

the mountain

HIGHLANDS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

841 Highway 106

Highlands, NC 28741

704/526-5838



FALL NEWSLETTER



THE TRANSCONTINENTAL BUILD-A-CABIN BIKEATHON

If you have been at THE MOUNTAIN recently, you have seen a remarkable map on the wall of the Dining Hall. The map traces a route from Highlands to the Atlantic, then westward across Georgia, northern Florida...and on to San Diego, California. This is the ambitious winter project of two long-time MOUNTAIN staffers, Chris Purcell and Shane Benedict. While most of us will be toasting our toes by the fire this December and January, Shane and Chris will be bicycling across America, a journey of about 4,000 miles.

While this might seem like a very big undertaking, Shane and Chris are nonchalant. "Our biggest problem," says Shane, "is 450 miles of West Texas. If we survive that, we figure the Rockies are a snap."

A relaxed attitude? Yes, but then these guys were raised on challenges, right here at THE MOUNTAIN. Beginning as campers in their early teens, Chris and Shane have been Ascenders, counselors, kitchen helpers, maintenance staff, and nature trip leaders. Shane, 21, is an expert whitewater guide and Chris, 19, has been a Work/Adventure leader for two years. Under their care, hundreds of MOUNTAIN campers have experienced the thrill of testing themselves in the wilderness. For the past year, they have been permanent, year-round staffers who make THE MOUNTAIN their home.

They began planning and saving for their cross-country trip a year ago, after a "short" trip of about 210 miles from Galax, VA to Asheville, NC. "We decided to go to California next time--to surf, of course."

The idea caught our imaginations. As they began talking about their plans, other staff members and guests wanted to know more, and to help them. "We even had some people offer us money

(Cont'd. on insert)

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

"What are your plans for THE MOUNTAIN's future?" That is one of the most frequently asked questions I have faced since moving to THE MOUNTAIN.

My first response is that we will plan to plan. Currently we are planning for 1987. Beginning in January, we will start working on 1988, and maintain a year-in-advance schedule.

These plans are focused on establishing THE MOUNTAIN as a Unitarian Universalist camp and conference center. Our plans call for more weekend programs during the fall and spring. Projected themes included "The Spirit of the Mountain," led by American Indian elders; "The East-West Connection," featuring Tai Chi, yoga, and philosophical dialogue; and an "Applefest." We are also planning a weeklong conference in October entitled "This We Believe: Affirming Unitarian Universalist Values." Increased opportunities for training and leadership development are also planned.

As our program grows we are limiting space available to non-UU programs. For example, we have learned that scheduling MOUNTAIN programs simultaneous with Elderhostel creates confusion. Elderhostel continues to be an important program, offering many adults an opportunity for life-enriching experience. We would like to encourage older Unitarian Universalists to utilize THE MOUNTAIN through the Elderhostel program. We must also recognize that Elderhostel is an important source of income, without which we could not remain open year-round. By encouraging UU's to attend Elderhostel, and by offering our Elderhostel guests the opportunity to learn about Unitarian-Universalism (an extra-curricular activity that is generally well-attended), we are attempting to integrate this crucial income-producing program into our overall goals.

Abraham Lincoln said, "I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have." With the light we have been given, we at THE MOUNTAIN are striving to be true to the resources available to us. We are seeking to serve our denomination in a way that affirms our historical quest for Truth. We are committed to meeting the needs of our people.

Love and Peace,

Gary Blaine

Dr. Gary Blaine

WINTER EVENTS

DEC.



DEC. 6 OPEN SEASON

Our Elderhostel program for 1986 ends on December 6. This means that all winter long, plenty of heated accommodations are available on weeknights. For overnight visits, romantic getaways, or group retreats, just call us.

DEC. 12-14 LEADERSHIP SCHOOL PLANNING

The 1987 Leadership School Planning Committee will be meeting at THE MOUNTAIN this weekend. Therefore, no weekend program will be planned. However, there will be some heated space available for individuals and families for a quiet weekend.

