

Hike • Save Trails • Make Friends

Carolina Mountain Club eNews



March 2025



Photo Credit: Amber Gibbs

Featured Story:

MST Week on Blue Ridge Parkway Asheville Corridor

By Jan Onan

MST Week on Blue Ridge Parkway Asheville Corridor, CMC has taken an active part in the Hurricane Helene recovery effort through trail maintenance in areas heavily damaged. Early in 2025, CMC, the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) and the Mountain to Sea Trail (MST), focused on restoring the MST in the Asheville corridor. Friends of the MST Executive Director, Brent Laurenz, and Associate Director Betsy Brown, drove from Raleigh to contribute.

BRP had government-paid certified sawyers remove downed trees just enough to make areas passible for hikers on this very popular section. However, the time and resources to fully restore it to high quality were not available. This is where CMC stepped in with an "army of volunteers" dedicated to restoring the trail to its pre-Helene condition. CMC received numerous inquiries from non-members eager to help and this initiative proved to be a highly successful way to engage new volunteers in meaningful trail restoration work.

Shoutout: 2025 CMC Strategic Planning

Carolina Mountain Club is excited to announce the launch of our strategic planning process! Partnering with consultant Amy Stork, we are setting a clear direction to ensure the continued growth and success of CMC for years to come.

Your Voice Matters!

We want to hear from you. Stay tuned for more details in the April eNews about upcoming stakeholder engagement meetings where you can share your thoughts and ideas.

Get Involved!

Do you have experience leading and facilitating group discussions? Interested in helping us conduct these important stakeholder meetings?

Reach out to CMC VP Karen Schultz at VP@carolinamountainclub.org to learn more about how you can contribute.

Your CMC Strategic Planning Committee

- Les Love
- Karen Schultz
- David Huff
- Jan Onan
- Tom Weaver

Together, let's shape the future of Carolina Mountain Club!

CMC Member Opportunity: Stargazing Weekend at PARI

By Kathy K.

Join CMC members for a weekend of stargazing at the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute (PARI) on Saturday, May 31st.

This unique experience offers a rare opportunity to explore the wonders of the night sky with expert guidance.

PARI - Originally selected by NASA for its isolated location in the Pisgah National Forest, PARI was established in September 1998 as a not-for-profit public organization dedicated to providing hands-on educational, business and research opportunities for users and lovers of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) disciplines.

Here's what's included:

- **One-night stay** in dorm style lodging at PARI.
- **Meals:** Enjoy breakfast and dinner, with options to accommodate various dietary restrictions. Bring lunch for Saturday and Sunday hikes.
- **Observatory Program:** Participate in a guided tour of the observatory, learn about celestial objects, and have the opportunity to use powerful telescopes to observe the stars, planets, and galaxies.
- **Daytime Adventures:** Scenic hikes in the surrounding area on both Saturday and Sunday.

Cost: \$160 per person

Registration is limited to 15 participants.

To register and inquire further, please email: cmccamporee@gmail.com

Please note: Payment is required to secure your registration. No refunds will be issued. You are free to find a substitute person.

Don't miss this chance to experience the magic of the night sky at one of the premier astronomical research facilities in the Southeast!



Upcoming Training Opportunities:

Steve Kuni, Haywood Search and Rescue, instructor, CMC member and trail maintainer, will again be teaching the hiker education courses starting in March. These courses are perfect for CMC hike leaders, hikers and trail maintainers. They are taught outdoors, and Steve makes them informative and fun. Each class is a bargain at \$10.

Hiker Survival - March 11th

Hiker Knots - March 25th

Land Navigation - April TBA

Interested people can watch the Haywood County Rec and Parks website <https://www.haywoodcountync.gov/Facilities> to register.

Land Navigation Class for CMC Members,

Hike Leaders, and Trail Maintainers

By Jan Onan

Kevin and I recently took Steve Kuni's Land Navigation class offered through Haywood County Parks and Recreation. We found Steve to be very personable and fun instructor.

This class offers a valuable hands-on experience for those interested in learning the essentials of map reading, compass use, and navigating through outdoor environments. Steve is an experienced outdoor educator with a deep understanding of the terrain and challenges faced by hikers and trail maintainers in the Appalachian Mountains. He is a CMC trail maintainer and member of the Haywood County Search and Rescue Team. His class is designed for both beginners and those looking to sharpen their skills in land navigation, a critical ability for outdoor hiking and maintaining trails.

[Read Full Article](#)

Volunteer Opportunities:

Help Wanted: Trail Maintenance

The Club needs section maintainers for the section(s) shown on the attached link. Section Maintainers "adopt" a section of trail. Adoption includes (but is not limited to) quarterly walk-throughs, routine maintenance (tread, trimming, water diversions), and noting downed trees and other trail blockers. (For complete adoption guidelines, see the Members' Section of CMC's webpage. Click on "Trail Work," then "Trail Maintenance," then "Extras.") If interested, please contact the Supervisors on the link. Thanks!

To review sections currently in need of maintainers, [click here.](#)

Save the Date:

April 26 - Pisgah Project Day
June 7 - National Trails Day at Hot Springs

[Donate](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Hike](#)

Carolina Mountain Clubs is the oldest and largest hiking and trail maintenance organization in the Southeastern United States. As a member-run volunteer organization, we embody the spirit of community and shared passion for the outdoors, welcoming everyone who wishes to participate in its activities.

Leading over 200 hikes per year, the club maintains more than 400 miles of trails in Western North Carolina, including 94 miles of the Appalachian Trail and 150 miles of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

Questions or feedback on the CMC eNewsletter and content can be directed to Alessia Farley at carolinamountainclub2015@gmail.com



www.carolinamountainclub.org

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meetup

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