

The Cloudsplitter



Vol. 76 No. 4

October-December 2013



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 November 15, 2013 and will be for the months of January, February, and March, 2014. Many thanks to Gail Carr for her drawing of the autumn woods.

October 2, November 6, and December 4 (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 John Sheehan at 674-8121

Chapter Meetings are held at the West Albany Fire House (Station #1), 113 Sand Creek Road, Albany.
Education Sessions start at 6:30 prior to the membership meeting. Programs begin following the Chapter business meeting. Refreshments are served after the meetings.

October 8 (2nd Tuesday) MONTHLY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6:30 P.M.
Education Session: Survival Tips, Part 2: We will view a few more clips from Peter Kummerfeldt, former Survival Training Director at the US Air Academy. Part 1 in June gave some unique insights on survival in the wilds, and we will check out some more of Peter's wisdom.
Program: Two For The Road: Traveling across the United States by bicycle requires training and support. Along the way there are plenty of adventures and some very interesting people. Art Hewig will report on his and his wife's 32-day trip from Everett, Washington to Williamsburg Virginia.

November 12 (2nd Tuesday) MONTHLY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6:30 P.M.
Education Session: Paddling the Grand Canyon: Chapter member Anthony Lamanno has twice paddled a long stretch of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. The planning and logistics of this three-week, unsupported trip were a major undertaking. Anthony will tell us how he and the other expedition members pulled off this challenging trip.
Program: Paddling the Nooks and Crannies of the Adirondacks: Lauren Jacobson will share her best shots of some of her meanders through--let's face it--the prettiest waterways in the world. Expect to see lovely flora, fauna and Adirondack vistas.

December 11 (2nd Wednesday) MONTHLY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6:30 P.M.
*****NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FROM TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY**
Education Session: Knots to Know for the Outdoors: Bring a three foot long piece of parachute cord or other light-duty rope and practice some helpful knots. We will include the trucker's hitch, buntline hitch and other knots for specific outdoor activities
Program: Woman's Best Friend: Thinking of taking Fido on your next hike in the woods? Marlee Bickel will share with us her experiences and some tips about how to make your outing fun for everyone while respecting the woods, its critters and fellow hikers.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I trust that everyone had a great summer of hiking, biking and paddling. Evidenced by the 64 day trips that the Albany chapter had scheduled last quarter, I would say there was ample opportunity. I participated in an adventure travel trip to Crested Butte Colorado in July and found that one-third of the participants were from the Albany chapter. We remain very active, and data has shown that our membership numbers are also rebounding. I have to give credit for that to our Membership Chair Doug Rosenberry and his predecessor Marie Rosenblatt for a number of initiatives to attract and retain new members. Holding membership drives and new member orientations and scheduling more moderate level hikes seem to have gone a long way toward making new members feel comfortable with our activities. The periodic e-mail reminders of the scheduled outings are also thought to have had a positive effect.

The comments are in and the hearings are complete for the classification of the newly purchased Finch Pruyn lands in the central Adirondacks. You may have noticed that one of our paddling leaders has scheduled a paddle for the Essex Chain Lakes for the day after the decision is due to come out. Wishful thinking? That remains to be seen as of the writing of this message. Stay tuned. ADK was very aggressive in supporting the classification of wilderness with a non-conforming corridor carrying a road to access the lakes. The decision is now in the hands of the APA and the DEC.

Anyone who has been to the High Peaks Information Center (HPIC) lately may have noticed some changes. Some rearranging of walls and expanding onto what was the porch made the facility much more usable. This was done with mostly volunteer work. This again shows the quality and commitment of Club members. There are also plans for the expansion of the Heart Lake Campground and a new water supply to serve the increased activities at the property. Although consistent in numbers, ADK continues to develop and expand its facilities and activities with both outings and education. The Club wide website, ADK.org has also been renovated and has made it easier to access some of those activities. So let's take advantage of what the club has to offer and get out and play.

--- John Sheehan, Fall, 2013

WILDERNESS FIRST AID

Saturday and Sunday, October 26 and 27, 2013

Take Wilderness First Aid and enjoy sleeping in your own bed. This course will be offered locally at Little's Lake in Menands, NY. This Fall, the Adirondack Mountain Club Winter Mountaineering School is offering a Certified Wilderness First Aid Course from the Emergency Care and Safety Institute (ECSI). This Wilderness First Aid Course will be taught over a weekend encompassing 8 hours of instruction on Saturday and 8 hours on Sunday. Topics will include patient assessment, hypothermia, hyperthermia and heat illness, fractures, dislocations, and backcountry medicine. Classroom lectures and discussions are supplemented by practical work and problem solving exercises. The course will be taught by Dr. Eric Shaw, a highly trained emergency room physician, and the ADK Winter Mountaineering School Medical Director. The class will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 26 and 27, 2013. Cost for the class will be \$160.00 per student. Participants will receive a Wilderness First Aid certification card upon successful completion of the course. Class size will be limited to 20 students. A minimum of 8 students are needed to hold the course. For additional information, and to reserve a spot in the class call Carl at (518) 274-8410 or (518) 810-3015 or cclinowski@nycap.rr.com. Checks for the class should be made payable to "Winter Mountaineering School."

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

THE CLOUDSPLITTER

Albany Chapter - Adirondack Mountain Club
October-December 2013 Combined Activities Schedule

<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Destination or Event</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Oct	1 (Tue)	Paddle Essex Chain Of Lakes	Valentino	B
	1 (Tue)	Evening Paddle-Mohawk River Glenville	Macha, Murray	B/C
	3-5 (Thu-Sat)	Club Days at Adirondack Paddle'n'Pole	Macha	
	5 (Sat)	Mt. Antone	Susko	C+
	5 (Sat)	Tremper & Edgewood	Johnson	A+
	5 (Sat)	Circumnavigation of Lower Ausable Lake	Siegard & Siegard	A+
	6 (Sun)	Doubletop	Kase	B
	8 (Tue)	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING--U.S. Travel by bicycle		
	9 (Wed)	Mount Equinox, VT	Ross & McCarron	B+
	9 (Wed)	Overlook Mtn. & Echo Lake	Johnson	B+
	9 (Wed)	Evening Paddle-Mohawk River	Dewes	B/C
	12 (Sat)	Baxter and Owls Head Mountains	Antonio	C+
	12 (Sat)	Baker Peak, VT	Sheehan	B
	13 (Sun)	Noonmark	Klinowski	B
	13 (Sun)	Fifth Peak	Priest	B
	14 (Mon)	Windham and the Escarpment Trail	Henrikson	B
	16 (Wed)	Sleeping Beauty Fall Foliage Hike	Traver	B
	16 (Wed)	Evening Paddle-Hudson River Bethlehem	Pisaneschi	B/C
	17 (Thu)	Hopkins Forest near Williamstown, MA	Breslin	C+
	18 (Fri)	Gore Mountain	Antonio	B+
	19 (Sat)	Thacher Park Hike	Schaller	C+
	19 (Sat)	Pitchoff Mountain	Seward	B
	19 (Sat)	Wittenberg/Cornell	Kase	B+
	22 (Tue)	Evening Paddle-Mohawk River - Lions Park	Magnes & Cherkosly	C
	24 (Thu)	Wilkinson Trail, Saratoga Battlefield	Breslin	C
	26 (Sat)	Taconic Crest Trail (TCT) Trail Work	Pisaneschi	B
	26 (Sat)	Sawteeth, Gothics and Armstrong	Scaife	A+
	26-27 (Sat-Sun)	Wilderness First Aid	Klinowski	A
	27 (Sun)	SW Hunter & Hunter	Johnson	A
	28 (Mon)	Shaker Mountain--Hancock, MA	Breslin	C+
	29 (Tue)	Evening Paddle - Round Lake	Saville	C
	29 (Tue)	Snowy Mountain	Antonio	B+
Nov	2 (Sat)	Eagle & Big Indian	Kase	B+
	7 (Thu)	Moreau State Park--Northern Trails	Breslin	C+
	8 (Fri)	Peaked Mountain	Antonio	B
	12 (Tue)	Peekamoose & Table Mountains	Susko	A
	12 (Tue)	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING--Paddling Nooks of Dacks		
	13 (Wed)	Stony Ledge	Traver	B
	16 (Sat)	Colvin and Blake	Scaife	A+
	16 (Sat)	Crane Mountain	Klinowski	B
	22 (Fri)	Raymond Brook Trail	Antonio	B
	23 (Sat)	Slide Mountain	Seward	B
	29 (Fri)	Yokun Ridge South	Sheehan	C+
Dec	1 (Sun)	Cat Mountain	Rosenblatt	C+
	8 (Sun)	Cross Country Ski - Leader's Choice	Macha	B
	11 (Wed)	Rusk & Evergreen Mountains	Susko	B
**Note	11 (Wed)	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING--Hiking with your dog		
	14 (Sat)	Beginners' Snowshoe	Klinowski	B
	19 (Thu)	Schodack Island State Park	Breslin	C
<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Destination or Event</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Dec	21 (Sat)	Halcott	Kase	B

28 (Sat)	Stephens Pond	Seward	B
29 (Sun)	Huyck Preserve Cross-Country Ski	Macha	B
29 (Sun)	Hadley Mountain	Sheehan	C+

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 & green** buoys mark the deep water channels - stay between the buoys & 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 Floatation 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 & 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.

Oct 1 (Tue) PADDLE ESSEX CHAIN OF LAKES (B)

The Essex Chain of Lakes is the jewel in the crown of the 161,000 Finch Pruyn land purchase by the state. We can expect an approximately 10 mile round trip paddle with a couple of short portages through this six-lake gem. This is a tentative paddle and assumes the following: that the land has already been classified by the Adirondack Park Agency; that the existing Polaris and Gooley Club lease exclusivity has expired, and all the requisite approvals are in place. Accordingly, this would be the first day of public access. Due to the tentative nature of this paddle, sign ups can only be via the internet and, depending on space, notification of space availability will also be made through the internet a week prior. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride. Leader: Bill Valentino, 439-9686, billvalentino113@yahoo.com

Oct 1 (Tue) EVENING PADDLE-MOHAWK RIVER GLENVILLE (B/C)

We will paddle downstream from Lock 8 and around the islands. Be on the water by 5:30 p.m. 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.

