



STC NEWSLETTER

“ON FOOT IN POTTER COUNTY”

P.O. Box 643
Coudersport, PA 16915

JANUARY 2005 ❄️❄️❄️

The purposes of the STC are to build and maintain trails; aid in the conservation of wetlands and wildlife and promote good fellowship through the medium of hiking and nature study.

WINTER FROLIC FEBRUARY 19

**Saturday Morning Activity:
Cross-Country Skiing or Hiking**
with Curt and Penny Weinhold



Time: 9:30 am
Place: Meet at Pa. Bureau of Forestry
Office parking lot, Denton Hill STS
Northern Gateway on Rt. 6

► Bring lunch and water.

**Saturday Evening:
Dinner, Meeting & Program**



Time: 6:00 pm Dinner
Place: Lutheran Parish Hall, corner
of Borie Street & Allegany Avenue
in Coudersport.

Dinner: Catered dinner by Bernie FeFever serving
baked stuffed chicken breast and baked ham plus all
the trimmings and desert, served buffet style.

Cost: \$ 8.50 per person.

**ALL DINNERS SERVED BY ADVANCE
REGISTRATION ONLY. Deadline Feb 12.**
Use the enclosed registration form and envelope.

After the dinner, there'll be a short monthly
business meeting followed by an evening program.
STC member Curt Weinhold will show slides from
his trips to Mt. Washington, N.H. and California's
Mt. Whitney and Death Valley. It will be
interesting and you won't want to miss it!



**Club Patches available
for \$3.50 (which includes
postage) from Club
Address**



TIME TO PAY 2005 DUES



It's time to get dues in the mail.

Voluntary Price: \$5.00 individual or
\$10.00 family membership. (see
explanation in the letter on page 2).

Current Price: \$3.00 individual or
\$6.00 family membership.

Check the date on your mailing address label.
You must renew if it says "Last Pd Dues 2004".
Also, consider a gift membership for a friend.

We have again provided an addressed envelope to
help remind you to return them promptly.
You may combine dues with Winter Frolic
reservations on the same check, made payable to
"The Susquehannock Trail Club", using the form
included in this newsletter.

Send in those dues **now** so we can keep you on the
club membership roll, plus you'll continue to
receive the STC Quarterly Newsletter.



A message from the Club President: IMPORTANT - STC DUES INCREASE

It has been a long time coming but inflation has forced your trail club to raise its dues. The present dues structure of \$3.00 individual and \$6.00 family is no longer sufficient to support the cost of operating the business end of the Club. Our Club is gifted with many volunteer members who give numerous hours to keeping the STC running and over the years we have a record to be proud of.

It is the cost outside of the Club that is affecting the need for a dues increase. Our quarterly newsletter, which is a lifeline to our membership keeping all members abreast of Club activities, hike schedules, and Club news, now costs us \$1.09 per copy to print and mail. At 4 times a year this is \$4.36 and U.S. postal service expects to raise its first class mail to 41 cents early in 2005. We have also had increases in rental costs for the use of buildings and halls where we hold STC group meetings and dinners. The Secretary's cost in just answering mail and inquiries has steadily risen over the years.

This dues subject was thoroughly discussed at the Dec. 11, 2004 meeting and decided it was necessary to increase dues to \$5.00 individual and \$10.00 family. According to our by-laws, Article 111, Section 5A this recommendation of dues increase reads as follows:

"The assessment of dues shall be made by majority vote of the membership at any regular meeting upon recommendation of the advisory board. Notice of the proposed change shall be given at the regular meeting preceeding the meeting at which the proposal is to be put before the membership and/or printed in the preceeding newsletter."

This increase in dues will be voted on at the January 2005 meeting. Due to the reading of the by-laws, dues will remain the same in 2005, but due to circumstances we are asking all of our members to voluntarily increase their dues this year 2005 when you receive your dues notice. Those members who have paid the present dues structure of \$3.00 and \$6.00 in advance for coming years will be honored until your dues are again due. We are asking all members to understand the situation and support the direction your trail club is taking.

