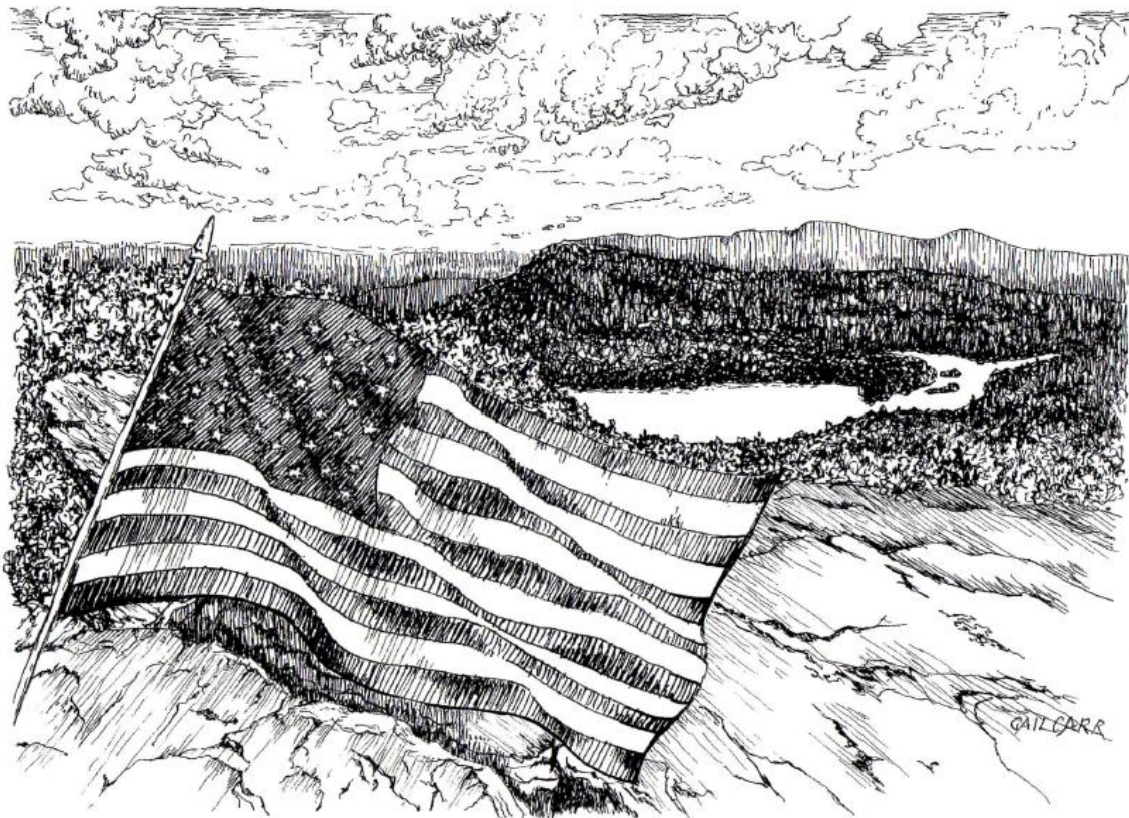


The Cloudsplitter



Vol. 78 No. 3

July-September 2015



published by the
ALBANY CHAPTER
of the
ADIRONDACK
MOUNTAIN CLUB

The Cloudsplitter is published quarterly by the Albany Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club and is distributed to the membership. All issues (January, April, July, and October) feature activities schedules, trip reports, and other articles of interest to the outdoor enthusiast.

**All outings should now be entered on the web site www.adk-albany.org .
 Echoes should be entered on the web site www.adk-albany.org with your login information.**

The Albany Chapter may be reached at: Albany Chapter ADK Empire State Plaza P.O. Box 2116 Albany, NY 12220 home page: www.adk-albany.org	Please send your address and phone number changes to: Adirondack Mountain Club 814 Goggins Road Lake George, NY 12845-4117 phone: (518) 668-4447 fax: (518) 668-3746	For Club orders & membership call (800) 395-8080 or e-mail: adkinfo@adk.org home page: www.adk.org	For Cloudsplitter related issues, contact the Editor at: The Cloudsplitter c/o Karen Ross 7 Bird Road Lebanon Spgs., NY 12125 e-mail: kcoyross@aol.com
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Submission deadline for the next issue of *The Cloudsplitter* is August 15, 2015 and will be for the months of October, November, and December, 2015. Many thanks to Gail Carr for her cover sketch of a patriotic view of North and South Lakes in the Catskills.

<p>September 2 (1st Wednesdays) Business Meeting of Chapter Officers and Committees 6:00 p.m. at Little's Lake in Menands Chapter members are encouraged to attend - please call Tom Hart at 229-5627</p>

There are no Chapter Meetings held during July, August, or September

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It seems we are in the midst of a resurgence in outdoor recreation. So many great things are unfolding before us. The purchase and transfer to the public of 69,000 acres of the former Finch-Pruyn lands is scheduled to be completed in the next year with the addition of the Boreas lands. When completed, more land will have been added to the Forest Preserve than has been added in the last 117 years. And each addition has been accompanied by a thoughtful consideration of use and appropriate land classifications and by a great degree of cooperation among outdoor recreationists and local governments, often with ADK in a position of leadership. But this is only part of the story. How we use the outdoors and care for the land and its structures is changing. For example, plans are underway to restore the Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower; lean-tos are being restored throughout the Park; bridges are being rebuilt. As I write this, the plans for improvements to Camp Santanoni are making the news. Among proposals for this fantastic resource are a new pole barn--adding fire protection for existing buildings--and reconstruction of the unique dairy barn on the foundation of the historic barn. The expansion of public lands and the improvement in caring for its unique built resources are accompanied by a resurgence in use. Rock climbing, ice climbing, road races, cycling events, triathlons, backcountry skiing, paddling, fishing and of course hiking are all enjoying new enthusiasts. The record class of 2014 included 531 new 46ers, surpassing the prior year by 49 members. Each class of new 46ers since 2010 has exceeded 300 members for the first time ever. The five year total is 2,139, or 25% of all 46ers since 1925. And there are many more hikers enjoying the mountains than just aspiring 46ers. Does this come at a cost? It sure does. We have to be mindful of loving the Park to death. Your chapter is directly supporting ADK's Summit Steward program which is at the forefront of protecting fragile alpine environments. Stewards made contact with 28,488 hikers in 2014 alone! We also support trail work, which has never-ending needs for improvement. ADK's professional trail crew added 10,000 hours of work last year, and the volunteer program added 3,500 hours of work. To recognize our trail and project volunteers, we are instituting a volunteer recognition program. For one day of work, members can receive the coveted trillium patch; a week of work earns you the trails crew patch. Considering how much work you have to do to get a 46er patch, these are deals! Please consider joining a volunteer work detail; our Trails Committee is headed by Gene Reilly and John Sheehan. They will be happy to get you going!

--Tom Hart, Summer, 2015

ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

FITNESS: Know your level of fitness and limitations. The trip leader will ask questions about your experience, fitness, equipment, medical condition, expectations, etc. Be Honest!

TRIP RATINGS: Understand that the level of effort is not the same as the level of difficulty. Trip ratings are for level of effort. Realize that "moderate" for a physically fit person may mean outrageously strenuous for a novice and/or unconditioned person.

HIKERS RATING	EFFORT LEVEL	ELEVATION GAIN (FEET)	MILES	TIME (HOURS)
A+	Very Strenuous	4,000+	10+	10+
A	Strenuous	3,000+	5 – 10	8 – 10
B+	Moderately Strenuous	2,000+	5 – 10	6 – 8
B	Moderate	1,000+	8 --10	5 – 7
C+	Fairly Easy	1,000+	5 – 8	4 – 6
C	Easy	Under 1,000	Under 5	Under 5

Not all trips fit cleanly into one of these categories. Whenever you are unclear about a rating for a trip, leaders will be happy to explain what their designated rating means.

PADDLERS	MILES	PORTAGES	WATER CLASS
A	12+	Long (½ mile+)	II – Whitewater
B	6 – 12	Short	I – Moving
C	Under 6	None	Flat

BIKERS	MILES	TERRAIN
A	30+	Moderate to steep
B	15-30	Moderate
C	Less than 15	Flat to Moderate

Please Note: Unless otherwise stated, please sign up with the leader for all Chapter activities. Do not simply show up at the designated meeting place. Arrive at the carpooling site before the stated departure time. Please pay the driver to offset the costs of driving. Do not bring a pet unless the trip leader agrees that it is okay, and bring a leash. Please stay with the group or ask to proceed and stop at the first intersection and wait for the entire group to re-assemble. You are expected to carry adequate equipment, water and food. If in doubt about what to bring, ask the trip leader!

Suggestions for all seasons:

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water: 2 - 3 Quarts | <input type="checkbox"/> Layered Clothing (NO cotton) | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Hat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shell (wind & rain) | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Sweater or Jacket | <input type="checkbox"/> Headlamp | <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sturdy Boots | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun Glasses/Screen (SPF 15) | <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Food |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map & Compass | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof Matches | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Blanket | |

Winter Add-ons: Skis or Snowshoes Crampons Ski Pole or Ice Axe Extra Food
 Warm liquids Extra layers

THE CLOUDSPLITTER

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Albany Chapter – Adirondack Mountain Club July – September 2015 Combined Activities Schedule

<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Destination or Event</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Rating</u>	
Jul	2	Lawson Lake	Reilly	C	
	2	Pharaoh Lake	Quattrocchi	C+	
	5	Paddle Henderson Lake	Reilly	B	
	5	Leader's Choice Hike For 70+ Year Olds	Pacuk	C	
	7	Evening Paddle - Mohawk River Lock E9	Orr, Dewes, Rosenblatt	C	
	7	Trailwork/Paddle Cedar River Flow	Reilly	B	
	10	Summer Picnic--Colonie	Reif		
	10	Noonmark Mountain	Antonio	B+	
	11	OK Slip Falls	Seward	C+	
	11	Siamese Ponds Trail Work	Pisaneschi	B	
	11	The Santanonis	Cole	A+	
	12	Upper Hudson & Opalescent Rivers Paddle	Macha	B	
	12	Rock Pond Ramble and Swim	Sheppard	B	
	12	Johns Brook Lodge	Sheehan	C+	
	14	Evening Paddle - Hudson River Bethlehem	McGuire, Jacobson	B	
	18	Helderbergs Bike	Siegard	A	
	18	North Dome & Sherrill	Susko	B+	
	18	Black Mountain	Waldman	B	
	21	Evening Paddle - Corning Preserve	Ozard, Pisaneschi	B	
	22	Rocky Peak Ridge	Kase	A+	
	24-26	NPT: Wakely Dam to 28N Near Long Lake	Niland	B+	
	25	Cliff & Redfield	Cole	A+	
	26	Young Adults: High Peak Sunrise	Graudons, Letcher	A+	
	26	Giant Via North Trail	Rosenblatt	A+	
	28	Lower Wolf Jaw	Priest	B+	
	31-Aug 2	Work/Backpack/Camp Sucker Brook Trail	Reilly	A	
	Aug	1	Dunham Reservoir Sunrise Paddle	Luchsinger	C
		4	Evening Paddle - Hudson River Coeymans	McGuire, Jacobson	B
8		Five Rivers 70+ Yrs	Pacuk	C	
8		Snow Mountain	Waldman	B	
8		Clarksville Cave	Siegard	B	
9		Ampersand Mountain	Priest	B	
9-10		St. Regis Canoe Area Canoe Camping	Macha	B	
11		Evening Paddle - Mohawk Lock 7	Filarecki, Rosenblatt	B	
15		Sugarloaf Mountain	Susko	B	
15		Haystack, Basin & Saddleback	Berens	A+	
18		Evening Paddle - Mohawk Kiwanis Park	Orr, Bentien	C	
21		Peaked Mountain	Antonio	B	
22		Indian Head & Fish Hawk Cliffs	Seward	A	
25		Evening Paddle - Round Lake	Dewes, Magnes	C	
26		Blueberry Mtn.	Sheehan	B+	
29	Elizabethtown, Spotted Mtn. & East Dix	Siegard	A+		
Sep	1	Evening Paddle - Flight Lock Rd.	Saville, Orr	B	
	5	Botheration Pond & Balm of Gilead Mtn.	Seward	B	
	6	Leader's Choice - Adirondacks	Sheppard	B	
	9	Evening Paddle - Mohawk Glenville	Murray, Dewes	B/C	
	11	Mount Equinox, VT	Ross, Mccarron	B+	

