

ing the East Ridge Trail to Sourwood Gap. Return will be by the Toll Road, the Buck Gap Trail, and the Old Trestle Road to the Lookout Trail. There will be a moderately steep ascent and a short rock scramble combined with an easy walk. **Second meeting place: Parking lot adjacent to McDonald's in Black Mountain off exit 64 of I-40 at 1:20 PM.**

HALF-DAY No. H0701-498 **Mar. 11**
High Windy 12:30 PM*

Hike 6, Drive 40, Rated B-B
Nonmembers, call leader, Renate Rikkers, 828-298-9988, rrikkers@aol.com
***Note early start time, and that this is the first day of DST.** From the grounds of the 12,000-acre Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, we will combine the Carolina Loop Trail with the High Windy Trail for a gradual but steady ascent to the 4370-ft. summit of High Windy for rewarding views. ***Only meeting place: Parking lot adjacent to McDonald's in Black Mountain off exit 64 of I-40.**

HALF-DAY No. H0701-344 **Mar. 18**
Pulliam Creek in the 12:30 PM*
Green River Game Lands

Hike 6.5, Drive 60, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Nonmembers, call leader, Becky Elston, 828-749-1886, belston@cytechusa.com
This pretty in-and-out hike goes along Pulliam Creek for part of the way, and our break might include viewing kayakers on the

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

Return Service Requested

Green River. Join leader for dinner at Cracker Barrel after the hike. ***Meet at Westgate at 12:30 PM to form carpools, and meet hike leader at NE corner of parking lot of Cracker Barrel off Exit 53 of I-26 at 1:00 PM.**

HALF-DAY NO. H0701-196 **Mar. 25**
Vineyard Gap Loop 1:30 PM*
Hike 5, Drive 55, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Nonmembers, call leader, Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, bbente@cytechusa.com
P400 We'll do a dry-foot loop hike on the Vineyard Gap and Riverside Trails, including a scenic trail along the Mills River. Note that

there is a steep 400 ft. climb near the end of the hike. ***Meet at Westgate at 1:30 PM to form carpools, and meet leader at Turkey Pen parking area at 2:00 PM.** Topo: Pisgah Forest; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

HALF-DAY NO. H0701-046 **Apr. 1**
Bent Creek Loop #12, MST side 1:30 PM
Hike 5, Drive 20, Rated C-C
Nonmembers, call leader, Tom Sanders, 828-252-6327, tomary2@charter.net
P400 This loop hike will pass by Lake Powhatan and ascend to the Mountains-to-Sea Trail via the Sherman Stambaugh Trail. We will then descend on the Sleepy Gap Trail and wander along the Explorer and Pine Tree Trails.

Club hikes are expected to join the Carolina Mountain Club. All members are encouraged to participate in one of the Club's many trail maintenance efforts. Contact a Club officer for details.

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB OFFICERS

Lenny Bernstein-236-0192, President
Becky Smucker-298-5013, Vice President
Dave Wetmore-884-7296, Secretary
Carroll Koeplinger-667-0723, Treasurer
Gerry McNabb-274-0057, Immediate Past President
Council Members: Chip Miller-654-9331, Barth Brooker-299-0298,
Ruth Hartzler-251-0886, Piet Bodenhorst-298-8371, Don Gardner-754-4067,
Bruce Bente-692-0116, Marlene Santa Maria-299-9095.

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL: The Carolina Mountain Club is a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25245. Telephone (304) 535-6331.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY: Each CMC member, guest or non-member hiker agrees to accept personal responsibility for his or her safety and the safety of minors accompanying such persons. The Club cannot ensure the safety of any participant on hikes. In participating in Club hikes, each such person agrees to hold harmless and free from blame the hike leaders, and the CMC, its officers and members, for any accident, injury or illness which might be sustained from participating in hikes or other Club activities.

Editor: Stuart English-883-2447, stuengo@citcom.net
Deadline next issue: Feb. 15

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

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 welcome 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 places 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. Clothing 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



FIRST QUARTER 2007
Quarterly News Bulletin
and Hike Schedule



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



The 2007 Council, elected at the annual meeting Oct. 27: front row Gail Lamb, Ruth Hartzler, Becky Smucker, Charlie Ferguson, Barth Brooker. Back row is Carroll Koeplinger, Chip Miller, Bruce Bente, Lenny Bernstein. Not pictured: Don Gardner, Gerry McNabb and Marlene Santa Maria.

CMC ANNUAL DINNER AND MEETING

Eighty-three members joined at the Chariot in Hendersonville for an evening of fellowship and annual business. Several members were recognized for their work and contributions to the club. Howard MacDonald and Lew and Jane Blodgett were given Honorary Lifetime Memberships for many years of club service. Howard is a past president and has over 5,000 hours of trail maintenance hours. Lew and Jane have led hikes and been active trail maintainers. Jane was an editor of *Let's Go* for many years. Lew was our representative on the Appalachian Trail Guidebook Committee until recently.

