



# MOUNTAINEERS' ECHOES

*Newsletter Of The Uncanoonuc Mountaineers*

Al Lambert, President

October, 2004

## President's Message

I'd like to welcome new members Rick & Laurie Galleta and Bruce Buttrick who were in attendance for our first meeting of the season. We began the meeting by closing the books and getting final reports from directors and chairpersons for the events of last season. With that taken care of, we moved to review and discuss what the board of directors had proposed for the 04-05 season!

As always, October and November are very busy months and this year is no different! We start off with our three workdays at the Grass Drags this weekend! This is our biggest fundraising event and is vital for covering the operating expenses of the club. October 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> is the Pumpkin Regatta in Town where we hope to have a club table set up to inform people about the club and make memberships available. The next event is our Snowmobile/ATV Flea Market and Antique/Vintage Snowmobile Show on October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 to 3:00 pm at the Villa Augustina School. Bud Gordon is the chairperson of this event and is looking for prizes to give out for the Vintage Show. If you can get any type of trinket or prize from any source it would be greatly appreciated! Give Bud a call if you have or can get anything (529-3408). We usually start setting up around 6:30 am that morning and help is always needed and appreciated! Come on down and help out or just come to meet some of the other

members while checking out what is being sold. Or, maybe you have something that you need to sell! Make sure to let everyone you know about this event who might be either looking for or wants to sell something. Or maybe they'd like to see some old time snowmobiles or enjoy one of our famous sausage grinders. The more the merrier!

Dave McGlaulin is working on the fundraising events for the season and has 1-20 tickets available for anyone that needs them. This is one of our Scholarship fundraisers and your support is key to keeping it going! Contact Dave or myself for tickets or more info on this raffle. Dave's # 487-3938 email: [Davlnmcgla@aol.com](mailto:Davlnmcgla@aol.com) or myself #497-4023 email: [the3lamberts@verizon.net](mailto:the3lamberts@verizon.net). Dave also has the NHTSA Supper Raffle tickets if you'd like any of those for yourself, friends or coworkers. This year the 4 prizes are an Arctic Cat Saber Cat 600 EFI a Ski-Doo GSX 600 Sport and 2 Blizzard Aluminum Trailers w/ Sled Dock Covers. The tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. This is another fundraiser for us with our club getting to keep half of the tickets proceeds! Again, contact Dave or myself for tickets. Any of these items will also be available at the Flea Market on the 23<sup>rd</sup>! Dave is also trying to put another raffle together but we'll have more on that next month. Kathy Poole is chairing the Bowl-A-Thon on December 5<sup>th</sup> at Kings Lanes in Pinardville with the proceeds going to Easter Seals. This is a great event that brings the families together and is fun for all ages. Contact Kathy (529-3385) for pledge sheets or more info on this event.

The booking of rooms for the adult weekend January 14-16<sup>th</sup> (this date has been changed since

the September meeting due to scheduling conflicts) and Easter Seals weekend February 4-6<sup>th</sup> are in full swing! Space is running out for Easter Seals so don't delay! Contact Linda Lambert #497-4023 if you want a room. For the adult weekend contact Lee Forcier #497-4429 if you'd like a room for that weekend.

If you haven't received your membership renewals yet, you will be very soon! Remember to send it back to Sally ASAP to avoid the late fee of \$5.00 after November 1<sup>st</sup>.

That's it for now! I hope to see you at the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Your President,  
Al Lambert

## **B.S. from Bill**

Hi all,

Time to tune up the sleds, check that all the gear is clean and ready and the trailers are in full working order. Snow is just around the corner and if Mother Nature is good to us, the first tracks can be made by Thanksgiving weekend. OK, at least up North, but if all goes well, the central part of the state could be riding by Christmas. Let's all do our cold weather and snow dances for a long and fun season.

So, what's on tap for us? I have this nagging feeling that something is happening. Possibly something big, but I just can't bring it to the forefront of my mind. It has something to do with a large number of sleds, the smell of exhaust and a big field. Oh yeah, I remember, our flea market. We also have some lesser important event to work - the Grass Drags. Seriously though, both events are big for us and I ask that you all please lend a hand for both events. What is that saying? Something about many hands make light work.

As for me personally, I am now officially married. I know some of you are

groaning and saying, "Why'd he do it?" Well, to you I say, "Obviously you don't know Annie well." Every husband in the world wishes they had a wife as good as her. Below you will find my write up on the honeymoon to Italy and Greece. If anyone is interested in seeing the wedding photos, go to [www.weddingprints.com](http://www.weddingprints.com). Enter the date (Sept 10th, 2004) and then select Bill and Annie. The password is 'bill'. If you want any of them (maybe you're in one) you can order it right there, online.

