

History of the CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB

Commemorating the 70th Anniversary
1923-1993



1923

CLUB

Incorporated 1924

Member Appalachian Trail Conference

P. O. Box 68 • Asheville, NC 28802

SEPTEMBER 1993

Carolina Mountain Club

70 Years of Conservation, Hiking, and Trail Work

This publication celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Carolina Mountain Club. The Club was formed in 1923 by a group of Asheville naturalists who enjoyed the mountain region of North Carolina and wanted to foster in its members and others a "primeval taste" of the outdoors. Today, nearly 450 members continue this tradition with one of the most active hiking and trail maintenance programs in the United States. Anyone is eligible to join the Club by meeting the simple requirements for membership.

Included in this booklet is a history of the Carolina Mountain Club's triumphs and struggles during its 70 years of existence. This is followed by a copy of the CMC Bylaws which describe the rules and regulations which govern the Club's activities. Also included is a copy of the original Certificate of Incorporation prepared in 1924.

History of the Carolina Mountain Club

Commemorating the 70th Anniversary: 1923-1993

Peter M. Steurer

Foreword

The Carolina Mountain Club was organized in Asheville, North Carolina to foster the enjoyment of the outdoors through hiking and to encourage the conservation of our natural scenery. The Club has a rich and diverse history. As with most organizations, controversy, waning interests, and changing goals and objectives threatened the very existence of the Club during its early years. During the past 70 years, the Club's philosophy has also changed from that of maintaining cabins for its membership to that of hiking and building trails. Fortunately, the Carolina Mountain Club has survived and been strengthened by these changes, and has become a driving force in promoting and protecting the beauty of the mountains of Western North Carolina.

Early History

The Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) was established on July 16, 1923. However, to fully understand just how and why this historic event took place, we must go back almost a half century before that date.

Back in 1876, a number of outdoor enthusiasts got together in Boston, Massachusetts and formed a group known as the Appalachian Mountain Club. This was one of the first organized mountaineering groups in the United States. The membership grew rapidly and by the year 1920, there were several thousand participants on the roles. There were four chapters in the Northeast United States in addition to the original Boston Chapter. By this time, many trails, cabins, and overnight shelters had been built and were being maintained for the benefit of hikers.

On June 11, 1920 organized mountaineering began in North Carolina when a meeting was held in Asheville and a tentative Southern Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club of Boston was formed. Mr. J.

S. Holmes, State Forester of North Carolina at that time, was quite active in organizing this first Southern Chapter. In addition, an executive committee of seven was elected which included Dr. Chase P. Ambler chairman, H. Taylor Rogers, treasurer, Dr. Gaillard S. Tennent, secretary, and N. Buckner, Verne Rhodes, E.D. Anthony, and S.P. Ravenel.

The organization of the Southern Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was officially recognized on May 11, 1921 in the Asheville office of the Board of Trade. Verne Rhodes was elected chairman of the club, T. Lockwood Perry was secretary, and H. Taylor Rogers was treasurer. An executive committee was assigned, composed of N. Buckner, G.S. Tennent, George Westen, and William Barnhill.

Little history is available about the activities of the newly formed club in early 1920s. However, it is evident that a cabin was maintained near the Big Ivy Forest Service Campground. Also, in 1922 the cabin known as Schenk Lodge, located in the Pink Beds section of the Pisgah National Forest, was leased by the Club. The cabins were available to members for outings and camping trips and used as the bases for their hikes.

By 1923, a major controversy was brewing between the Northern and Southern Chapters of the Appalachian Mountain Club which soon led to the severing of all ties between the two groups. At that time, the annual dues were \$8.00 per member. Seventy percent of this amount was sent to the Appalachian Mountain Club of Boston, under the provisions of the charter and constitution. The members of the Asheville chapter gradually came to feel that this was unfair since the money was chiefly used in the construction of trails and shelters in the mountains of New England and not the mountains of Western North Carolina. This led to lengthy correspondence through the mails with no resolution. Officials in the North decided that the constitution of their club required that the money be used on trails in the Northeast and could not be changed for the benefit of the

Southern Chapter. As a result, all ties were severed between the two groups and an independent Asheville hiking club was formed.

On July 16, 1923, the CMC was formed in Asheville, and the Southern Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club ceased to exist. Dr. Gaillard Tennent was the first president of the CMC, Ray Mathewson was secretary, and Taylor Rogers was treasurer.

Little written information is available about the CMC for the next seven years. It is known that interest in the newly formed club had waned after severing ties with the Northern Chapter. However, the CMC did succeed in equipping its two cabins and in becoming incorporated in 1924 by obtaining a State Charter. By 1931, CMC had a membership of approximately 60, but only about 20 or 25 were



View of Upper Whitewater Falls

active and in good standing. It appears that there were very few organized activities among the members.

