

**Carolina Mountain Club (CMC)**  
**2019 Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**October 26, 2019**

The Annual Meeting of the Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) was held at the Doubletree Hotel, 115 Hendersonville Road, in Asheville.

Vice President Debby Jones welcomed members and guests.

**Challenge Completers**

Prior to the Business Meeting, the Challenge Awards were presented by Chris Koebelin, chair of the Challenge Committee

- Waterfall 100 Challenge - Sallye Sanders, Dana Koogler
- Pisgah 400 Challenge - Jon Bellows, Bob Forsythe, Joe Ellenberger
- Lookout Tower Challenge - Cameron Bailey
- AT and MST Challenge - Jennifer Costner, Guy Garufi, Lorinda Garufi
- South Beyond 6000 - Dennis Smith, John Bennett, Rick Harkins, Dean Giuliano, William Sanderson

**Call to Order**

President Randy Fluharty called the meeting to order and welcomed all members and guests.

**Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting**

President Randy Fluharty presented the minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. There were none. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting as written.

**Treasurer's Report and Approval of 2020 Budget**

Treasurer George Bauernfeind reported to the attendees that CMC has an excellent financial structure with both membership growth and increased contributions. The end of year budget shows income slightly greater than expenses and no major changes in the budget. A copy of the 2020 Budget was provided to the members at the Annual Meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the 2020 Budget as presented.

**Nomination and Election of Officers**

Barbara Morgan, the immediate Past President and current Nominating Committee Chair, presented the slate for 2020 Council openings for vote by the members:

Nominees:

President: Debby Jones

Vice-President: Tom Weaver

Education and Community Outreach: Jan Onan (2<sup>nd</sup> two-year term)

Hiking: Brenda Worley (appointed to complete unexpired term during 2019)

Membership: Lynn Saul (2<sup>nd</sup> two-year term)

Technology: Judy Magura (2<sup>nd</sup> two-year term)

Councilor at Large: Chris Koebelin (2<sup>nd</sup> two-year term)

Councilor at Large: Sarah Broughton (year 2 of Hugh Hensleigh's unexpired term)

Members returning in 2020 (no election needed):

Past President: Randy Fluharty

Secretary: Kathy McAuley

Treasurer: George Bauernfeind

Communications: Stu English

Conservation: Michael Fisher

### Trail Maintenance: Ron Navik

President Randy Fluharty then asked for nominations from the floor, and hearing none, asked for a motion. A motion was made to vote on the slate as a unit, and this was approved. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the slate for 2020.

### Recognition of Departing Council Members

President Randy Fluharty thanked these two members of the Council, who are finishing their terms, for their excellent service to the club.

Hugh Hensleigh, Councilor at Large

Barbara Morgan, Past President

### CMC Awards

Barbara Morgan, chair of the Awards Committee announced the recipients of this year's awards:

**Award of Appreciation** – This year's award went to Rich Evans. The award was in recognition of Rich's contributions through his trail work, which includes being a member of trail crews six days a week. Rich also educates other trail crew members on specific skills, like rock work, as well as managing the secondary trail volunteer program.

**Distinguished Service Award** – This year's award went to Jan Onan for her continuing and growing work for CMC. Jan is best known for her continued passion and work with children on the trail. Jan has led the effort to develop the Youth Partnership Challenge (YPC) to encourage both children and their adults to discover the outdoor beauty of western North Carolina. Jan also scouts hikes and is an excellent hike leader. Jan is currently the Councilor for Education and Outreach and has expanded that role beyond YPC, to include a wide variety of educational opportunities. These include the speaker series, knot tying class, and other educational opportunities. Jan provides new ideas to improve the club on a regular basis.

**Awards for Regional Partnership Committee Representatives** – The individuals receiving awards are being honored for helping shape CMC's involvement as a voice in the management of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). The Regional Partnership Committees of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy play an integral role in shaping regional priorities and provide perspective and support in the development of policies trail wide. The members of these committees represent A.T. maintaining clubs. CMC's involvement in managing and maintaining the Appalachian National Scenic Trail ensures that it remains The People's Trail. To recognize their service in this arena, to celebrate their contributions, and to share our deep appreciation, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and CMC would like to recognize: Don Walton, Jim Reel, Paul Curtin, Pete Peterson, Tim Carrigan, Tom Weaver, and Howard McDonald (deceased).

### President's Report

A summary of Randy Fluharty's past year as President and CMC in general:

President Randy Fluharty emphasized how important active, involved members are to the health of the club, and how members exemplify activity and involvement in the club, leading to CMC thriving. President Randy Fluharty also recognized the Council members.