Membership Renewals Due

This is a gentle reminder that all CMC membership dues need to be in by January 1, 2007. So fill out the application you received in *Let's Go* and send it, with your dues, to Carolina Mountain Club, P.O. Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802.

Bill Newton was given the Distinguished Service Award for years of trail maintenance leading the Friday Crew in the Pisgah Ranger District. Bruce Bente was given the Award of Appreciation for chairing the Hiking Committee, scheduling hikes, leading many hikes, taking new hike leaders under his wing, and generally holding up the hiking end of our club. Dale Ditmanson, Superintendent of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park gave an interesting slide presentation on recent developments in the park.

Lastly, proposed bylaw changes were approved and the following Council members were elected: Treasurer: Carroll Koeplinger, Secretary: Chip Miller, Councilor for Maintenance: Barth Brooker, Councilor for Membership: Gail Lamb (one year term), Councilor-at-Large for a two year term: Charlie Ferguson, Councilor at Large for a one year term: Don Gardner. Many thanks to President Lenny Bernstein for the job he is doing in the smooth operation of our club.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I'd like to do two things in this column, first, tell you about the state of your Club, and second, tell you about an incident that happened on one of our hikes, and the lessons it teaches for both hikers and leaders.



2006 has been a very good year for CMC, and I want to thank all of the CMC members, Committee Chairs, and Council members who made it possible.

We currently have over 800 members and our membership is growing at a steady rate.

We formed a very strong partner-

continued on page 2



Members of the CMC who have recently completed challenge programs include (from left) Charlie Ferguson, Becky Smucker, Stuart Tauber, Steve Pierce and Larry Modlin. Not pictured is Tia Ramsey.

CMC members conquer challenges

Recently, six goal-oriented individuals completed challenge programs offered by our club. Becky Smucker, Steve Pierce, and Charlie Ferguson bagged all 40 peaks above 6,000 feet, completing the SB6K. Larry Modlin, Tia Ramsey, and Stuart Tauber hiked every trail in the Pisgah Ranger District: the Pisgah 400. Larry also completed the SB6K. Several of them shared memories of their respective journeys.

"I had my first real taste of the SB6K this May when I went on the three day SB6K Smokies backpack, led by Tom Sanders. We reached eight of the 6K peaks in 41 miles of hiking," said Charlie Ferguson. "I went on that hike for fun, without much concern for the challenge itself. I learned a completely new meaning for 'fun' that weekend. It was a major experience of 'challenge' as well. I guess fun and challenge mean the same thing in the CMC."

"As I reflect on the hikes that I did to reach the 40 peaks, I recall days of superbly clear weather such as I had on the Black

Mountain Crest and in the Plott Balsams," said Steve Pierce. "The views were spectacular. I also recall reaching Mt. Hardy at the end of a particularly rainy day and not having any view whatsoever. I hope to revisit some of those peaks on a clear day to enjoy the views."

"The singularly most difficult section of the P400 was a day hike with Stuart Tauber from the fish hatchery up to Butter Gap, then following the Art Loeb trail over Pilot Mountain, Silvermine Bald and all the others, to Black Balsam parking area," said Larry Modlin. "About 5,000 feet, 15+ miles, more than a day's work. I am glad that it is over and proud to have accomplished both goals."

"I think if I learned anything from this peak bagging experience, it is that it's often harder to find your way down without getting lost than it was to bushwack to the top. How does this apply to life? If you're going to go somewhere difficult and new, be sure to think ahead and have an exit plan," said Becky Smucker.

"I guess my most unusual memory of hiking the Pisgah 400 was standing on Green Knob in Middle Prong Wilderness and looking at Devil's Courthouse," said Tia Ramsey. "We were there at just the right time – the shadows on the Courthouse looked like the face of a devil!"

These were individual accomplishments, but they were not achieved by lone individuals. To bag the forty peaks, several back pack trips had to be organized and few of these trails were walked alone. Our club is a family of individuals who are always there for each other.

President's corner

continued from page 1

ship with Diamond Brand. Each 2006 membership received a \$20 gift card from Diamond Brand, and Diamond Brand has extended that benefit to our 2007 memberships, each of which will receive a \$20 gift card. When you go into Diamond Brand, please let the people there know that you are a CMC member and thank them for the support they have provided to our Club.

We scheduled 179 hikes during 2006, which we estimate will attract over 2,100 participants. During the 12 months ending on September 30, 243 CMC trail maintainers put in a total of 15,235 hours of work maintaining over 400 miles of existing trail, and building a new section of the Mountains to Sea Trail.

We had our first Annual Spring picnic in April. It's safe to call it the first annual because Les Love and Sherman Stambaugh are already planning the second annual picnic.

We created a program to recognize the hard work our trail maintainers do week in, week out. One hundred trail maintainers received awards ranging from a patch for 50 hours worked to a \$100 gift card at Diamond Brand for 4,000 hours worked.

We adopted a new hiking challenge – the CMC Loop, which is an over 450 mile loop, including all of the sections of the AT and MST that the Club maintains, with side trips to the 40 over 6000 peaks.