Directions: From end of I-890 drive east on Rt.5 for 1.8 miles & take a right on Maalwyck Park Rd, drive to the end of pavement then take a left on dirt/gravel to riverside (or drive 2+ miles on Rt. 5 west of Western Gateway Bridge & take a left on Maalwyck Park Rd). Leaders: Rich Macha, 346-3180, adkpaddle@yahoo.com; Celia Murray, 225-9902, celiaam@aol.com

**Oct 3-5 (Thu-Sat) CLUB DAYS AT
ADIRONDACK PADDLE'N'POLE**

ADK members get 20% off everything in stock (except 15% off composite canoes and kayaks). This a great opportunity to gear up for fall paddling and the cross country ski season (metal-edge backcountry touring skis are our specialty). The store is at 2123 Central Ave in Colonie. Website: www.onewithwater.com for store hours. Leader: Rich Macha, 346-3180, adkpaddle@yahoo.com

Oct 5 (Sat) MT. ANTONE (C+)

Mt. Antone is the highest peak in Merck Forest, which provides a network of roads and trails for moderate hiking. We'll take a route that will get us to the top of Mt. Antone for lunch where we can enjoy good views of Vermont and New York, including the high peaks. The distance will be 5-6 miles with about 1000' of ascent. Leader: John Susko, 383-1284, jpsusko@netzero.net

Oct 5 (Sat) TREMPER & EDGEWOOD (A+)

This hike follows the NY-NJ Trail Conference Long Path over Mount Tremper (2720'), down to Warner Creek and up over Edgewood Mountain. (3000'), and out the side trail at Silver Hollow Notch. The distance is 11.6 miles with around 4100' of ascent. At a steady 1.5 MPH pace, plus breaks, the hike should take 8-9 hours. Sturdy hiking boots, a flashlight and a headlamp (just in case) are required. No sign ups by Oct. 2 or rain cancels the hike. Car pooling can be arranged to meet leader at the trailhead in Edgewood at 8:00 a.m.. A shuttle is required to the start. Email contact preferred. Leader: Cal Johnson, (845) 246-2006, hikeski@hvc.rr.com

**Oct 5 (Sat) CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF
LOWER AUSABLE LAKE (A+)**

Now that we're all in shape from summer hiking, let's challenge ourselves. This will be the penultimate hike in my effort to hike all the trails on the high peaks map. While a long hike, it is doable as a day trip for those prone to painful experiences and calling it fun. We'll go up Sawteeth via the trail between Sawteeth &

Pyramid. We'll then descend to the Warden's Camp. Leslie and any other interested people will hike 1.5 miles to the junction with the Haystack trail and return. (Boy do I wish I'd done that when I did Panther Gorge) Those not interested may rest at the Warden's camp. Then, we hike the Carry trail up Colvin, returning to the parking lot via the road. Total distance will be around 20.5 miles with 5600' of elevation. Leaders: Leslie Siegard, 768-2393, siegard3@netscape.com; Steve Siegard, 915-2309, ssiegard@gmail.com

Oct 6 (Sun) DOUBLETOP (B)

This hike starts on a trail but soon becomes a bushwhack climb up a ridge. Expect thick going up high as we search for the canister of this Catskill High Peak. We'll do 6 miles and 1900' of climbing. Leader: Tim Kase, 766-4264, timkase@hotmail.com

Oct 8 (Tue) MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING
113 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY

Educational Session at 6:30 p.m.-- Survival Tips, Part 2. We will view a few more clips from Peter Kummerfeldt, former Survival Training Director at the US Air Academy. Part 1 in June gave some unique insights on survival in the wilds, and we will check out some more of Peter's wisdom.

Program at 7:30--- A brief business meeting will be followed by a presentation, ***Two for the Road:*** Traveling across the United States by bicycle requires training and support. Along the way there are plenty of adventures and some very interesting people. Art Hewig will report on his and his wife's 32-day trip from Everett, Washington to Williamsburg Virginia.

Oct 9 (Wed) MOUNT EQUINOX, VT (B+)

The access to the Burr and Burton Trail, (now called the Blue Summit Trail) from the lovely Equinox Hotel in Manchester, VT, has been greatly improved by the Equinox Preservation Trust. But the same can't be said for the sad old Sky Line Inn hotel complex at the top of the mountain. Some (J.A.) say it's an eyesore; some think it provides deluxe bathrooms and a nice stone wall for lunch overlooking the valley. Find out who "Mr. Barbo" is, and don't plan on your compass working on the summit--if you can figure out this mystery, we'll be impressed. The guidebook calls this ascent "legitimately challenging," a "hearty climb," and an "aerobic challenge," so you've been forewarned. The forest and view 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

**Oct 9 (Wed) OVERLOOK MTN.
& ECHO LAKE (B+)**

This is a 9 mile hike with 2300' of ups and downs. It starts at the trailhead parking area on Meads Mtn. Road. At 1.9 miles there are the ruins of the old hotel, which can be cautiously explored. Just above that is a television tower. It is another .4 miles to the summit of Overlook Mtn. (3140'), where there are great views from a vista and the fire tower. Backtracking to the TV tower, the trail to Echo Lake is 2.1 miles. There is an easy-to-follow path around the lake (about .2 miles) from the lean-to. Then it's back up to the TV tower and down to the parking area. At a steady 1.5 MPH pace, plus breaks, the hike should take around 6-7 hours. Carpooling can be arranged to meet leader at the trailhead parking area at 8:00 a.m.. Rain, or no sign ups by Oct. 7 cancels. Email contact preferred or call before 10 p.m. Leader: Cal Johnson, (845) 246-2006, hikeski@hvc.rr.com

**Oct 9 (Wed) EVENING PADDLE-
MOHAWK RIVER (B/C)**

Be on the water at 5:30 p.m. at Lions Park by the old train station in Niskayuna. From the Northway drive west for 3.1 miles and take a right on Rosendale Rd. which goes downhill and then curves left. Soon after that, turn right into the parking area. 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. Please note that the trip is on Wednesday the 9th due to our Chapter meeting on the 8th. Leader: Sally Dewes, 346-1761, stanger01@gmail.com

Oct 12 (Sat) BAXTER & OWLS HEAD (C+)

Here are two small gems for the price of one. Today's special--a C hike--to not one, but two mountain tops. Yes, it's a lot of bang for your buck, so sign up quick at this price, spots will be going fast. First, we will do the beautiful Baxter Mountain. We'll do a 2.2 round trip and a 770' elevation gain with nice views of the Great Range and Keene Valley. For our second hike, we'll take a short drive on Route 73 to climb 1.1 miles round trip with a 460' gain to the top of the classic little summit of Owls Head. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride
Leader: John Antonio, 462-2765

Oct 12 (Sat) BAKER PEAK, VT (B)

The Adirondacks are nice in October, but there is nothing like the fall colors in Vermont. Baker Peak is a small mountain on the AT in the Green Mountains. There will be about 2000' of climbing over 7 miles on a well-designed trail that traverses the contours to the peak. Depending on the time, energy, and desire of the group, we may be able to visit Griffith lake. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Brunswick Walmart Park & Ride on Rt. 7. Leader: John Sheehan, 674-8121, jgsheehan01@yahoo.com

Oct 13 (Sun) NOONMARK (B)

This is planned as an end-to-end hike from Rt. 73 via Round Pond to a car spotted at the Ausable Club. With luck, we may catch some good fall colors on this popular peak. From Rt. 73 the ascent to Noonmark is 1900'. The end-to-end distance is 5.8 miles. Plan on an early start. For reservations call by 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 10th. Leader: Carl Klinowski, 274-8410, cklinowski@nycap.rr.com

Oct 13 (Sun) FIFTH PEAK (B)

This was one of my first hikes in the Adirondacks. We will start at Clay Meadow. The round trip is 5 1/2 miles with a little more than 1300' of ascent. Then we reach a trail junction, make a right turn and head for the summit. There are two viewpoints on the summit. One overlooks the main channel of Lake George, with views of Black Mountain and Sleeping Beauty. The other overlooks Northwest Bay. We'll see Gore Mountain and other central Adirondack peaks if it isn't too hazy. If we feel ambitious and we have time on the way back, we can hike part of the way down to the Lake on the trail that leads to Five Mile Mountain Point. Leader: Robert Priest, 489-7472, rpriest001@nycap.rr.com

**Oct 14 (Mon) WINDHAM AND THE
ESCARPMENT TRAIL (B)**

We will ascend Windham from the Peck Road trailhead, then follow the Escarpment Trail towards Blackhead. We will descend via the Burnt Knob Trail to a spotted car. We'll do 6.5 miles and about 1500' of ascent. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Elm Ave. Delmar Park & Ride.
Leader: Katie Henrikson, 533-7441, henriksonK@beverwyck.com

Oct 16 (Wed) SLEEPING BEAUTY(B)

Last October, we hiked Sleeping Beauty in an all-day drizzle with dense fog. I promised my participants that we'd give this hike a second chance in 2013, so...it isn't autumn without a trip to see the fall colors in the Lake George region. Sleeping Beauty is a gem on the east side of the lake. We will hike 4.5 miles with an elevation

gain of 1300' going up from Dacy Clearing and heading down around Bumps Pond. Join me for a day in the sunshine to a beautiful summit! Email contact preferred. Leader: Virginia Boyle Traver, 322-0950, virginiaabt28@hotmail.com

Oct 16 (Wed) EVENING PADDLE- HUDSON RIVER BETHLEHEM (B/C)

Plan to be on the water by 5:30 p.m. Since the high tide is at around 2:29 p.m. and low tide at around 8:52 p.m., we may paddle across the Hudson over to Papscaenee Creek and explore a bit upstream. Sunset is at 6:12. Take NY Thruway to Exit 22, left (N) on Route 144 for about a mile, and go right on Barent Winnie Road to the boat launch next to Henry Hudson Park. Leader: Dave Pisaneschi, 459-5969, dpisanes@nycap.rr.com

Oct 17 (Thu) HOPKINS FOREST WILLIAMSTOWN, MA (C+)

Hopkins Forest is a 2600-acre nature preserve in Massachusetts, New York and Vermont managed by the Williams College Center for Environmental Studies. There are trails connecting it to the Taconic Crest Trail near Rt. 2. We will explore some of the trails, keeping the total miles at around 6 miles. We will most likely do the upper and lower loops. Check out hmf.williams.edu. The trail map is under the public link on the left side. We will leave at 9:00 a.m. from a meet-up location. E-mail sign-ups are preferred. Leader: Paul Breslin, 783-9154, tripswithpaul@gmail.com

Oct 18 (Fri) 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." Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride. Leader: John Antonio, 462-2765

Oct 19 (Sat) THACHER PARK HIKE (C+)

We plan on offering two hikes - one "B-" (about 5.5 miles) and one "C+" (3 miles) - depending on participants, ability, and whether we begin either at Carrick Rd.(the Quarry) or Ryan Rd. The longer hike will take us on parts of the Perimeter Trail, the Long Path, and the Fred Schroeder Memorial Trail, passing through woods, past waters (Beaver Pond), along open fields, and to lookouts over the valley below. The shorter outing will go from Ryan Road on the Perimeter Trail and Long Path, to the Escarpment Trail, and on to the Indian Ladder parking lot (and a spotted car). We'll get great views along the trail.