Sincerely, Wil Ahn, Sr., President

2004 HIKE SUMMARY

by Bob Knowles

QUARTERLY SUMMARY



During the September 12 through October 31 period, nine STC sponsored day hikes were scheduled. Three hikes were canceled due to wet, flooded trail; strong winds and possibility of heavy rains; and unsafe trail conditions. Six hikes covered two to fifteen miles in length totaling 31 miles with 46 STC members and guests participating.

Bill Morey, Galeton, led the shortest hike. Seven STC members and guests hiked the two-mile Denton Hill Ski Trail / Big Fill Hollow hike on Sunday, October 17. Joe Allis, Galeton, led Mary Duca and Dick Hribar, Coudersport, on the 15-mile Mountain Bike Ride on Susquehannock State Forest roads and trails on Saturday, September 25.

ANNUAL SUMMARY

The Susquehannock Trail Club scheduled 31 day hikes for the April 24 through October 31, 2004 hiking season. Nine hikes were cancelled due to lack of leader or participants; weather and/ or unsafe trail conditions. On 22 hikes, 151 STC members and guests hiked 101 miles covering two to fifteen miles in length.

Hike leaders were: Wil Ahn, Wayne Baumann, Bill Boyd, Pat Childs, Dick Hribar, Tom Leete, Roxanne McMillan, Bill Morey, and Ken Wingo. Members attending the most hikes were Bill Boyd, 17; Wayne Baumann, 16; Wil Ahn, 8; and Bill Morey, 6. Participating hikers represented the states of Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, North Carolina, Oregon and Tennessee.



2004 STS Trail Maintenance

by Bob Knowles



Susquehannock Trail and other Potter County hiking trail maintenance work reported during 2004 totaled 1039 hours. The total hours included 730 work hours and 309 hours of travel time.

Reported trail work was performed by Wil Ahn, Joe Allis, Donna Batterson, Wayne Baumann, Bill Boyd, Leo Boyer, Raymond Buck, Robert Buck, Roger Buck, John Clark, Dave Clarke, John and Pat Clement, John Eastlake, Dorothy Erway, Bernie Goch, Jake Goch, Greg Henne, Dick Hribar, Charles Kern, Lowell and Barbara Luft, Dave McMillan, Bill Morey, Bruce Robbins, Andy Salek, Logan Starton, Dave Singer, Bob Webber, Tom Weiner, Zack Wenrich, Richard Wolfe, Cliff Wood, Curt Wunderlick, and three groups: Boy Scout Troop 32 of Jonestown; Potter County Trailblazers; and Keystone Trails Association Weekend Trail Care Group.

Trail maintenance work performed after September 5 included:

1. Wil Ahn, Ulysses; John Clark, Scio, NY; Wayne Baumann, Bill Boyd and Dick Hribar, Coudersport, cleared numerous blowdowns across the STS from Rock Ridge Road to the vista area north of the gated Prouty Lick Road; and, most of the STS section from Wild Boy Road to Rock Ridge Road on September 21.
2. Dave McMillan, Landisville, led 12 KTA and STC members on the KTA Weekend Trail Care on the STS on October 22 – 24. See the next article for full details.

A REPORT on the KTA Trail Care Weekend

(excerpted from Bob Knowles'
Potter Leader Enterprise October 27, 2004
Susquehannock Trail Club column)

Dave McMillan, Landisville, led 12 volunteers on the statewide Keystone Trails Association's Trail care work weekend on the Susquehannock Trail on October 22 – 24 based out of Ole Bull State Park. McMillan is the STC representative on the KTA Council.

The trail care weekend began Friday evening with a social campfire. A full day of trail work Saturday and a half day Sunday morning completed 111 hours of work on the STS. The volunteer's travel time totaled 78 hours. Trip Leader McMillan

reported "A great weekend, good weather or not, big campfire at nights, was a good time".

KTA volunteers cleared 19 ¼ miles of the STS of blow downs from Rock Ridge Road to McConnell Road and between Cherry Springs Fire Tower on Rt. 44 and West Branch Road; cleared striped maple saplings and brush from Ole Bull State Park to top of the mountain; cleared brush from Big Spring Road to French Joe Trail; painted orange blazes between Rock Ridge Road and "Old Stove" at mile 68.

