

CMC Returns to Doubletree

By Stuart English



L-R Kathy McAuley-Secretary, Chris Koebelin Councilor at Large, Judy Magura Technology, Brenda Worley Hiking, Lynn Saul Membership, Stuart English Communications, George Bauernfeind Treasurer, Tom Weaver Vice President, Barbara Morgan Out Going Past President, Ron Navik Trail Maintenance, Debby Jones President, Randy Fluharty Immediate Past President. Absent: Mike Fisher Conservation, Jan Onan Education/Outreach, Sarah Broughton Councilor at Large, Hugh Hensleigh outgoing Councilor at Large.

On a cool, rainy evening before Halloween, the Carolina Mountain Club once again held their Annual Dinner and Meeting at the Doubletree Hilton. A social hour started the evening as hiking friends old and new got together in an indoor setting for a change. President elect Debby Jones got the program started. Chris Koebelin, our Challenge Committee Chair presented the latest completers of club challenges:

Waterfall 100: Sallye Sanders, Dana Koogler

Pisgah 400: Jon Bellows, Bob Forsythe, Joe Ellenberger

Lookout Tower Challenge: Cameron Bailey

AT and MST Challenge: Jennifer Costner, Guy Gaudi, Lorena Garufi

South Beyond 6000: Dennis Smith, John Bennett, Rick Harkins, Dean Giuliano, William Sanderson

Then a buffet dinner was served up and the meeting began.

George Bauernfeind gave us our robust financial report, past President Barbara Morgan presided over the election of the new council members, (see picture with caption), and recognized the council members who were departing.

Awards were given to two members who had advanced the goals of our club through their efforts. Rich Evans works on the Waynesville Wednesday crew (and co leads), the Thursday crew, the Friday crew, and the quarterly crew. He formed the Art Loeb Trail crew that works on Monday. He has over 1000 maintenance hours this year. Rich was given the Award of Appreciation earlier at a Trail Maintenance picnic. This award recognizes exemplary efforts accomplished in a short period of time. (This award was actually given earlier at a Trail Maintenance picnic.)

Jan Onan received the Distinguished Service Award. Jan is best known for her involvement with children on the trail and the Youth Partner Challenge. To quote her, “we need to show them there’s another world out there, a natural world.” She is chair of the Education and Outreach Committee for CMC. She has been leading hikes for CMC since joining the club in 2003.

Our guest speaker was Jay Leutze, an attorney, outdoorsman, conservationist, and author of *Stand up that Mountain*. Jay gave an impassioned talk about the continuing struggle to protect public land.

For our friend Walt Weber, it was his 26th consecutive Annual Dinner. For everyone, it was another reminder of what a great organization we belong to. Thanks to upcoming President Debby Jones for a successful dinner.