Bring a trail lunch and drink and appropriate clothing for an autumn day. It's mostly level walking with a few moderate ups and downs. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the Thacher Park Nature Center off Ketchum Rd. in Thompsons Lake State Park. We'll then carpool to the trailhead(s). Leader: Jim Schaller, 861-7452, jims2999@yahoo.com

Oct 19 (Sat) PITCHOFF MOUNTAIN (B)

This traverse offers exceptional views of the High Peaks during the 4.9 mile through-hike. The ascent from the highway is 1440' to the summit with a stop at Balancing Rock for the view. We will spot cars on either end of the trail on Rt. 73. Please check the Albany Chapter website for changes. Contact Leader for details and provide your recent hiking experience. Leader: Phil Seward, 527-1851, flipsbliss17@yahoo.com

Oct 19 (Sat) WITTENBERG/CORNELL (B+)

We'll climb these peaks from Woodland Valley. There is a lot of steep hiking, but we'll be rewarded with one of the best views in the Catskills from Wittenberg Mountain. It's 9.5 miles and 2600' of climbing. Leader: Tim Kase, 766-4264, timkase@hotmail.com

Oct 22 (Tue) EVENING PADDLE-MOHAWK RIVER FROM LIONS PARK (C)

Be on the water at 5:30 p.m. at Lions Park by the old train station in Niskayuna. From the Northway drive west for 3.1 miles and take a right on Rosendale Rd. which goes downhill and then curves left; soon after, turn right into the parking area. Plan to paddle in the opposite direction from Oct. 8. 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: Gerry Magnes, 810-8000, gmagnes1@gmail.com; Neil Cherkosly, 383-7800, UpstateNC@aol.com

Oct 24 (Thu) WILKINSON TRAIL, SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD (C)

The Wilkinson National Recreation Trail is a 4.2 mile lollipop loop trail that traces some of the movements of troops during two battles of the Revolutionary War in 1777. Historians pretty much agree that the British defeat at Saratoga was the turning point of the war. After that, France became our ally and the tide tipped in favor of the Continental Army. Check out this exciting perspective while still hopefully enjoying some nice fall foliage. See how the terrain of this area made our tactics work. We will leave at 9:00 a.m. from a meet-up location determined by

participants. E-mail preferred. Leader: Paul Breslin, tripswithpaul@gmail.com 783-9154.

Oct 26 (Sat) TACONIC CREST TRAIL (TCT) TRAIL WORK (B)

We'll cover the section of the TCT from Robinson Hollow to Mattison Hollow. This will involve blow down removal and drainage work.

Leader: Dave Pisaneschi, 459-5969, dpisanes@nycap.rr.com

Oct 26 (Sat) SAWTEETH, GOTHICS AND ARMSTRONG (A+)

This is a spectacularly view-full hike when the leaves are gone and the weather is uncertain. We'll hike 13 challenging miles with 4500' of ascent to visit three great High Peaks, perhaps on a balmy Indian Summer day or perhaps in the teeth of a soggy and freezing autumn gale. Depart 4:00 a.m. from the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride. Leader: Bob Scaife, 439-7322, bobscaife@nycap.rr.com

Oct 26-27 (Sat-Sun) WILDERNESS FIRST AID (A)

Take Wilderness First Aid and enjoy sleeping in your own bed. This course will be offered locally at Little's Lake in Menands, NY. This fall, the Adirondack Mountain Club Winter Mountaineering School is offering a Certified Wilderness First Aid Course from the Emergency Care and Safety Institute (ECSTI).

This Wilderness First Aid Course will be taught over a weekend encompassing 8 hours of instruction on both Saturday and Sunday. Topics will include patient assessment, hypothermia, hyperthermia and heat illness, fractures, dislocations, and backcountry medicine. Classroom lectures and discussions are supplemented by practical work and problem solving exercises. The course will be taught by Dr. Eric Shaw, a highly trained emergency room physician, and the ADK Winter Mountaineering School Medical Director.

Cost for the class will be \$160.00 per student. Participants will receive a Wilderness First Aid certification card upon successful completion of the course. Class size will be limited to 20 students. A minimum of 8 students are needed to hold the course.

For additional information, and to reserve a spot in the class call Carl Klinowski at 274-8410 or 810-3015 or cklinowski@nycap.rr.com. Checks for the class should be made payable to "Winter Mountaineering School."

Oct 27 (Sun) SW HUNTER & HUNTER (A)

After dropping cars at the Hunter Mtn. ski area (since the lodge will be open there will be rest

rooms), we will drive to the start by Notch Lake on Rt. 214; about a 5 minute drive. We will ascend the Devil's Path and, shortly after the land levels off just past the lean-to, follow the long abandoned railroad bed and then a short herd path to the summit of SW Hunter (3740'). This unmarked trail is usually a very easy bushwhack; however, there may be blow down to go over or around. After recording our visit in the canister, we will backtrack to the lean-to and take the HU trail to the summit of Hunter (4040'), the 2nd highest peak in the Catskills. We will take a short side trail to a ledge area with a great view and then continue on a short distance to the fire tower. When finished taking in the spectacular 360 degree views from the tower, we will go down the Spruceton and Colonel's Chair trails to the summit of the ski area, from which we will descend ski slopes to the parking lot. The distance is around 9 miles with around 2100' of climbing. At a 1.5 MPH pace, the hike will take about 6-7 hours. Sturdy hiking boots or trail shoes are required. Carpooling can be arranged to meet the leader in Hunter at 9:00 a.m. Steady rain or no sign-ups by Oct. 24 cancels. Email preferred or call before 10:00 p.m. Leader: Cal Johnson, (845) 246-2006, hikeski@hvc.rr.com

Oct 28 (Mon) SHAKER MOUNTAIN--HANCOCK, MA (C+)

This sounds like an interesting hike and is written up in Dunn and Delaney's "Trails with Tails" book. The hike is 4.2 miles round trip with 700' of gain. Hopefully, we'll still have some good color. The path is an abandoned Shaker road with evidence of buildings, mills and a way of Shaker life from years gone by. The hike will be leisurely so we can explore. We can explore an additional mountain, Holy Mountain, which will add an additional 2 miles but will still keep well within the C+ rating. We'll decide that after we see what the trail, terrain and color look like. The meet-up will be at 9:00 a.m. at a place determined by participants. E-mail response preferred. If there is interest, we can check out the Shaker Museum for a nominal fee.

Leader: Paul Breslin, 783-9154, tripswithpaul@gmail.com

Oct 29 (Tue) EVENING PADDLE - ROUND LAKE (C)

Be on the water at 5:15 p.m. We will paddle around the lake and down the Anthony Kill and return. On Route 9, go north through the traffic light at Round Lake and take a right onto Goldfoot Rd. then another right on Maltaville Rd. Park at the end of road. Launch on the creek. No need to sign up. See General Info for

Evening Paddling Trips. Leader: Alison Saville,
899-4031, asaville1127@aol.com

Oct 29 (Tue) SNOWY MOUNTAIN (B+)

Snowy Mountain is a spectacular destination. It misses being a High Peak so closely that it is often dubbed "the Marcy of the Southern Adirondacks." The 7.5 mile round trip with 2100' vertical will give one the feeling of doing a "46." Meet 7:00 a.m. at the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride. Leader: John Antonio, 462-2765

Nov 2 (Sat) EAGLE & BIG INDIAN (B+)

This is mostly a trail hike to two Catskill High Peaks. We'll do a short ¼ mile bushwhack to the Big Indian canister. Plan on 10.7 miles and 2200' of climbing. Leader: Tim Kase, 766-4264, timkase@hotmail.com

**Nov 7 (Thu) MOREAU STATE PARK'S
NORTHERN TRAILS (C+)**

There are a series of trails on the northern side of the Hudson River that were added to Moreau State Park a few years ago. They are shown on the park trail map, but there are few details. I see there was a work day this summer to work on these trails--clearing and improving markers. Judging from the maps, we will be hiking less than 6 miles and the elevation will be less than 1000'. This is a great chance to explore the area that is surrounded by civilization, yet in a very secluded section of the Hudson. We will access these trails off Corinth Road on the north side of the Hudson. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at a location to be determined. Email sign-ups are preferred. Leader: Paul Breslin, 783-9154, tripswithpaul@gmail.com

Nov 8 (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 Mountain Pond and another 650' in the last .8 mile from the pond to the summit of Peaked Mountain. Meet 7:00 a.m. at the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride. Leader: John Antonio, 462-2765

Nov 12 (Tue) PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE (A)

Peekamoose and Table Mountains are the 11th and 10th highest peaks in the Catskills. We'll take the trail from Peekamoose Road, which has good views along the way. The distance is about 10 miles with approximately 3000' of ascent. At this time of year, snowshoes, crampons or other traction devices may be needed. Leader: John Susko, 383-1284, jpsusko@netzero.net

Nov 12 (Tue) MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING

113 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY

Educational Session at 6:30 p.m.-- Paddling the Grand Canyon.

