NEW LET’S GO CO-EDITOR SOUGHT
Your current co-editor, Gerry McNabb, has been doing Let’s Go for about 5 years now and was also editor back in the 70s. It’s time to share the fun. Him is this one of the more rewarding volunteer jobs in the club. Anyone interested in discussing the opportunity please call Gerry at 828-274-2057 or any council member.

MOUNTAINEERING INFORMATION
Consult the trip leader for additional information regarding a particular hike. Hikes may be cancelled due to adverse weather or dangerous road and trail conditions. Please call hike leader if weather conditions are questionable. Visitors are cordially welcomed but should select trips within their endurance. When reservations are required as listed in the hike schedule, the leader must be called to reserve a space. Hikers will carpool from the meeting place to trailheads and back. Passengers are expected to contribute 10 cents per mile towards the driver’s operating expenses.

CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT, ETC.
Footwear comes first. Never start a mountain trip in brand new footwear. Hiking boots are recommended. Grill of any substantial type will do. Carry a sweater, even in summer, and some kind of rain wear. Equipment for all-day trips should be a lunch, plenty of water, first aid kit, cell phone if available and personal medication including allergy medication.

CLUB TRIP REGULATIONS: Both members and visitors are expected to abide absolutely by club regulations and by instructions of the leader. Visitors should make themselves known to the leader on arrival at assembly place announced for the trip. No one is to start ahead of the leader without definite permission, or lag unreasonably far behind the group.

MEMBERSHIP: Everyone is eligible for Club membership by completing a Membership Application Form and paying dues. Annual dues are $20 for individuals and $30 for families, and should be sent to the Carolina Mountain Club, P.O. Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802. Frequent non-member participants in Club hikes are expected to join the Carolina Mountain Club.

Carolina Mountain Club
P.O. Box 68
Asheville, NC 28802
Return Service Requested

LETS GO!
Quarterly News Bulletin and Hike Schedule

Carolina Mountain Club dedicates new Roaring Fork Shelter on the AT...nearly 2 years in construction

Carolina Mountain Club past president, Howard McDonald, assembled a team of workers early in 2024 to begin the process of building a new Roaring Fork Shelter on a remote section of the Appalachian Trail between Lemon Gap and Max Patch. It was to replace a similar shelter that was 0.5 miles north of the road crossing at Lemon Gap and suffering abuse. The new one is over 3 miles from Lemon Gap with many new features and improvements.

The new shelter can accommodate 8 backpackers sleeping on its main deck, 4 more on the ground in front of it, and another 6 or so in the “horseshoe” under the deck. In addition, there are 2 twin pads set away from the shelter. McDonald says the site can sleep as many as 50 hikers. The top log inside the shelter are set with 14 pairs of wooden pegs on which to hang backpacks. The site hosts a new privy, two water sources, two side benches outside, and a sheet-metal covered cooking shelf on the east side of the facility. The shelter and one nearby tent pad are also wheelchair accessible.

In his remarks during the dedication at the shelter on Nov. 6, 2005, McDonald said the decision to rebuild the shelter at another site was made in 2002 when CMC maintainers found they were removing as many as 22 bags of trash from the old shelter in one year. The next

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Diamond Brand Outdoors Gives
Club Members $20 Gift Card

Because of the trail maintenance work we accomplish and all that we do to advance the cause of hiking here, Diamond Brand Outdoors is providing every old or new dues-paying member for the year 2026 a $20 gift card redeemable at any of their three stores.

The card, though not redeemable for cash, is worth $20 in merchandise at Diamond Brand Outdoors in Asheville, The Fugly Backpacker Outdoor Outlet next door to Diamond Brand Outdoors, and Diamond Brand Outdoors on Charlotte Street in Asheville. There is no expiration date on the card. Diamond Brand hopes this will help them reach out to their potential customers. Club President Gerry McNabb says he hopes it will make members realize they are a valued part of our community and that it will increase members beyond the 70s we already have on our rolls. The membership incentive was announced by David Burns of Diamond Brand at the club’s annual meeting.

Fugly Backpacker Outdoor Outlet

Best friends written up in E-Newsletter

If you haven’t had a chance to read it, Danny Bernstein’s interview with Bernadette McDonald is better than a history lesson. It’s too long to include in Let’s Go, but you can read it all in the October 25, 2006 issue of the online newsletter.

Ruth CAROLINA Smucker – Editor
A THOUGHTFUL PRECAUTION FOR RIDERS
Here’s a useful idea that will show the driver or your hike how considerate you are about keeping his car clean. Just put a couple of plastic grocery bags in your pack. When you get off the hike and back to the cars, don them like galoshes before getting into his/her car. You’ll save the driver a lot of extra vacuuming later. Only you can decide whether you prefer to advertise Ingles or Wal-Mart.