<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Destination or Event</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Rating</u>
	12	Windham High Peak	Jordan	B
	12	Trailwork Sucker Brook Trail	Reilly	B
	13	Second Pond	Sheehan	C+
	15	Evening Paddle – Mohawk/Hudson	Luchsinger, Bentien	B/C
	15	High Peak - Leader's Choice	Reilly	A
	16	Gore Mountain	Antonio	B+
	22	Evening Paddle - Hudson River, Bethlehem	LaManno, McGuire	B/C
	25	Hurricane Mountain	Antonio	B
	26	Treadway	Siegard	B
	26-28	Oswegatchie River Canoe Camping	Macha	B
	27	Vanderwhacker	Priest	B
	29	Mohawk River Evening Paddle - Lock 7	Macha, Cherkosly	B
	30	Black Mountain	Traver	B

All outings are listed online at www.adk-albany.org **DON'T FORGET TO OPT OUT**

ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTIONS

General Information for Evening Paddling Trips

On most Tuesday evenings from May thru October the **ADK Albany Chapter** paddles various waterways in the Capital District area. There are at least 2 groups. The slow group ("Lily-Dippers") goes as slow as the slowest paddler and may be best for short wide boats or less skilled paddlers. The moderate group is for most everyone else and goes about 3 to 3.5 mph. If there is enough interest, a fast group will be formed. Expect to paddle for about 2 hours. Scheduled trips launch rain or shine. Send Rich Macha apnp@prodigy.net a request to be included in the ADK Paddlers Email List for reminders of upcoming events (ADK Members only) and updates. It is suggested that you obtain a good roadmap of the Capital District or use www.mapquest.com for directions to the launch site locations.

It is customary, after the paddle, for the group Leader to pick a nearby restaurant and convene the Paddlers Committee Meeting (PCM) to socialize, plan future trips and enjoy a meal with old and new friends. Everyone who paddles is automatically a Committee Member and is invited to participate.

The following are the Albany Chapter guidelines to participate in the Evening Paddles:

- 1) **Respect Other Users of the Waterways -- Steer clear of fishermen.** Don't forget their fishing lines go well out into the water. Stay close to shore when motorboats are out. The **red and green** buoys mark the deep water channels - stay between the buoys and shore. Paddle in a tight group when crossing large bodies of water.
- 2) **Launch on Time --** Please be in your boats on the water and congregated near shore **before** the launch time. *People launching after start time are not officially with the group.* The leaders will conduct a short **On-the-Water Meeting** with the group to discuss the water, weather conditions and plans for the paddle.
- 3) **Duty of the Paddler --** It is the responsibility of the paddler to stay with the group and know who the leaders are - *If you don't know, ask someone.*
- 4) **Leaving the Group -** The leaders take a headcount at the On-the-Water Meeting. Therefore, please notify one of the leaders if you need to leave the group for any reason. *ADK is not responsible for paddlers who choose not to paddle with the group.*
- 5) **Required Gear --** All paddlers must bring along a white light (a headlamp is good), a whistle (a pealess one is best) and must wear a PFD (Personal Floation Device aka life jacket). *There are no exceptions to these requirements.* It is also a good idea to bring raingear, water, bug-dope (mosquitoes are quite active in summer at dusk) and an extra set of clothes in the car.

6) **Clothing** -- Other than in July and August all paddlers should not wear cotton clothing - if you must wear cotton, bring along a full change of clothing in a dry bag. Expect to have your feet in the water when launching. Some of the launch spots are slippery and have underwater debris. Waterproof footwear (most experienced paddlers use neoprene booties or mukluks) is highly recommended.

7) **Guests** - You may bring a guest. He/she is your responsibility and must adhere to all of the Evening Paddle Guidelines.

Jul 2 (Thu) LAWSON LAKE (C)

Albany County is trying to promote use of this facility and has requested that the ADK Albany Chapter assist with the trails. This county-owned property in southwestern Albany County presents some nice opportunities for short hikes in the woods and also some minor paddling or canoeing. Join us for a half day of each. In the morning, we will take up to 4 or 5 hours to hike the trails and possibly post some trail markers and do some minor side-cutting where needed; we'll also make note of any trail improvements needed such as rerouting, steps, or bridging. Afterward, those interested can put boats on the lake and paddle around for a short time (it's a small lake). Contact leader for details on where and when to meet. Leader: Gene Reilly, 281-7796, techvalleytrekker@yahoo.com

Jul 2 (Thu) PHARAOH LAKE (C+)

We will hike into Pharaoh Lake, to lean-to #1, along a beautiful rolling trail. We will start a mile from Mill Brook Pond, just off the paved road, as the dirt road into Mill Brook Pond is very rutted. Our hike is 8 miles round trip. Elevation gain is approximately 230'. Leader: Jean Quattrocchi, 424-7980, jeanquattrocchi@gmail.com

Jul 5 (Sun) PADDLE HENDERSON LAKE (B)

I've paddled Henderson Lake once before, but didn't get all the way around the shore with my explorations. Join me in paddling this beautiful lake with great views of Mount Colden and Wallface Mountain. Although there is a short (about 3 tenths of a mile) portage to reach the lake, it's not too hard as it is on an old road. We will take our time and check out various campsites along the shore. Please contact the leader prior to July 2nd for details on when and where to meet. Leader: Gene Reilly, 281-7796, techvalleytrekker@yahoo.com

Jul 5 (Sun) LEADER'S CHOICE HIKE FOR 70+ YEAR OLDS (C)

Our destination will be determined at a later point. This hike is designed for participants over 70. Knee, hip replacements and heart problems all are welcome. Bring a cane if you need to. I have extra hiking poles if someone would like to try them. We will go at the slowest hiker's pace. We will hike 1-2 miles and it will be flat. The object is to get out and enjoy the outdoors. I will cancel if it rains. Leaders: Kathy Pacuk, 756-6529, kathypacuk@yahoo.com; Katie Pacuk, 756-6529, katiepacuk@gmail.com

Jul 7 (Tue) EVENING PADDLE-- MOHAWK RIVER LOCK E9 (C)

Lock E9 Mohawk River is a NEW LOCATION! Take Route 5 East of Scotia from the west end of I-890. Turn left and go to the intersection of Route 103 across from Stewart's and turn left and IMMEDIATELY right for the entrance to the park. Drive down the hill to the launch area. Be on the water at 6:30 p.m. We will paddle upstream toward Swart Island below Lock E10 and back. We were supposed to go here the week after Hurricane Irene hit the area and destroyed this area around the lock. See General Info for Evening Paddle Trips. Leader: Don Orr, 355-8441, orrd@nycap.rr.com; Sally Dewes, 346-1761, stanger01@gmail.com; Marie Rosenblatt

Jul 7 (Tue) TRAILWORK/PADDLE CEDAR RIVER FLOW (B)

ADK Albany Chapter has adopted the Sucker Brook Trail under the DEC/ADK Trail Stewardship program. It is a somewhat remote trail in that the western end of this 8 mile trail ends at a junction with the Northville Placid Trail at a point 7 miles from the nearest trailhead. This will be an exploratory trip to check out the idea of easing access and the carrying load by paddling up the Cedar River Flow to a lean-to on the NPT that would be within 3 miles of the Sucker Brook Trail junction. Assuming we find the right channel and beach at the lean-to, we will then hike to the Sucker Brook Trail and the Colvin Brook Lean-to. Along the way, we will do some minor trailwork if feasible. This trip is a precursor to a backpacking/camping trailwork trip at the end of the month. Contact leader prior to July 3rd to sign up and for details on where and when to meet. Leader: Gene Reilly, 281-7796, techvalleytrekker@yahoo.com

Jul 10 (Fri) CHAPTER SUMMER PICNIC

Come join us for an informal picnic in Colonie, and meet fellow ADK members. Bring a picnic item to share. Hamburgers/veggie burgers and

rolls, plates, cups, utensils, grill and ice will all be provided. There will be plenty of room and trails available to bicycle, walk, or rollerblade. The picnic will be held rain or shine. There is no stated fee, but a donation jar will be available for those who would like to help defray costs. Members from other chapters are also welcome to attend. Leader: Deb Reif, 944-3369, adirondackhiker@hotmail.com

Jul 10 (Fri) NOONMARK MOUNTAIN (B+)

It is summer!!!! How can we resist tackling this glorious little peak with some of the best views of a non-46er. This will be a 6.6 mile round trip with 2000' of elevation gain. We will climb via Round Pond and the Felix Adler trail. If it's a clear day, be prepared to have your socks knocked off by the spectacular vistas. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride. Leader: John Antonio, 462-2765

Jul 11 (Sat) OK SLIP FALLS (C+)

One of the highest waterfalls in the Adirondacks and recently opened to the public, this 6.4 mi. RT with minimal elevation gain to the falls makes for a great lunch spot and a spectacular view of the falls. Or, if desired, we can hike down to the Hudson River below the falls to possibly see rafts or paddlers passing by and then can lunch on the shore. Contact leader for details via email only and provide your recent hiking experience. Leader: Phil Seward, 527-1851, flipsbliss17@yahoo.com

Jul 11 (Sat) SIAMESE PONDS TRAIL WORK (B)

We'll hike in from the Rt. 8 trailhead to the lean to and finally to the ponds. Activities will include trail work (brushing out, water bars, etc.) and trash removal. Nothing is going to be difficult or physically demanding, but this is a work trip. Bad weather postpones to the next day. No calls after 9:00 please. Leader: Dave Pisaneschi, 459-5969, dapadk@gmail.com

