

# Appalachia

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## A Peak Ahead: Mount Washington

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# Mount Washington

OUR WINTER/SPRING ISSUE WILL TAKE US UP MOUNT WASHINGTON, the highest mountain in the Northeast. Its high winds, rime ice, and frequent clouds swirl around the infrastructure at 6,288 feet: the Mount Washington Observatory, the terminus of the Cog Railway tracks, top of the Auto Road, parking lot, state visitors' center, and crowds of eager hikers and travelers.

We've read in many places that the mountain is in charge. That's certainly true on Washington.

Fifty years after an accident on the Cog Railway, David Govatski, who helped in the rescue, talks to survivors and assembles the events leading to the derailment. Dan Szczesny writes about his adventurous year following the characters of Mount Washington, especially his week spent living at the "Obs" with the weather observers.



*Rime ice covers the summit sign on Mount Washington.* JERRY AND MARCY MONKMAN/  
ECOPHOTOGRAPHY

Ty Gagne, a risk management expert who had us on the edge of our seats at last year's Appalachian Mountain Club summit, writes about why group dynamics can lead to danger in the mountains in an intriguing essay, "Weakness in Numbers."

Elissa Ely again catches conversational nuance as she trudges up a mountain, this time in Alberta. Marty Carlock writes why he climbs Mount Monadnock so often. Mike Cherim shares a fictional tale that could be true for anyone, "How I Died Hiking."

In other stories, Bill Geller reveals the mystery woman who climbed Katahdin in 1859, and trail workers reunite over something one of them published in a magazine. Join us for all this and our regular features of Accidents, Alpina, book reviews, and news.

—*Christine Woodside*

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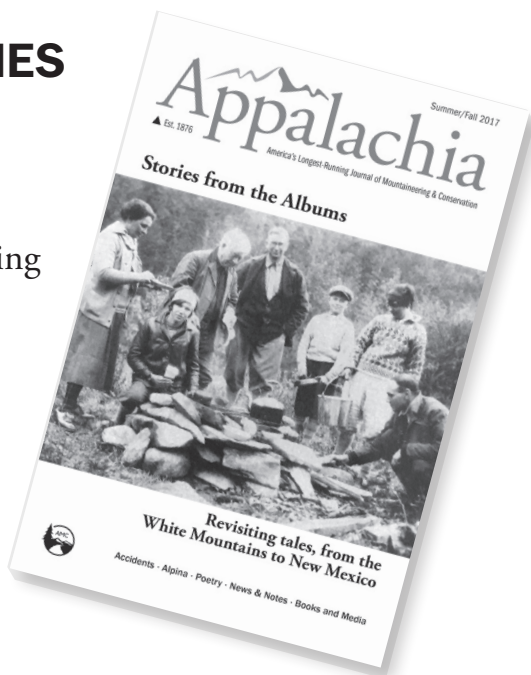
*"I started reading Appalachia for the accident reports, but I kept reading for the great features."—Mohamed Ellozy, subscriber*

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