings or events. Say in your email how your picture relates to the theme and on what occasion it was taken. The rules can be found in the *eNews* at carolinamclub.org.



Marcia Bromberg with fellow hikers.

Marcia Bromberg takes over membership database

Many of those who make our club run efficiently toil 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 chairmen, 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 sector of higher education. 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.

How to join the Carolina Mountain Club

1. Go to www.carolinamclub.org
2. Click on "How to Join" (upper left corner)
3. Print out the "CMC Application Form"
4. Fill it out. Write a check for your dues and
5. Mail to CMC, PO Box 68, Asheville NC 28802 or ... write to us and we'll mail you an application.



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 coeditor of this newsletter 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 caring family: the Carolina Mountain Club.



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 responders agreed with this suggestion, as well as 61% of those who wrote 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, Oct. 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 not 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 mwbromberg@yahoo.com for a copy or check the CMC website at www.carolinamclub.org. Results will be shared with the membership by the end of the year.

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.



Pisgah Friday Crew battles beaver damage.

Since the Pisgah Friday maintenance crew had responsibility for the trail, we raised the issue with the Forest Service to determine an acceptable action to take to make the trail usable again, particularly because it is in a high use area. We agreed on the installation of a raised walkway that would cross the pond using the existing bridge as a base. The FS agreed to provide the material if the CMC (Pisgah Friday crew) would be able to provide the labor. The walkway was estimated to be 250 feet in length and needed to be elevated about two feet above grade to be higher than the water in the pond. The project was not going to be short and simple.

Scouting of the site began on



January 25 of this year. The Forest Service periodically delivers materials to the site, though the larger structural members have had to be hand carried in from Yellow Gap Road by crew members, a distance of about a mile. To date, 26 different CMC members have worked on the project. They have donated over 480 hours of their time so far.

After today's work, the support structure is nearly complete and only 120 feet of deck and railing need to be installed. This remaining work is expected to take an additional four work sessions. Completion should allow the walkway to be opened to hikers in early September.

Fortunately, or unfortunately to some, the beaver did not like all the noise and moved a bit upstream of the work site. This has allowed the work to progress on drier land. We fully expect the beaver to return once our chain saws and hammers have left the area.

Trail to Every Classroom provides many opportunities

By Kate Fisher and Jan Onan

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



From left, Rita Hennessey, Outdoor Recreation Specialist and Trail to Every Classroom director with CMC members Jan Onan, Becky Ledbetter-Gardner and Kate Fisher on the AT near Harpers Ferry, WV.

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 locally and along the AT as part of the AT MEGA-Transect Citizen Science Project. For more information, go to www.appalachiantrail.org and click on AT MEGA-Transect. CMC members who have knowledge of native plants, invasive plants or who have a desire to share the wonders of the outdoors are needed to come work with teachers and/or children. Currently we are at Upward

and Clear Creek Elementary Schools with 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 janonan@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, 828-230-6077, or Stuart English at stuengo@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.

Tish Desjardins, 828-656-2191, desraylet@aol.com

***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.** From Tanyard Gap we will go north on the AT to the beautiful views from Rich Mountain, then descend to Hot Springs via Round Top Ridge Trail, and return on the Pump Gap Trail and AT to Tanyard Gap. Topo: Hot Springs; also Appalachian Ranger District "Hiking trails in the Hot Springs area" map

ALL DAY No. A0804-589 **Dec. 21 Shut-in Trail/Lake Powhatan loop 8:30 AM*** Hike 9.6, Drive 15, 1600 ft. ascent, Rated A-A Bob Hysko, 828-645-4626, rhysko@yahoo.com **P400 *Note later start time.** This loop follows the Shut-In Trail south, then descends Sleepy Gap Trail, skirts Lake Powhatan and finishes with three miles on the Bent Creek Trail with a dirt road connecting parts of the trail. **Second meeting place: BRP French Broad Overlook at 8:45 AM.** Topos: Asheville, Dunsmore Mtn., also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map #780

