

The Long Distance Hiker



The Newsletter of the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association

Volume 11, Number 4

"ALDHA News That's Fit To Print Since 1983"

Fall 2000

Going The Distance

They've completed the Florida Trail –and more.

Class Five (Jon Leuschel, age 26) and King Louie (Jeff Leuschel, age 21), pictured here on Easter weekend on the Appalachian Trail at the Nolichucky River in Erwin, TN, thru-hiked the entire Florida Trail this winter to kick off their "Eastern Continental Trail" hike—stringing together the Florida Overseas Heritage Trail, the Florida Trail, the Appalachian Trail, and the International Appalachian Trail for 4,000+ miles of hiking along the East Coast. Their comments on the Florida Trail? "It was empty. We didn't see anyone hiking until we got to the Ocala National Forest." Last word is they've been seen in Vermont, still headed north!

Want to know more about the 1,200 miles of prime winter hiking us Southerners have hiding in our backyards? Wander through sand hills, stroll through thick bayheads, slog through cypress swamps, and enjoy the shade of grand old live oak trees. It's all a part of the Florida Trail, stretching from the

Everglades to Pensacola, a cheap, fun, two-month thru-hike. Watch for a full-blown article on the Florida National Scenic Trail in the Winter edition of the Long Distance Hiker.

—Sandra Downs



Hostel Closes

On August 11, 2000, The Jesuit House of Prayer in Hot Springs, NC, announced the permanent closure of their hostel to hikers. Following is the text of an open letter addressed to the hiking community:

Since the 1960's the Jesuit House of Prayer has offered hospitality to hikers from the AT. Even before the hostel was built, the priests provided ways for the hikers to obtain food, offered spiritual guidance and permitted hikers to sleep on the front porch.

Over the years, the hikers' presence had an ebb and flow; the personnel at the Jesuit House served hikers as they came and went. We were happy to serve. In the last few years, serving the hikers has been more difficult for the personnel who work with the Jesuits.

Since there was major renovation on the main House from January to May, 2000 we were not able to serve the hikers; as we thought about our resources and limits, the Advisory Board with the approval of the Jesuit Board of Directors decided to close the hostel to hikers and to focus more on the retreat work which has been our primary focus since 1978 even as we continued to do pastoral and social services ministry in other ways. This decision was not an easy one to make but it was necessary. As we move into the future we will continue to use the hostel for retreatants.

There are more places for hikers to stay in the town of Hot Springs than five years ago and it seems fitting that the town have the opportunity to welcome the hikers who come through. We will continue to welcome hikers who seek time for spiritual reflection or time to meet with a director for reflecting sharing.

We hope you will pray for us as we do for all of you.

*Sincerely,
Sister Peggy Verstege, R.S.M.*



On (and Off) The Trail



Alien and her sister Prom Queen thru-hiked the GR20 in Corsica this summer. Hanging on chains, hiking through snow, sleet and rain, this trail made the Knife's Edge look like a ridgewalk in PA.

Bear Bag & Sweat Pea were dropped off on the AT at Thornton Gap, on Sunday, June 25.

Nimblewill Nomad was seen on the AT in Dalton, MA

Blister Sister was last seen thru thruhiking the AT in New Hampshire.

Weathercarrot (Greg Walters) was spotted in WA on the PCT.

JESTER! (Wolff Alterman) and Fred proudly announce the birth of their first child, Channa Ruth Alterman, born on June 1, 2000.

ALDHA Coordinator Trickster (Henry Edwards) proposed marriage to Marissa (she accepted). The wedding is to be held in July or August of 2001.

If you have a special accomplishment that you'd like to share with other ALDHA members, send an email to bstransky@home.net, and we'll put it in the next issue of *The Long Distance Hiker*.

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The Long Distance Hiker

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The Long Distance Hiker is published four times each year. To join ALDHA, send the form on page 7 plus \$7 (check or money order payable to ALDHA) to ALDHA, 10 Bennington St., PMB 224, West Lebanon, NH 03784. We're also online at <http://www.aldha.org>.