Now to tell you about the hiking incident. At the start of the hike a hiker was stung by an insect. He was allergic to bee stings, but was not carrying an EpiPen or any allergy medication. He soon developed a severe allergic reaction. Jean Gard, the hike leader, kept her cool. She called the Brevard Rescue Squad on a cell phone, appointed Jorge Muñoz as stand-in leader, and sent most of the other hikers on to finish the hike. A small group stayed with hiker with the allergic reaction. The Rescue Squad arrived before too long and took the hiker to the hospital, where he was treated and soon recovered. Jean's actions as a leader are a model for how to handle an accident on the trail.

We are lucky that this incident turned out as well as it did. More people die of bee stings than rattlesnake bites in WNC. As a hiker, you have a responsibility to carry any emergency medication you require, and to tell the leader if something that might affect you has occurred.

CHARLESWORTH L. DICKERSON, 1927-2006

By Becky Smucker

We have recently learned that a long-time member of the Club, Charlesworth L. Dickerson, died January 15, 2006, near his home in Racine, Wisconsin. Although he was active in the club for only a few years in the fifties, he had been a member continuously since 1954, apparently becoming a paid-up life member at some point. His obituary contains a reference to his membership in the Carolina Mountain Club.

Charlesworth had a doctoral degree in the field of chemistry, and came to Asheville in the 1950s to work at American Enka. Although he had been hiking in the Smokies for years, he didn't know about the CMC until he moved to Asheville in 1954, when he promptly joined. He left the area in 1957 or '58, but continued to pay dues.

Charlesworth has a brother, Lawrence Willis Dickerson, also still a member of CMC, who lives near Cincinnati, Ohio. After Charlesworth moved to Asheville and joined the Club, Willis joined soon after, and the two of them hiked frequently with the Club for the two or three years that Charlesworth (or "C-worth" as he liked to call himself) lived here.

The meticulous membership records kept by Jerome Dykeman in the 50s have this note in the record for Willis Dickerson: "One of the strongmen on our Appalachian Trail Work Committee 1956, '57, '58." There are also notes about several hikes he led during the years 1956-59.

It is warming to see that these two brothers kept us in their hearts and have supported us by paying their dues all these years.



Nantahala weekend: Over 35 CMC members enjoyed a weekend of hiking, rafting and fellowship in early October. They explored the area around the Nantahala Outdoor Center and had meals at different restaurants. Above is the view of the Little Tennessee River going through the center and the gorge. Below are several hikers on the lookout tower after climbing Wesser Bald.



Gerry McNabb wins slogan contest

Gerry McNabb won a \$100 gift certificate from Diamond Brand for his winning slogan. The Slogan Contest was designed to find a one or two line phrase that describes our club and what we are about. It is no surprise to many that Gerry, an English major from Dartmouth and retired from a career in marketing, walked away with the prize. His slogan was powerful in its simplicity. "Hike, Save

Trails, Make Friends." Gerry shared with us these thoughts: "My idea for the slogan was to put it in the imperative mode with each command carrying its implied benefit," he said. "Hike, Save Trails, Make Friends." The hard part was finding a sentence combining the idea of maintenance and conservation into one two-word group."

NEXT CMC COUNCIL MEETING

When: February 7, 2007

Where: TBA

Time: 6:30 PM

Info: Call Lenny at 828-236-0192 to find out where the meeting will be if you would like to attend. All CMC members are welcome.

An exciting ridgetop manway along the middle mountain is our path to the summit. Return to Montreat via Walker Knob and Pot Cove Gap. There'll be good views, a delightful hike and a good workout. Fairly strenuous, including a very steep first mile. ***Meeting places: Meet at Westgate at 8:00 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at parking lot adjacent to McDonald's at exit 64 of I-40 at 8:20 AM.** Topo: Montreat; also Montreat Trails Map

ALL DAY NO. A0701-551 **Mar. 25**
Fish Hatchery to Davidson Campground via Cat Gap **8:00 AM***
 Hike 10, Drive 72, 2050 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
 Joan Lemire, 828-231-9259, tjbindire@yahoo.com

P400 *Meet at Westgate at 8:00 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at Pisgah Ranger Station at 8:40 AM. This will be a moderately-paced hike via Cat Gap and the Art Loeb Trail, with lunch atop Chestnut Knob. The trail is NOT all downhill thereafter. Car shuttle. Topos: Shining Rock, Pisgah Forest; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

ALL DAY NO. A0701-151 **Apr. 1**
Big East to Shining Rock via Old Butt (strenuous) **8:00 AM**
 Hike 8.5, Drive 60, 3100 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA+
 Les Love, 828-658-1489, lesrlove@charter.net

SB6K, P400 We will hike from the Big East parking lot up the steep Chestnut Ridge trail over Dog Loser and Old Butt knobs to lunch at Shining Rock (6040 ft.) with its exceptional views. We'll return via a steep descent to the North Fork of Shining Creek. Wilderness area hike limited to ten people; please contact leader for reservations. Topo: Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