SATURDAY No. A0804-246 **Dec. 27 Around Coffee Pot Mtn. 9:00 AM*** Hike 7.5, Drive 50, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B Michael and Kathy Cornn, 828-698-3672, knkyle@yahoo.com **P400 *This moderate after-Christmas hike will start a bit later. Meet at Westgate at 9:00 AM to form carpools, and meet leaders at Trace Ridge parking area at 9:30 AM.** We'll circle Coffee Pot Mtn. by hiking up Trace Ridge Trail to Beaver Dam Gap on the BRP and returning on the Spencer Branch Trail, with a stop to see the freshly-dredged Hendersonville Reservoir and dam. Topo: Dunsmore Mtn.; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map #780

ALL DAY No. A0804-406 **Dec. 28 Pink Beds/Clawhammer 8:30 AM** Hike 8, Drive 86, 2300 ft ascent, Rated B-AA Kathleen Hannigan, 828-230-4883, Kathleen.hannigan@pgnmail.com **P400 *Note later start time.** We will climb from the Pink Beds (FS 477) to Club Gap. Then we take the Black Mt. Trail, climbing through Buckhorn Gap and along the ridge to the overlook at Clawhammer Mtn. for lunch. **Second meeting place: Side parking lot of Bi-Lo in Pisgah Forest at 9:00 AM.** Topos: Shining Rock, Pisgah Forest; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map #780

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 Lucy Prim, lucette32@mchsi.com, 828-693-6580. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All

hikes assemble at the east end of the Westgate Shopping Center near Exit 3B off I-240 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. Some hikes will have second meeting places as described in hike listings.

HALF-DAY NO. H0804-116 **Oct. 5 Craggy Picnic Ground to Greybeard Overlook 12:30 PM** Hike 5.5 miles, 1100 ft. ascent, rated C-B Nonmembers, call leader, Marcia Bromberg, 828-505-0471, mwbromberg@yahoo.com ***Note early meeting time.** From the Craggy Gardens Picnic Area we climb up a short distance to the top of bald Craggy Knob with a view to the south. Then back to the MST and down below the closed and quiet BRP visitor center. From there we continue on the MST around Craggy Pinnacle on a rocky and difficult part of the trail, then cross the parkway before returning to our cars. **Second meeting place: Folk Art Center, lower parking lot, at 12:50 PM.**

HALF-DAY NO. H0804-146 **Oct. 12 Skinny Dip Falls 12:30 PM** Hike 5, Drive 65, Rated C-B, 1300 ft. ascent Nonmembers, call leader, Renate Rikkers, 828-298-9988, reriokers@aol.com **P400 *Note early start time.** On this in-and-out hike we will start at Looking Glass Rock Overlook, take the Mountains-to-Sea Trail past Skinny Dip Falls, then turn around, have our break at Skinny Dip Falls and then retrace our steps to the parking lot. Bring your bathing suit for a polar bear dip! **Second meeting place: BRP Looking Glass Rock Overlook at M.P. 417 at 1:10 PM.**

HALF-DAY No. H0804-490 **Oct. 19 Craven Gap to Folk Art Center 1:00 PM** Hike 5.4 miles, Drive 25, 750 ft. ascent, Rated C-C Nonmembers, call leader, Chris Allen, 828-645-0357, bonnie@allencats.com ***Note early start time. Only meeting place is the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway, lower parking lot.** A pleasant fall hike along the MST, with a gradual 1640 ft. descent. We'll enjoy a stop at the Haw Creek overlook, a rock outcropping with great views of the Haw Creek Valley. Car shuttle.

HALF-DAY No. H0804-009 **Oct. 26 Ox Creek Road to Rattlesnake Lodge 1:00 PM** Hike 4.4, Drive 30, Rated C-C Nonmembers, call leader Don Walton, 828-654-9904, donwalton@bellsouth.net ***Note early start time.** This in-and-out hike along the MST will feature the historic Rattlesnake Lodge site. **Second meeting place: Folk Art Center lower parking lot at 1:15 PM.**

HALF-DAY No. H0804-295 **Nov. 2 Pump Gap Loop 1:00 PM** Hike 5.1, Drive 80, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated C-B

Nonmembers, call leader, Jorge Munoz, 828-658-0606, jmunoz@buncombe.main.nc.us ***Note early start time.** This moderate loop hike starts at the Silvermine Trailhead. After a good climb to the ridge, we will visit an old cemetery, cross the AT and return on the Pump Gap Trail.