KTA member volunteers were Joe Healey, Laflin; Tom Bastion, Jersey Shore; Kathy Sheminski, Nazareth; Jeff Clark, Canton; Pete Flezar, Hershey; Elwood Laudenslanger, Trout Run; Ed and Kathleen Lawrence, Orangeville.

KTA/STS member volunteers were Leo Boyer, Tower City; Dave McMillan, Landisville; Virginia Musser, Lititz; Dave Singer, Lititz; and STC member Charles Kern, Jonestown.



KTA Corner by Dave McMillan

Keystone Trails Association is an organization of member clubs and individuals that promotes the interest of hikers throughout Pennsylvania. Through interaction with government agencies, legislative monitoring, trail building and trail maintenance KTA provides many benefits to all of Pennsylvania's hikers. For information on joining KTA go to www.kta-hike.org/member.htm or write P.O. Box 129 Confluence, PA 15424

On October 22 – 24 a KTA Trail Crew weekend was held to assist with maintenance on the STS. Fourteen members of KTA and STC met and camped at Ole Bull State Park. Over the weekend many miles of the southern STC were cleared. Thanks to all of the participants.

At the Oct 2nd KTA meeting the new bylaws of the association were approved by the general membership. This opens the way for the development of a more assertive organization that

will focus all of it's efforts to benefit the hiking community.

Some of the topics discussed at the council meeting included:

Pa. Department Of Transportation (DOT) Highway Occupancy Access (HOA) –

This bureaucratic act of the DOT continues to be a potential legal and financial burden for all of the hiking clubs and state agencies that maintain trails that cross DOT roadways. If allowed to be enforced this act will require that every road crossing for every trail be documented and approved by the DOT. Also included in the act are financial liability requirements for the maintaining organization. KTA members are meeting with state officials in an effort to redefine the requirements for hiking trails. These efforts will benefit all of PA's hiking clubs.

Game Commission – Sunday hunting is again becoming an issue. Game Lands provide hiking opportunities for hunters and non-hunters on Sundays. If Sunday hunting is allowed this opportunity will be lost. There are many sides to this issue but it seems that the most consistent support for Sunday hunting comes from businesses that will benefit financially and not from the hunting community. Those of us that are both hikers and hunters have the greatest stake in the outcome. KTA has many members that are hunters and hikers and has maintained the position that Sunday hunting should not be allowed.

Game Commission – Governor Rendell has proposed placement of **advertising billboards** on State Game Lands. Many of the Game Lands border highways and interstates and would provide an opportunity to sell advertising space. The Game Commission policy states that the land cannot be used for commercial purposes. With the financial difficulties facing the state, use of Game Lands to generate income will become more of an issue.

Executive Director Position – The addition of a paid fulltime position to advocate KTA's business has been approved. Definition of job requirements, finances, office location and more all need to be addressed before a hiring decision can be made.

DCNR Snowmobile & ATV Advisory Committee – No new ATV trail construction is planned for Bureau Of Forestry land. Funding will

be provided for construction of ATV Parks on private land, usually old strip mines.

DCNR Recreational Advisory Council – The proposed construction of a resort in the Prince Gallitzen State Park has been dropped.

2005 Trail Care – The schedule has been released for the 2005 trail care weekend and trail crew week-long activities. Check the KTA web page for the schedule. A tool trailer has been purchased to aid in transportation and storage of the club tools used for trail care. Several new tools were purchased to replace worn equipment and add new capabilities. These purchases were made possible by a grant from the DCNR.

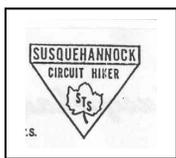
Membership - Individual membership to KTA stands at 1,008 with 49 club memberships. As of the Oct. meeting, 17 of the clubs had not yet renewed membership. It is unfortunate that of the hundreds of thousands of hikers in Pa. that only 1,000 are willing to join and support a statewide organization that works in their interest.

Future KTA meetings – A council meeting will be held in January and a general membership/council meeting will be held in Renovo on April 1, 2 & 3.