ALL DAY NO. A0701-305 **April 1**
Dupont Forest Lake Imaging P.L. #1 (moderate) **8:00 AM***

Hike 10, Drive 70, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
 Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119, ashok.kudva@mchsi.com
 This low-altitude hike will traverse a loop on the northern side of Dupont Forest, from Lake Imaging to Stone Mtn., including Grassy Falls, the Thomas Cemetery, Wintergreen Falls, and Stone Mtn. ***Meeting places: Self-organize carpools at Westgate at 8:00 AM, and meet leader at Bi-Lo parking lot in Pisgah Forest at 8:30 AM.** Topo: Standingstone Mtn.; also DuPont State Forest trail map, 6-7-05 revision

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 Paula Robbins, 828-281-3253, paularww@bellsouth.net. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All hikes assemble at Westgate Shopping Center (Exit 3B off I-240) UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. Some hikes will have second meeting places as described in hike listings.

HALF-DAY NO. H0701-320 **Jan. 7**
Warren Wilson College Ramble **1:30 PM**
 Hike 5.5, Drive 20, Rated C-C
 Nonmembers, call leaders, Barry and Heather Fletcher, 828-299-4776, hmflfet@aol.com
 This pleasant in-and-out walk is along the Swannanoa River and through wooded land of the Warren Wilson College campus, on the River and Dam Pasture Trails.

HALF-DAY NO. H0701-500 **Jan. 14**
MST: US 25 to I-26 **1:15 PM***
 Hike 3.2, Drive 15, Rated C-C
 Nonmembers, call leader, Pat Elias, 828-687-1651, patelias@bellsouth.net
***Note early start time.** A pleasant winter hike through the woods, parallel to the Blue Ridge Parkway between I-26 and US 25. Short car shuttle. ***Meet at Westgate at 1:15 PM to form carpools, and meet hike leader at Ingles parking lot across from Biltmore Square Mall on NC 191 south of I-26 at 1:30 PM.**

HALF-DAY NO. H0701-168 **Jan. 21**
Pink Beds **1:00 PM***
 Hike 4.2, Drive 65, Rated C-C
 Nonmembers, call leader, Laura Stallard, 828-697-1579
P400 *Note early start time. This is an easy loop hike with little elevation change, off US 276, not far from the Cradle of Forestry. **Second meeting place: Pisgah Ranger Station at 1:30 PM.**

HALF-DAY NO. H0601-499 **Jan. 28**
French Broad River Greenway **1:30 PM**
 Hike 4, Drive 10, Rated C-C
 Paula Robbins, 828-281-3253, paularww@bellsouth.net
 Asheville's Greenway System now provides several opportunities for city walking. The leader, a member of the Greenway Commission, will describe plans for extending this riverfront trail and other existing and planned greenways within the City.

HALF-DAY NO. H0701-316 **Feb. 4**
Carl Sandburg Park **1:00 PM***
 Hike 4, Drive 65, Rated C-C
 Nonmembers, call leader, Lucy Prim,

lucette32@mchsi.com, 828-693-6580
***Note early start time.** Traverse the same trails that poet/biographer Carl Sandburg enjoyed by climbing Big Grassy Mountain behind his farmhouse. ***Meet at Westgate at 1:00 PM to form carpools, and meet leader at parking lot of Carl Sandburg Park at 1:30 PM.**

HALF-DAY NO. H0701-064 **Feb. 11**
Fletcher Creek **1:00 PM***
 Hike 6, Drive 48, Rated B-C
 Nonmembers, call leader, Greg Goodman, 828-684-9703

P400 *Note early start time. From the Hendersonville Reservoir, we will hike for a brief time on the Big Creek Trail, then take a loop using Spencer Branch, Middle Fork and Fletcher Creek Trails. The hike includes a few stream crossings. ***Meet at Westgate at 1:00 PM to form carpools, and meet hike leader at parking area just before the N. Mills River Recreation Area at 1:30 PM.**

HALF-DAY NO. H0701-347 **Feb. 18**
Twin Falls Loop **12:30 PM***
 Hike 6, Drive 80, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
 Nonmembers, call leader, Stuart English, 828-883-2447, stuengo@citcom.net
P400 *Note early start time. A moderate hike in the Pisgah National Forest, starting on the Buckhorn Gap Trail, taking the Twin Falls Bypass to view two nice waterfalls and completing the loop on a Forest Service road and the Clawhammer Cove Trail. ***Meet at Westgate at 12:30 PM to form carpools, and meet hike leader at the Pisgah Ranger Station at 1:10 PM.**

HALF DAY NO. H0701-552 **Feb. 25**
Dupont Forest: Lake Imaging P.L. #2 **12:30 PM***
 Hike 5, Drive 94, 1200 ft ascent, Rated B-B
 Nonmembers, call leader, Rusty Breeding, 828-692-0359, bree_lw@planetusa.net
***Note early start time.** From the Lake Imaging parking lot, we will climb the newly re-opened Jim Branch Trail, and on a combination of other trails, we will visit Lake Dense, High Falls and Triple Falls, ending at the Hooker Falls pk. lot. Short car shuttle. ***Meet at Westgate at 12:30 PM to form carpools, and meet hike leader at parking lot of Bi-Lo at intersection of US 276 and NC 280 in Pisgah Forest at 1:00 PM.**