HALF-DAY No. H0804-347 **Nov. 16 Twin Falls 12:30 PM** Hike 6, Drive 80, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated B-B Nonmembers, call leader, Lee Belknap, 828-698-9394, rivergypsy@sprintmail.com **P400 *Note early start time. Meet at Westgate at 12:30 PM to form carpools, and meet leader at Pisgah Ranger Station, US 276 at 1:05 PM.** This is a moderate hike in the Pisgah Nat'l Forest, starting on the Buckhorn Gap Trail, taking the Twin Falls Bypass and completing a loop on a FS Road and the Clawhammer Cove Trail with its large but abandoned beaver dam.

HALF-DAY No. H0804-062 **Nov. 23 Daniel Ridge Loop Trail 12:30 PM** Hike 4, Drive 70, 800 feet ascent, Rated C-C Nonmembers, call leader, Stuart English, 828-883-2447, stuengo@citcom.com **P400 *Note early start time. Meet at Westgate at 12:30 PM to form carpools, and meet leader at Fish Hatchery parking lot off FS475 at 1:15 PM.** The trail climbs gradually along a lovely stream beside small waterfalls. A larger waterfall is seen just before the end of the hike.

HALF-DAY No. H0804-102 **Nov. 30 Coon Tree Loop 12:30 PM** Hike 3.7, Drive 65, 1200 ft ascent, Rated C-B Nonmembers, call leader, Lucy Prim, 828-693-6580, lucette32@mchsi.com ***Note early start time. Meet at Westgate at 12:30 PM to form carpools, and meet leader at Pisgah Ranger Station on US 276 at 1:10 PM.** This hike is a loop along both sides of a lovely creek, with views along Coon Tree Mountain ridge on top. Some steep areas.

HALF-DAY No. H0804-623 **Dec. 7 Kitsuma Peak 12:30 PM** Hike 5 miles, Drive 60, 2000 ft ascent, Rated C-AA Nonmembers, call Tom Sanders, 828-252-6327, tomary2@charter.net ***Note early start time.** This popular but somewhat strenuous hike begins near Old Fort and ascends Young Ridge to Kitsuma Peak, overlooking Ridgecrest. Outstanding views along the way. Car shuttle. **Second meeting place: parking lot adjacent to McDonald's off I-40 at Exit 64 of I-40 at 12:50 PM.**

HALF-DAY No. H0804-624 **Dec. 14 Dupont Forest Hooker Falls P.L. #2 (Wintergreen Falls) 12:00 Noon** Hike 5, Drive 70 miles, Rated C-C Nonmembers, call leader, Becky Elston,

HIKE SCHEDULE Fourth Quarter 2008

Hike Ratings

First Letter Distance
AA: Over 12 miles
A: 9-12 miles
B: 6-9 miles
C: Under 6 miles

Second Letter Elevation Gain
AA: Over 2,000 ft.
A: 1,500-2,000 ft.
B: 1,000-1,500 ft.
C: Under 1,000 ft.

Also in the hike descriptions, the terms easy, moderate or strenuous reflect the overall trail conditions, physical challenge and other factors influencing hike difficulty. If you have questions or if the weather on the day of the hike is questionable, contact the leader.

If it's not possible for a hiker to go on the regularly scheduled hike, it may be possible to accompany the hike leader when the hike is scouted. Scouts typically take place one to six weeks before the scheduled date. Call or email the hike leader.

CHALLENGE PROGRAMS:

SB6K For hiking all 40 peaks above 6000'. For information, contact Don Gardner, gardog3@bellsouth.net

P400 For hiking every trail in Pisgah Ranger District. For information, contact Don Gardner, gardog3@bellsouth.net

900M For hiking every trail in GSMNP. For information, contact John Gallemlere, kelarco@aol.com
LTC For hiking to all 24 Lookout towers in WNC. For information, contact Don Gardner, gardog3@bellsouth.net

WEDNESDAY HIKES

Wednesday hikes submitted by Charlie Ferguson, cef108@gmail.com and Ann Gleason, gleason.ann@gmail.com. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All Wednesday hikes assemble at 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 vary.