Fortunately, the history of the Carolina Mountain Club does not end here. On September 30, 1931, a committee was appointed to confer with the Carolina Appalachian Trail Club (CATC) to consider the affiliation of the two clubs. This club was a vigorous and active organization, formed in Asheville in the winter of 1930 with George Stephens as president.

In many respects, the CATC was very similar to the present day CMC, in regard to its goals and objectives. CATC was extremely active in getting unfinished segments of the Appalachian Trail (AT) routed, marked, measured, and maintained in North Carolina. During the Club's first year of existence, CATC had scouted, measured, and marked the 29.2 miles of the AT from Devils Gap on the Tennessee border to Hot Springs, the 31.6 miles from Hot Springs to Waterville, and the 43.5 miles from Nantahala Station to Rich Knob on the Georgia border. Like the present day CMC, the CATC also had regular hikes and outings which met at the then newly constructed Grove Arcade Building (Federal Building). They were very interested in compiling a hiking guide book, much like the CMCs present day "100 Favorite Trails" map. The club existed for its members to explore and enjoy the mountains of North Carolina.

The written history does not tell us the reasons for the formation of the CATC when the CMC was already in existence. It is possible that the goals and objectives of the two organizations were vastly different. The old CMC appeared to be a declining organization whose main objective was maintaining cabins for its membership. This would have been a fairly expensive proposition by the early 1930s and may have resulted in discriminating toward wealthier individuals. In fact, an examination of the old CMC membership indicates a fair number of doctors and prominent Asheville individuals on the roles. The CATC, on the other hand, was an extremely active group with comparatively low dues and more concerned with hiking and building trails than with maintaining cabins.

The written history also does not tell us why the old CMC organized a committee on September 30, 1931 to confer with the

CATC with the idea of affiliating the two groups. It is likely, that Dr. Tennent had a major role in the merging of the two clubs since he was a leader of CATC hikes and also attended some of its monthly meetings. It is possible that the old CMC saw the opportunity to revitalize its declining club with new members from the CATC. It is also possible that they saw an opportunity for the new members to contribute to the maintenance of their cabins, which were stated to be in great disrepair.

On December 9, 1931, sixteen members of the CMC voted to elect the entire membership of the CATC into one combined group. In many respects, the CATC was the main beneficiary of the unification and was very much in favor of the merger. In addition to the lease on two desirable cabins, the CMC had a balance of \$260 in its treasury. This compared to \$45.62 which CATC had on deposit. The CMC was already incorporated which avoided the legal expense for CATC to also obtain a State Charter. So for legal reasons only, it was decided that the CATC would dissolve and its present membership be elected into the CMC. The name of the merged clubs was to be the present day CMC. The enlarged club adopted all the by-laws of the CATC and almost all of the officers and Council of the CATC became the first governing body. Mr. Stephens was elected the first president of the combined clubs and Dr. Barker was elected vice president. The two members of Council were Mr. George Masa and Dr. Tennent. Annual dues were set at \$2.00.

Except for the name of the club, the old CMC appeared to have been completely taken over with the goals and philosophy of the CATC.

The Depression Years

During the 1930s, the CMC evolved into a strong organization. The Club maintained a significant bank account throughout the Depression years (over \$200) and also had a stable membership (between 50 and 60). The CMC was apparently immune to the Depression that had engulfed the nation, probably due to the fact that the Club attracted only the more wealthy and prominent citizens of the western North Carolina mountains. The Club was not immune however to the impending World War that

would bring about many restrictions such as gas rationing and the loss of many members to the armed services. By 1942, the total membership had dropped to 29. In that year, CMC's president, Arch Nichols and councilman Bill Kirkman resigned both joining the armed forces. With the national emergency entering into its darkest days, the activities of the CMC became less and less. On November 19, 1943, the last meeting of the Club was held until after the end of World War II.

Throughout the pre-war period, the CMC gave much emphasis to attracting new members by publicizing the Club. These were hard times and several methods were used in order to keep the membership at a suitable level. Publicity involved newspaper articles in the Asheville Citizen-Times describing the various hikes and social programs put on by CMC. Also, radio advertisements promoting CMC were used in 1933. A dues cut from \$2.00 to \$1.00 was initiated in 1940 but retracted shortly thereafter. Also, a new junior membership category was developed for people under the age of 18. This was "... in consideration of our investment for the future of the group."

There were attempts to attract new members in 1935 by inviting clubs with similar interests to attend CMC events. A notable example of this was the Asheville Camera Club since hiking and photography were very popular with many CMCers. In that same year, a letter was received from the Asheville Nudist Club suggesting that the two clubs form a merger. It would be curious to learn if any nudists actually joined CMC and took part in Club events. The Council was to consider this matter but no mention was ever made in subsequent meeting minutes.

The membership composition of CMC during the 1930s was quite different from that of the post-war era. This was an exclusive organization which had members who could afford the \$2.00 per person dues and also the cost of gasoline for leisure activities such as hiking. However, the Club was only exclusive in regard to wealth and apparently did not have a restrictive membership. In fact, the Club was quite a diverse group for a 1930s organization in that it contained a mixture of Christians, Jews, and members from other countries.