HALF-DAY NO. H0701-553 **Mar. 4**
Montreat Loop #4 **1:00 PM**
 Hike 5, Drive 40, 1000-ft. ascent, Rated C-B
 Nonmembers, call leader, Joe Burchfield, 828-298-8413, jdburch@wpo.cso.niu.edu
 A moderate hike ascending the Lookout Trail over Lookout Rock and then follow-

HIKE SCHEDULE First Quarter 2007

Hike Ratings

First Letter Distance	Second Letter Elevation Gain
AA: Over 12 miles	AA: Over 2,000 ft.
A: 9-12 miles	A: 1,500-2,000 ft.
B: 6-9 miles	B: 1,000-1,500 ft.
C: Under 6 miles	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.

CHALLENGE PROGRAMS:

SB6K For hiking all 40 peaks above 6000'. For information, contact Don Gardner, gardog3@charter.net
P400 For hiking every trail in Pisgah Ranger District. For information, contact Don Gardner, gardog3@charter.net
900M For hiking every trail in GSMNP. For information, contact John Gallemore, kelarco@aol.com

WEDNESDAY HIKES

Wednesday hikes submitted by Charlie Ferguson, ccf108@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 hike listings.

WEDNESDAY NO. W0701-186 **Jan. 3**
Little Pisgah Mountain **8:00 AM**
 Hike 9, Drive 80, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
 Charlie Ferguson, 828-398-0213, ccf108@gmail.com
 A pleasant hike, close to home for our coldest month. We'll hike from Hickory Nut Gap through an open meadow to see the view from the summit of Little Pisgah Mtn. Topo: Bat Cave

SATURDAY WORK DAY

Here is a great chance to learn what is involved in trail maintenance. We will meet on March 24 at the Moose Cafe at the Farmer's Market on Rt. 191 at 8 AM for breakfast. We will return to Asheville around 4:00 PM. Call Les Love at 828-658-1489 (lesrlove@charter.net) to verify date.

WEDNESDAY NO. W0701-305 **Jan. 10**
Dupont Forest North Loop **8:00 AM**
 Hike 10, Drive 82, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
 Jay Bretz, 828-658-1220, willambretz1220@msn.com.
 This low-altitude hike will traverse a loop on the northern side of Dupont Forest, from Lake Imaging to Stone Mtn., including Grassy Falls, the Thomas Cemetery and Wintergreen Falls. **Second meeting place: Bi-Lo Pisgah Forest at 8:30 AM.** Topo: Standingstone Mt.

WEDNESDAY NO. W0701-053 **Jan. 17**
East Fork Pigeon River **8:00 AM**
 Hike 8, Drive 74, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
 Tom Sanders, 828-252-6327, tomary2@charter.net
P400 A stroll along one of WNC's most beautiful streams, the East Fork of the Pigeon River, which is often spectacular in the winter. We will ascend to Dark Prong for lunch and then return. Wilderness area, limit 10, so contact leader for reservation. **Second meeting place: Big East parking area on US 276, north of BRP at 8:45 AM.** Topo: Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0701-333 **Jan. 24**
Bearwallow Mtn. **8:30 AM**
 Hike 9.2, Drive 30, 1950 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
 Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, bbente@cytechusa.com
 This hike is an old CMC favorite. From Hickory Nut Gap on US 74A, we will hike over Ferguson Peak, then through undulating, open meadows before reaching our lunch spot at the fire tower on Bearwallow Mtn. Extraordinary views down towards the Lake Lure area. Topo: Bat Cave

WEDNESDAY NO. W0701-310 **Jan. 31**
Jones Gap State Park **8:15 AM***
 Hike 8.5, Drive 94, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
 Jo Anderson, 828-693-7081, jobob@mchsi.com
 Starting at Jones Gap State Park (NOTE: \$2 fee per person for park entry), we will hike up the Rim of the Gap Trail with views of the Gap as we ascend. On top, a loop up on to the ridge, then down the Ishi Trail (#8) if doable. It is short, but steep. If it's wet or icy we'll go back down Rim of the Gap. ***Meeting places: Meet at Westgate at 8:15 AM to form car pools, and meet leader at Jones Gap State Park parking lot at 9:00 AM.** Topos: Cleveland, Table Rock; also Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0701-439 **Feb. 7**
Pounding Mill Trail **8:00 AM**