Chapter member Anthony Lamanno has twice paddled a long stretch of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. The planning and logistics of this three-week, unsupported trip were a major undertaking. Anthony will tell us how he and the other expedition members pulled off this challenging trip.

Program at 7:30---

A brief business meeting will be followed by a presentation, ***Paddling the Nooks and Crannies of the Adirondacks:*** Lauren Jacobson will share her best shots of some of her meanders through--let's face it--the prettiest waterways in the world. Expect to see lovely flora, fauna and Adirondack vistas.

Nov 13 (Wed) STONY LEDGE (B)

Stony Ledge in the Mt. Greylock Reservation is an old favorite. I haven't led a hike here in a few years and it's time to go back! Stony Ledge offers views across to Greylock's summit and north to Vermont. We will begin on the Haley Farm Trail to the Ledge and circle back on Sperry Road and the Hopper Trail. Total distance is about 5 miles with 1460' elevation gain. Email contact preferred. Leader: Virginia Boyle Traver, virginiaabt28@hotmail.com, 322-0950.

Nov 16 (Sat) COLVIN AND BLAKE (A+)

We'll visit one beautiful and dramatic peak and one bleak and graceless peak on this 14.6 mile hike with 4100' of elevation gain. Our weather might match the character of either peak, but we should count on damp cold, wind and ice - it's November after all. Meet 4:00 a.m. at the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride. Leader: Bob Scaife, 439-7322, bobscaife@nycap.rr.com

Nov 16 (Sat) CRANE MOUNTAIN (B)

We will make a late fall trip to this peak. Will we encounter snow?? Plan on an early start. For reservations call by 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14th. Leader: Carl Klinowski, 274-8410, cklinowski@nycap.rr.com

Nov 22 (Fri) RAYMOND BROOK TRAIL (B)

This is a delightful "ski" route that is 4.1 miles (one way) with 1375' of elevation. This will be our third time on this trip, and we have now in our possession the correct maps so we know nothing can go amiss. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride. Leader: John Antonio, 462-2765

Nov 23 (Sat) SLIDE MOUNTAIN (B)

We'll plan on a very scenic day hike up the Catskills' highest peak in the Slide Mtn. Wilderness area. This is a 7 mile RT with a 1700' elevation gain. Contact leader for details and provide your recent hiking experience. Check the Albany Chapter website for changes and additions for this and other hikes.

Leader: Phil Seward, 527-1851, flpsbliss17@yahoo.com

Nov 29 (Fri) YOKUN RIDGE SOUTH (C+)

On this Black Friday, we will have nothing to do with shopping malls. Yokun Ridge stretches from Olivia's overlook near Lenox to West Stockbridge. We'll do about 6 miles of scenic ridge walking with an after hike visit to the "scene of the crime," Alice's Restaurant that is. You can get anything you want at Alice's restaurant. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Defreestville Park & Ride. Leader: John Sheehan, 674-8121, jgsheehan01@yahoo.com

Dec 1 (Sun) CAT MOUNTAIN (C+)

Let's revisit Cat Mountain, overlooking Lake George, as a nice early winter hike. Maybe, if we're lucky, we'll get to snowshoe it! The Cat and Thomas Mountains Preserve is now part of the NYS Forest Preserve. Rising almost 2000' above sea level, it is one of the largest intact ecologically significant landscapes remaining on Lake George. We'll hike 3.5 miles each way, with around 800' of elevation gain to Cat Mountain. The trail follows an old logging road before turning onto the newly rerouted yellow trail (a real gem!) to the summit, which offers fantastic 270° views of Lake George and the Adirondacks. Email contact preferred. For more details, see:

www.lglc.org/NaturePreserves/CatMountain/

Leader: Marie Rosenblatt, 723-0223, digthedacks@gmail.com

Dec 8 (Sun) CROSS COUNTRY SKI-- LEADER'S CHOICE (B)

We'll go wherever there is good snow. My first choice will be southern Vermont, where we can drive to 2400' and start skiing on high elevation snowmobile and backcountry trails. Adirondacks are a possibility too. I will try to keep it in the easy to intermediate range of difficulty and to a

distance of 7 to 10 miles. Leader: Rich Macha, 346-3180, adkpaddle@yahoo.com

Dec 11 (Wed) RUSK & EVERGREEN (B)

Rusk is one of the trailless 3500' peaks in the Catskills. Depending on conditions, the hike will either be up and back from the end of Spruceton Road or a through-hike over Evergreen Mtn. The distance is either 4 or 6 miles, with about 1500' of ascent. At this time of year snowshoes, crampons or other traction devices may be needed. Leader: John Susko, 383-1284, jpsusko@netzero.net

Dec 11 (Wed) MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING

113 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY

NOTE CHANGE FOR DAY OF THE WEEK

Educational Session at 6:30 p.m.-- Knots to Know for the Outdoors.

Bring a three foot long piece of parachute cord or other light-duty rope and practice some helpful knots. We will include the trucker's hitch, buntline hitch and other knots for specific outdoor activities.

Program at 7:30---

A brief business meeting will be followed by a presentation ***Woman's Best Friend***. Thinking of taking Fido on your next hike in the woods? Marlee Bickel will share with us her experiences and some tips about how to make your outing fun for everyone while respecting the woods, its critters and fellow hikers.

Dec 14 (Sat) BEGINNERS' SNOWSHOE (B)

Maybe this year the "snow gods" will cooperate and we will have some early season snow. The plan is to have this trip in the Capital District, and Moreau State Park springs to mind. We may have to follow the snow. If the snow doesn't cooperate, we may plan a short hike of 5 to 8 miles. Beg, borrow, rent, or bring your own snowshoes. For reservations, call by 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12th. Leader: Carl Klinowski, 274-8410, cclinowski@nycap.rr.com

Dec 19 (Thu) SCHODACK ISLAND S.P. (C)

This trail is a fairly easy trail of 5 miles. Schodack Island is really a peninsula made by the Hudson River and the Schodack Creek. Taking this hike during the leafless season provides nice views of both bodies of water that are usually obscured. Should there be snow, it makes a great snowshoe hike. We will meet at

9:00 a.m. at a place determined by participants.
E-mail sign-ups are preferred. Leader: Paul
Breslin, 783-9154, tripswithpaul@gmail.com

Dec 21 (Sat) HALCOTT (B)

On the first day of winter, with the shortest daylight of the year, we'll do a 4 mile bushwhack to a Catskill High Peak. Snowshoes and traction devices will be needed. There will be 1800' of steep climbing. Leader: Tim Kase, 766-4264, timkase@hotmail.com

Dec 28 (Sat) STEPHENS POND (B)

We're hoping for a white Christmas and good xc skiing. We will start at the Lake Durant campsite for this 6 mile RT moderate ski through beautiful forest. Contact the leader for details and provide your recent skiing experience. Depending on snow conditions, an alternate location may be found. Check the Albany Chapter website for changes and additions to this and other outings. Leader: Phil Seward, 527-1851, flipsbliss17@yahoo.com

Dec 29 (Sun) HUYCK PRESERVE XC SKI (B)

The Huyck Preserve is in Rensselaerville in southwest Albany County. Elevations over 1600' help attract the snow. I plan to ski the three new loops in the northern part of the preserve for a total of 8 miles. Although there are flat sections, there are also plenty of hills to challenge the intermediate backcountry skier. If snow conditions here are not ideal, I will move the trip elsewhere. Leader: Rich Macha, 346-3180, adkpaddle@yahoo.com

Dec 29 (Sun) HADLEY MOUNTAIN (C+)

You can try out those new snowshoes you got for Christmas on a little bump with a fire tower and great views. It's about 1500' of climbing over 2 miles, so that's only 4 miles round trip. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Northway Exit 9 Park & Ride. Leader: John Sheehan, 674-8121, jgsheehan01@yahoo.com

ECHOES FROM THE TRAIL

PADDLERS COMMITTEE REPORT

As I write this in early August our Evening Paddling season is in full swing with 20 to 40 paddlers showing up on most evenings. Although it sometimes seems like pulling teeth to get folks to volunteer to lead, I do appreciate those who do, and all participants should be thankful that we do have people who accept the responsibilities associated with being a leader. On most of these evenings over half the group will attend the PCM (Paddlers Committee Meeting) at a nearby restaurant - definitely more of a social event than a business one, and some folks actually look forward to the PCM just as much as the actual paddle. The weekend trips that I have led were well-attended and I often had to turn people away. It would be nice if more people would lead paddling day (or overnight) trips so that we have something on the schedule every weekend. Our pool sessions held in late winter and early spring were poorly attended this year and I doubt they will be offered again in the future. I send out an "ADK Paddlers" email every week in season which includes reminders of upcoming trips, trip updates and reports, additional "non-ADK" trips as well as news of interest to paddlers. If you are not on this list but would like to be then send me an email at adkpaddle@yahoo.com. You must be an ADK member to be on this list.

See you on the water,
Rich Macha, Paddlers Chairperson.