STC representation at the KTA meetings - Each member club is allowed one voting representative on the KTA council. I have volunteered for that position for the past several years. This activity involves attendance of 4 Saturday meetings per year plus participation in additional committee meetings throughout the year. My professional employment requires a large amount of office and meeting time and I need to get back to spending my off hours out of doors rather than in meetings. Therefore I plan to focus my volunteer activities on trail maintenance and leave the meetings and political activities to others. The January KTA council meeting will be my last as the STC representative. I hope that one of you will volunteer to take this position. Contact Wil Ahn at the STC Club address to volunteer.

Dave McMillan
dmcmillan@verizon.net

HAPPY NEW YEAR



CIRCUIT HIKER AWARDS

From Lois Morey,
STC Archivist

Circuit Hiker # 916 – Jon Smeigh from York, PA

Circuit Hiker # 917 – Rocky Chandlee from Dallastown, PA

This duo started out with a third partner but due to illness, he dropped out part way along the trail and plans to finish the circuit next year. Jon and Rocky submitted separate logs for the committee's approval. They started hiking September 24th and finished on September 30th of this year. Both logs were well written with lots of details making for interesting reading by the committee.

A third log has been received but as of this writing has not had all the necessary approvals.



STC BOOTH – POTTER COUNTY 200TH ANNIVERSARY

The STC booth at the Potter County Bicentennial Celebration in Coudersport on Sat. October 9th was under the direction of Bill Boyd. The booth displayed the STC banner. Brochures were handed out to people viewing the display of Club photos of activities over the years. Maps and guidebooks were available. Donna Batterson and Wayne Baumann assisted Bill in promoting the Club. Thanks to all who helped make the display a success.



MARCH 12, 2005:

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have your information in the mail by March 12, 2005 to:

Roxanne McMillan
STC Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 427
Landisville, PA. 17538

Or e:mail roxanne_mcmillan@hotmail.com



WILD GAME HARVEST DINNER

(excerpted from Bob Knowles'
Potter Leader Enterprise October 20, 2004
Susquehannock Trail Club column)



The 33rd Annual STC Harvest- Wild Game Dinner at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Coudersport was attended by 40 members and guests on Saturday, October 16. Lots of

venison, chili, meat loaf, steaks and stew varieties were the main wildlife entrees. Apple desserts in many forms were the most numerous.

Door prizes were awarded to Jim Derr, Charlotte Freeman, Roland Greisemer, Debbie Kern, Tom Leete, Bill Morey, Fred Reep, Wanda Shirk, Gerry Smeigh, Sara Squier, and Sandy Timms.

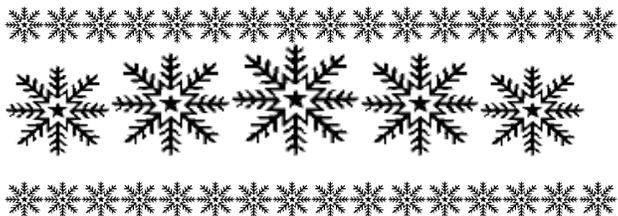
Wil Ahn, president, conducted a short business meeting. New members approved for membership were Richard and Barbara Neese, Coudersport; and Carlton E. Windle, Souansea, MA

Members present reviewed the reception and activity at the STC booth on the Courthouse Square at the Potter County Bicentennial Celebration on Saturday, October 9. Dave McMillan, Landisville, invited members to join the Keystone Trails Association Trail care Weekend on the STC on October 22 – 24.

Charles Fox, Troy, presented a real good slide show with narration on the elusive, usually nocturnal bobcat. Fox served 35 years as a Deputy Game Protector specializing in bobcats. Fox gave a history of the bobcat and displayed full body bobcat skins, skulls and a foot with claws in the extended position. The radio telemetry research method of trapping, collar attachment and tracking description was interesting, informative and occasionally humorous with personal experiences.

The bobcat was named for its six-inch bobbed tail. Small mammals, mice to rabbit size, are the bobcat's main prey. Three different colors, some with spots and bars, are found in our state. The yearly road kill of bobcat average 120. The presentation was well received, as evidenced by the applause.





ALONG THE TRAIL...by Wil Ahn

Long Distance Hiker

We received this letter recently from STC member Jan Unneberg, Williamsport Pa.