Hike 8-9, Drive 55, 950 ft. ascent, Rated B-C
 Greg Goodman, (828) 684-9703
P400 This hike takes the South Mills River Trail to the Pounding Mill Trail and on to Squirrel Gap Trail. Continue onto Pea Gap and then return on the S. Mills River Trail. **Second meeting place: Boyleston Baptist Church on NC 280 at 8:30 AM.** Topo: Pisgah Forest; also, Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0701-554 **Feb. 14**
Bent Creek Loop #12: MST - Arboretum **8:30 AM**
 Hike 8.5, Drive 22, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
 Sherman Stambaugh, 828-254-1736
P400 This hike is a loop on some of the Bent Creek area trails, including Small Creek and a connector trail from the Lake Powhatan area to the MST. We'll then hike north on the MST to Hard Times Road and return to the cars through the Arboretum. **Second meeting place: Ingles across from Biltmore Square Mall on NC 191 at 8:45 AM.** Topo: Dunsmore Mt.; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map and Bent Creek Trail map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0701-327 **Feb. 21**
Ridgecrest Ramble **9:00 AM**
 Hike 6-7, Drive 40, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
 Ruth Hartzler, 828-251-0886, ruthmtn@charter.net
 A good winter hike, following the Rattlesnake, Rhododendron and Adventure Trails. This moderate hike in the Ridgecrest area offers a number of great scenic overlooks as it meanders along the ridgelines, and includes Rattlesnake, Copperhead and Lookout Mtns. **Second meeting place: Parking lot adjacent to McDonald's at exit 64 off I-40 at 9:20 AM.** Topo: Montreat

WEDNESDAY NO. W0701-308 **Feb. 28**
Ox Creek - Rich Knob **8:00 AM**
 Hike 8, Drive 20, 1850 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
 Don Walton, 828-654-9904, donwalton@bellsouth.net.
 From Ox Creek Rd. climb to Rich Knob on the MST via Rattlesnake Lodge. Topo: Craggy Pinnacle

WEDNESDAY NO. W0701-545 **Mar. 7**
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 Road and down to Deer Lake Lodge Trail and the Rice Pinnacle parking lot. Great winter views. Car shuttle. **Second meet-**

ing place: Ingles parking lot, across from Biltmore Sq. Mall on NC 191 at 8:45 AM. Topos: Dunsmore Mt., Skyland; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map and Bent Creek Trail map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0701-344 **Mar. 14 Pulliam Creek in the Green River Gamelands 9:00 AM** Hike 6.5, Drive 60, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Becky Elston, 828-749-1886, belston@cytechusa.com
This pretty in-and-out hike goes along Pulliam Creek for part of the way. We may see kayakers on the Green River. **Second meeting place: NE corner of parking lot of Cracker Barrel off Exit 53 of I-26 at 9:30 AM.** Topo: Cliffield Mtn; also Trails of the Green River Game lands map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0701-049 **Mar. 21 Big Creek - Walnut Bottom 8:00 AM** Hike 6 or 11, Drive 110, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119, ashok.kudva@mchsi.com
900M Follow the sight and sound of a spectacular mountain stream through a beautiful forest to Walnut Bottom. Features to be seen on this hike on a wide roadbed are the Midnight Hole, Mouse Creek Falls and several rapids. A shorter hike will be offered if a minimum of 3 people wish to do it. **Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop, off I-40 at Exit 24 at 8:30 AM, but call leader first.** Topo: Luftee Knob, Cove Creek Gap; also Nat'l. Geo. GSMNP Map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0701-280 **March 28 Art Loeb Trail/N. Slope Trail 8:30 AM*** Hike 7.5, Drive 60, 1600 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Ken and Carol Deal, 828-281-4530, cnkdeal@charter.net
P400 We start at the Davidson River Campground and ascend gradually on the Art Loeb Trail to the North Slope Connector. We'll eat lunch at the intersection before we start down the connector to the North Slope Trail. Then we have a lovely, easy stroll along the river to the cars. ***Meet at Westgate at 8:30 AM to form carpools, and meet leaders at Pisgah Ranger Station at 9:10 AM.** Topos: Pisgah Forest, Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

ALL DAY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY HIKES

All-day hikes submitted by Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, bbente@cytechusa.com. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All Saturday and Sunday hikes assemble at Westgate Shopping Center near I-240 exit 3B UNLESS OTHERWISE

NOTED. Some hikes will have second meeting places as described in hike listings.

NEW YEARS DAY NO. A0701-281 **Jan. 1 Green River Gamelands 8:00 AM breakfast, 9:10 AM hike*** Hike 6.5 or 8, Drive 20 (from Hendersonville), 1300 or 1500 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, bbente@cytechusa.com
***Meet at Westgate at 7:30 AM to form carpools and meet leader at times above at the Cracker Barrel in Hendersonville (exit 53 on I-26).** After breakfast, we'll do a pleasant loop on a series of trails around the Green River Gamelands. We'll hike down to and along the Green River, with a late lunch at the big rocks on the Green River, and then hike up and out on the Pulliam Creek trail. Short car shuttle. Topo: Cliffield Mtn.; also Map of the Green River Gamelands Trails