Apr 20 (Sat) YOKUN RIDGE SOUTH
Leader: John Sheehan

I found this little gem of a trail when I joined the Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC.net) and received three detailed hiking maps. I always enjoyed the South Taconics, and while hiking there one day, I commented that the trail book I have for that area was less than great. Another person on that hike suggested that I join BNRC and I would receive a better map. Along with the South Taconics and the Greylock area there was a map of Yokun Ridge, an interesting strip of land stretching from West Stockbridge to Pittsfield Mass. With mud season in the Adirondacks, I chose a 5 mile portion at the south end of this trail with minimal climbing as a C+ level hike. Some feedback we've had from the chapter members is that we have very few moderate hikes scheduled for the weekends. Some of us leaders are retired or at least semi-retired with flexible schedules and we enjoy doing moderate hikes during the week

not realizing that we were leaving out a good portion of the membership. Although the trip was scheduled for Saturday the 20th, we were able to reschedule to the following day to enjoy better weather. So on a bright sunny Sunday morning, 10 hikers--Cheryl Glenn, Bob Selarno, Marggie Skaggs, Marian Hoyle, Steve Cornell, Joanne Morehouse, Bill Shapiro, Deb Spicer, Linda Sheehan, Laurian Johnson and Jim Dolges joined me for a pleasant walk in the woods. Starting at Olivia's Overlook, just west of Lenox, we descended into a ravine via the Charcoal Trail, so named because the oak trees in that area were harvested in the 19th century for charcoal to fire the local mills. One participant acted as our tour guide since he is active in the Stockbridge Historical Society. At one point the trail actually crossed his property. The only real climbing on the hike was the climb out of this ravine back up to the Ridge. At that point we started to get some good views. To the east we saw the Berkshires and the Lenox/Tanglewood area and to the west the farm lands of the Taconic Valley. We had lunch at a great overlook where we were able to relax and enjoy the views on one of the few pleasant days we had this past spring. During lunch, the local contingent offered a short cut down to their house to anyone who wanted to avoid the 2 mile walk back to the parking lot. A few took advantage of that but most of us walked the ridge trail back without taking the detour through the Charcoal Ravine. Although the trail goes all the way to West Stockbridge, we headed back after our lunch break. That destination, however, got me thinking about a Black Friday hike with a visit to Alice's Restaurant afterward. Look for that in November.

May 17 (Fri) GLASTENBURY MTN, VT.
Leader: Charlie Beach

It was a good day for the hike, and as forecast it was sunny and mild. Also, we were just ahead of the black fly biting season. The anticipated approach route on the abandoned AT/Long Trail up the mountain shoulder to the Goddard shelter was passed by in favor of a trace of an old logging road. A recent scouting of this intended route convinced me it required more effort than the road and was just a little shorter. Near the upper levels, we encountered many signs of moose activity but did not see any. We did find a hunter's route markings which guided us beyond the end of the road to the marked west ridge trail. Once we were on the trail, it was a short hike to the shelter. The view from the tower was very good. On this day the Catskills and distant mountains in Vermont were seen. We also observed several wind farms in Vermont and Mass. Enjoying this rare hike were Rob Bayly, Dave Loux, Mark Schoonmaker and leader.

May 21 (Tue) PUFFER POND
Leader: John Antonio

Yes, it is still there! So - after what seemed like a half dozen unsuccessful or canceled trips (due to too much rain, too much snow, hurricanes - you get the idea), today we are successful and reached Puffer Pond from the eastern trailhead, starting at the Old Farm Clearing. We were treated to a pretty soggy trail, and, if we stopped long enough, the bugs did find us! We moved at a good clip and reached the eastern lean-to at 11:15, hoping for a breeze to blow away the bugs, but to no avail. As we were swatting away between bites, it was TuAhn who came up with the solution. She immersed herself totally in the pond, defeating the bugs and becoming the first official "sweat and swimmer" of the season. Participants were Mary MacDonald, Mike Tamer, TuAhn Turnbull, Phil Hawver, and Karen Ross and Louie.

May 25 (Sat) GRAY, SKYLIGHT AND MARCY
Leader: Don Berens

High water and low clouds did not leave much room in between. Katherine Bannigan, Don Berens, George Dirolf, Bob Scaife, Jim Sherman, Trudi Skinder and Allan Sowinski would find whatever was in that in-between. Nearly four inches of rain had fallen on Lake Placid, and a cold north wind blew with a cloud ceiling below 4,000 feet. We left the Loj (~2,200') before 6:00 a.m. in cold rain. Before we reached Marcy Dam (~2,400'), wet snow was in the air but was melting on the ground. At Avalanche Camp (~2,600'), snow coated the grass and trees, both dark conifers and pastel green-leafed hardwoods, but the trail was still bare though wet. At Indian Falls Cross-Over Trail (~3,600'), four inches of snow covered everything; one hiker found the footing too slick for her liking and turned back toward the Loj. At Lake Arnold (~3,700'), we found snow six to twelve inches deep. The prospect of further deepening snow and more wet snow bombs persuaded the leader that this day was not a good one for visiting peaks over 4,800 feet. We descended in our tracks to the Cross-Over Trail, crossed over to Indian Falls which looked like few of us had ever seen: snow and mist in the air, untracked snow on the banks, and lots of wide, deep, fast water. As we left the falls, we met the summit steward who, on his way to work, told us he would not climb above the Hopkins Trail junction(~4,300'). We continued down. Below TR Mountain, where in summer one often sees a wide fern forest in a sunny glade (~3,500'), we saw instead

fiddleheads frosted in new snow. At the Phelps Mountain junction (~3,000'), two of our experienced hikers sought more climbing by ascending Phelps (4,161'). By 12:30 at the Loj, the precip was again mostly rain with a few flakes melting on contact with the ground. All returned by mid-afternoon. We checked our calendars to be sure it was May, not March. Many of us thought it was a remarkable late May hike, some because of the snow, and others because we had not wasted any bug dope on black flies.

May 31 (Fri) GERTRUDE'S NOSE AND MILLBROOK MOUNTAIN

Leaders: Karen Ross and Lori McCarron

We have a tradition of hiking the Gunks in extreme heat, and today was no exception. With humidity levels high and record-breaking temps in the 90s, we ventured out into the sweltering landscape, expecting swarms of bugs. Instead we were rewarded with empty trails, no bugs of any kind, tremendous views of the Hudson and Wallkill Valleys, and the chance to leap crevasses as we danced about the Nose on those gleaming white conglomerate outcroppings. Who ever thought it could be so easy to fall in love with glacial erratics? This is a stunning walk in a geologically interesting area with heart-stopping overlooks, and we had an expert, veteran ADK Outdoor Adventures leader Dick Ernenwein, with us who had been running the Trapps Trails for over 40 years. We learned a lot, sweated a lot, drank a lot, and were thankful to the Minnewaska State Park staff for all the new colorful informative map-bearing trail signs that dot the area. Climbing red-faced up the Millbrook Mountain Trail was no problem for this group, who couldn't wait to jump into the cooling Minnewaska Lake and do some swimming--even if a snake partner was waiting in the water. Sweating the day away were Dick Ernenwein, John Sheehan, Tom and Sandy Foster, Vicky Singer, Karen Cedar, Claudia Rosenholz, and Anneliese Lawson.

Jun 1 (Sat) HAYSTACK AND BASIN

Leader: Don Berens

At the Garden before sunrise, eight adventurers faced a long hike on what was forecast to be an unseasonably warm day - quite a contrast from the snowy Saturday just one week earlier. Katherine Bannigan, Don Berens, Jackie Cordell, Cecilia Elwert, Ben Mastaitis, John Sawyer, Bob Scaife and Trudi Skinder began walking at 5:05 a.m. Three hours later we filled bottles at Slant Rock whence we climbed more steeply, past a few small snow patches deposited both days and months earlier, to the Range Trail and the hogback between Marcy and Haystack. With every upward minute, the views opened more widely. It was a joy to climb the steep open rocks of Haystack as the forested valleys all around fell far below. Our descent back to the Range Trail offered views of the half-mile drop from Marcy into Panther Gorge. We refilled bottles at Haystack Brook to prepare for our 1,000 foot climb of Basin. Atop our second peak of the day, we considered our options. It was approaching 1:00 p.m., scattered showers were falling from clouds to the west, but no thunderheads were in sight, and all hikers had ample reserves of persevering spirit. We decided to shorten the exit mileage and to add an extra peak - at no extra charge - by climbing the often dreaded cliffs of Saddleback. This was accomplished to whoops of exhilaration (or relief) by 2:00 p.m. We left the Range Trail between Saddleback and Gothics and went down the Orebed Brook Trail along the massive slide opened by Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. A wooden stairway of about 200 steps built in 2012 looked puny at the edge of the huge expanse of bare rock. After detouring the debris field at the bottom of the slide, it was time again to refill bottles and to rest at the Orebed Lean-To. The eight warhorses could smell the barn 4-1/2 miles away and so charged on down the trail, reaching the Garden by 6:15 p.m. Some remarked that it had not seemed as hot as had been predicted. Yet, sufficient unto the day was the heat thereof; it was warm enough to sweat and drink many liters. And sweetest of all, while further rehydrating at the Noonmark Diner, we watched the downpour of rain that we had just outrun.

Jun 1 (Sat) NATIONAL TRAILS DAY IN THACHER PARK

Leader: Jim Schaller

About 17 volunteers turned out at Thacher Park for National Trails Day. Only two projects were done. The Salisbury Trail connects Thomsons Lake and Thacher State Parks. It's an easement through Patroon Land Foundation property. The Foundation is re-claiming old overgrown lands for grazing or agriculture. So we needed to do two trail re-routes and update markings and signs. We also "knocked a hole" in a stone wall for the trail. The old trail section was also "erased" and blocked off. A second group worked on the Long Path just off Park property. ADK'ers present were Mark Kaercher, Dave Esmond, Anita Whalen, Bill Schollenberger, and Jim and Bonnie Schaller. Thanks to all volunteers and "Friends of Thacher Park" for the Picnic BBQ lunch!

Jun 4 (Tue) WAKELY MOUNTAIN

Leader: John Antonio

Wakley sure is a sweet hike. The mountain itself is short of a 4,000 footer by only 256 feet. Its fire tower has 8 flights of stairs, making it the tallest in the Adirondack Park. This is a modest 6.0 mile round trip, but the bulk of the elevation gain (1,194 feet of 1,635) comes in the last mile. The "new" sight of the day was the view of the fire tower from the beaver pond (1.9 miles in) that must have had a breached dam. This allowed us to explore more of this area than on previous trips. The tower, which really does sway in the breeze if you have the nerve to go high enough, provides a marvelous 360 degree view of the surrounding area. Our group consisted of Lori McCarron, Claudia Rosenholtz, Anneliese Lawson, Mark Schoonmaker, Alan Via and Bookah, Anne Lawton, and Mary MacDonald.