CMC Council Recommends 10 cents a Mile for Carpooling

Responding to the drastic rise in the price of gasoline, the Council voted to change the recommended contribution to drivers from five cents a mile to ten cents a mile per passenger in October. This is a recommendation and drivers and passengers are free, as they have always been, to make whatever arrangement they wish. If gas prices moderate, drivers and passengers may wish to negotiate a new rate. Hike leaders are responsible for calculating the recommended contribution for any trip they lead and announcing it to the group prior to leaving Westgate. This increase brings us in line with neighboring clubs, which all charge either eight or ten cents a mile. Any changes in the recommended rates will be in the E-Newsletter.

ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS

The club’s major accomplishments of the year were celebrated at the annual meeting. These include: the building of the Rumble Bridge on the Near Blue Ridge Parkway and US 25, the building of the Roaring Fork Shelter on the AT, extending the MST some 4 miles beyond Balsam Gap, the rewrite of the club’s By-Laws, and the establishment of the Conservation Committee. Our speaker, Jeff Mayer, Southeast Trail Programs Director of the American Hiking Society, came all the way from Chattanooga, TN, to tell us about their plans for a network of connected trails all over the eastern US. He also encouraged us to bring young people on our hikes as a way of developing future hikers/conservationists. The By-Laws were accepted and then a new slate of officers was elected.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE STUDYING 1-3 ISSUE

The CMC Conservation Committee would like to update you on the status of the proposal to build an interstate highway from Savannah to Augusta to Knoxville through the Southern Appalachian Mountains. You may remember that Congress passed funding for a feasibility study in the highway bill, which was signed into law on August 17th. This new interstate highway would pass through the westernmost end of North Carolina crossing the Appalachian Trail and greatly diminishing the natural splendor of this scenic part of our state. The Federal Highway Administration is in charge of contracting out and overseeing the feasibility study, which should include public participation as well as representation by every level of government according to the FHWA’s own guidelines (posted on www.trucks.org). Our most pressing concern at this point is that the study may be done without sufficient public participation. This is a critical time for us to act and let our voices be heard. The Conservation Committee is studying the issue to determine whether we endorse opposition to the highway or not.

North Shore Road – We take a stand

At the October Council meeting, the Carolina Mountain Club adopted the following position on the proposed North Shore Road in the GSMNP. The Carolina Mountain Club supports the Monetary Settlement Study Alternative to settle the 1991 agreement concerning a proposed road on the north shore of Lake Fontana in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The Carolina Mountain Club has taken a stand to protect trails in one of the largest continuous forest areas east of the Mississippi River. The proposed North Shore Road would follow the Appalachian Trail for 1.5 miles and adversely impact 150 wilderness miles for miles. The Benton Mackaye Trail and the Lakeshore Trail, two other trails, fall within the proposed road corridor for almost its entire length. Sections of the Cowrock Creek, Bear Creek, Hazel Creek, Eagle Creek and Lose Cove Trails, also fall within the proposed road corridor. These trails are located in one of the largest roadless areas in the Southern Appalachians. The proposed road would destroy wilderness values important to the hiking experience. Not only is the North Shore area unique in WNC, it is unique in the nation and globally. Also, the proposed road would adversely impact the overall environmental health of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The monetary settlement is favored by the Swan County Board of Commissioners and would provide the county with many needed assets.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement should have been issued by now and those interested in reading it should call Ruth Harter at 275-8605 or email her at ruthharter@colonial.com. More information on the North Shore Road study alternatives, history and issues, in addition to summaries of citizen comments, can be found at http://www.northshoreroad.info/ and http://www.wnc.org/campaigns/northshoreroad.php.

Smokies Wildflower Pilgrimage April 24-30, 2006

The Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage is an annual seven-day event in Great Smoky Mountains National Park consisting of a variety of wildflower, fauna, and natural history walks, motorcades, photographic tours, art classes, and indoor seminars. Most programs are outdoors in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, while indoor offerings are held in various venues throughout Gatlinburg, TN. The 2006 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage will return to the newly renovated W.L. Mills Auditorium in Gatlinburg, TN. For more information go to www.smokieswildflowerpilgrimage.org on the web.
HALF-DAY SUNDAY HIKES
Half-day hikes submitted by Paula Robbins, 828-281-3253, paulaweb@bellsouth.net. Driving distance is round trip from Asheville. All hikes assemble at Westgate Shopping Center (Exit 1B at I-26) UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. Some hikes will have second meeting places as described in hike listings.

HALF-DAY HIKES: Jan. 1
Chattanooga to Slop to Explorer Trail 1:00 PM* Hike 5, Drive 15, meet at C-C
Paula Robbins, 828-281-3253 (before 9 PM), paulaweb@bellsouth.net.

HALF-DAY HIKES: Jan. 8
Creek Overflow on the MST 1:00 PM* Hike 5, Drive 15, meet at C-C
Heather Fletcher, 828-299-4716, haufler@nc.rr.com.

