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## A Peak Ahead: The Humanity of Machines

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# The Humanity of Machines

THE NEXT *APPALACHIA* LOOKS AT FOUR MACHINES THAT MAKE WILDERNESS treks better, things explorers dimly know are out there working but don't think about much. Behind every machine is a human who loves the mountains. Meet these machines:

First, the helicopter. Sally Manikian will write a tribute to pilot Carl Svenson, who ferried supplies for Appalachian Mountain Club backcountry sites for 35 years before his death in a crash last October. Svenson respected the mountains and people with whom he worked.

Second, the drone. For a decade now, drones have helped rescue organizations in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Our Accidents editor, Sandy Stott, will tell the story of how drones search impenetrable places, and he'll introduce us to the people behind these machines.

Third and fourth, snowcats and snow groomers. Snowcats are heavy vehicles that transport Mount Washington Observatory staffers and visitors up the Mount Washington Auto Road when this twisty, exposed road is covered in snow and ice. Snow groomers keep routes open for skiers. Justin Preisendorfer, winter sports team leader for the U.S. Forest Service and a former *Appalachia* Accidents editor, will write about what he calls his "reluctant love for the mechanical beasts that make many of our human-powered recreational pursuits possible, or at least a little more enjoyable."

Also next time, Christopher Johnson will explore a park on a formerly industrial stretch of Cleveland's Cuyahoga River. Eric Lehman will recall a climb up Mount Monadnock. Our resident bushwhacking historian William Geller will write about the remote village of Chesuncook in Maine. Derick Lugo will take us on his first canoe trip in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota. Elissa Ely encounters anonymous poetry on a trail. Todd Swain remembers his encounters with snakes. We will publish the winning piece in the Waterman Fund Essay Contest for emerging writers. And writers in our Skyline Sketches department will tell stories of timidity as a strength, an unexpected overnight off trail near Mount Pierce, and the consequences of a wrong turn.

These and more stories await us in December. Join us!

*Christine Woodside*  
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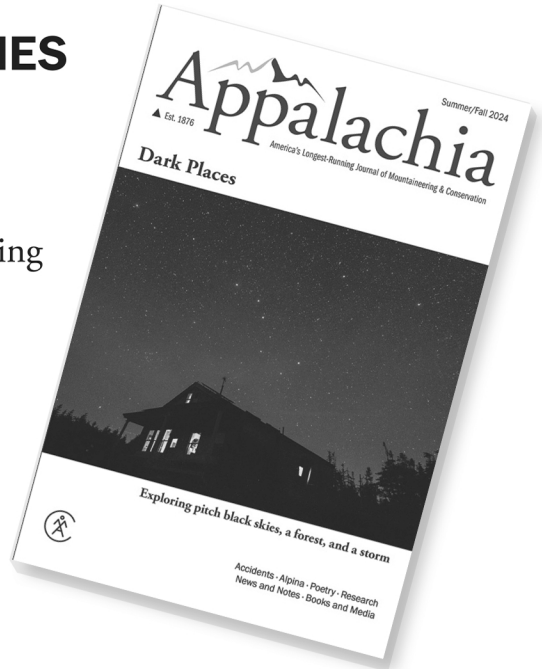
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