

White Mountain Guide a bountiful resource for hikers



**CAREY
KISH**
HIKING

For thousands of hiking visitors to the White Mountains, the Appalachian Mountain Club's White Mountain Guide is the authoritative resource on the region's trails. And this year the venerable guidebook celebrates its 100th anniversary with the publication of its 28th edition.

"The new guide is a comprehensive reference that documents virtually every trail in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and Maine," said Rob Burbank, AMC Public Affairs Director. "It is the longest continuously published guide in the U.S. and possibly the world."

The original guide was limited in scope and production - its 224 pages covered just the Presidential Range and only 600 copies were printed - and along with two maps, sold for a dollar.

But with increasing leisure time and soaring interest in outdoor recreation and conservation during the last century, more than 500,000 copies of the guide were sold in multiple editions. Burbank expects the new guide, priced at \$24.95, will sell 60,000-80,000 copies and continue to be "an AMC best seller," and for good reason.

The 2007 guide is thick with information: Its 624 pages offer complete, up-to-date coverage of White Mountain trails, accompanied by three map booklets containing six trail maps.

Veteran hikers and guidebook editors Gene Daniell and Steven Smith hiked many miles of trail for this latest edition, recording changes in trail locations and conditions, trailhead parking, land ownership boundaries and forest regulations. Comments

and feedback from hundreds of hikers were also considered.

"The goal of each new guide is to add useful information, to improve accuracy," said Daniell, who has served as guidebook editor for 25 years.

"Changes were made to more than 60 percent of the trail descriptions," added Smith. "Some were for convenience, others for safety."

The maps are full-color, large-scale topographical maps, created by cartographer Larry Garland using state-of-the-art geographic information systems technology.

"The biggest change to the guide this time is the quality of the maps," said Garland, who has hiked every mile on every map depicted in the new book.

The book begins with explanatory notes to the reader on the guide's geographic scope, the suggested hike features, distances, times, elevation gains and maps. Parking fees and hiker shuttles are discussed, and Leave No Trace principles and the hiker responsibility code are summarized.

The introduction covers the White Mountain National Forest, the Appalachian Trail, climate and vegetation, trip planning, trail following tips, gear suggestions, camping tips, fire regulations, winter travel and backcountry hazards.

Keys to the maps, abbreviations, acronyms used in the guide are listed, followed by a chart of agencies and contact information useful to hikers.

Twelve sections of trail descriptions follow, covering trails from the Waterville Valley and Squam Lake Regions to Northern New Hampshire and from the Moosilauke Region to the Carter and Baldface Ranges.

Each section opens with a description of the area, its history and geography, and information on huts and camp-

ing. Trail descriptions are clear and thorough, and include a map reference and summary of distances, suggested hike times and elevation gained between major points. Suggested easy, moderate and difficult hikes follow.

An appendix of New Hampshire's 4,000-foot peaks concludes the guide.

The new maps are large format and much easier to read than prior versions. The addition of trail segment mileage right on the map and the ability to use it in conjunction with a GPS unit are big improvements. Water-resistant Tyvek maps for field use will be available soon.

A first-ever online companion or "e-Guide" is due out this summer. This exciting feature will provide users with full interactive trip planning capabilities, guidebook content and search functions. Hikers will be able to access the maps online, view recommended routes, build custom itineraries, and pull out guidebook sections. The e-Guide will be updated continuously with real-time data. Additionally, an online community (think list-serve) will allow hikers to share current trail and road information.

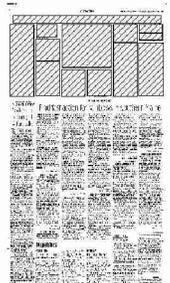
For guidebook aficionados, an illustrated history entitled "White Mountain Guide: A Centennial Retrospective" will be published this fall showcasing the important people and events in the evolution of the guide.

"The beauty of the White Mountains is its accessibility and its wealth of trails. There's one to suit every mood, from easy to challenging," said Garland.

Carey Kish of Portland looks forward to using his new White Mountain Guide to explore many more miles of trails.

Comments are welcomed at

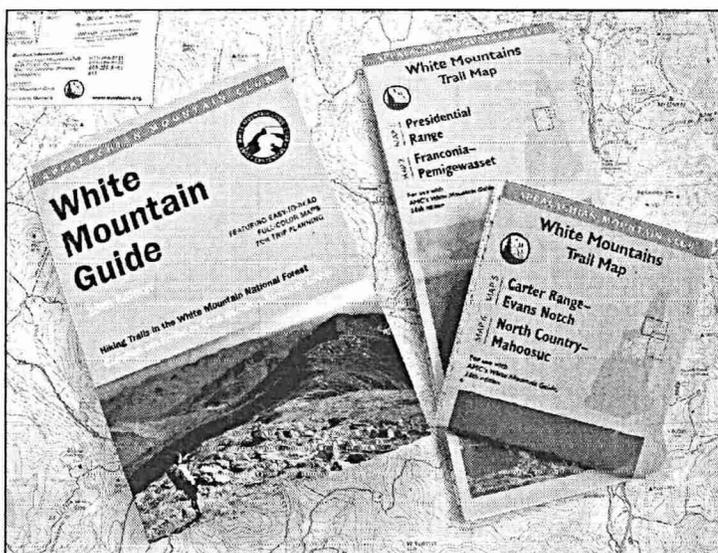
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WHERE TO BUY IT

The new White Mountain Guide is a "must-have" for hikers of all abilities

and interests. Find it at bookstores, outdoor retailers or direct from the AMC at www.outdoors.org online.



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