In addition to the regular Sunday hikes,



Typical CMC hike in the late 1940s
This one to Ogle Meadows

various social programs were held monthly or bimonthly many times at a member's home. These programs were varied but usually involved guest lecturers or sometimes slide shows of various exotic trips from around the world that members had taken. It was not uncommon for members to resign from the CMC in order to take an extended trip to a far away place. The CMC membership of the 1930s contained some of the more wealthy and prominent members of the Asheville area. Names like Burnham Colburn of the Colburn Mineral Museum, Morris Lipinsky whose family was founder of Bon Marche stores and whose name would later be honored by the University of North Carolina-Asheville, and many Asheville physicians were on the roles.

The CMC members were also a very social and tight-knit group. Square dancing was an extremely popular activity after the annual meetings and other special events. In fact, the CMC budget always had funding allocated to square dance callers or something related. Also, many annual meetings made reference to learning the "latest" dance steps such as the Big Apple and the Lambeth Walk. The annual meetings sometimes were the scene of a talent show where members would perform various singing and dancing routines or good natured skits about CMC members. Another interesting annual event was the opossum hunt that was held on a club member's private land.

Although the CMC was a very social group, the membership of the 1930s was also

extremely active in preserving and protecting the beauty of the western North Carolina mountains. Nowhere was this more evident than in CMCs involvement with the Appalachian Trail. In fact the primary project of the CMC in the 1930s was getting the AT routed, marked, measured, and maintained in North Carolina. The CMCs share back then was from the Virginia line to the Smokies. From there the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club of Knoxville took over to Deal's Gap. Then CMC backtracked across the Cheoahs and climbed the Nantahalas past Standing Indian to the Georgia line. In cooperation with the U. S. Forest Service, this work was completed by the middle 1930s. However, re-routing of the trail and maintenance continued as these activities do today. To assist in these efforts, the CMC enlisted the help of the many Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) camps that were located throughout the mountains. Many CMC members took part but George Masa, George Stephens, Roger Morrow, Marcus Book, and Arch Nichols were the driving force.

CMC also was politically motivated toward conservation in the 1930s and stated in a 1932 letter to District Forester in Washington DC that "...the Club approves and wishes to cooperate and help in any way for the preservation of virgin timber throughout the forests of Western North Carolina". Dr. Gaillard Tennent was a major leader in this effort. He was commended by the U.S. Forest Service for assisting in the acquisition of a large virgin poplar stand in Graham county in 1936. Although not mentioned this may have been the purchase for Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest. The Club also went on record as opposing any roads east of Newfound Gap along the high mountain peaks of the Smokies but supported the Scenic Parkway (Blue Ridge Parkway) entering the Smokies at Soco Gap. The Club also took a stand against the development of an artificial lake in the Smokies (likely Fontana) and also were opposed to a \$1.00 annual admission fee or \$.25 per visit fee to enter the Great Smokies National Park.

The history of the CMC during the Depression years would not be complete without mention of the death of George Masa and the Club's tedious efforts to have his body exhumed and moved to Bryson City, North Carolina. George Masa was a professional photographer and a major figure

in the early history of the Club. In fact it has been suggested that his striking photographs of the western mountains of North Carolina were a significant influence in the establishment of the Great Smokies National Park. His camera and his motto: "more walk, less talk", became legends of the Club.

Masa died July 7, 1933. He was of Japanese descent and because his family lived in Osaka, Japan, the CMC paid for his funeral expense. In 1938, the CMC thought it would be appropriate to honor Masa by erecting a monument at his grave to consist of a large boulder and bronze plaque. This effort was expanded in 1939 to exhume his body from Riverside Cemetery in Asheville and move it to Bryson City, North Carolina. There, it would be placed next to his friend and another Club legend, Horace Kephart who had died earlier. This had been Masa's wish shortly before he died. A claim of \$100 was filed against Masa's estate in 1938 and was received in order to pay in part for the Club's funeral expense in 1933 and also the memorial boulder. The logistics and expense of this effort dragged on through the years. The Club was prepared to expend the funds in 1941. But by the end of the year the second World War had begun. In 1942, Masa's memorial fund money was diverted, along with other Club funds, to buy \$296 of War Bonds. Although not mentioned in the written history, it is likely that strong feelings of the U.S. against the Japanese had an influence on this decision. Mr. Masa would have to wait until after World War II for his memorial.

Post-War Prosperity: 1946-61

The first formal meeting of the CMC since Club activities were suspended in 1943 occurred on March 20, 1946. Arch Nichols was re-elected president of the Club. Throughout the remainder of the 1940s decade, many of the activities of the 1930s continued. These included the Club's primary mission of Sunday hikes, maintaining the AT, and promoting conservation. But also social events like square dancing and annual opossum hunts continued. Shortages after the war resulted in some transportation problems to and from hikes. The hiring of buses was considered but the expense was too great. The years after the war saw the election

of the first female president of the CMC. Ruth Brothers assumed the resigning Arch Nichols' position in 1948 and was re-elected the following two years.

