

# North Carolina Chapter Report 2008

The North Carolina chapter doubled its membership in 2008. By the end of 2008, the chapter had 22 paid members.

The NC Chapter was officially established as a chapter in 2008 and coincided with the release of the book "Hiking North Carolina's Lookout Towers", the first published work on fire towers in North Carolina. The 272 page book focuses on towers in western North Carolina and details history and hiking information about 26 lookout towers in the mountainous part of the state. More information about NC's only fire tower book is available at visit [http://www.nclookouts.com/index\\_files/book.htm](http://www.nclookouts.com/index_files/book.htm)

The chapter is actively fundraising, as well as seeking a partnership cost-share program with the NPS, for the restoration of the Shuckstack lookout tower in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The most comprehensive state inventory of NC's tower has been created and maintained, available online at: [http://www.nclookouts.com/index\\_files/TowerInventory.htm](http://www.nclookouts.com/index_files/TowerInventory.htm)

The NC chapter has also launched its website, <http://www.nclookouts.com>

Chapter director Peter Barr has performed 21 slideshow presentations around North Carolina on the history, hiking, and preservation of the state's lookout towers. Additionally, he has led 2 guided hikes to lookout towers.

The chapter has collected ample historical photographs and information on the state's current & former lookout towers as a result of verbal and mailed correspondence stemming from the release of the book.

Chapter member, and member of the Nantahala Hiking Club, Charles Nuckolls, performed repairs to the Wesser Bald lookout tower on the Appalachian Trail in summer 2008, including replacements of many wooden stairs, railings, and deck flooring.

The chapter has co-sponsored with the Carolina Mountain Club a new hiking challenge, awarding hikers formal recognition, an embroidered patch, and certificate to those who successfully hike to 24 of western North Carolina's lookout towers. Information on the challenge is available at: <http://www.carolinamtclub.com/LTC/Index%20LTC.html>

## 2009 Goals:

1. Increase chapter membership by 30%
2. Match 2008 fundraising totals for Shuckstack and other tower restorations
3. Obtain former tower parts, including cab, stairs, railings, etc. from dismantled Air Bellow lookout tower for use in future NC restoration projects.
4. Partner with USFS to allow lookout access dates to cabs for towers such as Albert Mountain & Joanna Bald
5. Continue acquisition of historical information and photographs to add to state tower database; complete tower state inventory

Peter Barr

[pjbarr@unc.edu](mailto:pjbarr@unc.edu)

704-941-9296

<http://www.nclookouts.com>