Museum of the Appalachian Trail

Volunteers have started organizing an Appalachian Trail Museum to help preserve the history of the Trail. A site for the museum has not yet been chosen but the museum may be located somewhere in the vicinity of the Appalachian Trail Conference headquarters in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

We are asking your help in several ways.

Items are now being collected for future displays. They should have some solid connection to the Appalachian Trail. Some suggestions are:

- ✓ Gear from early trail hikers
- ✓ Items that would show the evolution of gear
- ✓ Trail registers
- ✓ Signs
- ✓ Videos
- ✓ Guide books and maps
- ✓ Slide shows
- ✓ Documents not only from thru hikers, but also from trail committees, maintainers, and maintaining clubs such as:
 - Newspaper and magazine articles related to the AT.
 - Photographs
 - Journals
 - Programs from club meetings

Current information and updates on our progress will be posted on the ALDHA website at www.aldha.org.

Monetary contributions may be sent to ALDHA, 10 Benning St., PMB 224, West Lebanon, NH 03784.

We are seeking volunteers to help with their time and ideas.

We are hoping folks may come across articles they would like to donate now or in the near future. If possible, please note when and where the articles came from.

For further information or questions please contact:

Larry Luxenberg, phone: 914-634-0581, email: hiker778@aol.com

Carla Lafleur, phone: 413-737-8503, email: hrl@map.com

Tim Messerich, phone: 914-297-9573

Caretakers Needed for Blackburn Trail Center

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club is accepting applications for caretakers to staff the Blackburn Trail Center during the 2001 hiking season. Owned and operated by the PATC, the Blackburn Trail Center is located on the AT just 12 miles south of Harpers Ferry. Blackburn is a premier stop for AT thru-hikers and day hikers alike. The caretakers duties will include maintaining the Trail Center, Hikers Hostel and campground. Applicants should have experience in offering

comfort and company to weary hikers. The PATC prefers a couple with knowledge of the AT and hikers' needs.

A very modest stipend is offered, along with a fabulous summer experience. Dates run from mid March through October. If you are interested, send a letter of application to Chris Brunton, 9000 Piney Grove Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031 or email to trlboss@dellnet.com. If you have any questions, call Chris at 703-560-8070.

Welcome to the 19th ALDHA Gathering!

What's the Gathering?

The Gathering is the annual get-together for ALDHA. It's a mix of performance programs, workshops, slide shows, and fun activities. Best of all, it's a time for us to catch up with our extended trail family and meet new people.

When is it?

The Gathering is always on Columbus weekend, which in 2000 falls on the weekend of October 6, 7 and 8. Activities start Friday night at 7 p.m., but you can arrive as early as noon at the Appalachian Folklife Center for registration. The Gathering ends after the Sunday night program around 10 p.m.

Where is it?

This year the Gathering is at Concord College in Athens, West Virginia; and camping is at the Appalachian Folklife Center, about 9 miles north of Athens, in Pipestem, West Virginia. If you're unfamiliar with the area, the closest trail town is Pearisburg, Virginia, approximately 45 minutes away by car.

How do I register?

While it's too late to preregister, you can register on-site at the Folklife Center on Friday from noon to 5 p.m., then from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Alexander Arts Center where the opening program is to be held. Registration will continue after the Friday night program at the Folklife Center for an hour or two. On Saturday, you can register at the Folklife Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

What's the cost?

The Gathering registration fee is \$10, and for \$7 more you can join ALDHA for one year. The \$10 registration fee includes a registration packet with schedule, evaluations, and other hiking goodies. Camping at the Folklife Center is free with registration. With a \$7 membership you will receive our annual Membership Directory—the only one of its kind in the long-distance hiking world—and four issues of *The Long Distance Hiker*, ALDHA's quarterly

newsletter. Recently we've added an on-line ALDHA list for our members, which is a low-volume email list that keeps members in touch throughout the year. By the way, the membership and attendance cost for couples is \$27.

How do I get there?

Athens, West Virginia is in the southeastern part of the state, very close to the Virginia border.