In the year 1947, George Masa finally received his memorial. The CMC purchased a marker and placed it at his grave located in Riverside Cemetery. But the saga of George Masa does not end here for in 1958 the CMC initiated a plan to have a prominent mountain named in his honor. This began another laborious effort spearheaded by CMC member Dr. Samuel Robinson. After much effort, Robinson's work culminated in 1961 by the naming of Masa Knob for an unnamed heavily wooded peak in Great Smokies National Park.

The location of Masa Knob was significant in that it was very close to Mount Kephart which was named for Masa's close friend Horace Kephart. Kephart was an early CMC member and nationally renowned



Duck Hawk Rock in the Smokies
On Alum Cave Trail to Mt. LeConte

author of such works as Camping and Woodcraft and Our Southern Highlanders. It has been stated that Masa and Kephart were both extremely active in the 1931 merger of the two hiking clubs and both worked hard to establish the Great Smokies National Park. This was a very symbolic gesture in that both these mountains were prominent peaks of over 6,000 feet in Smokies and it was George Masa's dying wish that he be laid to rest next to his friend Horace Kephart.

Other mountains over 6,000 feet have been named for two additional CMC members. Dr. Chase Ambler, one of the founders of the original CMC, was honored by a mountain in the Smokies called Mt. Ambler. It has been stated that he was one of the first to promote the idea of a Great Smokies National Park. In 1961, he was honored again by the U.S. Forest Service by the placement of a plaque in his memory at Curtic Creek in the Smokies. In 1956, Arch Nichols succeeded in a 3-year effort to get a 6,040 foot unnamed peak near Black Balsam named for Dr. Gaillard Tennent who had died in 1953. As has been previously stated, Dr. Tennent had led many conservation efforts throughout his 30 years with the CMC.

The CMC continued to be very active during the 1950s and 1960s promoting conservation efforts in the western North Carolina mountains. The CMC supported successful efforts in designating the 7,600 acre Linville Gorge Wilderness in 1951 and the 13,400 acre Shining Rock Wilderness in the early 1960s. From efforts begun by CMC in the 1950s the Craggy Mountain Scenic Area was established by the U.S. Forest Service, first in 1958 as a 17.8 acre natural area of virgin hemlocks near the Carter Creek Waterfall. In 1961, through the persistent efforts of member Jerome Dykeman, this area was expanded to approximately 950 acres.

As the prosperity of the nation grew in the 1950s, so did the need for new roads to handle the influx of visitors and automobiles into the North Carolina mountains. CMC took varied stances on road construction but usually was in favor of keeping roads off the high mountain peaks and routing them in the valleys below. The Club also opposed a 1955 proposed toll on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The proposed road which brought the greatest controversy among CMC members

was the disputed north shore road along Fontana Lake in the 1940s. This much-debated road was promised to Swain county by the Federal Government in return for land taken when Fontana Lake was built.



Swimming at Lower Whitewater Falls during a CMC outing

CMC's stance was to take no official action due to the political nature of the road. However, the overwhelming majority of attendees at the CMC annual meeting of 1960 were against the road. Emotions were high and this resulted in a letter being drafted to North Carolina Governor Hodges stating that CMC was opposed to the road along the north shore. Similar to controversy that still occurs today over the road, some members who were not at the annual meeting were quite displeased with the resolution. This resulted in much debate in future Council meetings over the appropriateness of resolutions of such political nature.

Work on the AT took on a new dimension after the war largely due to the efforts of Arch Nichols. In the 1940s, the AT was reported to be in very bad condition. Substantial efforts were made by the CMC to keep the trail open and in the 1950s it became one of the Clubs primary responsibilities. Throughout its history, the CMC actively participated in the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC), supporting it both financially and through attendance on various ATC meetings.

Permanence and Change: 1962-1993

The last 30 years have seen the continuation of many of the goals set out by the original CMC of the 1920s and 1930s. But there have been many changes in Club philosophy brought about by the large increase in membership and changes in political views of the country.

One goal that did not change but one that has intensified over the 70 years of CMCs existence, has been the Club's stance on preserving and protecting the natural beauty of the North Carolina mountains. Nowhere has this been more evident than in CMC's commitment to the AT. CMC has volunteered hundreds of thousands of hours in physical labor in maintaining its sections of the AT. This has involved countless efforts to re-route the trail due many times to the construction of new roads. In 1964, it was stated that 49 of the 80 miles that CMC actively maintained, had been rebuilt in recent years. The CMC also had built, and rebuilt due to vandalism, many new trail shelters. CMC was one of the first clubs to adopt the "overseer" system of trail maintenance. This involved assigning an individual member a 3 to 5 mile segment of a trail. Prior to 1964, the CMC membership as a group maintained its section of AT as one large trail system. The overseer system not only divided the AT into manageable segments, it also provided for a personalized sense of pride and ownership of the trail which proved to be very effective.