**Membership** – This year CMC gained 183 new members, keeping the membership to over 1000. Communication with membership has increased through monthly eNews, Let's Go, and Facebook, allowing notification of current events in the club and club hikes. The hiking schedule has expanded with over 200 hikes led this year; this includes the addition of moderate Wednesday hikes.

**Liability Waiver** – After an extensive research study of liability waiver forms and much work on the part of a subcommittee and an outside attorney, the Council approved a more comprehensive version of our hiker liability release. In the coming months, members will have the opportunity to become familiar with the form before hike leaders begin using it at the hike meeting places.

Trail Maintenance – Trail maintainers have accomplished a tremendous amount of work. This includes 239 members maintaining trails, and total hours for 2019 to date were 25,769, of which 2,434 were guest maintainers.

Max Patch has been a significant project for over two years. The National Trails Day work this year attracted 100 volunteers and much was accomplished. Many of these volunteers were not members, so CMC exposed these new people to trail maintenance. Next, CMC will establish a Trail Ambassador Program to provide face to face contact with Max Patch visitors and educate them on Leave No Trace, the work of CMC, and the importance of protecting the native habitat. CMC is looking for volunteers and will be providing training for those volunteers. Paul Curtin will lead this project.

Paul Curtin has established an overnight trail crew to reach AT trails that are difficult to reach in a normal work day. The crew backpacks to the work site and works that afternoon and the next day. To date there have been 3 overnight trips.

For Pisgah Pride Day this year, we continued work on the Mt. Pisgah Trail and the John Rock Trail.

Outside trail work sources this year included:

- The Konnarock Crew from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) gave CMC 3 weeks of work on the A.T. near Sam's Gap.
- The Conservation League, in cooperation with the Blue Ridge Parkway, gave CMC 6 crew weeks of labor by the Conservation Corps, refurbishing the Mountain to Sea Trail (MST) from Elk Pasture to Mt. Pisgah.

CMC received financial assistance through grants:

- The Appalachian Trail Tag Grant provided \$2,500 to purchase a tool trailer.
- The Recreational Trails Program Safety and Education Grant provided \$3,700 to provide sawyer and rock work training.

The secondary trails program, spearheaded by Les Love is an effort to get secondary trails in the Pisgah Forest adopted by CMC members.

The Art Loeb trail is in dire need of work, so a second Monday crew has been established for that needed work. CMC also continues work on the Mt Pisgah Trail and the MST near Craggy Gardens.

At the recent Trail Maintainers picnic, 25 awards were given out, including an award to Skip Sheldon, who has achieved 7,000 hours in volunteer time. Rich Evans received the CMC Award of Appreciation.

A newly established Natural Resources Team has been organized and is being coordinated by Barbara Morgan. This group will pull invasive plants on the trails and also identify and flag rare plant species, so trail maintainers can avoid harming them.

The Forest Service is developing a Revised Management Plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah Forests, which only occurs every 15 years. The CMC Conservation Committee has been active in the Stakeholder's Forum and the Nantahala - Pisgah Forests Partnership, which is an effort to provide the Forest Service with feedback on the plan that considers all uses of the national forests and reflects agreed upon compromises that work for the good of the whole. Ruth Hartzler and Tish Desjardins have spent countless hours in meetings on behalf of CMC and this committee has developed a plan to respond to the revised draft of the plan, due this fall. There will be more information to follow as to how members can comment on the plan. CMC has also

provided comments on other policy issues, such as Buck Creek timber project and the proposal to limit public comment on timbering, and other land impact projects.

The Education and Outreach Committee has provided increased promotion of the Youth Partnership Challenge (YPC), which resulted in 5 completers this year. Courses on Map and Compass Orienteering and Knot Tying were offered and National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) articles about hiking safety are now appearing in eNews.

A speaker series has been started by CMC member Jennifer Pharr Davis, which has attracted a crowd at every session, and CMC has been represented at each of these events.

CMC is working with the Dupont State Forest on the Horizon Program, which is targeted to first and second graders.

The Technology committee has completed work to make our technology system much more stable, with minimal downtime. New programming allows hike schedulers and hike leaders to schedule hikes online and also provides for easier submission of hikes.

#### **Other Business**

President Randy Fluharty asked if there was any other business to come before the Membership, and there was none.

#### **Adjournment**

President Randy Fluharty adjourned the meeting and turned the program over to Vice President Debby Jones to introduce the guest speaker, Jay Erskine Leutze, author of Stand Up That Mountain. Mr. Leutze is a conservationist and a Trustee for Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy.

Minutes prepared by Kathy McAuley, Secretary.