DEC. 19-31 HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Beginning on Dec. 19, we'll be planning all kinds of holiday cheer. We'll celebrate the Winter Solstice on Dec. 21st with mulled wine and a bonfire. Our holiday season Sunday services will be special ones, too!

If you are passing through the mountains on your holiday travels, stopover with us. We usually have a congenial group of travellers coming by before and after Christmas.

Our Christmas celebration will warm your heart. Don't spend the holiday alone--join your Mountain family for tree trimming, carols, delectable holiday fare and all the traditional--and non-traditional--festivities. At this writing, there is still plenty of space available. Make THE MOUNTAIN a part of your family's holiday tradition--reserve now.

We expect to have a good crowd between Christmas and New Year's, too. There will be hikes, "icefall" tours and more winter fun. The skiing should be good that week, too!

JAN.



JAN 1-4 A SAFE, HAPPY NEW YEAR

Your family belongs with ours on New Year's Eve. We'll dance, reminisce, make our resolutions, clink champagne glasses and generally have a wonderful time. Meanwhile, the kids can be nearby and no one will have to drive home. Please come to our party, and stay over for the weekend. Start the year right with Sunday worship service at THE MOUNTAIN!

JAN 9-11 OPEN WEEKEND

No program has yet been planned. Reserve now for your group or for a quiet getaway alone or with friends.

JAN. 16-18 SINGLES SKI WEEKEND

Singles from around the Southeast will gather at THE MOUNTAIN to ski and socialize. Don't ski? Don't worry. Lessons are included, or you can just sit by the fire and sing the Whiffenpoof Song. Register early for this fun weekend.

JAN. 23-25 TJ DISTRICT WORK WEEKEND FOR JUNIOR HIGH

If you are a junior high student in Tennessee, North Carolina, or Virginia, get in touch with your RE Director for more information about our Work/Ski Weekend. This is a fun, affordable chance to visit THE MOUNTAIN this winter.

JAN. 30-FEB. 1 LEARN TO SKI

With the co-operation of Ski Scaly, we plan to put UU's on skis this winter. Special group rates that include equipment rental and lessons will be in effect and you'll have the best instructors from both THE MOUNTAIN and Ski Scaly.

FEB.



FEB. 6-8 FAMILY SKI WEEKEND

It's great to see kids on skis! Whether or not you already know how to ski, you and your family can enjoy this weekend together. Make memories with us, on the slopes and around the fireplace.

FEB. 13-15 TJ DISTRICT WORK WEEKEND-SENIOR HIGH

Once again, if you are a Senior High student in Tennessee, North Carolina, or Virginia, you are eligible to attend THE MOUNTAIN at a reduced rate to work and ski with others from your church or fellowship. Register through your RE Director.

FEB. 20-22 WINTER BACKPACKING

Learn winter backpacking techniques from our experienced staff members, or bring your own experience and enjoy the beauty of the mountains in winter. An overnight expedition is planned.

News from the Development Office

RESPONSE TO MORTGAGE APPEAL

Thanks to your response to our recent appeals for help with the Fall mortgage payment, we finished the year almost on budget. Our financial situation is nearly back to normal with operations paying its way, as usual, and contributions coming in at a gratifying rate. Many long-time supporters added to their already sizeable contributions, and a good many MOUNTAIN fans have become financial contributors. A big thank you to everyone, and a special welcome to all the new members!

We would like you to know that fund raising is an ongoing activity at THE MOUNTAIN, carried out by Jake Haun and Steve Carter in the Development Office. Although participants' fees cover the cost of day-to-day operations, the mortgage and capital improvements are financed by contributions. So we will continue to remind you of these needs and ask for your financial help. We don't expect you to give every time we ask (although we'd be delighted if you did!), but whether or not you respond to a particular appeal with a check, we hope you enjoy reading about the programs, people and activities.