From Lexington, VA, the intersection of Interstates 81 and 64 West: proceed west on Interstate 64, which will take you into West Virginia. Take the Sandstone exit [No. 139] and follow Route 20 south through Hinton. The turnoff for camping at the Folklife Center is on the left, about 22 miles from the exit. Look for ALDHA signs with the hiker logo pointing the way to a left turn onto Indian Ridge Road, and then another sign about 0.5 mile later at a hairpin turn on the left, pointing the way to the Folklife Center. Make the hairpin turn, and the Folklife Center will come up in another 0.9 mile on your right.

Concord College in Athens, where all meetings will take place, is about 9 miles from the Folklife Center, farther down Route 20 from Pipestem. At the traffic light in the center of Athens, turn right onto Vermillion Street, and in about 1 mile the campus will appear on your left. (Park in the lots at the back of the buildings, please.)



From Interstate 77: Take the Athens Road exit [No. 14] and head east approximately 3 miles toward Route 20. At the intersection, turn left (north) onto Route 20. When you come to your first (and only) traffic light in the center

of Athens, turn right onto Vermillion Street. Concord College is about 1 mile down this road, on your left.

The Folklife Center is about 9 miles from campus, farther north on Route 20, off a side road on your right that is about 300 yards beyond the entrance to Pipestem State Park. When you pass the park, look for our signs pointing the way to a right turn onto Indian

Ridge Road, and then another sign about 0.5 mile later at a hairpin turn on the left, pointing the way to the Folklife Center. Make the hairpin turn, and the Folklife Center will come up in another 0.9 mile on your right.

From Route 460: Get onto I-77 North at Exit 9 and follow directions from I-77 above.

Driving Times:

Atlanta: 7 hours

Lexington: 5 hours

New York City: 9 hours

Charlotte: 3 hours

Sutton, Quebec: 18 hours

Where can I stay?

Most people stay at the Folklife Center, where camping is free with registration. Showers are available on campus; information on showers will be included in the registration packet. While there are no accommodations in Athens, there are several motels south of town in Princeton, West Virginia. Lodging options in Princeton include Sleep Inn, 304-431-2800; Super 8, 304-487-6161; Ramada Ltd., 304-425-8711; and Comfort Inn, 304-487-6101. Reservations are recommended because the college will be hosting a home football game on Saturday.

Where can I eat?

The Concord College dining hall in the College Center is a convenient and popular option. Meals are inexpensive—Breakfast \$2.10, Lunch \$3.25, Dinner \$4.25—and all-you-can-eat. There's also a Subway shop in the basement of the College Center. Dining options in the town of Athens are limited.

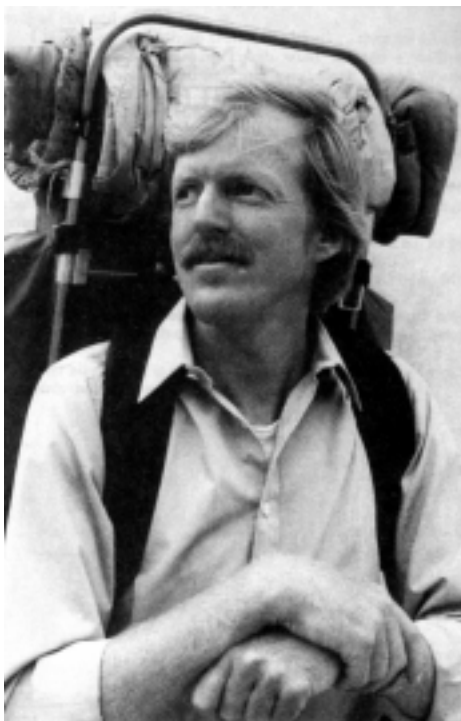
Welcome to the Gathering (continued)



What are the evening programs?

Friday night: We begin by welcoming everyone and giving a brief overview of the weekend program. We'll recognize AT (and other trail) hiking classes, make a few announcements, and then pass the stage over to "Walkin' Jim" Stoltz, who will do another one of his enjoyable "slide 'n singin'" shows.

Saturday night: "World Walker" Steve Newman will give a two-hour slide



show chronicling his round-the-world walk. After Steve's show, lace up your dancin' shoes for our annual contra dance with a live band and caller.

