

## New Website Update by Becky Smucker

You have probably been wondering what is happening with the website redesign project that CMC members approved funding for last winter. We're making progress! After much research and thought, we negotiated and signed a contract with Stratos Digital, (<http://www.stratosdigital.com>), a local website design firm, to do the design portion of what we are calling Phase I. This will involve the basic design work, interfacing with our databases, and transferring some of the existing material from the old site, built by Don Walton, to the new. There will be a lot of changes, but our goal is to make improvements that allow extensive member communication and interaction and reduce data handling while keeping things as clear and straightforward as possible.

The business end, or database work that is mostly behind what you will actually see on the new site, is being written and coordinated by Tim Carrigan, an enthusiastic CMC member volunteer. Tim, who is an AT section maintainer as well as a professional programmer, has volunteered to do this big job as a labor of love for CMC after coming to us some time ago via use of our hiking database. Also on our Website Project Team are Charlie Ferguson, our current acting Webmaster, Stuart English, Communications Chair, Marcia Bromberg, V.P. and Membership Database manager, and Becky Smucker, Chair.

Our future site has been launched, though nothing much is on it yet, and general access to work in process is still limited. Tim has finished much of the trail maintenance input portion, and soon you will be pointed to the new site when you go to maintenance pages on our current site. That will be followed by membership functions, where a lot of work has been done as well. In the meantime, Stratos Digital is beginning the design process, and various groups will be involved in input, testing, and training.

We are excited about the potential of having a website that is more interactive, and that will serve the broad needs of a growing club. We look forward to seeing if you are as happy with the product as we think you will be. Thanks for your patience and your participation in this demanding process. If you have suggestions or would like to be involved in testing portions of the new site, contact Becky Smucker, [bjsmucker@gmail.com](mailto:bjsmucker@gmail.com).