WEDNESDAY No. W0804-625 **Oct. 1 Devil's Courthouse/ Daniel Ridge Creek 8:30 AM** Hike 8.5, Drive 75, 2100 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119, ashok.kudva@mchsi.com

SATURDAY WORK DAY

Here is a great chance to learn what is involved in trail maintenance. The quarterly Saturday work day will be in November; call Les Love at 828-658-1489 (leslove@charter.net) to verify date.

P400, SB6K: *Meet at Westgate at 8:30 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at Cold Mtn. Overlook at 9:10 AM. From Devil's Courthouse overlook, we will proceed on the MST, do a steep descent on the Art Loeb Trail and Farlow Gap Trails to Daniel Ridge Creek. Along the way we'll view old mica mine tailings and waterfalls, then retrace our steps to the BRP/ALT intersection. This hike will feature a 360° mountain vista from Devil's Courthouse, a fabulous view of Pilot Mountain from Chestnut Bald overlook and Silvermine Bald, and early fall foliage colors. Optional in-and-out climb to Chestnut Bald for SB6K fans. Short car shuttle. Topos: Sam's Knob, Shining Rock; also Natl. Geo. PRD map #780

WEDNESDAY No. W0804-076 **Oct. 8 Craggy to Little Snowball Hike 8:30 AM** Hike 7.2, Drive 38, 2630 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA Don Walton, 828-654-9904, donwalton@bellsouth.net From Bee Tree Gap at Craggy Gardens, we'll go 135 feet south on MST, then get on Snowball trail over high rocks (Hawkbill Rock) to Little Snowball tower site for great views. We'll return on the same route. **Second meeting place: Bee Tree Gap at 9:00 AM.** Topo: Craggy Pinnacle; also USFS South Toe River, Mt. Mitchell & Big Ivy Trail Map

WEDNESDAY No. W0804-427 **Oct. 15 Soapstone Ridge 8:30 AM** Hike 10, Drive 90, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated A-B Rich Sampson, 704-892-2112, richsmpson360@gmail.com **P400** 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 Shelter. We'll then take the Buckhorn Gap trail down to the S. Mills River trail back to our cars. **Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Ranger Station at 9:00 AM.** Topos: Pisgah Forest, Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map #780. (**Note:** after this hike there will be an option to join the easy 2-mile Full Moon Hike (below) to Black

WEDNESDAY NO. W0804-626 **Oct. 15 FULL MOON HIKE 5:30 PM** Hike 2, Drive 75, 500 ft. ascent, Rated C-C Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, bbente@bellsouth.net **P400** Come and join us on the night of the full moon to enjoy first, the sunset, and then the moonrise a short time later from the summit of 6215 ft. Black Balsam (great view!). We'll park at the MST crossing on FS 816 and hike the ALT up to the summit to enjoy beautiful scenery on a hopefully clear night. Bring a good flashlight, snacks and warm beverage to share with fellow hikers. Please contact leader to register; the leader will contact those registered in case the hike has to be rescheduled. ***Meet at Westgate to form carpools, and meet leader at trailhead at 6:30 PM.** Topo: Sam Knob, Shining Rock; Nat'l. Geo. PRD map #780

Balsam. We may be able to eat supper at Pisgah Inn at 5:00, or bring food for your evening meal.

WEDNESDAY No. W0804-204 **Oct. 22 Max Patch Ramble 8:30 AM** Hike 7.5, Drive 100, 1100 ft., ascent, Rated B-B Adrian Lotherington, 828-484-9132, jaloth@charter.net A hike that may be our last opportunity to scale this beautiful section of the AT before Jack Frost descends! We will begin and end at Max Patch, 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. W0804-600 **Oct. 29 Pink Beds-Buckhorn Gap/ S. Mills River loop 8:00 AM** Hike 10, Drive 75, 1000 ft ascent, Rated A-B Jack Fitzgerald, 828-685-2897, suejackfitz@bellsouth.net **P400 *Meet at Westgate at 8:00 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at Pisgah Ranger Station at 8:30 AM.** We'll start on the Pink Beds loop to Barnett Branch, up to Buckhorn Gap, and then down to the S. Mills River. Hike to gauging station and return to cars on Pink Beds loop. Lots of variety and a moderate pace. Topo: Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map #780