The CMC has assisted in giving future direction to the AT by its political activity through the ATC. This has involved the membership on key ATC committees of several CMCers like Nichols, Sara Davis, and John Dickson. But it has also involved the Club's support of various AT

projects. The most notable was CMC's support of the 1965 Appalachian Trail Bill which was to adequately protect and preserve the character of the AT for foot travelers. The CMC also actively supported the 1976 Corridor Project of the ATC which required an inventory of a 200 yard corridor along the AT to comply with the National Scenic Trail Act.

The CMC played an important role in acquiring and protecting key pieces of property along the AT. Most notably was the Club's support for acquiring the Peake property in the Highlands and Roan Mountain area. Off-the-road vehicles and horses produced major damage to portions of the AT such as at Max Patch. The CMC devised compromise solutions for multi-use which usually satisfied all parties. And when the threat of oil and gas exploration loomed along the Trail in the early 1980s, CMC took an active stance in protecting the AT from potential damage.

In addition to the AT, CMC also continued the conservation practices of its past by supporting and sponsoring various legislation for other mountain projects. The CMC went on record in 1965 as opposing a planned trans-mountain road across the high peaks of the Smokies. In fact the CMC printed a detailed 8 page brochure in 1967 which vigorously but tactfully expressed the Club's opposition to the this road and the road along the north shore of Fontana Lake. The proposal also explained an alternative route in great detail. The Club opposed the 1977 Appalachian Corridor K Highway Project which



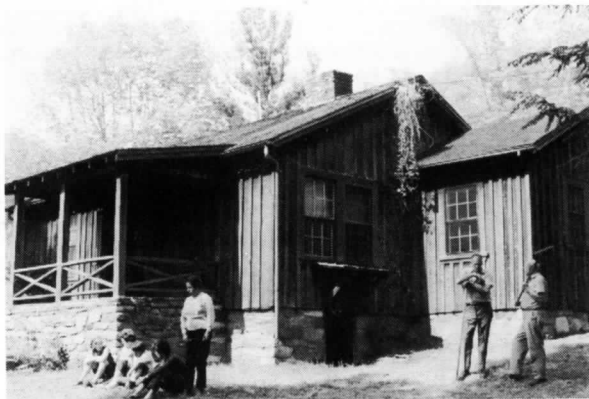
CMC Trail Work on the AT in 1958
Near Sam's Gap

was to do much damage to the Nantahala Gorge. CMC supported the Craggy Mountain Wilderness Study Area of 1981 and contributed financially to saving the Horsepasture River from development in 1985.

Continuing a long-standing tradition, another CMC member was honored on November 9, 1969 by the naming of a trail in the honor of Art Loeb who had died a year earlier. The 28-mile Art Loeb Trail, which begins near the Davidson River in Brevard and ends atop Cold Mountain in the Shining Rock Wilderness, was dedicated to Loeb who was known as a champion of conservation.

A major project begun by the CMC in the late 1970s was the Club's involvement in the original planning of the Mountains to the Sea Trail system. Arch Nichols was a major force in initiating this trail building effort which continues today. As the name implies, the goal of the project was to build a trail across North Carolina from the mountains to the sea. During the 1980s and continuing today, many CMCers have spent countless hours first assisting in the routing of the trail, followed by actual construction, and finally maintaining the trail for hiker's use. As of mid 1993, CMC had already completed 115 of the 125 miles for which the Club has responsibility. Due to Nichols' devotion to both the AT and this trail, a large section of the Mountains to the Sea Trail from Mt Pisgah to Mt Mitchell was dedicated to him shortly after his death in 1989. A plaque honoring his achievements was placed along the trail at Asheville's Folk Art Center.

Another major accomplishment of the CMC was the publication in 1968 of the popular self-guiding map entitled "100 Favorite Trails of the Great Smokies and the Carolina Blue Ridge". This was published by George Stephens and edited by Bernard Elias, both past CMC presidents. The map was so popular with Club members and tourists that it was updated by Elias annually with over 12,000 copies being printed in 1976 alone. The map continues today although not updated as frequently. This map completed a long standing CMC project, first proposed in the 1930s, to develop a hiking guide for the mountains. In 1955, an effort was launched to produce a guide called "My Ten Favorite Hikes Around Asheville" and it is possible that the "100 Favorite Trails" map had its origins from this.



CMC Cabin at Big Ivy Campground in the early 1970s

Although its number and frequency have increased over the years, another area that has remained permanent with the CMC has been the regularly scheduled hikes. Currently, CMC schedules 160 hikes per year. These include a half-day and all-day hike every Sunday, an all-day Wednesday hike, and an all-day hike on the last Saturday of each quarter of the year. All hikes are led by a volunteer hike leader, who is responsible for ensuring the safety of each hiker. As can be expected there have been some broken bones and lost hikers through the years which have resulted in some unacclaimed heroes who have given a helping hand. But, remarkably there is no record of any death occurring on a CMC sponsored hike. Probably the most severe accident that occurred was on a hike to Rumbling Bald in 1975, when Bernard Elias slipped and fell over 100 foot waterfall. Elias broke his hip in the fall and was ably assisted from 4:30 to 10PM by Margaret Scowden, a nurse who was along on the hike that day. Fortunately, Mr. Elias recovered and continues to be avid hiker to this day.