ALL DAY NO. A0701-128 **Jan. 7 Sam Knob Loop 8:00 AM** Hike 9.8, Drive 80, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Paul Benson, 828-251-1909, pdbenson@charter.net
SB6K, P400 This scenic loop will be great in winter weather, hopefully with snow on the ground. We'll start at NC 215 and follow the MST, with a side trip to Devil's Courthouse, to FS 816. Then we'll loop back and ascend Sam Knob (6040 ft.) with its 360-degree views, then follow the Flat Laurel Creek Trail to NC 215. There will be a wet stream crossing at the end unless it is frozen. Topos: Shining Rock & Sam Knob; also Nat'l. Geographic PRD map

ALL DAY NO. A0701-001 **Jan. 14 Case Camp - Seniard Ridge Loop 8:00 AM** Hike 8, Drive 80, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Kathleen Hannigan, 828-230-4883, kathleen.hannigan@pgnmail.com
P400 This loop hike features a short steep climb up to the MST, some MST hiking, and 50-ft. frozen cascades along the closed BRP. After lunch, we'll hike through some beautiful woods on the Seniard Ridge trail. **Second meeting place: Pisgah Ranger Station at 8:30 AM.** Topo: Shining Rock; also p. 50 of *MST Profiles* and Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

ALL DAY NO. A0701-545 **Jan. 21 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 Road 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.** Topos: Dunsmore Mtn., Skyland; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map and Bent Creek Trail map

SATURDAY NO. A0701-546 **Jan. 27 Coontree - Pressley - Thrift Cove Ramble 8:30 AM*** Hike 8-9, Drive 70, 1700 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Dave Wetmore, 828-884-7296, dwtetmore@citcom.net
P400 This is a new CMC hike that starts by climbing to Coontree Gap, then down the Bennett Gap trail and up Pressley Cove Trail where we'll take a short detour to visit a fine chimney. Next we'll go down the Black Mtn. Trail for a short distance, then turn and descend on the Thrift Cove Trail. A nice low-elevation hike for a cold winter day. Short car shuttle. ***Meeting places: Meet at Westgate at 8:30 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at Black Mtn. parking lot next to Pisgah Forest maintenance area at 9:00 AM.** Topo: Pisgah Forest, Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

ALL DAY NO. A0701-255 **Jan. 28 MST: NC 80 - Black Mtn. Campground 8:30 AM*** Hike 8, Drive 90, 700 ft. ascent, Rated B-C
Jim Reel, 828-738-0751, jimr57@yahoo.com
Expect good winter views as we hike south on the MST from Buck Creek Gap at NC 80 to Black Mtn. Campground, crossing a couple of times over the BRP. ***Meeting places: Meet at Westgate at 8:30 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at intersection of BRP and NC 80 at 9:20 AM.** Car shuttle. Topos: Old Fort and Celso; also PNF South Toe River, Mt. Mitchell & Big Ivy trail map.

ALL DAY NO. A0701-424 **Feb. 4 Hospital Rock to Pretty Place and Falls Creek 8:30 AM* (strenuous)** Hike 9, Drive 80, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Michael Cornn, 828-685-3442, mcorrn@aol.com
***Note later start time.** This is a challenging hike in Jones Gap State Park in S.C. After hiking up the Hospital Rock Trail, we will enjoy a great view at lunchtime from Pretty Place. After lunch we will return via the Falls Creek Trail past beautiful Falls Creek waterfall. Short car shuttle. **Additional meeting places: NE corner of Cracker Barrel parking lot at exit 53 of I-26 at 9:00 AM; also Jones Gap State Park parking lot at 9:15 AM.** \$2 fee for park entry. Topos: Cleveland,

Standingstone Mtn.; also Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area map

ALL DAY NO. A0701-479 **Feb. 4 Kagel Mtn. 8:30 AM* (moderate)** Hike 9, Drive 80, 1100 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Chip Miller, 828-654-9331, backpacker54nc@bellsouth.net
P400 *Note later start time. This loop hike will start from Cathey's Creek Rd. and follow an overgrown forest road to the Art Loeb Trail, with lunch at the Butter Gap shelter. We'll return via a no-name trail for variety. Nice winter views. **Second meeting place: Bi-Lo in Pisgah Forest at 9:00 AM.** Topos: Rosman, Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

ALL DAY NO. A0701-418 **Feb. 11 Newton Bald - Kanati Fork 8:00 AM** Hike 11.5, Drive 120, 2800 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Tom Sanders 828-252-6327, tomary@charter.net
900M This great winter hike near Cherokee climbs Newton Bald, continues on Thomas Divide and then descends on Kanati Fork Trail. When CMC did this hike a few years ago, we had the neat experience of beginning the hike on dry ground, then hiking up onto trails covered by up to a foot of snow and descending back onto dry trails. Short car shuttle. **Second meeting place: back of Post Office parking lot on US 276 in Maggie Valley at 8:30 AM.** Topo: Clingman's Dome; also Nat'l. Geographic GSMNP map

ALL DAY NO. A0701-541 **Feb. 18 Brushy Ridge Trail to Henson Waterfall 8:00 AM** Hike 5.2, Drive 150, 1600 ft. ascent, Rated C-A
Don Walton, 828-654-9904, donwalton@bellsouth.net
This new Linville Gorge hike was recently scouted by Don in one of his Linville Gorge explorations. It goes down into Linville Gorge, including Huckleberry Rock overlook, Henson Falls and a nice view of the Linville River. **Second Meeting Place: Parking lot adjacent to McDonald's at exit 64 of I-40 at 8:20 AM.** Topo: Linville Falls; also PNF Linville Gorge Wilderness map