The wedding was a wonderful combination of class, elegance (if you don't count my brother and I) and flat out fun. Everyone seemed to have a good time and my only regret is that I only got to quickly visit with everyone who attended. I wish I could have spent more time with all of you. On Saturday, the 11<sup>th</sup>, Annie and I hopped on a plane and headed to Italy.

Rome is amazing in that there are ruins everywhere. It is literally possible to be driving down a street and there suddenly appears a turn in the road to go around some ancient building or discovery. There is of course the stuff that everyone knows, the Coliseum, the Forum and the aqueducts but there is so much more that just is there and virtually unstudied or unknown. As for Rome itself, it is a dirty city with not a foot of wall untouched by graffiti. I honestly don't think I will ever go back.

After a couple of days there, we headed up to Florence, via Pisa. The tower really does lean and it is eerie that it hasn't fallen over. They have done a lot of work to stop it from tipping anymore. The basilica and baptistery are also impressive structures. Florence is a nice little city on the Arno River. Of the 12+ bridges that cross the river, the Ponte Vecchio is the most famous, the church of Saint Maria del Fiore with it's impressive dome and the Uffizi gallery's amazing collection of paintings all were wonderful to see. The Uffizi is the former palace of the de Medici family, the richest family of the medieval Times. It, as a residence, is amazing.

We then passed through the Apennine Mountains and across Italy to Venice. The lagoon (the canal city) portion of Venice is beyond words.

Any picture, any movie or any description you have seen or heard about Venice cannot prepare you for the real thing. It is beautiful, amazing and surreal. We motored down the Grande Canal to St. Marks plaza. We walked the back 'street' (most streets are really just alleyways) and wandered in and out of shops and markets. We visited the Murano glass factory, one of the best in the world for glass blowing. In St. Mark's we had coffee and dessert and fed the pigeons. Annie got a picture with about 4 of them all over me. Annie opted not take a gondola ride after the water taxi we were on crashed into the dock and another boat when the reverse gear failed. And no, the canals did not stink.

The next day we visited Assisi, the home of St. Francis. The city is a true medieval city that hasn't changed in 1000 years. You could drop King Arthur and his court there and they wouldn't notice anything wrong. The streets were narrow and the city, being on a hill, had these narrow stairways that wound down and through the all-stone buildings. The fort/castle on the top of the hill would have been an imposing sight to an attacking army.

Next we hopped on a ferry to cross the Adriatic Sea to Greece. Our first full day in Greece was spent in Olympia, the site of the ancient Olympic games. In ancient time, the games there were also held every four years, but this was because of the other games. In ancient Greece, there were 4 sites, Olympia - dedicated to Zeus, Delphi - Dedicated to Apollo and two others that each held games and the games rotated on a 4-year cycle through the four sites. That is why the games of today are every 4 years. The games were just part of a huge religious festival and the very first 'games' were simply running races. Later other events were added and a hippodrome (chariot races) was added. The size of the temple of Zeus was beyond belief. Only the base remains and the ruins of several columns, but the columns were at least 4 feet across at the base. Every time I would see one of these

structures, I am amazed that all this was built without modern equipment. It was just fascinating.

Next stop, Delphi, site of the Oracle. The site is known as the Oracle, and there were 4 women where were the Oracles. Confusing when you have to figure out if the guide is talking about the site the Oracle or the person the Oracle. Regardless, this was the place that just blew me away. The entire site was built on the side of a pretty steep mountain and was all marble. The problem is that there is no marble native to the area. It all had to come from several hundred kilometers away and lugged up the side of the mountain to build all these structures. In it's prime, the site would have been a sight to see. Painted temples, hundreds of statues in marble and bronze, the theater and the sports stadium. This is another place that if you haven't been there, there is no way to convey the grandeur.

Final stop, Athens. Site of this year's Olympics and we saw all the venues, but not up close. The Paralympic games are going on and the sites are all still in use. The Acropolis is another site that has to be seen in person. The temple for Zeus, the Parthenon, is as impressive in size and status as any that we saw. Outside of that, there is not much to be said for the city of Athens. It is just that, a city. The Greek people are as friendly and helpful as a people you will ever find. Just nice, no matter who I talked to (except the customs woman at the airport, but that's another story.) Our final full day in Greece was spent boating around to three of the Greek islands, but I can only remember two of the names, Hydra and Aegina. Aegina is famous as the pistachio capital of the world. The entire island is covered with pistachio trees.

Overall, it is a trip that I will remember fondly for the rest of my life. I have fallen in love with Greek food. Just an amazing array of selections that all tasted wonderful. I would (and will) go back to Greece one day and tour the whole country.

Finally, congratulations to Sally and Daryl Raskett on the birth of their 2<sup>nd</sup> son, Andrew Joseph. The club grows yet again.



**DON'T FORGET...**



**Next Meeting: October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

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