**Jun 4 (Tue) HUDSON RIVER PADDLE -NORTH OF SPIER FALLS
Leader: Bill Valentino**

We caught a beautiful day with a strong blue sky, no clouds, continuous sun, low humidity and wind-- plenty of wind. We started with a short less-than-one-mile paddle to the northeast, turning back well before we got too close to Spier Falls Dam. We paddled back right past the launch, with an opportunity to drop a layer of clothing in our cars as the weather warmed. We continued to the northwest. The wind was strong in our face as we hugged the shore and struggled forward. We did get to see a bald eagle fly in the opposite direction. We never made it as far northwest as we wanted, turning around prior to reaching the industrial sites, permitting us to keep the feeling of unspoiled wilderness. With tired arms we reversed course and were practically blasted back by the wind to our start point. There is something attractive about sitting with tired arms and having the wind drive you back almost without paddling on a picture perfect day with water and woods all around us. Overall it was a fun day with a sunny lunch at the launch. Our group included Lynn Filarecki, Sue Jordon, Paul Breslin, Charlene Shafer, Gretchen Gedroiz, Cathy Karp, Rob Bayly, Charlie Beach, Jim Gold, and Doris Bindl.

**Jun 6 (Thu) PHARAOH MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS--BEAR POND MOUNTAIN AND ROCK POND
Leader: Paul Breslin**

This turned out to be a memorable trip. Weather was iffy so four of my seven cancelled. John Smircich and Jay Flavin toughed it out and it turned out to be a great day for hiking. Weather was overcast but our raincoats remained in our packs for the entire trip. It was a good thing we had insect repellent as mosquitoes were out in full force. No bites for me - just annoying. The highlight depending on your point of view was we jumped a big bear from about 15 feet away while on the trail up Bear Pond Mountain-- how appropriate. He(?) must have been sleeping or something. After I checked my pants :-), I did manage to get my iphone out and get a good picture. We were leery because the bear only ran away a short distance. Maybe he was just being cooperative to let me get a picture. You never know if there are cubs nearby. Anyway we proceeded with caution and had a great memory. We ended up not finding all of the signs of previous mining endeavors at the turn of the 20th century and agreed it would be great to return sometime. I did notice one thing-- we missed the mining stuff because the software program that computed our route (National Geographic's) doesn't do it correctly. It mapped my route, but said it was only 5.75 miles long. I altered the route, skipping a loop around Rock Pond, so we could be back to the trailhead on time. When I added up the segments we actually did, we went 5.8 miles. When I added up what we were supposed to do it added to 6.9 miles--not 5.75 that National Geographics route software said. Just something to watch out for if using the software!!

**Jun 14-Jun 15 WHITEFACE MOUNTAIN UPHILL BIKE RACE
Leader: Don Berens**

No ADKers carpooled with the leader who rode a personal best on a cool sunny morning, yet was humbled by the first finisher who was fast and the last finisher who was 82.

**Jun 15 (Sat) BOTHERATION POND
Leader: John Sheehan**

In spite of the horrible record-breaking rain that we had in June this year, we had a near perfect day for this hike. The age span of the group ranged from 7 to the mid 70s. Experience vs. youth--we had it both covered. The trail is fairly new, only about 5 years old. I somehow missed all the other hikes that the Albany chapter led to the pond, so I wanted to try it myself. I had hiked or skied from the Old Farm Clearing trailhead many times, and every time I passed the turnoff for Botheration Pond and Balm of Gilead I would say to myself, "I'll have to do that someday." Well, someday was June 15th, that magical transition period between black fly and mosquito season in the Adirondacks. We started down the main trail into the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area with a group of 13 including one co-leader. We chose to do

the loop counter clockwise so that we could evaluate our energy reserve and climb Balm of Gilead on the way out if all agreed. When we came to the turn off to approach the pond from that direction we stopped to re-group, and it became abundantly clear that we already needed to renew our bug repellent. As we were applying a variety of products from Deet to botanicals, from the opposite direction came a DEC trail worker who had been out for the past three days clearing the trail. He commented that he could smell our bug dope a quarter of a mile away. Imagine that! I expected an extremely wet trail after all the early June rain, but we were pleasantly surprised and had only sporadic mud puddles. Two beautiful new bridges carried the trail across the major stream crossings. There is no camping area or shelter at the pond so finding a place where thirteen people could sit down to have lunch was a bit tricky. But then that's what gives this area the feeling of remoteness so typical of an Adirondack wilderness area. On the way out, co-leader Lori who had done this hike a few times before, shared her knowledge regarding where those little side trails went--mostly to old garnet mining operations. The highlight of the trip however, was the three piles of bear scat along the trail on the way out. The first was small and generated some discussion as to what it was. The second and third however left no question in our minds. As we came to the turn-off for the Balm of Gilead, the entire group agreed that they would like to climb the mountain to get some views. One hiker opted to wait at the intersection with her 7 year old daughter so as not push her luck. The youngest member of our group did a great job through the whole hike with the exception of a little tummy ache along the way. With two leaders and all the first aid training we have, only a mom can fix a 7 year old's tummy ache. Her older brother, an Eagle Scout candidate, pretty much led the way to the top of the mountain. Joining me on this great adventure were Mark Kaercher, Maria Garcia and her sister visiting from Puerto Rico, Usma Qureshi, Lori McCarron, Deborah Green, Joe Doyle, Annelise Lawson, Claire Fisher, Lisa Biega and family, and Anne Rokeach.

Jun 19 (Wed) HUDSON RIVER PADDLE -TIVOLI BAYS
Leader: Bill Valentino

At the put in the greatest risk of this trip was competing with the railroad for space, maneuvering around railroad ties, and repositioning our cars so as not to be threatened by the high speed Amtrak. As we initially exited our cars we could hear a strong noise, which I mistakenly thought was an oncoming train. It turned out that the noise was cicadas at maximum volume, which became obvious as the cicadas started turning up on our shoulders and the backs of our PFDs. As someone in our group said, it sounded like everyone in town had turned their weed-wacker on at the same time. We caught another beautiful day, crisp and clear with a north wind--a wind stronger than I anticipated or was forecast. A number of us took our pack canoes rather than kayaks since the tidal wetland portion of the trip was more of a canoe trip. Initially, however, the strong following seas as we headed south on the Hudson made some of us wish we had taken our kayaks. We followed the edge of the marsh and the railroad tracks past Magdalen Island on the east and on to Cruger Island. Cruger Island is a beautiful island which is off limits to visitors until the fall because of nesting eagles. We saw the largest eagle I have ever seen in this state, sitting in regal majesty, observing us as we passed below, untroubled by our presence. We reversed course halfway around Cruger Island, concerned that the strong winds would push us too far south to comfortably return. We stopped at Magdalen Island for a leisurely lunch. Following lunch we headed into the North Bay. Planning the tides on the Hudson is usually a straightforward operation. We usually prefer to start against the tide and at the halfway point turn around and return with it. However, at Tivoli you don't want to go into the marsh when the tide is descending or you are liable to run aground and get stuck--and that means getting stuck for six hours until the tide goes up. Conversely you don't want to cross under the railroad bridge as the tide is coming up because if the tide is too high you may not be able to fit back under the bridge. Then you face the unsavory prospect of having to cross the railroad tracks with a boat in tow at a segment where the trains are moving at about 80 mph. We entered Tivoli North Bay, a cattail marsh cut by a network of winding tidal creeks and pools which is part of the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve. It's managed as a field laboratory for research. Straying off the main channels can be disorienting, but fortunately Tim with his GPS led us through a tour of the very involved tidal marsh labyrinth. We easily fit back under the railroad bridge and paddled back to our launch against the wind. In total we paddled just short of 7 miles. The entire crew ended the outing with an ice cream stop at Stewarts. Our group included Lynn Filarecki, Katie Henrikson, Ray Henrikson, Claire Pospisll, Steve Cornell, Mark Petrone, Bill Neuman, Ed Brown, Joanna Ezinga, and Tim Lawson.

Jun 21 (Fri) A.T. SOUTH TACONICS
Leaders: Karen Ross and Lori McCarron

Someone finally turned off the rain spigot, and we were gifted with a beautiful summer Solstice day. We were right on target for peak bloom for the glorious white and pink mountain laurel, which lies in

abundance along this trail and throughout the South Taconics. Spotting cars for this big group at Race Brook Falls trailhead was easy, and we headed up the steep approach from Jug End Rd. to gain the ridge elevation. From here it was one gorgeous overlook after another looking out across the Berkshire hills while crossing over Mt. Bushnell, Mt. Undine, and then Mt. Everett, the highest peak in the S. Taconics. There were a rock ledge, a shelter, an overlook bench, a pond and a waterfall to look forward to after just about each mile of this delectable 8.5 mile hike. A lunch and swim at lovely Guilder Pond took off a layer of sweat, and this was followed by a major birthday celebration for Lori, complete with a summit-frosted chocolate cake and candles. We dawdled and lingered into the late afternoon at the majestic Race Brook Falls before heading out to our cars. Tripping lightly through the blossoms with the leaders were John Antonio, Jeff Ross, John and Linda Sheehan, Tom Hart, Claudia Rosenholz, Karen Cedar, Jack Lyons, Frank Dirolf, Dick Irving, Mary MacDonald, and Mark Janey.

Jun 29 (Sat) MOUNT GREYLOCK BY BIKE
Leader: Don Berens

A predicted six-hour dry weather window beckoned Don Berens, Jack Devore, Kevin Donovan, Mark Janey, Bill Leahey, Jeryl Simpson, Jill Standinger and Skip Young. As we left the high school in Williamstown, Greylock's summit was obscured by clouds lingering after the early morning showers, but we had sun and upper 60s in the Green River valley. To warm up, we rode south for ten miles, climbing 610 feet gross and 220 feet net. Then we turned north for the main challenge of the day, almost 2,300 feet net up in the next 9.8 miles. On the steep, open, sunny slopes approaching the Visitor Center, we felt the heat and humidity. But most of the climb was shaded by broadleaf trees, and about half way up we actually descended 90 feet and rode some nearly level road for a mile. We were all fast enough to overtake the slugs on the wet pavement, and some of us picked up a few gastropods on our tires and in our brakes. The grade again steepened as we approached the summit, and we all finished the climb around noon. We decided to descend the way we had come; it has smoother pavement, fewer sharp hairpin turns and gentler maximum grades than the northbound descent. We enjoyed the ride down the mountain (it was less gripping than the steep north side) and back to the high school. The drive home was uneventful and followed by a 3:00 p.m. thunderstorm. Gather ye rosebuds and hill climbs while ye may.

