



WENOCA SIERRAN

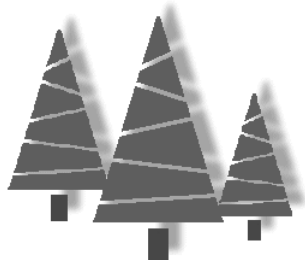
Newsletter of the
Western North Carolina Sierra Club

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Nov/Dec 2008

Upcoming Events:

Unitarian Church
1 Edwin Place
(corner of Charlotte St.
& Edwin Pl.)



Holiday Gathering

Thursday
December 11
7-9 pm



Executive Committee meetings are held regularly prior to our monthly programs.

All WENOCA members are invited to attend.

For more information, call Don Baker at 299-4171.

WENOCA Holiday Gathering

The WENOCA Group of the Sierra Club will host a Holiday Gathering on Thursday, December 11, from 7 to 9 pm at the UU Church of Asheville, 1 Edwin Place.

This will be a celebration of the season, as well as a chance to revel in the recent election results, which were very successful for our endorsed candidates.

The WENOCA Group will provide turkey,

tofurkey, dessert and beverages. Members are welcome to bring a side dish and wine or beer as desired.

A suggested donation of \$5 would help cover expenses. There will be Sierra Club door prizes and live music by Patrick Boland on piano and Matt Rose on guitar. Please come out and join us for a festive evening. For more information, please call 299-4171.

Art Loeb Trail and the Carolina Mtn. Club Challenges

Join other state club members for the Art Loeb Trail Backpack hike from Thursday, January 1 - Sunday, January 4.

This is the premier trail that follows the heart and spine of Pisgah National Forest from end-to-end. Starting at the base of Cold Mountain on the north side, the backpack hike is 31 miles to Davidson River Campground on the south side.

The Trail is one of those unforgettable, unique trails in our southeastern mountains for two reasons: There are many exposed, 360 degree views, particularly on the Shining Rock side and it is the line of demarcation for the headwaters, two forks of the Pigeon River on the north side and the same for both forks of the French Broad on the south side.

There are also several steep, exerting views. It can be cold, blustery and perhaps snowy in winter. Rated moderate to strenuous, refundable deposit required, and limited to four. Contact Chris David for more info at (919) 676-8927 or chrisdavid@bellsouth.net.

The Carolina Mountain Club offers a variety of area challenge hikes. If you really want to get to know these mountains, one of the most interesting ways to do it is through one of their four challenge programs. These are programs that you can do at your own pace. The results are satisfaction, an award, a patch and a much better knowledge of our

mountains.

The granddaddy of them all is the South Beyond 6000 program, known as the "SB6K". Climb to the very summit of the 40/6000-foot peaks on their list to earn the award. Once you've accomplished this, whenever you see a really high peak you can say to yourself "I've been up there."

The Pisgah 400 challenge is to hike all the maintained trails in the Pisgah District of the Pisgah National Forest. There are roughly 400 miles of trail, and there's no better way to learn the local mountains and trail network. In fact, you'll be an expert when you're done.

If you are a photographer or just love views, the Lookout Tower Challenge will take you to the tops of 24 lookout towers. Some are easy to get to, others merit the word "challenge". All provide wonderful vistas. Unfortunately, there are fewer towers every year, so hurry.

Another challenge with a lot of great scenery is the Waterfall and Cascade Challenge. Visit the 100 falls and cascades on our list and you can have some really nice pictures. It's a great mixture of easy and challenging hikes, each one with a beautiful reward.

If your New Year's resolution includes spending more time outdoors enjoying nature, visit www.carolinamtnclub.com.



The WENOCA GROUP
of the SIERRA CLUB
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Asheville, NC 28802-0469

**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

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The Executive Committee meets monthly. For more information, please contact Don Baker at 299-4171 or at wenocan.president@gmail.com. All WENOCA members are invited to attend. Our website is www.nc.sierraclub.org/wenoca.

Sierra Club endorsed candidates win big!

WENOCA wins were in Buncombe, Haywood, Madison, Jackson, Macon, and Swain Counties, but there were many victories for Sierra Club endorsements. At the state level, Kay Hagen beat incumbent Senator Elizabeth Dole in one of the most fiercely contested and important political races in the nation. The North Carolina Chapter endorsements included Bev Perdue, Governor; Roy Cooper, Attorney General; Janet Cowell, Treasurer; and Kay Hagen, US Senate.

The National Sierra Club endorsed Barack Obama for President of the United States as we watched North Carolina become a blue state for the first time in decades in one of the closest state races.

WENOCA Endorsements were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Counties</u>
Jane Whilder	117	Democrat	Buncombe
Rep. Phil Haire	119	Democrat	Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain
Rep. Ray Rapp	118	Democrat	Madison, Haywood
Rep. Susan Fisher	114	Democrat	Buncombe
Sen. Martin Nesbitt	49	Democrat	Buncombe

In local Buncombe County races WENOCA endorsed winners David Gantt as the Chair of Buncombe County Commission and Holly Jones for commissioner. These were important and exciting races. Each Member of WENOCA Sierra Club helped to make these historic and exciting victories possible by working to get-out-the-vote and going out to vote.

WENOCA OFFICERS 2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Don Baker – Chair - 299-4171
Dave Erb - Vice-Chair
Grace Curry - Treasurer
Sara May - Publicity
Margaret Sticpewich - Membership
Joyce Birkenholz
Don Jeffries - Webmaster

Susan Keene - Political Chair
Elaine Lite - Newsletter Editor

WENOCA SIERRAN is the newsletter of the Western North Carolina Sierra Club. The newsletter is published five times a year. Articles and comments are welcome.

The WENOCA Group of the Sierra Club Executive Committee Nominating Ballot

Please vote for up to **three candidates** and bring your ballot to the December Holiday Gathering or return by mail to PO Box 469, Asheville, NC 28802 by Dec. 31, 2008.

	YES	NO
Margaret Sticpewich	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dave Erb	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don Baker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>