Jul 11 (Sat) THE SANTANONIS (A+)

I'm hoping for good weather for this as two of these peaks have fantastic views. The order of the day will be Panther, Couch, then Santanoni. Meet 5:00 a.m. at Panera Bread in Queensbury at Exit 19. If you are coming from Albany and want to carpool from Exit 9, I will try to arrange that. Leader: Jesse Cole, (413) 841-5946, dyjrcb@gmail.com

Jul 12 (Sun) UPPER HUDSON & OPALESCENT RIVERS PADDLE (B)

Now that the state has purchased the MacIntyre East parcel, there are more access options to

the Upper Hudson River near Tahawus. On this trip, we will explore a 4 mile section of the Hudson and see how far we can paddle up the Opalescent. We should have some wonderful High Peaks views along the way. The trip distance will be 9 to 12 miles. This trip will be limited to 8 boats. Leader: Rich Macha, 346-3180, apnp@prodigy.net

Jul 12 (Sun) ROCK POND RAMBLE & SWIM (B)

We will park at Putnam Pond campground day use area, hike around the top of Putnam Pond, continue on to Rock Pond and to Lilypad Pond, and finally turn around and go for a swim at Rock Pond, which is lovely. This will be about 7 miles total of mostly flat hiking with small up and downhills. Leader: Kathy Sheppard, 765-2657, rzantshep@gmail.com

Jul 12 (Sun) JOHNS BROOK LODGE (C+)

The Johns Brook Lodge (JBL) is an ADK facility on ADK property. We've all heard of it, but many have not had the occasion to get there. Let's go check it out. We can also check out the entrance porch that was recently built with Albany Chapter volunteer labor. The project was financed with funds donated in the name of Bob Veino, a long time Chapter member who passed away suddenly last summer. The lodge is 3.5 miles from The Garden trailhead and about 1000' higher. The elevation gain is very gradual over the distance. With the exception of a few sharp rises, you don't even know you're climbing. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride. Leader: John Sheehan, 674-8121, jgsheehan01@yahoo.com

Jul 14 (Tue) EVENING PADDLE-- HUDSON RIVER - BETHLEHEM (B)

Be on the water before 6:30 p.m. We could paddle to the falls on the Vroman Kill or cross the Hudson and explore Papscanee Creek. Take the Thruway to Exit 22. After the tollbooth, take a left on Rt.144 north for about a mile, then take a right on Barent Winne Rd. to the boat launch next to Henry Hudson Park. No need to sign up - just show up! See General Info for Evening Paddling Trips. Leaders: Tom McGuire, 391-0508, tommcg1@gmail.com; Lauren Jacobson, 860-2140, ljacobso@nycap.rr.com

Jul 18 (Sat) HELDERBERGS BIKE (A)

This will be about a 35 mile ride along the Bear Creek Reservoir, through Westerlo and Greenville, and along the Alcove Reservoir. We'll have rolling hills through beautiful Southern Albany and Northern Green Counties and an ice cream stop too. The elevation gain will probably

be about 3000', but it is very broken up. It's similar to the other rides we have led in the Helderbergs. Most average bike riders in good shape that are used to 30+ miles with hills should be comfortable. Our average pace will be around 12-14 mph, including hills averaged in to accommodate more casual tour riders. There may be an option for a longer and a shorter trip for stronger vs. more casual riders. Both groups would meet for ice cream in Greenville half way through the trip. Leaders: Steve Siegard, 915-2309, ssiegard@gmail.com; Leslie Siegard, 768-2393, siegard3@netscape.com

Jul 18 (Sat) NORTH DOME & SHERRILL (B+)

North Dome and Sherrill are two of the trailless peaks in the Catskills and both are over 3500'. There are good views near the summits of both peaks, which we may try to find. The exact route will depend on conditions, but the distance is 7 to 8 miles with most or all of it off trail and with 2500' to 3000' of ascent. Leader: John Susko, 383-1284, jpsusko@netzero.net

Jul 18 (Sat) BLACK MOUNTAIN (B)

We will start from Pike Brook Rd. and ascend the east side of Black Mountain. If the weather cooperates, we will have great views of Lake George and the Adirondacks. The old fire tower is still there, but it is closed to the public. We will descend on the trail on the south side of the mountain and then hike past Black and Lapland Ponds. The total distance is 6.6 miles with over 1100' of elevation gain. Leader: Martha Waldman, 869-5109, martha829r@aol.com

Jul 21 (Tue) EVENING PADDLE-- HUDSON RIVER CORNING PRESERVE (B)

Be on the water before 6:30 p.m. for this B/C rated paddle. We will paddle from the Corning Preserve boat launch South to explore the Port of Albany, paddling against the incoming tide until we turn around and ride the flood back to the boat launch. With some luck, we may see Peregrine Falcons, which nest on the Dunn Memorial Bridge, and/or Bald Eagles. Driving south on I-787 into Albany, take the Colonie St. exit and take the 1st left into the parking lot. No need to sign up - just show up! Tides for Albany today are low tide at 16:13 EDT at -0.41'; Sunset at 20:26 EDT; high tide at 21:54 EDT at 4.36'. Leaders: John Ozard, 439-6135, ozardjw@netscape.net; Dave Pisaneschi, 459-5969, dapack@gmail.com

Jul 22 (Wed) ROCKY PEAK RIDGE (A+)

This is a very scenic hike, but it's also very strenuous, with steep climbing and a really big descent. If you have tender knees, this hike may

not be for you. We'll start at Chapel Pond and finish at the New Russia trailhead. We'll do nine miles, with 3500' of ascent and 5000' of descent. Leader: Tim Kase, timkase@hotmail.com, 766-4264.

Jul 24-26 (Fri-Sun) NORTHVILLE-PLACID TRAIL---WAKELY DAM TO 28N (B+)

Hosted by the Northville Placid Trail Chapter, this is a 3-day backpacking trip on the Northville Placid Trail beginning at Wakely Dam and ending at 28N near Long Lake. Participants must be able to demonstrate the ability to hike up to 12 miles a day at a moderate pace and must have overnight backpacking experience and all of their own gear. Participants will need to plan to meet at trailheads and assist with spotting cars. Due to the nature of a multi-day backpacking trip, all participants should arrange to have a contact person available in case of emergency. This is an 18 years and over trip. Contact trip leader by June 22 (This is a hard deadline as your trip leader will be out of the country and unable to reply to messages after this date.) Leader: Diana Niland, 320-6598, NPTrailoutings@gmail.com

Jul 25 (Sat) CLIFF & REDFIELD (A+)

We will be hiking these from the Upper Works. Meet up will be at Exit 19 Panera bread parking lot at 5:00 a.m. A carpool from the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride can be arranged depending on sign ups. Leader: Jesse Cole, (413) 841-5946, dyyjrcb@gmail.com

Jul 26 (Sun) YOUNG ADULTS-- HIGH PEAK SUNRISE (A+)

What better way is there to start the day than to see the sunrise from a high peak? While the start time is to be determined, we will get a very early start so we can cover approximately 6 miles in the dark and shoot to watch the sunrise from the summit of either Pyramid or Gothics. If we're feeling ambitious, we may head over to Armstrong before descending down to Beaver Meadow Falls and hiking the Lake Road back to the trailhead. This hike will be approximately 12-13 miles round trip on rugged terrain with plenty of elevation gain. Leaders: Stephanie Graudons, 332-4624, sgraudons@hotmail.com; Ted Letcher, (301) 651-8244, tletcher12@gmail.com

Jul 26 (Sun) GIANT VIA NORTH TRAIL (A+)

Let's take a lesser traveled path to Giant, sometimes called The North Trail. Starting at Rt. 9, we'll enjoy spectacular views during a short, early morning break on Owl Head Lookout before continuing on. One-way to Giant is 7.4 miles, with 3300' elevation gain. If we haven't

hiked together, please include recent hiking experience when you email me to sign up. Leader: Marie Rosenblatt, (555) 555-1212, digthedacks@gmail.com

Jul 28 (Tue) LOWER WOLF JAW (B+)

As High Peak hikes go, this is one of the shorter ones. The round trip is 11 miles. (Is that all?) We'll start from the Garden and walk in to Johns Brook Lodge. Then, we'll climb through the col that separates Lower Wolf Jaw from its Upper counterpart. We make a left turn at the highest point in the col for the steep climb to the summit. It is a 3-mile gradual climb from the Garden to JBL, for a 500' gain. Then, the fun begins. The climb through the col is 2 more miles. It is another half mile from there to the summit. The ascent through the col and up to the summit is 2000'. Leader: Robert Priest, 489-7472, rpriest001@nycap.rr.com

Jul 31-Aug 2 (Fri-Sun) WORK, BACKPACK, & CAMPING SUCKER BROOK TRAIL (A)

ADK Albany Chapter has adopted the Sucker Brook Trail. We will attempt to use the Cedar River Flow to ease access to the western end of the trail and the Colvin Brook lean-to for this camping/trailwork trip. Participants will be responsible for bringing and carrying their own loads of camping equipment and food and for oversight of their own boats. While we plan to stay at the lean-to, it is possible we'd end up needing to use tents or other shelter. Contact leader before July 17 to sign up and learn details on when and where to meet. Leader: Gene Reilly, techvalleytrekker@yahoo.com, 281-7796.