Right now we are preparing, with the aid of our accountants, some information on the new tax law to send out in time to help you with your year-end financial planning. Although in many cases charitable contributions will be more advantageous for 1986 than in future years, there's more to the story and we'll do our best to sort it out for you.

* * * * *

Extra Patron Pendants are available for \$25. Order from THE MOUNTAIN, care of the Development Office.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Marcia Clark
T. Elbert & Lanie Clemmons
George Menteer
Alice R. Noggle
Diane Ohl
Willis & Nancy Perkins
Susan Shipley
Heather & Phil Smith
Robert & Susan Smith
Angie Theisen
Virginia Talbot & Dean Zuck

NEW PATRON MEMBERS

Maurice & Eugenia Schwartz

MEMORIAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Marguerite H. Streppa, 1908-1986
by Mo Wheeler in honor of her mother

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MOTOROLA PAYOFF

The great success of the Motorola portable radio system this summer underscores the need to finish paying to get the system up and running. We still owe \$1,000, and welcome any contributions. Mark your check "Motorola" if you would like to make a contribution for this purpose.

Cont'd. on next page

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Address _____

Youth _____ Age _____ Sex _____ Phone _____
_____ Age _____ Sex _____
_____ Age _____ Sex _____

Anticipated Arrival _____ For First Meal _____

Anticipated Departure _____ Last Meal _____

Rooming Preference (Give First, Second and Third Choices):

Category I
__ Double Occupancy/Lodge
__ Bedroom - 2 BR Cabin
__ 1 Bedroom Cabin

Category II
__ Lodge Dorm Style
__ Living Area-2 BR Cabin
__ 1 Bedroom Cabin(Shared)
__ Program Center or Staff Cabin

Category III
__ Unheated Space

Roommate Preference _____
Any special requests or needs _____

Weekend reservations require a \$15 per adult deposit. Weeklong reservations require a \$30 per adult deposit.

NEWS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Well Folks, it's fundraising time again! The occasion is our mortgage payment, due as usual this Fall. Much as we plan for this regular event, we need your help to make the plans work out.

As you know, the fees for operations cover the cost of operations - that's how we set our fees, by how much it costs to run the programs. But we still have to pay for the place. It's a beautiful place, and we definitely got a bargain, but we do have to pay for it. And we have to pay for all the improvements we have made over the past seven years which transformed it from an abandoned summer camp into our own special place, THE MOUNTAIN.

You will soon receive a letter reminding you of our needs and asking for a contribution. If you are not a member, consider becoming one now - a Life Membership brings you many personal benefits as well as supporting THE MOUNTAIN. Your Life Membership will only cost \$1600 if paid for in one year, or \$2000 over 5 years - that's just \$33.33 a month.

Or, for only \$35 you can become an Active Member, entitled to vote for the at-large members of the board. If you are currently paying on a pledge, consider paying early - we can use it! If you are already a member, consider making a small additional donation - even a check for \$5 or \$10 becomes significant when multiplied by all of us.

Thanks for your support and we hope you will enjoy reading our fundraising letters. They are meant to keep you informed as well as ask for financial support.

--- Steve and Jake

MOUNTAIN RADIO SYSTEM OPERATIONAL

Our usual Memorial Day Life Member Weekend was a bit unusual this year. A group coming back from the Amethyst Mine hike was delayed because of a minor injury. The communication problems surrounding this happening caused a stalwart group made up of the Lappas, the Jarics and the Pruitts to organize an impromptu fund raiser for a mobile communications system.

The \$800 raised has enabled us to make operational equipment donated by another Life Member last year. We now have FM walkie talkies, a base station and an antenna on top of the tower.

We are now looking for an additional \$700 in donations to pay the balance of the cost involved in making the system operational. If you would like to help, just mark your check "Motorola". The next time you come to see us, look for the walkie talkies in use by our staff.

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