WEDNESDAY No. W0804-271 **Nov. 5 Chestnutwood Mountain 8:30 AM** Hike 9, Drive 70, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated A-B Lee Silver, 828-668-7147, leehsilver@aol.com 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 20 yr. old timber harvest in the Grandfather District. Some bushwhacking and hiking on overgrown trails. **Second meeting place: Parking lot adjacent to McDonald's off I-40 at Exit 64 at 8:50 AM.** Topo: Old Fort

WEDNESDAY No. W0804-627 **Nov. 12 Montreat Ridges and Greybeard 8:30 AM** Hike 11, Drive 30, 2500 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA Ames Tryon, 828-669-3805, tryonaf@charter.net ***NOTE: Strenuous hike. Meet at Westgate at 8:30 AM to form carpools and meet leader at parking lot just inside the Montreat gate on NC 9 at 9:00 AM.** This hike is a variation on several Montreat hikes, commencing at Big Piney parking area on Greybeard Rd, ascending to East Ridge Trail via Rocky Head and following the Old Trestle Rd to the Greybeard trail. After lunch on top of Greybeard, we will descend to Montreat via the West Ridge and Big Piney trails. Topo: Montreat; also MTC Montreat Trail Map

WEDNESDAY No. W0804-460 **Nov. 19 Pilot Mtn. to Courthouse Falls 9:00 AM** Hike 9, Drive 80, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated A-B Mary Beth Gwynn, 828-254-2042, mbgmc@gmail.com

P400 This in-and-out hike begins with a short bushwhack below Pilot Mtn. and follows FS 140A to FS 140 and on to Courthouse Falls. This route affords a different view of Devil's Courthouse. There is one easy stream crossing (Kiesee Creek). **Second meeting place: PRD Ranger Station at 9:30 AM.** Topo: Shining Rock, Sams Knob; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD Map #780.

WEDNESDAY No. W0804-519 **Nov 26**
Raven Cliff Falls, Cathedral Rock, Dismal Trail Loop 8:00 AM
Hike 9, Drive 95, ascent 2300 ft, Rated A-A
Ann Gleason, 828-859-9387, gleason.ann@gmail.com
Get ready for the "turkey chow down" with this scenic loop hike featuring waterfalls, stone cliffs and a double-cable crossing over Matthews Creek (look up hike #519 on website to see pictures of it). From the Raven Cliff parking lot, we take the #13 Gum Gap trail, then #14 Naturaland Trust trail descending down to the #12 Dismal Trail where we will cross the rushing waters of Matthews Creek on a cable, ascend the dramatic Cathedral Cliff along-side and over Raven Cliff Falls and back to cars. If water is low, you can rock-hop the creek (if the cable isn't your cup of tea). **Additional meeting places: Bi-lo parking lot at Pisgah Forest at 8:30 AM, and Raven Cliff Falls Parking lot on US 276 at 9:00 AM.** Topo: Table Rock; also Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area trail map

WEDNESDAY No. W0804-492 **Dec. 3**
Annual Cookie Hike:
Bent Creek Ramble *8:30 AM
Hike 7, Drive 25, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Ken and Carol Deal, 828-281-4530, cnkdeal@charter.net
Moderate loop hike in the Bent Creek area: ***Meet at Westgate at 8:30 AM to form carpools, and meet the leaders at Ingles parking lot across from Biltmore Sq. on NC 191 at 8:40 AM.** We will start from the parking area for Cold Knob Rd (FS 479H) off Bent Creek Rd beyond Lake Powhatan. Using a variety of short sections of trails, we will hike up to the MST, past Sleepy Gap and descend on the Stambaugh Trail to the Lake Powhatan picnic area for lunch and cookie feast. Afternoon return walk back to cars is 2 miles. Bring cookies to share. Topos: Dunsmore, Skyland; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map #780 and Bent Creek Trail Map

WEDNESDAY No. W0804-i **Dec 3**
Alternate - shorter Cookie Hike *10:00 AM
Hike 4, Drive 10, Rated C-C
Sherman Stambaugh, 828-254-1736
Easy 4 mile hike in the Bent Creek area. ***Only meeting place: Ingles parking lot across from Biltmore Square on NC 191.** We will meet the first group for lunch and cookies at Lake Powhatan at noon and return to cars. Call Sherman if you want to go on this shorter hike. Bring cookies to share. Topo: Skyland; also Bent Creek Trail Map