SATURDAY NO. A0701-547 **Feb. 24 MST west from Balsam Gap 8:30 AM*** Hike 8-9, Drive 75, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Marianne Newman, 828-454-1036, marianneln@msn.com
Note later start time. Come to see the MST extension that CMC has been building for the last 5 years. We will hike the MST

from Balsam Gap for about 4 miles, then retrace our steps back to our cars. ***Meet at Westgate at 8:30 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at US 23/74 rest stop past Waynesville at 9:00 AM.** Topo: Hazelwood

ALL DAY NO. A0701-548 **Feb. 25 AT: Sams Gap to Big Bald 8:00 AM** Hike 13, Drive 55, 2600 ft. ascent, Rated AA-AA
Jay Bretz, 828-658-1220, williambretz1220@msn.com
This will be a challenging AT hike up to see spectacular views from the summit of Big Bald. With luck, we'll see rime ice above Sams Gap and hike in snow at the higher elevations. Topo: Sams Gap

ALL DAY NO. A0701-056 **Mar. 4 Black Mountain Ramble 8:00 AM (strenuous)** Hike 9.4, Drive 60, 2600 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Becky Smucker, 828-298-5013, bsmucker@charter.net
P400 This great winter hike starts at Turkey Pen parking area, then over Sharpy Mtn. and around Black Mtn., ending at the Pisgah Maintenance parking lot. A long uphill, but with good views from our lunch spot at Black Mtn. **Second Meeting place: Intersection of NC 280 and Turkey Pen Rd. at 8:30 AM.** Car shuttle. Topo: Pisgah Forest; also Nat'l. Geographic PRD map

ALL DAY. No. A0701-327 **Mar. 4 Ridgecrest Ramble 9:00 AM (moderate)** Hike 6-7, Drive 40, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Ruth Hartzler, 828-251-0886, ruthmtn@charter.net
A good winter hike, following the Rattlesnake, Rhododendron and Adventure Trails. This moderate hike in the Ridgecrest area offers a number of great scenic overlooks

BACKPACK No. A0701-549 **Mar. 10 - 11**

Winter Backpack in the Smokies: Big Creek Loop

Hike 16.5, Drive 110. 3200 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Chip Miller, 828-654-9331, backpacker54nc@bellsouth.net
This two-day, one-night backpack will start at the Big Creek trail head, for a 5.3 mile hike to backcountry campsite 37, with ascent of 1250 ft. Sunday we will ascend 1250 ft. on the Low Gap trail to reach the Appalachian Trail. From this junction we will hike to the Mt. Cammerer tower built back in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. GREAT VIEWS!! (side trail, in & out). Back on the AT we will hike to the Chestnut Branch Trail and follow it back to the Big Creek Ranger Station. Sunday's total miles will be 11.2 (5.4 headed downhill). Limited to 8 participants experienced in winter backpacking. Space is limited, because backcountry campsite 37 is "Rationed"! Verify that you can attend before reserving a spot. For meeting place and time, call leader. Topos: Waterville, Hartford, also Nat'l Geo. GSMNP map

as it meanders along the ridgelines, and includes Rattlesnake, Copperhead and Lookout Mtns. **Second meeting place: Parking lot adjacent to McDonald's at exit 64 of I-40 at 9:20 AM.** Topo: Montreat

ALL DAY NO. A0701-550 **Mar. 11 Paris Mtn. State Park 8:30 AM*** Hike 9.9, Drive 130, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Danny Bernstein, 828-236-0192, danny@hikertohiker.org
***Note change to Daylight Savings time today.** Located between Traveler's Rest and Greenville, Paris Mountain State Park is one of the oldest protected areas in South Carolina. Originally, the lakes were the source of Greenville's water supply. We will walk on well-maintained trails, enjoying good winter views, early spring flowers and warmer weather than in Asheville. **Second meeting place: NE corner of Cracker Barrel parking lot at exit 53 of I-26 at 9:00 AM.** Topo: Paris Mtn.

ALL DAY NO. A0701-532 **Mar. 18 Sassafras Mtn. 8:30 AM*** Hike 9, Drive 140, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Lenny Bernstein, 828-236-0192, lsberns@worldnet.att.net
***Note later start time.** This is a pleasant hike from US 178 up to the highest peak in South Carolina, following the Foothills Trail. Early spring flowers and possible winter views on top. **Second meeting place: NE corner of Cracker Barrel parking lot at exit 53 of I-26 at 9:00 AM.** Topo: Eastatooe Gap; also Guide to Foothills Trail

SATURDAY NO. A0701-093 **Mar. 24 Graybeard Mountain 8:00 AM*** Hike 10-11, Drive 35, 2700 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Steve Pierce, 828-724-4999, stevepierce@charter.net