Aug 1 (Sat) DUNHAM RESERVOIR SUNRISE PADDLE (C)

This will be the 15th year for this event! We'll start by paddling in silence to enjoy sunrise reflections, with mist rising from the reservoir's cool surface, serenading song birds, the scent of the conifer forest and some snacking on wild blueberries. Take Route 2 East from Troy and from the intersection of Rt. 2 and 278 at Clums Corners travel 5.1 miles and turn right onto Dunham Reservoir Road and continue 1 mile to the boat launch on the left. Meet at 6:00 a.m. to view sunrise with an added bonus of the full moon setting. We'll have breakfast after the paddle. Leader: Ellen Luchsinger, 235-5526, kayakerl@yahoo.com

Aug 4 (Tue) EVENING PADDLE-- HUDSON RIVER - COEYMANS (B)

Be on the water before 6:30 p.m. We will explore the mouth of Hannacroix Creek and the shores of Schodack Island State Park where bald

eagles are often seen. Take the NY Thruway to Exit 22. After the tollbooth, take a right on Rt. 144 south for about 4 miles; then take a left on Westerlo St. to Coeymans Landing boat launch. No need to sign up - just show up! See General Info for Evening Paddling Trips. After the paddle the PCM will be at Yanni's right next door to the boat launch. Leaders: Tom McGuire, 391-0508, tommcg1@gmail.com; Lauren Jacobson, 860-2140, ljacobso@nycap.rr.com

Aug 8 (Sat) FIVE RIVERS FOR 70+ YEAR OLDS (C)

If you are 70 or older and want to enjoy nature, this is the hike for you. This is a flat area. We will hike 1-2 miles. Knee, hip replacements and heart problems all are welcome. Bring a cane if you need to. I have extra hiking poles if anyone would like to try one. We will hike at the slowest hiker's pace. The object is to enjoy the day. I have heard there are a lot of birds there. I am hoping to see an owl or a hawk. Leaders: Kathy Pacuk, 756-6529, kathypacuk@yahoo.com; Katie Pacuk, 756-6529, katiepacuk@gmail.com

Aug 8 (Sat) SNOW MOUNTAIN (B)

We will use the Rooster Comb trailhead from Rte. 73. If we are lucky we will be there when the blueberries are ripe. There are some small rock scrambles and great views from the top. The total distance is approximately 6 miles with 1360' of elevation gain. Leader: Martha Waldman, 869-5109, martha829r@aol.com

Aug 8 (Sat) CLARKSVILLE CAVING (B)

This is a wonderful beginner's cave in Clarksville. It begins with a great room with high ceilings that could accommodate a wedding. It has a long narrow passage that requires crawling on your hands and knees at times. It comes to "The Lake Room," which is filled with water and the usual turnaround spot for the trip. It's a great trip for a hot summer day, as it is always 50 degrees in the cave. Required gear includes four sources of light, including at least two that are hands free, some form of a helmet, duct tape to tape your head lamp on to your helmet, and clothes you don't mind getting muddy. We will have lunch at the Jake Moon Cafe afterwards, so a change of clothes would be needed for those who would like to stay for the festivities. Leaders: Steve Siegard, 915-2309, ssiegard@gmail.com; Leslie Siegard, 768-2393, siegard3@netscape.com

Aug 9 (Sun) AMPERSAND MOUNTAIN (B)

In addition to unobstructed views, there are some shallow caves at the top of this mountain. The first mile is a gentle walk ending at an open

wetland, which is crossed by wooden bridges. Then, there is a steeper 1/2-mile stretch leading to an old cabin. There, we will make a right turn and continue climbing for another 3/4 mile. The trail mellows out near the summit. From the summit, we will see the High Peaks to the southeast, the lakes to the west, and most of the northern Adirondacks. The total round trip distance is 5 1/2 miles, with an ascent of 1775'. If we feel like doing some more walking when we return to the trailhead, we can take a gentle stroll out to the shore of Middle Saranac Lake. Leader: Robert Priest, 489-7472, rpriest001@nycap.rr.com

Aug 9-10 (Sun-Mon) ST. REGIS CANOE AREA CANOE CAMPING (B)

Plans are to start out on Upper St. Regis Lake, carry to Bear Pond, then to Little Long Pond, Green Pond and finally St. Regis Pond where we will find a campsite for the night. Carries are short and vary from 116 to 315 meters. On Monday, we will head back out via the same route. This trip is limited to eight participants. Leader: Rich Macha, 346-3180, apnp@prodigy.net

Aug 11 (Tue) EVENING PADDLE -- MOHAWK LOCK 7 (B)

Be on the water before 6:30 p.m. We will paddle upstream past interesting cliffs. From the Northway, drive west on Rt.7 for 4.5 miles, turn right on Mohawk Rd. and go to its end; take a left on Rosendale Rd. for a short distance, then take a right on Lock 7 Rd. As you approach the lock, bear left to the boat launch. No need to sign up - just show up! See General Info for Evening Paddling Trips. Leaders: Lynn Filarecki, 674-2125; Marie Rosenblatt, (555) 555-1212, digthedacks@gmail.com; Celia Murray

Aug 15 (Sat) SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN (B)

This is one of the more attractive hikes in the Catskills, with several good views plus Dibble's quarry. If conditions are right, we will hike this as a loop for a distance of about 7 miles and 2000' of ascent. Leader: John Susko, 383-1284, jpsusko@netzero.net

Aug 15 (Sat) HAYSTACK, BASIN, & SADDLEBACK (A+)

This is a long, rugged, challenging hike to three spectacular peaks of the Great Range. It's over 18 miles and over 5000' of uphill with some scrambling over rocky ledges. Bring seasonal clothing, lots to eat and drink, a headlamp with fresh batteries and a persevering spirit. We will depart at 3:00 a.m. Leader: Don Berens, 783-1302, 50peaks@nycap.rr.com

Aug 18 (Tue) EVENING PADDLE-- MOHAWK KIWANIS PARK (C)

Be on the water before 6:30 p.m. We could go downstream and around Dalys Island, or possibly go through Lock E8 in both directions or go upstream to Lock 9 passing the Mabee Farm (the Mabee House dates back to 1670 and is the oldest standing building in the Mohawk Valley). Take Exit 1A off I-890 to Rt.5S in Rotterdam and take a right into Kiwanis Park soon after leaving the highway ramp. No need to sign up - just show up! See General Info for Evening Paddling Trips. Leaders: Don Orr, 355-8441, orrd@nycap.rr.com; Pamela Bentien, 421-7247, auntmayor@aol.com; Neil Cherkosly

Aug 21 (Fri) PEAKED MOUNTAIN (B)

"Can't choose between lakeside hiking, exploring an isolated pond, hiking beside frothy cascades, or climbing a mountain for a panoramic view? Why choose? Peaked Mountain has it all!" This will be a 6 mile round trip that gains 550' from 13th Lake to Peaked Pond and another 650' in the last .8 mile from the pond to the summit of Peaked Mountain. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride. Leader: John Antonio, 462-2765

Aug 22 (Sat) INDIAN HEAD & FISH HAWK CLIFFS (A)

One of my favorite spots in the Adirondacks, this long hike of 9.2 miles RT with 1670' elevation is most rewarding with its breathtaking view over the Lower Ausable Lake. Contact leader for details via email only and provide your recent hiking experience. Leader: Phil Seward, 527-1851, flipsbliss17@yahoo.com

Aug 25 (Tue) EVE. PADDLE--ROUND LK (C)

We will paddle around the perimeter of the lake and explore its outlet, the Anthony Kill. Be on the water before 6:30 p.m. Launch from the new boat launch on Rt.9 or you can put in on the inlet on Maltaville Rd. and meet near the boat launch. No need to sign up - just show up! See General Info for Evening Paddling Trips. Leaders: Sally Dewes, 346-1761, stanger01@gmail.com; Gerry Magnes, 810-8000, gmagnes1@gmail.com

Aug 26 (Wed) BLUEBERRY MTN. (B+)

Blueberry Mountain is accessible from the Marcy Airfield in Keene Valley. It is not a High Peak, but it is a significant climb of 5 miles round-trip with 1900' elevation gain. There are multiple areas of rock outcrops along the way with great views making the climb worthwhile. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride. Leader: John Sheehan, 674-8121, jgsheehan01@yahoo.com

Aug 29 (Sat) ELIZABETHTOWN, SPOTTED MTN. & EAST DIX (A+)

This will be a straight-line traverse up the ridge from the Boquet and back down the East Dix Slide and back via the Boquet River to the great swimming hole and gorge back at Rte. 73. The summits were burned off a century ago, allowing great views all the way down the ridge. With some luck, we will still have blueberries. They were very plentiful on Elizabethtown and Spotted when we did this about 20 years ago. Plan on about 16 miles and 3600' elevation gain for a most beautiful trip. Leaders: Steve Siegard, 915-2309, ssiegard@gmail.com; Leslie Siegard, 768-2393, siegard3@netscape.com

Sep 1 (Tue) EVENING PADDLE-- FLIGHT LOCK RD. (B)

Be on the water before 6:30 p.m. From Waterford, drive west on Rt.97 and take a left on Flight Rd. and drive past Lock 6 to the boat launch at Canal Park at road's end. We will be returning after sunset, so make sure you have a white light with you (this is a legal requirement). No need to sign up - just show up! See General Info for Evening Paddling Trips. Leaders: Alison Saville, 899-4031, saville1127@gmail.com; Don Orr, 355-8441, orrd@nycap.rr.com

Sep 5 (Sat) BOTHERATION POND LOOP & BALM OF GILEAD MTN. (B)

This is a popular and beautiful xc ski area, and I am anxious to hike this area in the summer/fall season. The loop trail is 6.3 miles RT with 630' gain to a beautiful pond. Then, the short climb up Balm of Gilead Mtn. is 1.2 mi. RT with 600' gain making the entire hike a rewarding 8.1 miles with 1230' gain. Contact leader for details via email only and provide your recent hiking experience. Leader: Phil Seward, 527-1851, flipsbliss17@yahoo.com

Sep 6 (Sun) LEADER'S CHOICE - ADIRONDACKS (B)

We'll do a moderate hike in the Adirondacks, possibly Owls Head in Long Lake or Ampersand. Leader: Kathy Sheppard, 765-2657, rzantshep@gmail.com

Sep 9 (Wed) EVENING PADDLE-- MOHAWK GLENVILLE (B/C)

Be on the water before 6:00 p.m. We will paddle upstream to the islands below Lock 8. From Erie Blvd. in Schenectady, drive across Freeman's Bridge and take a right into the NYSDEC Fishing Access Launch on the Glenville side of the bridge. We will be returning after sunset so make sure you have a white light with you (this is a legal requirement). No need to sign up - just

show up! See General Info for Evening Paddling Trips. Leaders: Celia Murray, 225-9902, celiaam@aol.com; Sally Dewes, 346-1761, stanger01@gmail.com

Sep 11 (Fri) MOUNT EQUINOX, VT (B+)

At 3848', Equinox is the highest mountain in southwestern Vermont. The access to the Burr and Burton Trail, (now called the Blue Summit Trail) is from the lovely Equinox Hotel in Manchester, VT. The trail rises through a very old forest directly to the imposing summit. The property is owned by the Carthusian monks, who dedicate themselves to prayer and solitude. The decaying old hotel at the top has been taken down, and the Carthusian order has built a beautiful open sun-lit and green building for the public to enjoy the views and learn about their order. It is fitting that we visit this place of repose and quiet and do some contemplation of our own on this day of remembrance. The guidebook calls this ascent "legitimately challenging," a "hearty climb," and an "aerobic challenge," so you've been forewarned. The forest, view, and spiritual rewards are many on this 6.8 mile hike with 2900' of vertical. Leaders: Karen Ross, 794-7474, kcoyross@aol.com; Lori McCarron, 587-1957, mmccarr2@nycap.rr.com

Sep 12 (Sat) WINDHAM HIGH PEAK (B)

Windham is the 2nd lowest of the Catskill peaks over 3500'. It is known as the "great northern viewpoint" for the spectacular view at the eastern end of the summit. From this vantage, on a clear day you can see the Adirondacks, Green Mountains, the Berkshires and the Taconics. We'll take the Escarpment Trail from Route 23 in East Windham and will hike at a moderate pace. The ascent never gets very steep, but is constant. The distance is 7.3 miles with approximately 1860' of ascent. Contact leader for meeting time and place. Leader: Sue Jordan, 765-5564, suej9999@yahoo.com