Sunday night: The weekend ends with a multifaceted program that starts with Warren Doyle sharing some Don West poetry and reflections from his latest "Appalachian Odyssey." Then EB Eberhart—aka "Nimblewill Nomad"—will share stories and poems from his travels. (He's taking time off from his current 4400-mile East Coast Trail hike to attend the Gathering.) The night ends with a digital slide show of the 2000 Gathering. Be sure to stick around afterwards if you want to purchase a signed copy of EB Eberhart's book, which should be hot of the press at the time of the Gathering.

What else is planned?

Workshops: There are more than forty workshops planned on every facet of long-distance hiking, including the following: A Newcomer's Guide to Hiking the AT (more than one workshop on this important topic), First Aid, ultra-lightweight backpacking, hiking and environmental activism (led by Jim Stoltz), the work of the Trust for Appalachian Trail Lands (by its director Bob Williams), the Appalachian Trail Museum, Cyber hiking (the basics of using email and the Internet), How to Start a New Long-Distance Trail (Dick Anderson, founder of the Int'l AT).

"Other Trails" workshops include the following trails—Pacific Crest Trail, Continental Divide Trail, John Muir Trail (in the Sierra Nevada), Wonderland Trail (Mt. Rainier), Long Trail, International Appalachian Trail (US-CAN), Florida Trail, Bartram Trail (GA-NC), Finger Lakes Trail, and trails around the world.

Other activities: An ultimate frisbee game is planned for both Saturday and Sunday. For the spiritually inclined, there will be an ecumenical Sunday sunrise service, while the crazies head off with Warren Doyle for the Cliff Jump. Warren Doyle will also lead the Hiker Dating Game, Trail Trivia Contest, Don West poetry reading

Who do I call if I have a question?

Henry Edwards the program coordinator: 703-813-1711 or email trickster@burgundyfarm.org

Warren Doyle is the site coordinator.

How can I help?

Volunteers are needed for setup, reception, registration, safety, and fire tending at the Folklife Center. Contact Henry Edwards (info above) if you'd like to help. Also, there may still be room on the schedule for more workshops. If you have a presentation that would benefit the long-distance hiking community, contact Henry and we'll do our best to get you on the program.

Workshops and Activities

This is a *partial* listing of Workshops and activities planned for the Gathering. Check the ALDHA web site for the final list of activities and times.

The Trust for Appalachian Trail Lands Bob Williams 1 hour

Bob Williams, two-time thru hiker and current director of the Trust for Appalachian Trail Lands, will give a history of the Trust, including its growth, changing mission, challenges, current problems, and future. Bob will also touch on how

long-distance hikers can help the attempt to preserve trail lands.

How to Start a Trail Dick Anderson and Will Richard 90 minutes

Dick Anderson started with a dream and ended up with...a trail! He, along with friend Will Richard, will show how he turned his vision of an international Appalachian Trail a reality, and how you can turn a dream into a long-distance trail.

Activities (continued)

Lightweight Backpacking

Michael Connick and John O'Mahoney
2 hours

Two ultralight specialists share their expertise on lightweight backpacking. This presentation was well received at Trail Days...come see why!

The Pacific Crest Trail

Larry and Ann McDuff
1 1/4-hours

Larry and Ann MacDuff present a slide show on their 1999 thru-hike of the PCT.



Finger Lakes Trail

Kurt Seitz
1 hour

The Finger Lakes Trail winds its way through upstate New York for 559.5 miles from the Pennsylvania-New York border in Allegany State park to the Long Path in the Catskill Forest Preserve. Kurt Seitz shares his 1993 thru-hike of this Empire State Emerald.



Circle of Sharing

Poets, songsters, storytellers, actors, performers, clowns wanted! We plan to sit in a big circle and just keep going around with everyone adding their own bit.

"Lister" Activities at the Gathering

As the Internet community of long-distance hikers grows, we're expanding our ranks of "Listers" at this year's Gathering! Prepare to meet folks from a wide variety of backgrounds and email lists, from the Womenhikers and the Ultralighters to the granddaddy of lists, the AT-L.