WEDNESDAY No. W0804-277 **Dec.10**
Bent Creek Loop #2 8:30 AM
Hike 9-10, Drive 20, 1600 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Ruth Hartzler 828-251-0886, ruthmtn@charter.net
P400 A nice Bent Creek loop originated by Tom Bindrim, starting at the Hardtimes trailhead. We will hike part of the MST, a little easy off-trail (about 1/3 mile), the Lower Sidehill Trail, and stroll past Lake Powhatan. A great close-in, cool-weather hike. Topo: Dunsmore Mtn., Skyland, and Nat'l. Geo. PRD map #780

WEDNESDAY No. W0804-493 **Dec. 17**
Pine Mt. Loop II 9:00 AM
Hike 9, Drive 20, 1850 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Barbara Morgan, 828-738-3395, bcmorg@hughes.net
P400 Hike up to Pine Mtn. from the Bent Creek side via Explorer loop, Chestnut Cove Trail and MST. Bushwhack up to Pine Mtn from BRP, then down other side, down Ruth's Ridge and the Lower Sidehill Trail to cars. **Second meeting place: Ingles Parking lot across from Biltmore Sq. on NC 191 at 9:15 AM.** Topos: Enka, Dunsmore Mtn.; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map #780

WEDNESDAY No. W0804-545 **Dec.24**
Bent Creek #11 - Boundary Trail 8:30 AM
Hike 8.5, Drive 25, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Stuart English, 828-883-2447, stuengo@citcom.net
P400 From Bent Creek Gap we will follow the MST to the Bent Creek Boundary Trail, on to Ingles Field Gap, to Ledford Branch Rd and down to Deer Lake Lodge Trail and the Rice Pinnacle parking lot. Great winter views. Car shuttle. **Second meeting place: Ingles parking lot across from Biltmore Sq. Mall on NC 191 at 8:45 AM.** Topo: Dunsmore Mt., Skyland; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map #780 and Bent Creek Trail map.

NO HIKE SCHEDULED
HAPPY NEW YEAR Dec. 31

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 east 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.

ALL DAY No. A0804-355 **Oct. 5**
AT: Devil Fork Gap to Carmen 8:00 AM
Hike 11, Drive 95, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Lenny Bernstein, 828-236-0192, lsberns@worldnet.att.net
Celebrate the 40th anniversary of the signing of the National Scenic Trails Act (which designated the AT as the first National Scenic Trail) with a hike along nine of the most scenic miles on the AT.

It features two shelters, including Jerry's Cabin, a historic gravesite and beautiful views from atop Big Butt. We then go down Fork Ridge trail to Carmen. Car shuttle. Topos: Flag Pond, Greystone; also Nat'l. Geo. French Broad & Nolichucky Rivers map #782

ALL DAY No. A0804-619 **Oct. 5**
Isom Mine, Cattail Creek *8:00 AM (moderate)
Hike 9, Drive 90, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
Jake Blood, 828-319-9559, thebloods@hotmail.com
and John Whitehouse, 828-682-3217, johnwhitehouse@verizon.net
This new CMC loop hike begins and ends at the cabin of one of the hike leaders on the west side of the Black Mtn. range. It ascends to 5700 ft. on an old logging railroad right-of-way. Lunch at an abandoned mica mine with spectacular views of the Blacks and the upper Cane River valley. ***Meet at Westgate at 8:00 AM to form carpools, and meet leaders at the Cattail Community Center on Cattail Creek Rd. 2.2 miles from NC 197 at 9:00 AM.** Topo: Mt. Mitchell; also Nat'l. Geo. Linville Gorge Mount Mitchell map #779

ALL DAY No. A0804-620 **Oct. 12**
Devil's Courthouse – Pilot Mtn. *8:30 AM
Hike 8.5, Drive 75, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119, ashok.kudva@mchsi.com
P400 *Meet at Westgate at 8:30 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at BRP Cold Mtn. Overlook at 9:10 AM. Have you ever admired the fabulous views of Pilot Mtn. from Devil's Courthouse and the Chestnut Bald and Silvermine Bald overlooks, and wished you could be there? From Devil's Courthouse we will follow the MST, and then descend steeply on the roller coaster ALT