Sep 12 (Sat) TRAILWORK-- SUCKER BROOK TRAIL (B)

ADK Albany Chapter has adopted the Sucker Brook Trail. We will spend a full day along the trail working on side cutting and removing small blowdown branches. This is rated a B because of the length of the trail, but really it could be anything from a C to an A depending on how far along the trail we go and how much we find. We will temper the level of the outing to the composition of the work party, so don't be afraid to sign on. Contact leader prior to September 5 for more details, including where and when to meet up. Leader: Gene Reilly, 281-7796, techvalleytrekker@yahoo.com

Sep 13 (Sun) SECOND POND (C+)

This small pond at the base of Gore Mtn. should be a nice late summer hike. At 5.4 miles round trip, the trail goes through a magnificent open forest and has little or no elevation gain. A camp site on the pond will provide a place for lunch. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride. Leader: John Sheehan, 674-8121, jgsheehan01@yahoo.com

**Sep 15 (Tue) EVENING PADDLE--
MOHAWK/HUDSON (B/C)**

Be on the water at the Waterford boat launch before 6:00 p.m. We will paddle upstream on the Hudson to Campbell Island or explore the shores and waterfall of Peebles Island. In Waterford, from Broad St. turn south onto First St. and drive to the boat launch at its end; or you can launch from Lansingburgh at the end of 123rd St. off of Second Ave./Rt.4 and meet the rest of the group on the Waterford side. We will be returning after sunset so make sure you have a white light with you (this is a legal requirement). No need to sign up - just show up! See General Info for Evening Paddling Trips. Leaders: Ellen Luchsinger, 235-5526, kayaker1@yahoo.com; Pamela Bentien, 421-7247, auntmayor@aol.com

**Sep 15 (Tue) HIGH PEAK
LEADER'S CHOICE (A)**

I would like to get out on a High Peak sometime this season, but am not sure which one. Contact leader prior to September 8th for more details. It will be a "fair weather" hike with a good view. Leader: Gene Reilly, 281-7796, techvalleytrekker@yahoo.com

Sep 16 (Wed) GORE MOUNTAIN (B+)

Which tower summit requires the greatest ascent? Gore Mountain!! Taking the Schaefer Trail, we will climb 2500' to the 3585' summit of Gore. Total distance is about 9 miles. Some trail guides call it a "long hike with significant elevation gain and intermittent steep sections." On past trips we've called it "one spectacular hike." Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride. Leader: John Antonio, 462-2765

**Sep 22 (Tue) EVENING PADDLE --HUDSON
RIVER, BETHLEHEM (B/C)**

Be on the water before 6:00 p.m. We plan to paddle downstream on the Hudson then return with the tide. Take the NYS Thruway to Exit 22. After the tollbooth, take a left on Rt.144 north for about a mile; then take a right on Barent Winne Rd. to the boat launch next to Henry Hudson Park. We will be returning after sunset so make sure you have a white light with you (this is a

legal requirement). Our third co-leader will be Lauren Jacobson. No need to sign up - just show up! See General Info for Evening Paddling Trips. Leaders: Anthony Lamanno, 275-6005, alamanno@nycap.rr.com; Tom McGuire, 391-0508, tommcg1@gmail.com

Sep 25 (Fri) HURRICANE MOUNTAIN (B)

Dig out your March/April 2015 issue of "Adirondac" magazine and reread pages 6 and 7. After reading the description of the new (old) trail on Hurricane, how can you not want to experience this trek for yourself? Well, here is your chance. Join us on a 6.6 mile trip with 2000' of elevation gain and take in all the beauty this remarkable trail has going for it as we summit "Old Hurricane", which, according to Seneca Ray Stoddard in 1874, could be listed as the second best views in the Adirondacks. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride. Leader: John Antonio, 462-2765

Sep 26 (Sat) TREADWAY (B)

By now the trees should be turning up north. We should see lots of fall foliage with this little gem. We will hike around Putnam Pond before heading up the mountain. There are some rocky open places and a summit with wonderful views of Pharaoh and Schroon Lake. The round trip is 8 miles with 900' of elevation gain. New members and novice hikers comfortable with this distance are welcome. Leaders: Leslie Siegard, 768-2393, siegard3@netscape.com; Steve Siegard, 915-2309, ssiegard@gmail.com

**Sep 26-28 (Sat-Mon) OSWEGATCHIE
RIVER CANOE CAMPING (B)**

We will paddle upstream 10-13 miles on this twisty wilderness stream and camp somewhere below High Falls. Expect some obstructions, like beaver dams, to get past and the possibility of lining a couple of shallow rocky sections. Sunday, we might either hike or explore more by water or both. Group size will be limited to nine or less. Leader: Rich Macha, 346-3180, apnp@prodigy.net

Sep 27 (Sun) VANDERWHACKER (B)

This is one of my favorites for fall. The summit is buffeted by valleys with mature maple forests on all four sides. They provide a spectacular display of color when they are at peak. The trailhead is deep in the woods. The first two miles are pretty gentle. There are wetlands on either side of the trail providing good local views. Then, we come to a small clearing with a couple of abandoned cabins. The last mile is a bit more rugged. Near the summit, the maple forest gives way to evergreens. The summit is covered by tall trees,

but the fire tower is high enough to provide an unobstructed view in all four directions. There is a panorama view of the high peaks to the north. To the west, some of the big lakes are visible. The round trip is 6 miles, and the total ascent is 1600'. Leader: Robert Priest, 489-7472, rpriest001@nycap.rr.com

**Sep 29 (Tue) EVENING PADDLE--
MOHAWK RIVER - LOCK 7 (B)**

Be on the water before 6:00 p.m. We will paddle upstream past interesting cliffs. From the Northway, drive west on Rt.7 for 4.5 miles, turn right on Mohawk Rd and go to its end; take a left on Rosendale Rd for a short distance, then take a right on Lock 7 Rd. As you approach the lock, bear left to the boat launch. Make sure you have a white light with you since we will be returning after sunset (this is a legal requirement). No

need to sign up - just show up! See General Info for Evening Paddling Trips in the Cloudsplitter.

Leaders: Rich Macha, 346-3180, apnp@prodigy.net; Neil Cherkosly, 383-7800, UpstateNC@aol.com

Sep 30 (Wed) BLACK MOUNTAIN (B)

This is a re-schedule from last October when the trip was canceled for rain. Let's hope for a perfect day with colorful fall foliage. The hike to Black Mtn. offers an exquisite view of Lake George and peaceful remote ponds. We will hike 5 miles with 1100' elevation gain. Be sure to check the website to confirm the date. It may change based on the arrival of my first grandchild! Email contact preferred.

Leader: Virginia Boyle Traver, 322-0950, virginiaab28@hotmail.com

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped make this issue possible: Virginia Boyle Traver for notifying the leaders and monitoring outings, Barb Esmond for her excellent organization skill and help with the outings, Chris Malachite for help with the Echoes, and Gail Carr for her consistent generosity in donating her art for the cover illustrations. Their efforts are appreciated.

ECHOES FROM THE TRAIL

**Dec 4 (Thu) WARREN COUNTY TRAIL SYSTEM AND PACK FOREST
Leader: Paul Breslin**

Our trip to the Warrensburg trail system on Hackensack Mountain was perfect. This area was developed three years ago as a partnership between the Village of Warrensburg, the Warrensburg School District, Warren County and Up Yonder Farm. Some of the trails are old logging roads while others have been marked through rugged terrain. The map shows five trails. The total map mileage of these trails is about four miles, but the disclaimer states that distances are approximate. I think we hiked longer, but I did not track it on my GPS...maybe another time. There are three trailheads. We chose to use the one on Prospect Street which had a parking lot. It was unplowed and downhill. We were thankful to have my 4WD truck on leaving. There was about four inches of snow--a little deeper in some places-- but we elected to skip the snowshoes. During the hike we saw a lot of signs of deer and turkeys We elected to take the orange trail to the summit and return via the double orange to purple trail which went by a beaver pond and the nature trail near the Warrensburg School complex. There are at least four nice lookouts over Warrensburg on the ridge of Hackensack Mountain. The orange trail has a few very steep sections and travels across many large boulders which made for difficult footing in the snow. One place had a rope installed for assistance. I thought it was too thin for effective grip, especially with gloves. With hindsight, for those who want an easier hike to the same view, they can either take the orange trail from Hackensack Avenue to the top and return the same way or take the purple trail from either the Prospect Street parking lot or the school district parking lot to the top and return. These all use old roads for better footing. All routes still need to get from the 800 foot starting elevation to the final peak height of 1357 feet. We chose our route so that we would not cover any trail twice. The temperature ranges for our hike were from the mid-twenties to the mid-thirties. The upper levels were icy, but not enough for microspikes – we just used good judgment on where to walk. The lower levels on the way back had several muddy spots to walk around. There was a bridge at the lower end of the pond which crossed a stream just a couple of feet below the beaver dam which made a pond and was a great chance for a close-up look at the base of a beaver dam. We finished our day with a drive to Oscar's Smokehouse and then a drive over to investigate Hickory Hill Ski Area (which we could see from the mountaintop). Our group was small: Christine Dippolito (a new member), Jay Flavin, Mark Janey, and the leader.

Dec 13 (Sat)

WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

Leader: Cliff Prewencki

It was a beautiful day for a snowshoe, even if it was not quite winter. Our small group of three was quickly whittled down to two when one member of the group decided to turn back after less than a mile. Although the hike leader offered to escort her back to the parking area, she politely refused and returned on her own. Breaking trail for the two remaining hikers became considerably easier after a larger group passed us at a very brisk pace. The views near and at the peak were spectacular in the late morning light, with sunshine reflecting off the ice- and snow-glazed trees. We made a quick return to the parking area by noon, where we found a note on our vehicle by our third hiker. She indicated that she had safely returned.

Dec 14 (Sun)

CROSS COUNTRY SKI LEADER'S CHOICE

Leader: Rich Macha

Eleven skiers set off for Pharaoh Lake from the end of plowing on Pharaoh Lake Rd. off Beaver Pond Rd. We skied 1.1 miles to the bridge and raised boardwalk over Mill Brook with some blowdown and wet spots along the way. Soon after the brook, a lot of blowdown forced us off-trail for a couple hundred yards. Thankfully the trail was clearer the rest of the way. A side-trip left just before the bridge over Pharaoh Lake Brook to a campsite presented us with a very nice view across a flow of Pharaoh Mountain's cliffy west side. Crossing the outlet on a good bridge, the wide trail then passes a lovely stretch through hemlock woods and a view of the flow to the left. At the lake, we took the trail on the south side of the lake to lunch at lean-to #1 with its view, across the lake, of Treadway Mountain. There was still some open water on the lake. After lunch we continued past double-wide lean-to #2 a short distance before turning back. The temperature was in the mid 30s; there was over a foot of snow and we only sank in 2 or 3 inches; it made for very good skiing.