Watch for a lister sign-up table at registration on Friday eve and Saturday morning. Compare those screen names and find out who's who!

Activities include:

Lister luncheon, 12-1 PM @ the Concord College Cafeteria (adjoining private room).

Lister photo, to be taken after the regular group photo.

A workshop, "Hiking and The Internet," where you can get together for a bull session in person with folks from your email group.

And, of course, Lister camping...gather 'round the AT-L banner!

Going Where No One's Gone Before Planning a Long-Distance Hike Where No Trail Exists

Jim Stoltz

"Walking Jim" Stoltz leads this workshop for those who have considered blazing their own path through the wilderness. Jim has more than 24,000 miles of off-trail hiking experience to share, and, like many of us, he did his first long hike on the AT.

Long-Distance Hiking and Environmental Activism

Jim Stoltz

1 hour

"Walking Jim" Stoltz shares his experiences and moderates the discussion. Bring your opinions, experiences, questions, concerns and ideas to this workshop.



Bartram Trail

Henry Edwards
50 minutes

John Bartram, noted American naturalist, explored the Southern Appalachians some 200 years ago. The 80-mile Bartram Trail follows some of the ground Bartram traversed, starting in

North Georgia and ending atop Cheoah Bald in North Carolina.

The Long Trail

Tom McCarthy & Janet Valine
1 hour



Tom and Janet thru-hiked America's first long-distance backpacking trail in 1998. They share their experience of this 240-mile Vermont gem in slides and stories.

John Muir and High Sierra Trails

Stacy Mikkalsen and Kurt Seitz
1.5 hours

Stacy and Kurt did these two "Range of Light" trails in 2000. Come see why some say the John Muir Trail is "one-tenth the length of the AT, but it has ten times the scenery."

Registration Reminder

Registration for the Gathering is from noon to five at the Folklife Center, then 6-7 p.m. in the Alexandria Arts Center Building. We'll have signs there to direct folks.

Help Needed For ALDHA Work Trips

ALDHA members have a strong participation record in giving back to the trails. One of the traditions of the Gathering is to have a work trip. This year we will be having multiple work trips. In addition to our traditional Gathering work trip. There will be other work trips for ALDHA'ers not attending the Gathering. All of these work trips are planned for any skill level. No previous trail work or super strength is required. Bring gloves, food, water, a first aid kit, and camping equipment if staying overnight.

The 19th Annual Gathering Work Trip will be held on Monday, October 9th.

This year we will join with the Virginia Tech Outing Club (<http://filebox.vt.edu/org/outing/>) for a joint work trip on the AT. The Outing Club members will also join us at the Gathering. For additional work trip information, or to sign up prior to the Gathering, contact Beau Bushor by email at n1mjd@hotmail.com or by phone at 802-238-8886. Early signup will help with the work trip planning but is not required.

Three Work Trips for ALDHA'ers unable to attend this year's Gathering:

Two work trips are planned for the Ed Garvey Shelter (<http://patc.net/volunteer/garvey/>). The Shelter is now at its final site after being prebuilt in Bowie, MD. The first work trip is planned for September 30th & October 1st. The second work trip is planned for the Gathering weekend October 7th & 8th. Roll call the thru-hiker classes; bring instruments, evening story telling

Trail Days 2001

Trail Days 2001 in Damascus, VA will be held on May 18-20, 2001. Mark your calendar now! Rediscover why this is the friendliest town on the Appalachian Trail.

around the fire or just have fun. You can make your own mini Gathering. Come for a day or both weekends. For additional work trip information or to sign up contact Frank Turk by email FrankTurk@aol.com or phone 301-249-8243. If you would like to co-lead, no



experience necessary, this work trip with Frank contact Beau Bushor. ALDHA'ers have been working with Frank since the beginning of this project and have had a wonderful time. I plan on being there for the first weekend. Early sign up will help with the work trip planning but is not required.

Directions to the Garvey Shelter from Frederick, MD/Interstate 270:

At the intersection of Interstate 270 North and Interstate 70, take I-70 west for only 1/4-mile, then take the exit for US Route 340 West. Follow US 340 west for 15 miles.

