9am - gather with group at Asbestos Wall area

10am - morning hike (Bill and Tom)

Kaaterskill Falls Trail

Parking is uphill (to the west) of the junction of Rt 23A and Kaaterskill Creek. At 260 feet, these are the highest waterfalls in New York State, dropping in two tiers - the upper falls 175 feet and the lowers falls 85 feet into a rocky basin. They were often painted by artists of the 19th century Hudson River School of Landscape Painters.

From the parking lot, walk down hill along the north side of the road across the Bastion Falls bridge and turn left onto the yellow trail. Care should be taken walking along this narrow busy roadway. The trail climbs steeply from the road, with several good spots to view Bastion Falls, then following the stream through mixed hardwoods and hemlocks to the base of Kaaterskill Falls. The trail is moderate, with some steep ups and downs. After crossing several rock slides, the trail passes large 200+ year old hemlock trees on its way to the often mist-shrouded base of the falls. For your safety, please stay on the trail and do not hike beyond the end of the trail. Do not attempt to climb the falls as this is dangerous.

Distance: 1.2 miles. *Ascent:* 340 ft.

Noon - lunch with rest of group at Asbestos Wall

1:30pm - afternoon hike (Jim and Alex)

Choice of either:

There are two great snowshoe trails in the Northern High Peaks region of the Catskill Mountains. The first is the North Lake State Campground trail just off Route 23A in Haines Falls. This trail runs through the wooded camping areas, along North Lake and up into the site of the former Catskill Mountain House on the escarpment with its awe inspiring views of the pastoral Hudson River Valley.

The second northern trail is Colgate Lake which begins at the lake and runs through a wide open meadow where there is a breathtaking view of the distant Blackhead Mountain Range. To reach this trail take Route 23A to Tannersville and turn on to Route 23C proceeding on to Route 78 by the post office where you turn right.

Catskill Mt. House Site, North-South Lake

Start with a short hike to one of the most beautiful views of the Hudson Valley, the former site of the Catskill Mountain House. On a clear day you can see five states. In its heyday, between the 1850s and the 1870s, this renowned hotel catered to 400 guests a night, including such notables as Presidents Arthur and Grant. Picture guests sitting on the long 13-column porch enjoying the panoramic view. Walk east to the ledges of the escarpment wall, called the Wall of Manitou by Native Americans who believed it was the dwelling place of Manitou, their God. Study the carvings in the red sandstone rocks and see how many dates from the 1800's you can find.Take 23A to Haines Falls, then follow signs to North-South Lake Campground. Drive through the North Lake Beach parking lot and park in the gravel lot just beyond. Walk uphill through the lot looking for the blue trail markers and a sign directing you to turn right. Follow the blue markers uphill for .2 miles to the open ledges of this famous spot.

Distance (Mt. House): .5 mile. *Ascent:* 80 feet. (Access at other times is free, but the hike is longer, about 2 miles from South Lake dam parking lot.)

Colgate Lake

The Colgate Lake Trail (yellow markers) from the last parking lot takes you to a beaver wetland (at 2.35 miles) and meadow - site of a vanished village and sawmill where Dutch settlers, Esopus Indians and runaway slaves lived 200 years ago. If you wish, you can hike onward across the mountains down to the Hudson Valley.

Take State Route 23A west to Tannersville, where you make a right on County Route 23C. Then, make a right onto County Route 78. Park at any one of three parking lots along Route 78 and walk the road to or from Colgate Lake. However, the two-space parking lot nearest the dam is accessible only for persons with mobility impairments. so you will have to park at the others.

Distance: From parking lots to the lake is less than 1 mile.

4pm - return to Camp Tri-Mount