Several areas in Club philosophy have changed during its 70 year history. As mentioned earlier, the 1920s CMC was primarily interested in maintaining cabins for its membership. Probably due to the expense, the CMC lost the lease on its cabins in 1935. In 1962, Jerome Dykeman led an effort to lease another cabin from the U.S. Forest Service in the Big Ivy Campground. The lease on the

cabin was only \$25 per year but the cabin was in great disrepair and required considerable expenditure of Club funds to put it in order. This led to the most fiery debate in Club history, taking place at the 1962 annual meeting. A brief synopsis was that Dykeman procured an electric water pump for the cabin apparently without the direct approval of the CMC Council. The pump cost \$125 and was extremely expensive representing almost 50 percent of the Club's annual income and 15 percent of the Club's reserve bank account. Arch Nichols led the opposition to this purchase lambasting Dykeman at great length for this unapproved purchase. This led to the taking of sides of the 103 attendees at the annual meeting likely resulting in many hard feelings among the membership. In the end the Club survived and so did the cabin, at least until 1976 when the lease was not renewed.

A major change in Club philosophy had its origins with the change of the country's political view in the 1980s. When the Reagan administration took office in 1981, one of its major aims was the shift of government sponsored projects to private citizens and organizations. This and other factors resulted in severe budget cuts to federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service. With less resources, the Forest Service was forced to perform only work which was most critical to its mission and eliminate tasks such as trail maintenance and construction. In fact, it was stated in CMC Council meetings of the early 1980s that the Forest Service was now doing nothing in regard to trail maintenance and it was recommend that one third of all the Club's future efforts be shifted to trail work. As it continues today, the CMC had always maintained a very close working relationship with the Forest Service and National Parks Service through joint trail projects and safety programs. Although the CMC considered trail work a high priority as exemplified by its support for the AT, the 1980s saw a shift from trail work performed by the government to work done by the private sector.

In the 1980s, the CMC was actively maintaining 92 miles of the AT, the Art Loeb trail, and other minor trail systems. The Club had also begun the construction of the Mountains to the Sea Trail which required tremendous volunteer resources. As a result, various CMC work teams were

evolving. Currently there are 3 work teams composed primarily of retirees who volunteer an entire day of every week for trail work. During 1992, CMC members spent more than 15,000 hours on trail work. As the network of CMC trails expanded in the 1980s, the need for more trail maintainers using the overseer concept also increased. As a result, a continuing need for volunteer work was ever present. This resulted in the passing of a controversial change in the CMC by-laws in 1992 requiring each prospective new member to participate in a single work trip in addition to the other



Past CMC Presidents: 1963 Annual Meeting
How many can you identify?
Answer on page 10

requirements. The idea behind this change was to expose the membership to the importance of not only being a hiker but also the responsibility of maintaining trails.

The CMC membership has also undergone dramatic changes in its 70 year history. From an exclusive organization of prominent Asheville citizens, the membership changed to the common man after the World War. Since the 1960s, the origin of over half of the CMC members is from places other than Western North Carolina. In fact, if a profile of the typical CMCer were taken today, the individual would likely be a retiree who moved to the mountains within the last 10 years.

The number of members has grown rapidly over the last 30 years. The CMC broke the 100 member level in 1960 and peaked at over 500 members in 1987. The member-

ship has declined since 1987 and in 1993, the Club had less than 450 members. The recent decline in members may have been caused by several factors. In 1988, the Council decided to no longer advertise any of the Club's hikes. This decision was the result of 109 hikers attending a heavily-advertised half day Sunday hike to Bat Cave. There was some intentional destruction done to the cave and wildflowers along the trail, reportedly by non-club members. This ended a long-standing Club tradition of promoting its hikes to attract new members. Another possible reason for the membership decline may have been the successive increases in annual dues. The annual dues rose from \$5.00 to \$7.50 in 1987 and to \$12.00 in 1991. Although still low compared to many hiking clubs, some members



**East Fork of the Pigeon River Bridge
Built by the CMC in the 1990s.**

may have been troubled by the 140% increase in a 4 year period and chose not to renew their membership. A final reason for the decline may have been the 1992 bylaw change requiring a work trip. Many prospective members are new to the area and are not zealous hikers. They join the CMC as a social experience. It

is possible that the bylaw change will lessen the number of future members coming from this faction.