Jul 6 (Sat) GIANT AND ROCKY
Leader: Don Berens

There are strange things done in the summer sun by the ones who climb the peaks.
Adirondack trails have their secret tales that would make you think they're freaks.
Anorthosites have seen strange sights, but the one that is way off the chart
Was the fantastic yarn at the edge of the tarn when we hydrated Thomas Hart.

The Archer called Dan rode in Don Berens' van along with said Tom of the Harts.
In the passenger seat, with his mood still upbeat, from the Bay State, was Michael (named Swartz).
Into Chapel Pond Pass drove the climbers en masse, one a teacher named Letzring (that's Mike).
At the edge of the pavement where Murphy (that's Dave) went, they met for the start of the hike.

Overnight it had been wet, and morning was all set to be cloudy and humid to boot.
Furthermore, it was hot. Was it level? Twas not!
Rising steeply uphill went the route.
So we locked up the van and the hiking began.

Up the Ridge Trail a good pace was set.
Almost right from the start, all - especially Hart - realized we were going to sweat.
Over rocks, over dirt. Tom unbuttoned his shirt as we climbed at a pretty good clip.
When we got up to Giant, he wrung garments still pliant, thus producing an audible drip.

Then before ten by my clock, we stood upon Rocky as clouds became low, not quite rain.
Our moist clothes were kissed by the fog and the mist as we gazed eastward to Lake Champlain.
It was time to return past each puddle and fern, down and up back the way we had come.
We had uphill galore. We perspired from each pore. Water seeped from the hide of each chum.

Past Roaring Brook junction, we paused for some luncheon.

Overhead the sun started to beat.
Mugginess we had lost, but it came at a cost.
Now we sweated because of the heat.

We had come pretty far to get back to the car, yet a sunny beach beckoned beyond.
We got out of our hiking boots into our bathing suits, hoping to swim Chapel Pond.
Then quick as a flash we made splish and made splash as we threw our warm bodies right in.
The water was cool as we played in the pool.
It was quite a delight for our skin.

There were hoots and some hollers, but no ring 'round our collars, as we washed off the sweat and the grime.

Tom took a third dunk just to rinse off the gunk and he ridded himself of the slime.
When he popped up for good, as all lung-breathers should, he said 'neath the brilliant blue sky:
Since I left the car and then walked so far, it's the first time I've been dry."

There are strange things done in the summer sun by the ones who climb the peaks.
Adirondack trails have their secret tales that would make you think they're freaks.
Anorthosites have seen strange sights, but the one that is way off the chart
Was the fantastic yarn at the edge of the tarn when we hydrated Thomas Hart.

Jul 12 (Fri) NOONMARK MOUNTAIN--SWEAT & SWIM SERIES
Leader: John Antonio

Twelve hikers ... two great dogs ... a perfect weather day on a beautiful trail to the summit of an extraordinary mountain. We were all following a "10 point plan" that worked to perfection! (This 10 point lesson plan had a time line, listing the highlights of the day with an estimate of time to complete each item.) It was pointed out by Karen that either this mountain is growing or, how can I say it delicately, could we be getting a little slower? The allotment of time to summit was generous and we just barely beat the deadline of 12:30. We lazed on the summit (even napped!) and soaked in the sun and, yes Claudia R., we spent at LEAST 45 minutes at the top! To complete the day, we took our dip in Chapel Pond and many of us headed to the Noonmark Diner for treats. Never getting enough of Noonmark were Dan Archer, Mark Schoonmaker, Alan and Barbara Via and Bookah, Anneliese Lawson, Karen and Jeff Ross and Louie, Pamela Malo, Bill McLaughlin, Doug Rosenberry, and Frank Dirolf.

Jul 16 (Tue) PADDLE KUNJAMUK RIVER
Leader: Bill Valentino

It was a very warm day--94 degrees in Albany--but somewhat pleasant on the water with a high temperature of 83 degrees in Speculator and a 7k north wind which definitely kept the humidity down. Paddling the Kunjamuk has always been an interesting experience with it's multiple twists and turns. This trip was more of a challenge than usual. For the first time in my last five trips there we paddled north against a significant current. We met an old timer at lunch who was cooling off his dog in the water, who said he had been coming here since he was a boy and over the last two weeks he has observed more current than any time in his life. He also said that the water was so high a week earlier that there was less than a seven inch clearance under the second bridge. The leader had had ear surgery a week earlier and kind of embellished the truth by assuring his doctor, who definitely didn't want his ear exposed to a river, that there was virtually no chance at all it would get wet. At the start we almost immediately ran into beaver dams. The leader was not about to get out of the boat and risk dousing his repaired ear. Fortunately Curt and Dave manned the fort and positioned themselves on each side of the dam to pull us across. We planned on taking a break at the first road and walking to the cave. However, repairs probably from last years storms resulted in major repairs to the bridge with large boulders on the shore convincing us to alter our initial plans. We ate lunch at the second bridge, followed by a fairly easy paddle back with current and wind on our side. Later, we all retired to the ice cream stand in Speculator. Our group was composed of Katie Henrikson, Ray Henrikson, Dave Esmond, Mark Pettrone, John Sheehan Linda Sheehan, Ed Brown, Curt Stiles, and Tom Curley.

Jul 19-Jul 21 WOMEN'S BACKPACKING TRIP
Leader: Marie Rosenblatt

And then there were three... Injuries and better offers (if you can believe someone choosing hiking the Alps in Europe over circling the Seward's!) reduced our numbers, but not our spirits. On what is now dubbed

"The 1st Annual Women's Backpacking Trip" Sue, Lindsay and I had the place almost to our selves. We were able to let our hair down and enjoy the Cold River and its lean-tos for three wonderful days. The rain held, it was hot when we wanted to swim, the mosquitoes cooperated (well, as much as one could hope), and our nightly card games were lively. Then, as we came off the trail at the end of day three, what did we find but a little cooler filled with icy-cold Iced Tea left by one of the hikers on Mike Becker's Seward's trip who knew we were coming out that day. What a treat! Thank you Mr. Hart--you will get our votes to continue being the vice-chair next year! Ladies, mark your calendars, the plans are already underway for next year's "2nd Annual."

Jul 21 (Sun) DONALDSON, EMMONS & SEWARD
Leader: Mike Becker

This hike was changed to Sunday from Saturday to accommodate a better weather forecast. Fortunately everyone who signed up was available on Sunday. We were pleased to have a break in the relentless hot weather. We made good time to the Calkins Brook herd path, and the crossing of the brook was easy. The path is really pretty through a nice forest and is relatively mud-free and not too steep. We reached the summit ridge and decided to head left to Seward first. Our group of ten rested and enjoyed the views from the small summit. We backtracked to Donaldson and had lunch on a scenic ledge just below the summit. Then we made the two-mile (and two-hour) round trip to Emmons and back to Donaldson. We retraced our steps via Calkins, and I believe this is a better way to descend, rather than the steep, wet Ward Brook path on the north side of Seward. Tom B's boot began coming apart early on the hike and despite duct tape and string, the entire sole eventually came off! Fortunately Tom was able to hike the last six or so miles without too much difficulty! Participants included Amy Becker, Denise Mongillo, Joanne Conley, Tom Hart, Jacques Roeth, Maureen Roeth, John Sawyer, Tom Bronchetti, and Aaron Evans.

Jul 24 (Wed) INNISFREE GARDEN
Leader: Virginia Boyle Traver

Although I had billed this as a place to go when it was too hot to hike, we ended up having a rare break from the previous week's heat wave and the coolest day in weeks. A meditative place, Innisfree inspired us to seek out moments to ourselves and times shared with one another as we enjoyed the different garden formations. At one time a group of six was checking out a rock, brick, and water design, while two others spent a long moment soaking up the breeze and watching turtles in the lily pads from a bridge over the pond, and at the same time, another from our group sat on a woodsy bench relaxing with the view to the water and the aroma of a forested area. Each of us found favorite spots together or alone, and then gathered at the picnic area above the pond for lunch and conversation. Enjoying a great day "away from it all" were Charlie and Thaisa Beach, J Flavin, Gretchen Gedroiz, Blanche Negron, Anne Rokeach, Lorraine Smith, Claudia Summers, Jim Torriani, and Linda Zoller.

Jul 26 (Fri) JAY RANGE
Leader: John Antonio

This is listed in some publications as possibly the best hike in the Adirondacks. Looking back at the time we had, I am sure there were many in our party who would agree with that claim. To start out, it was that kind of day, with beautiful weather. Further, this was a rare trip on Jay where ALL took the real trail, BOTH ways. We took the newish (2010) trail. This is a beautiful path with soft underfooting in many stretches that leads you to the summit of West Jay with less of an ascent than the old bushwhack had. Upon reaching the bump of West Jay, you can see the other three summits spread out before you on a spectacular serpentine ridge that is so much fun to walk along. It was on the third of these "bumps" that, not only was lunch served, but we were treated to ice cream by a group of seven from Michigan who had hauled a half gallon of Stewart's Butter Pecan to this picturesque location. Seven of our group of eleven pushed on and bagged the eastern most (fourth) and final summit and came back with reports of even better views of Lake Champlain and the mountains of Vermont. On the way back, we did stop to pick the promised blueberries and some of us did find a great "swimming hole" up the road from the trailhead. Jumping for joy on Jay were Jim Coward, Dan Archer, Lori McCarron, Karen Ross and Louie, Kendra and David Pratt, Tom Hart and Molly, Mark Schoonmaker, Sandra Foley, Maria Garcia, and the leader.