Jan 3 (Sat)

STREET & NYE

Leader: Mike Becker

The temperature was right around zero with no wind as we started hiking from Adk Loj toward Indian Pass. The sign-in register showed several groups already ahead of us, also heading to Street and Nye. We crossed the ice in Indian Pass Brook without incident and were able to easily follow the tracks of previous climbers up to the Street-Nye col. We left our packs there and were on Nye's summit in seven minutes. After returning to the col, some of us also left packs there as we made Street's summit some 20 minutes later. The trees were beautifully snow-covered, and we enjoyed the view of the MacIntyres and Marcy from the ledge near the summit. The return hike was uneventful until Madeline broke through the ice in Indian Pass Brook and took a brief swim up to her knees! Fortunately we were less than 30 minutes from the Loj, so we high-tailed it back, rather than changing socks. Just over six hours after starting, we returned to the Loj, satisfied with climbing two trailless peaks. Participants included Amy Becker, Jim Booker, Moira Hilt, Madeline Kennedy, John Kwasnowski, Mark Seymour, and the leader, Mike Becker.

Jan 6 (Tue)

YOKUN RIDGE SOUTH

Leader: John Sheehan

On a cold January day, 6 hikers (Doug Rosenberry, Peter Kurz, Sue Jordan, Martha Waldman, John Susko and the leader) set out on a very tame hike in the Lenox, Massachusetts area. Yokun Ridge is a long extended ridge of land managed by the Berkshire Natural Resources Council that runs from West Stockbridge to Pittsfield, Mass. The main access point is somewhere in the middle at Olivia's overlook. This is that scenic parking area that most of us have passed many times but where we never took the time to stop since we were on our way to a concert at Tanglewood. The plan was to hike south starting with the Charcoal Trail then come back up to the ridge. The trails were well marked, even the ones that were not on the map. Near the bottom of the ravine, the blue markers went off to the left and those of us who had done this hike before were a bit confused. Straight ahead, the trail appeared to be brushed in so we assumed that the trail may have been re-routed since our last trip. Knowing that we might be going the wrong way, we followed the well marked, well groomed, trail for about a half mile. When nothing looked familiar, we decided that we were right in assuming that we were wrong. But, with a group of strong hikers, I had little concern about the extra mile. We all had the same thought -- someday we'll have to follow that trail and see where it goes. We quickly got back on the right track and climbed up out of the ravine and back onto the ridge. As promised in the trip description, we had views to the east toward the Berkshires and views to the west toward the Taconic Valley. Each viewpoint, however, looked exactly the same (the inside of a cloud and falling flakes) regardless of the direction. We enjoyed lunch on the rock outcrops at the end of the trail while the snow started to intensify. With our energy replenished, we

headed straight back along the ridge to the parking lot. It seems like we were there in no time since we did not go back through the ravine. The trip leader is responsible for a lot of things on a hike, but my main goal for the day was finding a nice coffee shop after a cold and snowy hike. A web search the night before turned up the Lenox Coffee shop on Main St. in Lenox. The hot coffee and pastries did a great job of thawing us out for the ride home.

Jan 14 (Wed) MOXHAM MOUNTAIN
Leader: Virginia Boyle Traver

Skies were a deep blue and the temperature stood at -12°F as we began our hike. White powdered snow covered the trail, the evergreen boughs, and the leafless hardwood branches. Animal tracks criss-crossed the trail, evidence of lots of winter activity in the snow-covered landscape. Moxham offers many views, with each overlook opening to a more beautiful scene than the previous one. With a strong sun and rising temperatures, we relaxed with our lunch on the summit. A vast display of mountains and valleys spread out below us. We stopped often on the descent to admire the views in reverse. Enjoying a spectacular winter day were Maureen Brown, J. Flavin, Janet Kuzman, Doug Rosenberry, John Sheehan, Deb Wein, and the leader.

Jan 17 (Sat) MOUNT MARSHALL
Leader: Don Berens

It seemed a fair trade. We'd give up foot-twisting rockiness and boot-sucking muddiness for a blanket of firm snow on the trail and herd path. In return we'd get lip-numbing frigidness. Seven took the deal. Don Berens, John Butler, John Kwasnowski, Ben Mastaitis, Matt Peluso, Heather Webb, and Peggy Wissler drove through -16°F to get to the trailhead. It had warmed to -10°F by 7:00 a.m. when we left in bare boots and still air under stars and a crescent moon. A cerulean sky and snowy peaks emerged in the daylight. Ideal trail conditions allowed us to reach Flowed Lands quickly. There, with an abundance of caution, we donned snowshoes for the frozen shortcut across the lake. We convinced ourselves that it was warmer on the sunny lake than in the shaded woods. This day's track stayed in Herbert Brook more consistently than the summer herd path, so we followed the white ribbon high up the mountain. Above the brook's headwaters, we saw glimpses, through the trees, of Iroquois Peak. We summited Marshall just after 11:00 a.m.; the climbers ahead of us who were just leaving had an odor of burnt tobacco. After chilling on top, we descended even more quickly than we had climbed. We returned to the cars just after 2:30 p.m. in balmy +12°F. The leader accused the entire group of smoking, but they denied it.

Feb 7 (Sat) SLIDE MOUNTAIN
Leader: Cliff Prewencki

In the days leading up to this hike, I was a little concerned regarding the snow that was predicted for the weekend. Even when there is a light snowfall, driving on some Catskill back roads can be hazardous. Fortunately, the snow was quite light and the sun even managed to make a brief appearance. The group started up the trail at 8:45 a.m., arrived at the peak about noon, and finished at 1:45 p.m. The trail was already broken for us, so everyone had a good workout without being exhausted. In addition to the leader, the group included Martha Waldman, Walt Addicks, Kevin Cox, and Dan Kemp.

Feb 25 (Wed) HADLEY MOUNTAIN
Leader: Virginia Boyle Traver

After a nearly record-breaking period of single-digit weather, my long roster of participants for this outing shrank to just four, including me. In fact, the day of the hike turned out to be the warmest of the week, with a high of about 22 degrees. A late-February sun and a cloudless blue sky also made this a great day to be out in this winter's pristine deep snow. We all remarked on the beautiful shadows that fell across the forest floor, and how smooth the tracked trail was with all of the rocks and roots well-covered. Especially notable for the entire length of the hike were two sets of ski tracks that criss-crossed our trail in graceful curves and wound alongside between trees and underbrush. A couple of people had shown skill and confidence to ski through this deep powder. Unfortunately, just as we reached Hadley's summit, a snow squall came through with a strong wind. We couldn't see anything, and we could hardly stand the gale. On our descent, the sun re-emerged, and we were glad for the views through the hardwood forest to mountains beyond that can be seen at this time of year. Enjoying a great day were Peter Fedorick, Katie Henrikson, Peter Kurz, and the leader.

Feb 28 (Sat)

MOUNT SKYLIGHT & GRAY PEAK

Leader: Don Berens

It was minus 20°F, clear, calm, and just light enough to snowshoe without headlamps when Don Berens, David Charles, Beth Hesseltine, Peggy MacKellar, Ben Mastaitis, Mona Wachtel, and Ken Wehner left the Upper Works trailhead a half hour before sunrise. Two hours on, we crossed the frozen Flowed Lands under cloudless blue as we admired the shining white summits of Colden, Algonquin, and Iroquois. The Opalescent River cascades were silent and formless under a thick muffle of snow. Our pace slowed as we climbed the steep trail along Feldspar Brook to Lake Tear of the Clouds, and the steeper herd path to Gray Peak, where the views south to Skylight and Redfield were supplemented by new views north to Whiteface and the Olympic ski jumps. We returned to Lake Tear and crossed it under the summit cone of Mount Marcy a thousand feet above. Skylight offered views west to the Seward Range and east to the Green Mountains of Vermont. After Skylight, Peggy and Beth (by pre-arrangement) went north over Marcy to ADK Loj, while the other five of us went back west the way we had come. All seven enjoyed a few sunny rest stops under remarkably blue skies and a rising half moon; all completed their hikes without headlamps. Though mileages and elevations made it a long day, the moderate temperatures (plus 10s and 20s) and fine trail conditions (wide, smooth, firm packed track) made for steady, even rapid, progress. It was the kind of day that makes winter hikers not only respectable, but also enviable.

Mar 14 (Sat)

ALLEN MOUNTAIN

Leader: Don Berens

If you expect blue skies, all-day clouds are disappointing, but if you expect freezing rain, then all-day clouds (without rain) make a good day. Don Berens, Susan Cooley, Mike Dunn, Doug Lenz, Chris Sedlack, and Ken Wehner left the trailhead just after 6:00 a.m. (still dark on the first Saturday of EDT). We used snowshoes all day on a track that was firm most of the day. Temperatures ranged from 25°F early to 35°F late. The crossings of the Hudson and Opalescent Rivers were made on thick snow-covered ice, though open water was nearby. The morning clouds were high enough to let us see Allen, Redfield, Cliff and even Algonquin. East of Lower Twin Brook we saw the scattered feathers of a pileated woodpecker, but no predator tracks; we concluded the bird had been killed by an aerial predator, perhaps an owl. Our brisk approach pace slowed on the steep ascent (about 1,600 feet in a mile) to Allen. As we rose, the clouds descended, so we summited just after noon in a fine mist that included a couple of snow flakes. On top, Chris completed his Winter 46. The prospect of continued wet and cold prompted us to cut short the mountaintop festivities. Instead, we celebrated with over 400 feet of intermittent sitz-glissading on mushy snow back down the way we had come and below the mist. The exit was uneventful; the river crossings remained frozen, and nothing fell from the skies. But the 4,000-foot summits we had seen in the morning were now shrouded in cloud. We returned to the cars before 5:00 p.m. By 5:30, it was raining steadily. We called it a good day.

Mar 17 (Tue)

CAT & THOMAS MOUNTAINS

Leader: Lori McCarron

Co-leader Karen Ross had to miss the hike so John volunteered to take her place. We started driving in light rain, but it had stopped by the time we arrived. The parking lot, a sheet of ice, turned out to be the most hazardous part of the trip. John drove up into the lot and his car started sliding sideways. He managed to stop before we hit the woods, but we had to put on microspikes before we could push the car around so it could be positioned downhill and out. We then were able to start the hike. The beginning is down the road, but we quickly found the Two Brothers Trail and took it to the top of Thomas Mountain before making our way to the cabin with a view of Lake George. The ridge trail then took us over several bumps to Cat Mtn. We changed to snowshoes on the way, as the snow had softened up. By the time we got to Cat, the wind had come up so we found a sheltered spot for lunch, but there were sunny breaks as well as a few snow flurries. We had a great view of the frozen and quiet (no motor boats) Lake George. After lunch we took the Yellow trail down, which primarily follows the road from Cat. A nice bonus was a stop in Bolton Landing for 50 cent cones (for those wearing green) in honor of St. Paddy's Day. Enjoying the day were Peter Kurz, Jay Flavin, and the two leaders.