Future

One can only speculate on what future direction the CMC will take. As can be seen from its past, the CMC has seen triumphs and struggles throughout its 70 year history. But one must look at the main enticement that brought the membership together in the beginning and that which has kept it strong for 70 years: the mountains of North Carolina. As long as these mountains exist and there are people to enjoy them, then in some form a Carolina Mountain Club will exist.

History Sources

Information used in compiling this history was obtained from two primary and two secondary sources. The first primary source was the official minutes of club meetings maintained by the CMC historian. The second primary source included hike schedules and related information available from Club records and the North Carolina Reference section of Asheville's Pack Library. Secondary sources included previous club histories written by George Sanders in 1953 and George Stephens in 1963 which commemorated the 30th and 40th anniversaries of the CMC, respectively.

Credit goes to Bill Kirkman for the photographs of Upper Whitewater Falls, Ogle Meadows, and the 1958 AT work. Bernard Elias supplied the photographs for Lower Whitewater Falls, the cabin, Duck Hawk Rock, the river bridge, and the Annual Meeting. The past presidents in the 1963 picture are standing left to right, George Stephens, H. A. Haseltine, Arch Nichols, Carroll Cromwell, Piercy Carter, Edward Lyngholm and seated left to right, Jerome Dykeman, Ruth Morrow, Roger Morrow, O. C. Barker, and Verne Rhodes.

This history would not be complete without a word of praise for Jerome Dykeman. Dykeman was a CMC historian who quietly but tediously prepared extensive and well-organized Club records for the period through 1965. At that time, he became less active with the Club due to his advancing age. He died in 1973. Without Dykeman's detailed work, much of CMC's past would have been lost, as it is sometimes lost with each passing member.

BYLAWS OF THE CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB, INCORPORATED

(Adopted as revised and amended 7 January 1957)

(Amended 17 November 1973)

(Amended 12 November 1983)

(Amended 26 October 1985)

(Amended 7 November 1987)

(Amended 9 November 1991)

ARTICLE I - NAME AND LOCATION

The name of this organization shall be the Carolina Mountain Club, Incorporated, and the headquarters of the Club shall be located in the City of Asheville, North Carolina.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTS

The objects of this organization shall be to explore the mountains of Western North Carolina and adjacent regions through its hiking trails and rivers, to carry out the responsibilities we have been given by the Appalachian Trail Conference to develop and maintain our assigned section of the Appalachian Trail and to act as its stewards, to develop and maintain other hiking trails in Western North Carolina as approved by the Club Council, to encourage the conservation of our natural scenery, to foster in Club members knowledge and enjoyment of hiking, trail construction and maintenance, and fellowship and enjoyment of the out-of-doors.

In order to fully prosecute these objects, the organization shall have full power and authority to purchase, own, lease, or dispose of all kinds of property, both real and personal, and generally to perform all acts which may be deemed necessary for the proper fulfillment of these objects.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Any person of good character interested in promoting the aims and purposes of the Carolina Mountain Club shall be eligible for membership with the recommendation of two members of good standing and upon receiving the approval of the Club Council. Applicants shall be asked to submit to the Club Council these recommendations along with names of three Club activities in which they have participated, one of which shall be a maintenance project on a

trail for which CMC has maintenance responsibility

Any name may be dropped from the membership list by the Council for non-payment of dues by mid-year, and may be reinstated upon payment of such dues, or a membership may be canceled without cause assigned upon a sixty-percent vote of the Council, upon giving thirty days' notice to such member, in writing to his last known post office address, of the Council meeting at which such motion for cancellation shall be voted upon.

The dues for membership shall be as set by the Council with approval of a majority of the Club membership present at any regular or special meeting.

The classifications of Club membership shall be:

Individual Memberships
Family Memberships
Life Memberships

Each Individual Membership and each Family Membership will be entitled to one vote in Club matters and will be entitled to one mailing of all Club notices and publications. A Life Membership is granted by the Council to a Club member in recognition of long and extraordinary service to the Club. A Life Member enjoys full benefits of membership of the Club without payment of dues.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

The Officers of the Club shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Officers shall administer the affairs of the Club under the direction of a governing body known as the Council, consisting of the four Officers of the Club with the President serving as Chairman, together with six other Councilors. Six members of the Council shall constitute a quorum. The four

Officers and six additional Council members shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Club each year and shall hold office for one year beginning on January First following their election.

In the event of the resignation or death of any Officer or Councillor, the President may appoint a successor to serve until the next election. In the event of the resignation or death of the President, the Council may appoint a successor to serve until the next election. Unless excused by the Council, absence of an Officer or Councillor from three successive meetings shall be deemed a resignation.

Regular meetings of the Council shall be held on four days' notice to its members by the President. Special meetings may be called by the President or by a quorum of the Council on three days' notice to each Councillor.

ARTICLE V - COMMITTEES

As far as is expedient, the President shall appoint the Vice President and the six Councilors as committee chairmen and maintain standing committees as follows: Appalachian Trail, Hiking, Membership, Photography, Program, Publicity, and such other committees as may be deemed necessary for the efficient administration of the Club's affairs.