HALF-DAY HIKES: Jan. 15
Mountain to Snow 1:00 PM* Hike 4, 4:5 miles, Drive 10, C-C
Greg Goodwin, 828-684-9723

HALF-DAY HIKES: Jan. 22
High Winds 12:30 PM* Hike 6, Drive 40, 1720 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Ken and Carol Deal, 828-281-4530, kenandcarol830@gmail.com.

HALF-DAY HIKES: Jan. 30
The creek loop 10:00 AM* Fields Gap Trail via Boyd Branch and Little Hickory Top 1:00 PM* Hike 5, Drive 20, Rated C-C
Charlie Ferguson, 828-278-0215, cferguson1111@charter.net.

HALF-DAY HIKES: Feb. 6
French Broad River Greenway 1:30 PM* Hike 4, Drive 10, Rated C-C
Paula Robbins, 828-281-3253, paulaweb@bellsouth.net

HALF-DAY HIKES: Feb. 13
Montreat loop 12:00 PM* Hike 5, Drive 40, 1,000 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Danny Bernstein, 828-236-0192, dbernstein@avl.net.

HALF-DAY HIKES: Feb. 20
The creek loop 10:00 AM* French Broad Overlook 1:00 PM* Hike 5, Drive 15, Rated C-C
Patricia Eagen, 828-883-2447, sturer@sturer.com

HALF-DAY HIKES: Feb. 27
Moore Cove 3:00 PM* Moore Cove Flood 2:00 PM* Hike 6, Drive 20, Rated B-B
Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, blmecandk@ymail.com

HALF-DAY HIKES: Mar. 6
Sly Park Road 1:00 PM* High Peak Trail 1:00 PM* Hike 6, Drive 20, Rated B-B
Dave Waldon, 828-713-9375, downeye@bellsouth.net.

HALF-DAY HIKES: Mar. 13
Little Pisgah Mountain 8:30 AM* Hike 9, Drive 20, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Brad Van Draw, 828-699-2741, bvan567006@gmail.com.

HALF-DAY HIKES: Mar. 20
Tunnel Mountain 1:00 PM* Hike 5, Drive 40, Rated C-C
Leslie Robbins, 828-463-6542, LeslieR@bellsouth.net

HALF-DAY HIKES: Mar. 27
Little French Broad Mountain 8:30 AM* Hike 9, Drive 20, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Brad Van Draw, 828-699-2741, bvan567006@gmail.com.

HALF-DAYushes: Apr. 3
Ice Age Trail 9:00 AM* Hike 7, Drive 20, Rated B-B
John and Bob Bente, 828-692-0116, blmecandk@ymail.com.

HALF-DAY HIKES: Apr. 10
Upstate Hut 9:00 AM* Hike 7, Drive 20, Rated B-B
John and Bob Bente, 828-692-0116, blmecandk@ymail.com.

HALF-DAY HIKES: Apr. 17
The creek loop 10:00 PM* French Broad Overlook 1:00 PM* Hike 5, Drive 15, Rated C-C
Patricia Eagen, 828-883-2447, sturer@sturer.com

HALF-DAY HIKES: Apr. 24
Hike and fish in Pisgah Ranger District. For information, contact Linda Bejaibe@charter.net

HALF-DAY HIKES: May 1
Green River Gamelands: Branch Punch-Pulliam Creek 8:30 AM* Hike 9, Drive 20, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Becky Elson, 828-749-1886, elson@charter.com.

HALF-DAY HIKES: May 8
Hike and fish in Pisgah Ranger District. For information, contact John Gallimore kelanc@icloud.com.

HALF-DAY HIKES: May 15
Shing rocks with Mt Toms. Rated B-B
Pat Ely, 828-685-1615 paula@knights.com.

HALF-DAY HIKES: May 22
Two mile hike through the Pisgah National Forest. For information, contact Linda Bejaibe@charter.net

HALF-DAY HIKES: May 29
Overlook and the Boone Cemetery. For information, contact Linda Bejaibe@charter.net

HALF-DAY HIKES: June 5
Sly Park Road 1:00 PM* High Peak Trail 1:00 PM* Hike 6, Drive 20, Rated B-B
Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, blmecandk@ymail.com.

HALF-DAY HIKES: June 12
High peak hike to see the Spring view of Pisgah Ranger District. For information, contact John Gallimore kelanc@icloud.com.
**SATURDAY WORK DAY**

Here is a great chance to learn what is involved in trail maintenance. We will meet at the trailhead at the Cracker Rock and hike with the En-Sider-Es at 8:30 AM for breakfast. We will return to Asheville around 2:00 PM. Come join the fun. Call Les Love at 828-618-1499 to verify date.

**PAND**

Highlights of this low-alitude winter hike will be seeing more and more good views from Rich and Chestnut Mtns. and from the Art Loeb Trail. Second meeting place: Pisgah Ranger Station at 8:30 AM. Call Table Rock, Shining Rock, or Geol. PRD map.

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