Mar 18 (Wed)

NEW AND PROSPECTIVE TRIP LEADER WORKSHOP

Leader: Virginia Boyle Traver

ADK folks are always impressive. Those who came out for my new leader workshop had such a variety of interests and had so many unique ideas to offer! Please welcome J. Flavin, John and Kathleen Gansfuss, Ralph Keating, Lori McCarron, Bob Stone, and Heather Webb to our leadership team. Look for their outings on the website and in the *Cloudsplitter!*

Mar 28 (Sat)

SHAKER MOUNTAIN

Leader: Cliff Prewencki

It was an enthusiastic group that made the ascent up the Shaker Mountain Trail and came down the Holy Mount Trail. Snow cover mostly concealed the remains of the Shaker structures and occasionally led to some postholing on the path, but it was still a glorious day for an early spring hike. Our group--which included Martha Waldman, Janice Joyce, Beth Harring, Maria Baiulescu, and Tammy Shufelt--completed the 5.6-mile trek in just under 4 hours.

Apr 11 (Sat)

LEADER'S CHOICE -

OLANA OR WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON OR BOTH?

Leader: Gene Reilly

Nine of us had a very enjoyable day on this outing. Eight met at the Defreestville CDTA Park & Ride lot to carpool, and one met us at Olana. The leader had made reservations for the tour of Frederic Church's house at Olana, but due to a few late sign-ups the number of our participants exceeded our reservation. Since this tour often sells out, as it had on this occasion, it was touch and go whether our extras would be allowed entry. Fortunately, the tour guide agreed to take on a couple more attendees despite already being over their usual limit. She explained that the passages in the house are not very roomy and requested we be careful not to spill over into restricted areas or bump into any of the antiques. The tour was very interesting and informative, with up-close viewing of the great many artifacts the Church family acquired while touring Europe over an extended period. There were intricately detailed stencils and tile features throughout the house. The landscape views from the windows were very impressive. After the tour of the house, our group walked the carriage paths around the grounds enjoying the artfully designed views of the Hudson River and the landscape leading down to it. We even passed close by a vernal pool with noisy peepers as the path wound its way up to Crown Hill and its view back to the house across the meadow. Thanks go to Don Klugo, who was "conscripted" to serve as a 'co-leader' due to his first hand prior knowledge of the paths and their views. We elected to limit the outing to just Olana and save the Walkway Over the Hudson for another time. Enjoying the day along with the leader, Gene Reilly, were Don Klugo, J. Flavin, Charlene Shafer, Fred and Anne Stutzman, James Torriani, John Doran, and Sam Kowala.

Apr 11 (Sat)

FOUR COUNTY BIKE RIDE

Leader: Don Berens

During this spring's slow warm-up, 40 degrees has become the new 70! George Baranauskas, Don Berens, Mike Cashin, Jim Koval, John Kwasnowski, Andy Przybylowicz, and Erin Reep gathered at the Colonie Town Park (Albany County) under mostly cloudy 42°F skies with a brisk west wind. We started westbound and upwind along the bike path, mostly flat, often on the south bank of the Mohawk River past Lions Park (Schenectady County) to Lock 7 where we saw thin sheets of ice floating in the backwater. The sun made brief, but increasingly frequent, appearances. We rolled up and down the hills near the GE Circle, then crossed to the north bank of the river into Rexford (Saratoga County), where we turned eastbound and downwind. We detoured to see the dam and power plant on the north bank near Lock 7. We made a pit stop at the Stewarts by the Crescent Bridge, then stayed on the north bank down into Waterford for a detour to see Locks 4, 5 and 6. Jim told us how houses had replaced orchards since he grew up in Waterford. We paused at the mid-point of the Route 4 bridge over the Hudson River before riding into Troy (Rensselaer County) for a little over a mile in our fourth county. Then we turned westbound back across the Hudson, uphill and upwind to Cohoes Falls (Albany County again). The Mohawk, swollen by snow-melt, drops almost 90 feet there and on this day it was roaring from bank to bank. Mike, a Cohoes boy, told us about who is doing what in that city. One more uphill brought us back to the bike path. We walked our bikes over some lingering ice in the culvert-tunnel under Route 9 and then we were back at our starting point. The temperature had warmed to 49°F so we decided to end the ride before it became unbearably hot. It was a good early season ride.

Apr 11 (Sat)

MOUNT TREMPER

Leader: Cliff Prewencki

Some call it Mount Tremper and others claim it's Tremper Mountain, but a peak like this by any other name would be just as sweet. When you're a hike leader blessed with a great group of people, a pleasant trip is made even better. Our group of nine started from the trailhead at about 9:15 on a somewhat chilly and cloudy Saturday morning. The trail was in good condition--free from snow and significant blowdown, but spotted with enough ice to make Microspikes necessary. No one was in a hurry, so we kept a steady pace on the trail, stopping only at the first lean-to and at the summit. A few ventured up to the firetower

cab; everyone enjoyed the early spring vistas. We returned to the trailhead a little past 2:00 p.m. without seeing any snakes, but we were invigorated by the trail. In addition to the leader our group included Martha Waldman, Roman Laba, Laura Fiske, Nola Royce, John and Kathleen Gansfuss, Jonathan Mossop, and Al Davis.

Apr 15 (Wed) WARREN COUNTY BIKE RIDE
Leader: Virginia Boyle Traver

What a perfect day we had, for many of us, for our first real ride of the season! Although the Warren County trail was scheduled for this day, there was still ice on the path, so I changed the trip to the Ashuwillticook in the Berkshires. In 60-degree weather with a clear blue sky, we passed by rushing streams and waterfalls, the reservoir still partly ice-covered, geese and a heron, and views of Mt. Greylock. Everyone enjoyed one another's company and being out on such a spectacular day. The lucky folks free to join us were Rob Bayly, Sharon Bonk, J Flavin, Gretchen Gedroiz, Janet Kuzman, Karen Lydon, Mary MacDonald, Beverly and John Petiet, Janet Reilly, Charleen Shafer, Deb Spicer, Paul and Rose Anne Szwedo, Jim Torriani, and the leader.

Apr 30 (Thu) DUTCHESS COUNTY RAIL TRAIL
& WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON
Leader: Charlie Beach

We had a spectacular day for a bike ride--clear skies, mild temperatures, and a light breeze to keep us from overheating. Starting out eastward across the Walkway, we encountered few pedestrians for us to weave around. On the east end, the Dutchess County trail seamlessly joins at milepost 13 (from the Hopewell end). The trail is nicely paved and lined with trees, which help to insulate one from views of the city and some small industries we ride past. The trail has a few road crossings, some tunnels, and new bridges crossing major roads to add an element of safety for the users. Upon arriving at Hopewell Junction, we found the closed train station had a museum that unfortunately was open only on weekends. Those enjoying this day were Deb Spicer, Karen Lydon, Karen Lopiccolo, Leon Barnish, J Flavin, Cindy Dewey, Gretchen Gedroiz, Paul Breslin, Robert Bayly, Cathy Karp, Lynn Filerecki and Charlie Beach, leader

May 2 (Sat) NY'S "I LOVE MY PARK DAY" IN THACHER STATE PARK
Leader: Jim Schaller

"I Love My Park Day" in J. B. Thacher State Park was again a success with the help of many volunteers from several organizations and from sponsors. It was estimated that about 100 turned out for the event. ADK members present and helping with various projects were Jim and Bonnie Schaller, Dave Esmond, Charlie Beach, Lori McCarron, Karen Ross, and Marion Hoyle. "Friends of Thacher Park" provided the usual great picnic BBQ lunch. Thanks to all for their hard work on the flower planters, general cleaning up, roadside litter cleanup, and Escarpment Trail sign replacement.

May 3 (Sun) PROSPECT MOUNTAIN AND LAKE GEORGE BIKE
Leader: Don Berens

Unseasonably warm, but welcome, it was in the mid-70s when Don Berens, Mike Komoroske, John Kwasnowski, Ted Letcher, and Andy Przybylowicz gathered at the Million Dollar Beach in the Village of Lake George. Toward both the north and south there were blue skies, but a dark cloud loomed over Prospect Mountain to the west. We warmed up on a 4-mile loop of Bloody Pond Road and Route 9 before turning onto the Prospect Mountain Highway, still closed to auto traffic until late May. On the first steep uphill, we had some sun and produced some sweat. Higher up, the cool cloudiness balanced our heat production nicely. We passed two stubborn ice patches clinging to the north-facing road cuts. John won the polka-dots for the early season King of the Mountains, but all arrived shortly thereafter and the first-timers had personal bests for the climb. We felt a couple of cool drops, but we were far wetter from sweat than from rain. At the top, after catching our breath, we chatted with another cyclist who had ascended on a "fixie" which impressed us. On our descent, we mixed 40+ mph speeds with half a dozen stops for views of the High Peaks and Lake George. Near Rattlesnake Cobble, we watched rain fall from a cloud but evaporate before reaching the ground. Ted, our official meteorologist, reminded us that this is called "virga." Back at the village, we agreed our legs still had some life, so we rode along the southeast shore of the lake to Pilot Knob and back. On the return ride, the front riders saw a garter snake crossing the shoulder of Route 9L. We wrapped up the ride before 5:00 p.m. content with the day.

May 5 (Tue) KAYADEROSSERAS PADDLE
Leader: Charlie Beach

This Creek is a scenic paddle, especially in the spring when the woods are in renewal and before the insects become active and numerous. We had such a great day with good weather to go with it. The downer was the water discharge at a meager 20 cfs. Starting at the Ballston Spa Kelly Park, we looked forward to an 11 mile run to the Saratoga County launch site on Saratoga Lake. When attempting car spotting, we found the planned site is still under update construction and unavailable. Other takeout options were not favored by the drivers because of a longer paddle on the Lake or carry. We agreed to take out at Lake Lonely and went to the boat livery there. The operator said the Lake Lonely outlet stream to the Kayderosseras Cr. was not open to paddling, since the water level of Saratoga Lake had been lowered so much it left a long stretch of the outlet gooey mud and we would have to wade. The only course left was to shorten the paddle to take out where Rt. 9 crossed the Kayderosseras Creek. This worked out well. We paddled 6+ miles and were able to enjoy the most scenic section of the creek. Enjoying the day were Marilyn Pusatere, Paul Breslin, Kathie Armstrong, Jack MacDaniel, Lynn Filarecki, Claire Pospisil and leader, Charlie Beach

May 6 (Wed) MERCK FOREST AND FARMLAND CENTER
Leader: Virginia Boyle Traver

The forecast never varied from its predictions for an incredible stretch of gorgeous spring weather. I had lots of enthusiasm for this outing well before the date of the outing. We were on the trail at Merck Forest by 10:00 a.m. While spring lambs were somewhat elusive in the farm area, the grounds were beautiful in the morning light as we headed up the Old Town Road to Mt. Antone. Early spring wildflowers were easily visible along the trail and into the woods and sunshine streamed down to the woodland floor. At the summit, a clear atmosphere allowed us to see as far as the Adirondack's high peaks and surrounding Green Mountains. On the descent, we stopped at Ned's Place, where we all agreed that we should return for an overnight another year. We didn't linger at Birch Pond, but continued back towards the farm. During the entire day, a cloud never passed across the sky; a slight breeze felt good when the sun seemed a little intense, and camaraderie was top-notch as always. Enjoying a spectacular day in a beautiful place were Florence Adams, Rob and Cathy Bayly, Bill and Mary Beth Burrill, Barry Gibbs, June Jesmain, Sue Jordan, Karen Lydon, Colleen Maloney, Lori McCarron, Pat McPhee, Karen Ross along with intrepid hiker-dog Louie, and the leader.