Exit onto Maryland Route 67 North and make the first right onto Weverton Road.

Continue on Weverton Road about 150 yards and you'll see the big AT parking lot on the right. We generally meet here at 9 am Saturday and Sunday. We then carpool to the worksite. If you miss the carpool, you can hike north on the AT about 2 miles and you will see a dirt access road off on the right (east) side. Follow the road a short distance to the worksite.

A third ALDHA work trip will be in Connecticut. This trip will be on October 7th and maybe the 8th. The trip will be lead by Art Cloutman from

the "Listers" email artcloutmn@aol.com. Art needs a co-leader for this work trip. If you would like to co-lead (no experience is necessary) this work trip with Art, contact Art or Beau. As of this writing, the project and site plans are still being determined. Early signup will help with the work trip planning but is not required.

Additional Work Trips Needed

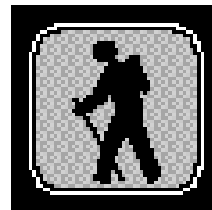
Any ALDHA member who would like to lead, co lead or plan a work trip anytime of the year can do so. Work trips can be many different things. Work trip examples are: mini Gatherings for those who can't attend the yearly Gathering, displays at trail festivals, prepare ALDHA mailings, local area members social events, trail work, shelters work, joining other clubs projects as ALDHA members or what ever else you can think of. If you have a work trip or social event that you like to try contact Beau Bushor.

Future Work Trips Notices and Updates

I will try to announce all future work trips in the newsletter and on the web page. I will also put notices and updates on the ALDHA List. This is the best way to stay current with ALDHA and its members.

To subscribe to the free ALDHA List, send an email to: list-aldha-subscribe@network.com with the word SUBSCRIBE typed in the message area, leaving the subject line blank. A return message will instruct you on how to use the ALDHA List. Using the ALDHA List is as easy as sending email. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Tom Sweeting by email at tom@network.com.

*-Beau Bushor (Bleeder Guy)
ALDHA Assistant Coordinator*



How Have You Affected Someone Lately?

On several occasions while hiking trails across the country I have had the wisdom, for whatever reason, to stop and talk with an individual I did not at all know initially but later embraced a lasting friendship. Learning from a basic sociological principal in college, I have always remembered that each of us affects another whether intentionally or not. Often times, this impact is unfathomable, and, many times, unknown or unnoticed. Sometimes, the effect is immediate; other times, the effect won't be noticed for years down the line.

Even if you are new to the concept of a trail community, you must have already been struck with the wonder of fellowship, continuity and camaraderie. The AT experience, for most people, becomes a large portion of who they are and what they believe in; no matter if the actual hiking triumph is none at all to multiple thru-hikes.

John R. Locke, Jr. 1934-2000

On August 19, 2000, Duffbuster passed away after losing his battle with lung cancer. His family has posted his obituary online at: www.americanmemorials.com/memorial/deathnotice.asp?idDeathNotice=260663

Becoming a part of a "community" brings about the familiarity of loss with gain. With the quietus of "Duffbuster" only a few weeks ago, I was again reminded of how I met this individual I considered a part of my trail family. This thought originally struck me with the death of Bill Foot. At that time, I fought an internal battle over having never taken a moment to say thank you for being such a positive influence in my life. With Duff's recent death, I was surprised, but having learned from previous knowledge, felt confident that he was aware of my support and care during his moments of discomfort. In addition, it was more comforting to know that I had told Duff how exceptional it was to have him as a friend whom I had met through my family—the trail community.

It is during times like these that I find it essential to remember those around me, why I enjoy their companionship—it may be the moments of laughter or the fret of tears. Being a part of this organization I can't forget the reason why I am here, and why others like me are a part of this community—the ability to portray the "real" me, show the "true" emotion, in addition to the likeness of

being in a wilderness and exchange of desires and dreams. With this thought in mind, I am reminded of why it is that I tell those whom are important to me why it is so. This, I believe we should all consider periodically.