Jul 30 (Tue) PADDLE HISTORIC LAKE GEORGE ISLANDS
Leader: Bill Valentino

Our large group descended upon and completely filled all the parking spaces on Huddle Bay Road. We launched to clear skies and a faint wind. Paddling to the western end of Clay Island we were unable to

see the old luggage barge that sank generations ago in 35 feet of water. We then paddled in turn to Three Brothers Island, Recluse Island, counterclockwise around Green Island and back to Huddle Bay, joining up to discuss each island's history. We ended the paddle back on Huddle Bay Beach after paddling six miles and then enjoyed lunch together. Our group included Steve Cornell, Sue Jordan, Christiane Mulvhill, Alison Saville, Carol Swota, Mark Pettrone, John Lane, Mary Flanders, Bill Klaus, Marilyn Pusatere, Joe and Mary Poisinelli, Susan Nowik, Tom Vervurg, Ron Wygant and CoLeader Dave Esmond.

Aug 3 (Sat)

ALLEN MTN.

Leader: Mike Becker

We had an awesome day for this hike. The crossing of the Hudson is still unbridged. Fortunately the water was low enough for an easy crossing, done by some with water shoes and others by removing hiking shoes and wading barefoot. The bridge crossing of Lake Jimmy appears to be permanently out, so we used the new trail around the lake and over the outlet. We crossed the also-unbridged Opalescent the same way as the Hudson. Parts of the marked trail were very overgrown, appearing like a herd path. We enjoyed ripe raspberries and blueberries for much of the way. The herd path from the old Twin Brooks Lean-to location to Allen Brook was easy to follow but extremely muddy. We enjoyed a rest at the waterfall at the base of Allen Brook, where the real climbing begins. We carefully made our way up the steep path, over many slippery rocks, and enjoyed the beautiful woods with many shades of green. We took a well-earned rest on the summit and enjoyed the great view of Panther Gorge just north of the summit. Almost everyone took at least one minor spill on the way down. Just as we got back to the Mt. Adams trail, the skies opened up and we got drenched! Fortunately we were almost done, and the sight of the parking lot was most welcome as dusk approached. Participants included Amy Becker, Jacques Roeth, Maureen Roeth, Tom Bronchetti, Mike Letzring, David Herman, Holly Woodworth, and Stephen Strasser.

Aug 8 (Thu)

BUSHNELL FALLS

Leader: John Antonio

We thought the streak of beautiful weather was over. The forecasters had us believing that a day of rain was finally here, but our group was determined and ready to walk--even in the rain. You know the saying, "The mountains make their own weather." We were treated to a mostly sunny, absolutely gorgeous outing. As mentioned in the Cloudsplitter, we were really wondering if there is a Bushnell Falls, never having met anyone who had actually been there. It seems that many of us have blown by the path to the falls on our way to High Peaks adventures without ever seriously trying to locate it. Today our mission, which we chose to accept, was to not only find the falls, but to plunge our bodies into the pools that were said to be at their base. The "vague" path (we discovered has an actual sign) is 1.5 miles past JBL, and it is 250 yards down to the water. We had two 'plungees' and we were informed that the water was mighty frigid. So the rest of our party was content to soak our feet and have lunch. After eating, we were back at JBL where we lounged around for another 20 minutes in the Adirondack chairs on the porch with the magnificent sight of the Wolf Jaws before us. We were thinking of possibly locating the Tenderfoot Pools but were content with the day so we pushed on to our cars at the Garden, approximately seven hours from the start of our journey. Our group consisted of Karen Ross and Louie, Anneliese Lawson, Mark Schoonmaker, John Sheehan, Alex Olchowski and Cal, and the leader.

Aug 14 (Wed)

LILY POND, ROUND POND, DUCK POND AND BUTTERMILK POND

Leader: Paul Breslin

This trip to the four ponds just south of Brandt Lake went pretty much the way the trails were described in the guidebooks. The only hitch was when I used the National Graphics program to mark my route it miscalculated the length by over a mile. I realized this by adding up the individual lengths myself the day before the hike. So instead of the 7.5 miles that I listed, it was a little over nine miles. The guidebooks suggest you go counter clockwise from Grassville Road doing Lily, Round, Duck and then Buttermilk and back. Since it was predicted that the trail from Round and Duck would be VERY wet to the trail junction to Buttermilk (beaver activity no doubt), we elected to go the other way leaving the wet part for on the way back. The trail from the intersection to Buttermilk Pond to Duck and Round was extremely wet and poorly marked. We lost the trail in the wet area. Our guess is most people take the North route directly from Lily to Buttermilk and the South route directly to Round and Duck with very few people continuing to Buttermilk on that route. Fishing is the main use for these pond trails. These ponds looked secluded and great for fishing. Round Pond in particular had a very nice marked camping spot. Trails were wide enough to carry a lightweight canoe. This was actually why I was scoping out this area. One thing we did was

stay off the marked snowmobile trail just before Round Pond as it was very swampy. Instead we went up a small trail to Duck Pond which came out right by the beaver dam that makes this pond. After viewing Duck Pond we crossed just below the beaver dam where it was surprisingly dry. From there we met up with the trail intended to take you to Duck Pond from Round Pond thus avoiding the swampy area. The day was mostly cloudy but with no rain and was a bit chillier than usual for August. Hikers were Brad Mohr, Sam Kawola, Bill Shapiro, Mark Schoonmaker, Ania Gaguine, Charlie Beach and the leader.

Aug 14 (Wed)

HENNIG PRESERVE

Leader: Virginia Boyle

TraverIn about 6.5 miles, we hiked almost every trail at the new Hennig Preserve in Providence, just west of Saratoga Springs. We saw house foundations from the 1850s, a well, stone walls, and stone structures from two mid-19th century mills, as well as various woodland ecosystems, a beautiful marsh, meandering creek, and a rare glacial esker. Pointing these fascinating sights out to us and describing their significance was Peter Fedorick, a designer and creator of trails for Saratoga P.L.A.N. (Saratoga Preserving Land and Nature). What a treat to have Peter's expertise and jovial company on this fascinating journey through history and nature! Enjoying a beautiful day in the woods were Candy and James Dolen, J. Flavin, Donna Farber, Peter Fedorick, Marilyn Huber, Karen Lydon, Lorraine Smith, Jim Torriani, Linda Zoller, and the leader.

CONSERVATION NOTES

ADK supports these two proposed constitutional amendments to Article 14 of the State Constitution. As a voter, you will have a chance to decide on election day.

NYCO LAND EXCHANGE: NYCO's mine is approaching the end of its pit life because the wollastonite vein extends onto adjacent Forest Preserve land. The closure of the Lewis mine would have devastating effects on the local economy. Ninety-five full time jobs and significant tax revenue would be lost in one of the more economically depressed area of the State. The wollastonite deposit on NYCO's land has become more expensive to mine because interburden layers of other minerals have become more prevalent and increasing amounts of overburden must be removed to access the wollastonite. In contrast, the wollastonite mine extending under Lot 8 appears to be relatively close to the surface with relatively small amounts of interburden. The expected life of the current mine is three years. It is estimated that mining Lot 8 could extend the mine life by between thirteen to fifteen years. NYCO would be allowed to do exploratory drilling to determine the quantity and quality of the wollastonite vein on Lot 8, which is currently in the Forest Preserve. Lot 8 totals approximately 200 acres. NYCO would share the data and information derived from the exploratory drilling with the Department of Environmental Conservation ("Department"). The Department would then appraise the value of Lot 8. The State would then convey Lot 8 to NYCO and in exchange therefore NYCO would then convey to the Department for inclusion in the Forest Preserve at least the same number of acres as is contained in Lot 8, provided that the legislature would be required to determine that the lands to be received by the state would be equal to or greater than the value of Lot 8, and provided that in no event would the value of the land to be conveyed to the State be less than one million dollars. The Department's appraisal of Lot 8 and the one million dollar floor value will ensure that the exchange parcel coming into the Forest Preserve will total significantly more than 200 acres. At the end of NYCO's mining operation on Lot 8, NYCO would be required to convey Lot 8 back to the State for inclusion in the Forest Preserve. RECENTLY (As of Mid – August) NYCO has acquired 1,500 acres of land for trade. The new state lands would include six parcels adjacent to the Jay Mountain Wilderness Area. NYCO has mined up to the boundary of the state land, where a large outcrop of wollastonite can be seen. Depending on its value, as much as 2,000 acres could be added to the forest preserve. In addition, NYCO will probably only need to disturb about 50 areas instead of 200.

TOWNSHIP 40: SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION: The goal of this legislation is to resolve, in an equitable manner, a 100 year dispute between the State of New York and private parties involving legal title to more than 200 parcels of land in Township Forty. Litigation over this matter has resulted in a mix of court decisions, with some favorable to the State and some favorable to the occupants. This legislation lists the parcels which are in dispute and provides that the State will relinquish its claim to those parcels once the Town of Long Lake (Town) applies all payments received from those claiming title to contested parcels towards the acquisition of land by the State for inclusion in the Forest Preserve that provides a net benefit

to the Forest Preserve when compared to the disputed parcels. This conveyance will be subject to legislative approval. The "replacement lane" requirement will ensure that the overall integrity of the Forest Preserve is not diminished and in fact would be enhanced. Currently, the public has no opportunity to recreate on the contested parcels because they are currently occupied by the private camps, primary residences and private businesses. The legislation enables occupants to opt out of the settlement. However, since the goal of the legislation is to resolve each and every title dispute in Township 40, the legislation directs the Office of the Attorney General to commence litigation to determine the title to any "opted out" parcel within two years. The legislation also allows an occupant to reduce his or her payment to the Town if they either convey a portion of the disputed parcel in fee to the State or convey a conservation easement over all or a part of the disputed parcel to the Town, with a secondary right of enforcement in the State. This provision, coupled with existing Adirondack Park Agency jurisdiction over private lands in the Adirondack Park, should keep development along the shoreline of Raquette Lake within reasonable limits.

NEXT CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

WHEN: Sat., November 2, 2013 **TIME:** 10:00 a.m. **WHERE:** Discovery Center, Albany Pine Bush (195 New Karner Road) If you have questions or want to know more about conservation issues, please contact David Pisaneschi at: dpisanes@nycap.rr.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>

ALBANY CHAPTER - OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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