"Sorry I'm late paying dues, but I was focused on long-distance hiking. Hiked over 2,000 miles on the AT last summer and fall, late June through November. Only missed a section in Virginia when hurricane Isabel pummeled the trail. Hiked the first 800 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail in May and June this year: Seven hundred "desert" section miles and 100 miles in the Sierras when an injury forced me off the trail. Hope everyone gets the same opportunity once in a lifetime" --Jan

Second Book On the Way

STC member Eric Greisinger from Bakerstown, Pa. near Pittsburgh recently earned the Trail Club's "Circuit Hiker Award," and writes to us stating that it was one of his greatest accomplishments.

In an earlier STC newsletter we told you he was a Historian and Writer and had written his first book "A World Away But Close to Home".

Eric has his second book coming out in December 2004 - a hardbound 400+ pages with many photographs, maps and original drawings - with the title "They Say There Was A War." 64 personal accounts of World War II veterans. Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force. All theatres of the war. Full details are available from Eric Greisinger, Box 2, Bakerstown, Pa. 15007

Old Timer - Still Going

I had a nice visit with Henry Knauber from Wisconsin, Pa. this past June. In 1973 he and his friend Dave Evans, hiked the 85-mile STS circuit in 28 hours, 45 minutes, averaging about 3 miles per hour. They also hiked the 38-mile Black Forest Trail in 18 hours in 1971. Dale was president and Henry the vice president of the Lebanon Valley Hiking Club in 1973.

Dave has been deceased for quite some time, but old Henry still likes to hit the trail. He sent me a letter after his return home from his visit to Potter County. Eighty four year old Henry writes this little ditty:

**"When I was young and in my prime,
I could hike 15 or 20 miles any old time.
But now that I am old (and what's left) is gray,
I'm lucky to do 5 miles a day".**

He also adds, "today I got a clean bill of health, so now that is off my mind. Will sleep better tonight. Driving to California this summer. Keep cutting grass and firewood, Wil". Signed - Henry

Go Get 'em Tiger -

Wild Game /Harvest Dinner

Our guest speaker was Charley Fox, a Bio-Aid and Deputy Game Protector from Troy, Pa. He's a veteran of the Pa. Game Commission for over 35 years specializing in bobcats. Charley had great slides showing the bobcats habitat, electronic collared cats, and exciting close-up photos of the cats in the wilds. He had an interesting display of hides and skulls for the audience. During the question and answer period following the slide showing several members asked Charley if he ever saw a mountain lion or tracks of a mountain lion in his travels of trapping and studying bobcats for the Game Commission in Pa.

His answer was no. He had been called by people many times saying they saw mountain lions, but upon Charley's investigating the location and the facts it always turned out to be false. Of course, we have members in our club who claim they have seen mountain lions here on the STS in Potter County and surrounding areas. We would be glad to hear of your experience.



**SEE YOU ALONG THE TRAIL
Wil**



HAPPY NEW YEAR

2005 Dues

& Winter Frolic Reservation Form **

NAME: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Winter Frolic

___ Meals at \$8.50 each = _____

2005 Membership Dues

Voluntary \$10.00 family..... \$5.00 individual = _____

---or---

Current rate of \$6.00 family...\$3.00 individual
(per the bylaws until such time the rate increase is approved)

Gift Membership for:

Name: _____ = _____

Address: _____

\$10.00 family \$5.00 individual

STS Club Hiking Patches

___ Patches at \$3.50 each (includes postage) = _____

Total amount enclosed = _____

Make checks payable to "Susquehannock Trail Club".
Mail to P.O. Box 643, Coudersport, PA 16915

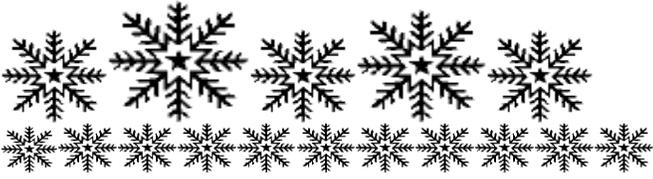
NOTE: ****Deadline for dinner reservations is February 12**





Susquehannock Trail Club
P.O. Box 643
Coudersport, PA 16915





HAPPY NEW YEAR