The President shall appoint a Historian, who shall keep records of the activities and accomplishments of the Club and who shall also act as Club Librarian.

The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee whose responsibility it will be to recommend to the general membership a slate of officers and council members to stand for election as provided in Article IV of these by-laws. The Nominating Committee shall consist of four members and the immediate past president of the Club, who shall serve as chair of the

committee. The chair shall not vote as a committee member except as necessary to break a tie vote of the committee. The selection of the committee shall be done to reflect, insofar as possible, the composition of the Club. The committee shall be appointed during the first quarter of the President's term.

The President shall appoint someone to be custodian of and responsible for the property and equipment owned by the Club. The Custodian shall keep an inventory of all such property and equipment.

ARTICLE VI- RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Council shall make such rules and regulations as it deems advisable not inconsistent with the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the Club shall be held in the Fall of each year on a date to be selected by the Council. Special meetings of the Club may be called by the President upon one week's notice by mail to all voting members, and shall be so called upon the petition of one-fifth of such members.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENT

These By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the membership of the Club, or at any adjourned session thereof, or at any special meeting called for said purpose, provided that before any such meeting, a notice of the subject matter of the proposed amendment to be voted on at such meeting be sent to each voting member of good standing ten days before such special meeting.

ARTICLE IX - EFFECTIVE DATE

These By-Laws shall become effective upon approval by two-thirds of the Club members present at a meeting called for the purpose of its consideration.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF
CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB, INCORPORATED

(As Amended 7 January 1957)

(As Amended 6 January 1988)

This is to certify that we, the undersigned, do hereby associate ourselves into a non-stock corporation under and by virtue of the laws of the State of North Carolina, as contained in Chapter twenty-one of the Consolidated Statutes entitled "Corporations" and the several amendments thereto, and to that end do hereby set forth:

I.

The name of this corporation is Carolina Mountain Club, Incorporated.

II.

The location of the principal office of the corporation is 43 Grove Street, in the City of Asheville, County of Buncombe.

III.

The objects for which this corporation is formed are as follows:

To explore the mountains of Western North Carolina and adjacent regions through its hiking trails and rivers, to carry out the responsibilities we have been given by the Appalachian Trail Conference to develop and maintain the Appalachian Trail and to act as its stewards, to develop and maintain other hiking trails in Western North Carolina as approved by the Club Council, to encourage the conservation of our natural scenery, to foster in Club members knowledge and enjoyment of hiking, trail construction and maintenance, and fellowship and enjoyment of the out-of-doors. [As amended 1/6/88.]

And in order to properly prosecute the objects and purposes above set forth, the corporation shall have full power and authority to purchase, lease or otherwise dispose of all kinds of property, both real and personal, both in this State and all other States, territories and dependencies of the United States, and generally to perform all acts which may be deemed necessary for the proper and successful prosecution of the objects and

purposes for which this corporation is created.

IV.

The corporation is to have no capital stock.

V.

The names and post office addresses of the incorporators are as follows:

Name	Post Office Address
G. S. Tennent	Asheville, NC
H. Taylor Rogers	Asheville, NC
Ray Mathewson	Asheville, NC
Verne Rhodes	Asheville, NC
Chase P. Ambler	Asheville, NC
Kingsland Van Winkle	Asheville, NC

VI.

The period of existence of this corporation is limited to thirty (30) years. (Extended an additional sixty (60) years by amendment of 1/7/57.)

VII.

Members may be admitted to the corporation, and membership in the corporation may be canceled, in accordance with the provisions of the organization's by-laws.

VIII.

Neither the incorporator nor the members of this corporation shall be individually liable for its debts, defaults or other obligations.

In Testimony Whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals, this the 2nd day of Sept. A.D. 1924.

Gaillard S. Tennent
H. Taylor Rogers
Ray Mathewson
Verne Rhodes
Chase P. Ambler
Kingsland Van Winkle
(Acknowledgement)

Hiking Trails

Our Pleasure, Our Responsibility

During the last 70 years, the focus of the Carolina Mountain Club has always been to preserve, protect, and enjoy the mountains of Western North Carolina. This focus is exemplified in the extensive network of accessible trails that exist in our mountains. However, these trails do not just appear and stay in place without considerable effort. It takes many hours to maintain hiking trails, and there is not an army of paid laborers to do this work.

The Carolina Mountain Club requires that an applicant for membership in some way participate in a Club-sponsored work trip. The reason for this requirement is to foster in our members an understanding that we have a responsibility to preserve for the future the trails we now enjoy, and to pass on from member to member the skills needed to carry out this responsibility.

As a member of CMC, please do your share to help your fellow club members work on trails in Western North Carolina, whether it is the Appalachian Trail, the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, the Art Loeb Trail, or any of the other trails that the Carolina Mountain Club uses and enjoys throughout the year.

**Please Tread Lightly
and
Leave No Trace**