SATURDAY No. A0804-578 **Oct. 18**
Flat Laurel Creek, Little Sam Knob, MST Loop *10:00 AM
Hike 7.5, Drive 80, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Marcia Bromberg, 828-505-0471, mwbromberg@yahoo.com
P400 *This will be the first of our Saturday "3/4-day" hikes. These hikes will be scheduled to begin in late Saturday mornings and will be moderate hikes of about 7 miles done at a moderate pace. These hikes are intended to be a little longer than a half-day hike and a bit shorter than the usual all-day hikes. 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. Little Sam Knob Trail, with views of Little Sam Knob and Sam Knob, connects to the MST. A one-mile side trip to Devil's Courthouse will offer good views before we return on the MST to our cars. **Second meeting place: BRP Cold Mtn. Overlook at 10:40 AM.**

to Farlow Gap for lunch at Bruce Rock before proceeding to a snack stop on top of Pilot Mtn. with its 360° mountain vista. We'll return to the BRP crossing where a short car shuttle will reunite us with our cars. Topos: Sam Knob, Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map #780

ALL DAY No. A0804-621 **Oct. 19**
Linville Progressive 8:00 AM
Hike 8.3, Drive 140, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Danny Bernstein, 828-236-0192, danny@hikertohiker.com
We'll hike the easy trails of Linville Falls to see the falls and gorge from five spectacular perspectives. After driving on dirt roads on the east side of Linville Gorge, we'll go up Table Rock Mtn. with its fantastic views and then The Chimneys, a set of rocky columns and crevasses. If we still have time and energy, we'll also climb Hawksbill for an additional 1.4 miles. Optional dinner on the way back. **Wilderness area hike, limited to 10 people - call leader for reservations. Second meeting place: Parking lot adjacent to McDonald's at Exit 64 of I-40 at 8:20 AM.** Topo: Linville Falls; also Nat'l. Geo. Mt. Mitchell Linville Gorge map #779

SATURDAY No. A0804-447 **Oct. 25**
MST: Mt. Pisgah to Beaver Dam Overlook *9:00 AM
Hike 8.5, Drive 45, 1700 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Victoria Tripp, 828-348-4505, torrose@gmail.com
P400 *Note later start time. This moderate hike will start with a round trip up and down Mt. Pisgah, and will then follow the MST northbound to Beaver Dam Overlook. Expect good views and bright leaf colors along the route. Short car shuttle. **Second meeting place: BRP French Broad Overlook at 9:10 AM.** Topos: Cruso, Dunsmore Mtn.; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map #780 & MST Profiles, pg. 53-55

ALL DAY No. A0804-622 **Oct. 26**
Cold Mtn. via Crawford Creek 8:00 AM
Hike 10.7, Drive 65, 3100 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Dave Wetmore, 828-884-7296, dwetmore@citcom.net
SB6K The Club has received permission to have a hike on private property north of Crawford Creek. This is the easy way to the summit of Cold Mountain. We will follow old roads to Deep Gap and take the Forest Service trail to the summit. This route is the one the designers of the Art Loeb trail had hoped to use. **This is a Wilderness area with a limit of 10 hikers, so please reserve a spot by contacting the leader.** Note that we have permission to cross this property for only this one hike. Topo: Cruso

ALL DAY No. A0804-063 **Nov. 2**
Big East Fork, Art Loeb Trail, Shining Creek Loop 8:00 AM (strenuous)
Hike 13, Drive 70, 2800 ft. ascent, Rated AA-AA
Tom Sanders, 252-252-6327, tomary2@charter.net

P400 A beautiful but strenuous hike (the leader's favorite) with three of WNC's most beautiful streams. Up Big East Fork, then Grassy Cove Ridge, and the Art Loeb Trail to Shining Rock Gap, with great views, and then down Shining Creek. Two stream crossings that may have to be waded. **Wilderness area, limit 10, so reserve by calling or emailing leader. Second meeting place: Big East parking area on US 276, 3 miles north of BRP at 8:45 AM.** Topo: Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map #780