As a community, we give, we take, we share, we confide. It is essential to give as much as receive; remembering, rather we desire to or no, that we impact others—maybe from that smile you gave when passing on a trail, a pat on the back during a difficult moment, the sharing of a story at a evening campfire, the teamwork placement of a log at a newly built shelter, the kind word towards a shop owner whose most recent hiker exchange was less than favorable. No matter the action, or inaction, you have given some impression on others around you.

With the fall season approaching, and The Gathering (a chance to reunite once again) merely around a moon's corner, I thought it practical to provide a question for you to ponder and consider: "How have I affected someone lately?"

—Stacy Mikkalsen

2001 Membership Registration Form

Name(s) _____ Date _____ Current ALDHA member? Yes No

Address _____ City, State, ZIP Code _____

Phone (with area code) _____ E-mail address _____

Trail Name(s) _____ Web page address _____

Trails completed and years they were hiked _____

Areas of expertise for the 2001 Directory (i.e., first aid, boots, etc.) _____

I (we) wish to renew for the 2000-2001 program year. Enclosed is \$7 for dues. (It's only \$7 per family per year)

I (we) wish to become lifetime member(s) of ALDHA. Enclosed is \$150. (Lifetime members still have to pay \$10 per person to attend the Gathering.)

I (we) wish to register for the 2001 Gathering. Enclosed is \$10 per person. Total enclosed _____

Make check or money order payable to ALDHA

Send completed form with payment to: ALDHA, c/o Membership Secretary, 10 Benning St., PMB 224, West Lebanon, NH 03784

Bears Return to Bear Mountain, NY

While doing some trailwork I noticed a big bear print in the trail up in Beechy Bottom in Harriman Park NY. I thought I saw a paw print earlier this year, but thought it couldn't be because we don't have many bears here. I did read a register entry by what I assume were woods-unfamiliar city people saying they tried to feed two cute cubs some "people food" until the mother bear interfered.

The bear population is surging west of Harriman over by Mt. Peter and down into New Jersey. In fact, New Jersey just had a referendum on resuming bear hunting to cull the increasing numbers. I think it was defeated, and chemical sterilization will be implemented instead.

So, when I went back to the car in the parking lot a park employee confronted me to tell me I just missed a big bear that was roaming in the lot completely unafraid of his clattering truck or anything else. He said he was astounded by its size when it stood on its legs. Sorry I missed that! I don't think there has been a wild bear population in Harriman for a long time. My guess would be the 1920's or earlier. This

could be the result of the suburbs bringing a non-hunting population further into the backcountry with sprawl.

In any case, it looks like the Bears are returning to their namesake!

—*RoksnRoots*

Pet Peeve

Any other female hikers/outdoor enthusiasts finding shopping for outdoor clothing a bit on the frustrating side?

I know I am a bit larger than the average bear, but I am in relatively good shape. I would say that I am Rubenesque and to sum it up, I would do darn well on a farm. This is starting to sound like a singles column!

Anyway, shopping this summer for hiking clothes drove me crazy! XXXLarges were way too small! I apparently would have done well with an XXXLarge.

Triple X? Who the heck are the companies using for standards? Do they size condoms the same way?

My frustrations are based in the fact that it is increasingly becoming more and more difficult to find hiking clothes designed for women that fit me the way clothes are supposed to. Sure, that XXXLarge shirt covered what it was supposed to. It had an excellently designed collar and I appreciated the tailoring on the sleeves. However, it was just way too tight, everywhere! I felt like a super hero wearing it or at best, a speed skater.

When I travel, especially over seas, I try not to attract attention to myself. It was quite interesting that this summer even in hiking boots and a synthetic fleece jacket I was apparently mistaken for a prostitute! What if it had been warmer and I had been wearing this shirt? Would I have been arrested? Would my average hiking speed have increased?

I would like to see an increase in production of women's clothes that will fit me! I want to be able to go into an REI, an EMS, or an IME and not feel like I have to do "specialty shopping". I want to buy my clothes where I buy my socks. Why is the industry leaving women like me in! I want to be outside!

—*Suzanne Goulet*
"Alien"



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