May 10 (Sun) SLEEPING BEAUTY MOTHER'S DAY HIKE
Leader: Kathy Pacuk

Jim and Pat Feuerbach, Chris Dippolito, Jo-Ann Spinelli, Sam Gupta, Sister Mary Ann Gour, Laurie Wetzel, Katie and Kathy Pacuk all headed toward Dacy Clearing at 11:20. It was an unseasonably hot day- in the 80's. The warm weather caused some creative solutions. We arrived at the peak at 1:30 to clear blue skies. The views were gorgeous. On the hike back sister Mary Ann gave us a lesson on how Sleeping Beauty got her name and various other topics. It was wonderful company for a hike on a beautiful day. We arrived back at our cars at 4:08.

May 16 (Sat) CASCADING WATERS
Leader: Gene Reilly

A coin toss? Despite a questionable weather forecast calling for nearly a 50 percent chance of rain the second half of the day, it turned out to be a sunny, beautiful day for myself and 12 companions on this annual hike along the Ausable River. Three cars carrying ten hikers drove north from the Exit 9 Park & Ride in a timely manner to meet up with three hikers at the trailhead. Trailhead parking was full in the first lot on the left off of Route 73. We squeezed in there although the second (and original) lot was empty because someone had posted a 'No Parking' sign in that lot. Although the water was not at 'high' levels, neither was it 'low' and we enjoyed many views of the waterfalls and cascades along the West River Trail on the Adirondack Mountain Reserve property. The watchmen at the entrance gate were cordial and volunteered information about the trail and distances. We had a short break at Wedge Brook Falls and a longer lunch break at Beaver Meadow Falls. The groups then proceeded along the base of impressive cliffs and across the beaver meadows to the Lower Ausable Lake. Ten of the group then ventured up into the canyon to view an impressive Rainbow Falls, where many photos were taken. Following this, the entire group made the outbound trudge down the Lake Road and out to the cars. Relishing the great weather and views were, in addition to the leader, Gene Reilly: Wayne Knapp, Kathy Mack, Charlene Shafer, Anne and Fred Stutzman, Maria Rawson, J. Flavin, Chrissy Kucera, Terry Rodrigues, Clarence Sundram, and Suzanne and Sophia Muselli.

May 27 (Wed)

GERTRUDE'S NOSE & MILLBROOK MTN.

Leaders: Karen Ross and Lori McCarron

As one of today's hikers put it, "there's no landscape anywhere around here that looks like this one." That alone makes a trip to the Gunks a memorable one, and today was no exception. We braved a dicey forecast of 90s heat and strong thunderstorms and were rewarded with bug-blowing breezes and not one drop of rain. Coming through funky New Paltz on 299 and over the Walkill does not prepare one for the dramatic scene of the famous Shawangunk cliffs that soar up out of the surrounding farmland. Minnewaska State Park is a gem, and the trail we took--around the west side of the lake and along the beautifully groomed carriage trail to the conglomerate slabs that jut out over the Palmaghatt Ravine--offered many surprises. Accompanied by ravens and vultures (and not as dead as we might have looked), we leapt deep crevasses, peered over dizzying edges, enjoyed seeing a long black snake try to hide in a crack, and savored the cool air rising out of a deep and dark hole in the earth. Walking through this scrubbed and stunted stony universe with its immense views north, south, and east is delightful, and one is saved from the despair of a long late-in-the-day uphill climb by emerging finally at the south end of Lake Minnewaska, where someone felt compelled to go swimming. Skipping lightly through the 7-mile day and along the final leg of carriage path along the east side of the lake were Mary MacDonald, Vicky Singer, Sue Jordan, Pat McPhee, Katie Henrikson, Alan Chevat, Susan Lehrer, and Marcia and Paul Hanson and their herders.

BULLETIN BOARD

YOUNG ADULTS CHAIR VACANCY

The Albany chapter is looking for a new Young Adults Chairperson to implement programming for members under 40. The position includes attending monthly Chapter Executive Committee meetings held from September through June, serving on the Chapter Membership Committee, assisting with membership drives and open houses, working with colleges to recruit young adults to join ADK, and leading outings geared toward college students and young adults. Please contact Stephanie Gaudons at sgraudons@hotmail.com if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering for this position.

2015 ADK FALL OUTING---OCTOBER 2-4, SPONSORED BY THE MID HUDSON CHAPTER

This Fall, explore the magnificent Hudson River Valley Region with people who call it home. Members of the Mid Hudson Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club invite all ADKers, their families and friends, to join a weekend of guided hikes, paddles, bike rides, and visits to historic and cultural sites in the colorful Hudson Valley region. Activities are planned for varied skill levels and interests. In 2013, National Geographic Traveler proclaimed the Hudson Valley region as one of the top 20 destinations in the world. Designated a National Heritage Area, the valley is steeped in history, natural beauty, culture, and a burgeoning food and farmer's market scene. Among many attributes, it's the oldest wine producing area in the country, and the magnificent scenery inspired artists whose works became the Hudson River School of Painters. The Hudson River Valley is beautiful all year and especially magical in the fall. The base will be the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa in Kerhonkson. This historic hotel is in the heart of the Shawangunk mountain ridge and offers views of the Catskills. Campgrounds, B&Bs, and other hotels are nearby. The location is perfect for exploring the Hudson River, Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Mohonk Preserve, Sam's Point, Catskill Mountains, Rondout Creek, Chodikee Lake/Burroughs Preserve, and Bashakill Wildlife Management Area, the largest protected wetlands in southern New York and a birder's paradise. Walkway Over the Hudson (the longest pedestrian bridge in the world) and other rail trails, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's home in Hyde Park, Vanderbilt mansion, and other estates of the Gilded Era. We have planned hikes, paddles, and tours to all of these destinations and more! Visit wineries, distilleries, breweries, galleries, boutiques. Or just kick back and enjoy the amenities, views from the resort and the company of ADK members. Any questions, please contact Eli Cohen: eli.mhadk@gmail.com

CONSERVATION NOTES

DEC Purchases the 6,200 Acre MacIntyre East Tract (Next Up: Boreas Ponds!): The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced that they had accomplished a critical land purchase for the southern Adirondack High Peaks. The Nature Conservancy conveyed the 6,200 acre MacIntyre East Tract to DEC for 4.24 million. This parcel is an important acquisition for public access to a wilderness paddle in the Opalescent River and to Allen Mountain in the southern Adirondack High Peaks. This is the latest and second-to-last purchase by the State of the 69,000 acres of former Finch Pruyn lands. The final purchase will be the much acclaimed Boreas Ponds Tract which is likely to be brought into state ownership next year. The announcement of the MacIntyre East purchase was made during what Governor Cuomo proclaimed as "Earth Week," a weeklong celebration of "New York's commitment and accomplishments in protecting our environment, conserving open space, increasing access to the state's vast and magnificent natural resources, implementing clean energy initiatives, and preparing for the effects of climate change." This purchase was funded by the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Many ADK members supported our efforts to increase the size of the EPF and therefore the amount of money available for buying valuable properties like this one. The MacIntyre East Tract will also provide opportunities to paddle "more than five miles of the wild Hudson River, seven miles of the Opalescent River, Sanford Lake, and Upper Twin and LeClair brooks." DEC also will be exploring developing a new trail to Allen Mountain and other High Peaks. The new purchase will provide new opportunities for camping and backpacking in all of these areas. The next steps for the property will involve intensive resource studies by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and DEC to determine how the land should be classified and managed. The public will have opportunity to comment throughout the process. You can read more about Adirondack Park on the APA website and review existing classification regime and definitions in the Adirondack State Land Master Plan (APSLMP). You can also review DEC management guidance and plan development process on the DEC website.

The Taconic Crest Trail and Forest Highlands: The Taconic Crest Trail (TCT) was created by the dedication of the Troy based Taconic Hiking Club in 1948. The 37 mile long trail runs south to north along the Massachusetts, Vermont and NY border from Route 20 in Pittsfield State Forest to Route 346 in N Petersburg, NY. The trail comes into contact with 6,000 acres of state forest and 5,500 acres of conservation easement lands in New York State. The trail also passes through the towns of Stephentown, Berlin and Petersburg. The traverse offers scenic views of the Green Mountains, Catskills, Adirondacks and Mount Greylock in Massachusetts. For these reasons DEC should grant the TCT greater protection. The trail serves as a major north/south wildlife corridor and a rare southern hold-out of Spruce/fir habitat. The trail lies within a three hour drive for 26 million people and is in close proximity to 33 state parks and forests in New York. The trail is comprised of multiple scenic areas that are relatively easy to access including the White Rocks area, Snow Hole and Berlin Mountain. The scenic beauty of the area was a source of inspiration for famous American writers like Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville, which adds a sense of heritage to the Taconic forests. DEC is currently creating a UMP for the Taconic Highlands unit which contains the TCT. The plan should be available for comment by the summer of 2015. As the Taconic Forest Highlands and TCT area are threatened by illegal ATV use, ADK has argued for greater protection for the trail. This will provide protection for the important ecological, historical scenic resources of the Taconic Crest Trail and the Taconic Forest Highlands.

Help Monitor Illegal ATV Use of the Taconic Crest Trail (TCT): The Albany Chapter and Taconic Hiking Club have been monitoring the issue of ATV trespass on the TCT. A local forest ranger has been vigorously enforcing state regulations, and has apprehended several riders. DEC has repaired ATV damage on sections of the trail and posted positive signage at several trailhead locations. It's important that we hike the trail and monitor any illegal ATV activity. Please help us monitor ATV activity on the TCT. Report any incidences of ATV activity to: DEC Ranger Joe Hess at: jchess@gw.dec.state.ny.us or (518)505-4116. Please also copy ADK at: David Pisaneschi, Albany ADK, ESP, PO Box 2116, Albany, NY 12220 or at dapadk@gmail.com. Please include descriptions of individuals and vehicles, license

numbers, along with date, time and location on trail. PLEASE DO NOT CHALLENGE OR CONFRONT ATV USERS. Any photos of ATVs and damage along the trail would also be useful.

If you have questions or want to know more about these issues, please contact David Pisaneschi at: dapadk@gmail.com or 459-5969. For updates on Conservation issues of concern to ADK members, please visit the chapter website at:

<http://www.adk-albany.org/conservationNotes.php>

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