ALL DAY No. A0804-444 **Nov. 2**
Avery Creek Loop 8:00 AM* (moderate)
Hike 10, Drive 80, 1700 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Stuart English, 828-883-2447, stuengo@citcom.net
P400 A nice hike featuring waterfalls, beaver dams, and maybe some late fall leaf color. We'll first climb to Buckhorn Gap via Twin Falls, then follow the Black Mtn. Trail to Club Gap, with our return downhill on the Avery Creek Trail. ***Meet at Westgate at 8:00 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at Pisgah Ranger Station on US 276 at 8:35 AM.** Topos: Pisgah Forest, Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map #780

ALL DAY No. A0804-373 **Nov. 9**
Yellow Mountain 8:00 AM
Hike 10, Drive 125, 2900 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Carroll Koeppinger, 828-667-0723, carrollkoepp@bellsouth.net
We'll hike in the Cowee Mtns. on a heavily forested high altitude trail that ascends four peaks going in and three on the way back. Views from the Yellow Mtn. observation tower are great – a fine lunch spot. Strenuous but rewarding. **Second meeting place: rest area beyond Waynesville at 8:30 AM.** Topos: Highlands, Glenville

ALL DAY No. A0804-336 **Nov. 16**
Mt. Cammerer from Big Creek *8:00 AM
Hike 12.2, Drive 110, 3300 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA+
Cindy McJunkin, 828-712-9646, mcjfive@aol.com
900M, LTC This great hike from Big Creek to the historic fire lookout atop Mt. Cammerer goes up the Chestnut Branch Trail and AT. Strenuous, but the payoffs are first class: a good workout and superb views. ***Meet at Westgate at 8:00 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at Pilot Truck Stop at Exit 24 off I-40 at 8:30 AM.** Topos: Waterville and Hartford; also Natl. Geo. GSMNP Map #229

ALL DAY No. A0804-397 **Nov. 23**
Bad Fork – Chestnut Cove Overlook *8:30 AM
Hike 9.5, Drive 80, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
Charlie Ferguson, 828-333-5165, ccf108@gmail.com
P400 *Note later start time. This is an in-and-out hike that begins at the Trace Ridge trailhead.

We will hike up Bad Fork to the BRP (a steep 700 ft. ascent for the second mile) to Bent Creek Gap, and then follow the MST to the Chestnut Cove Overlook to enjoy a beautiful view during lunch. Return by the same route. **Second meeting place: Trace Ridge Trailhead at 9:00 AM.** Topo: Dunsmore Mtn; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map #780, and MST Profiles, pgs. 55-56

ALL DAY No. A0804-328 **Nov. 30**
Bent Creek Loop #5 – Ingles Field *9:00 AM
Hike 8, Drive 20, 800 ft. ascent, Rated B-C
Tom Sanders, 828-252-6327, tomary2@charter.net
P400 *Note later start time. Here's a chance to work off some of that Thanksgiving turkey with a moderate hike in the Bent Creek area. From Hardtimes trailhead, we'll do a loop hike around Lake Powhatan, Explorer and Sidehill Trails, and descend past Ingles Field to our cars. Topo: Dunsmore Mtn.; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map #780 and Bent Creek Trail Map

ALL DAY No. A0804-537 **Dec. 7**
Coggins/Rim of the Gap/ Pinnacle Pass/ Naturaland Tr. *8:00 AM (strenuous)
Hike 10.5, Drive 110, 2800 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Jeff McGurk, 864-921-6469, jbsbestfan@hotmail.com
***Meet at Westgate at 8:00 AM to form carpools, and make stop at Bi-Lo in Pisgah Forest at 8:30 AM for additional hikers. Meet leader at Caesar's Head Visitor Center parking lot at 9:00 AM.** From the Visitor Center, we'll do a loop hike in the Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area. We'll start on the Frank Coggins Trail and continue on the Rim of the Gap, then cut over to the Pinnacle Pass Trail. We'll follow this steeply down and then up to intersect with the Naturaland Trust Trail back to our cars. *Caution: If the weather is cold, there will be ice on the Rim of the Gap Trail.* Topos: Cleveland, Table Rock; also Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area 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-C
Marianne Newman, 828-257-2136, marianneln@msn.com
P400 *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 S. 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; also Nat'l. Geo. 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 A-AA