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April-May 2010

The Lookout

The newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Chapter Treasurer opening

Our current Treasurer, Giselle Sum Bush, needs to step aside for family and business considerations. The Board is seeking a suitable candidate to fill out her term. Anyone comfortable with numbers and spreadsheets is qualified. Please call Stan Stoklosa at 383-3066 for further details.

Three youth awarded camp scholarships

The Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club is pleased to announce its sponsorships for the DEC youth summer camp programs. We had six fine applicants.

This year we will be sending Mitchell Monini of Schenectady, Rachel Augustine of Clifton Park and Ben Wagner of Scotia to participate in a fun-filled educational week of environmental activities at Pack Forest. Our chapter will pay the weekly camp fee which is currently \$325 per candidate.

We want to thank all who took the time and cared enough to apply...and to congratulate this year's recipients. To those attending, we look forward to hearing about their experiences at the end of the summer.

Printing/mailing chair resigns

Printing/Mailing chair April Van Heusen has announced her resignation. The position will be assumed by chapter members Eric and Erika Scott. Many thanks to April for her years of service to the chapter.

Inning to address invasives

Hilary Smith, director of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy will present "Invasive Species of Adirondack Lands and Waters" at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11. She'll discuss "which species are here, which ones are on their way, and what can we do to stop their spread?"

If you need a way to participate in controlling the effects of climate change and the global economy, but you aren't a former vice president with movie credits and a Nobel prize, this talk will give you the tools you need to get started.

The program will be held in Room C-D at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public

"Invasive species of Adirondack Lands and Waters"

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 11

Where: Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park

Cost: Free

Library. It is free and open to the public.

Please contact Paul Weinstein at (518) 459-2461 or (518) 522-4431, or by e-mail to pweinstein@nycap.rr.com to reserve seats.

EMS receives award for trail work

The Niskayuna Eastern Mountain Sports store has received the Corporate Partnership award from Parks & Trails NY for its multiple years of financial and employee support of the clean up and beautification of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail in the City of Schenectady. EMS has been a continuing participant in Trails Day activities supported by the Schenectady chapter of ADK, providing not only manual labor but also fundraising in the store beforehand to support the effort.

In addition, since 2007, EMS has celebrated the company's anniversary by allowing employees to volunteer their time on trail projects. The Niskayuna EMS store has devoted this day to helping along the bike-hike trail, clearing brush and making other improvements.

In 2009, the workers helped clear brush covering a bridge abutment at his-



The crew — EMS staffers and ADK members — after clearing a bridge abutment near Old Lock 23 in Rotterdam.

toric Lock 23 in Rotterdam, exposing beautiful limestone blocks that had been covered by trees and vines.

Many thanks to the Niskayuna EMS store and staff members for their continuing support!

Innings and Outings

How do I sign up for a hike?

For further details or to sign up for a hike, call the trip leader. Try to call at least two days in advance, as leaders may cancel on the day before an outing if there is insufficient interest. Leaders reserve the right to refuse participants for any reason, including lack of experience and/or lack of physical fitness. All equipment and supplies are the sole responsibility of the trip participants.

What do I need to bring?

The trip leader will let you know if any special equipment (crampons, snowshoes, etc.) will be needed. In general, you should always carry food, water, rain gear, map, compass, headlamp, first aid kit and extra clothing, including hat and gloves in case temperatures drop. Clothing for wet or cold weather should not be made of cotton — use a synthetic fleece or wool. If in doubt, ask the leader.

What if I don't have snowshoes/crampons?

The chapter has hi-tech snowshoes and one pair of universal fit crampons available for rental at \$5/trip. Contact Stan Stoklosa at 383-3066 to arrange for pick up from his convenient location in Clifton Park. Gear is also available to rent at local retailers..

Should I reimburse drivers for gas?

Yes! Each rider should pay their driver four to five cents per mile, depending on the current cost of gasoline. With gas at \$2 per gallon, four cents per mile should be used and at \$2.50 per gallon, five cents should be used (\$3/gallon – six cents, etc).

The kind of hikes I'd like to do aren't listed here — what can I do?

Trip leaders may be willing to plan trips based on member suggestions. If there's a specific trip you'd like to do, contact Herb Terns at 372-8478 and let him know.

Wilderness First Aid Course

The Schenectady Chapter Board agreed to provide partial (\$150) tuition refund for outings leaders who take Wilderness First Aid courses. The program is modeled after the 46ers current program so people who are both 46ers and Schenectady trip leaders can get a total of \$200 reimbursement. Call Larry Woods (271-0270) or Herb Terns (372-8478) for further information.

HIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

<u>Distance</u>	<u>Leader's Pace</u>	<u>Terrain</u>	<u>Examples</u>
A+ 13 Miles or More	1. Fast	A Very Difficult	A+1A Most Difficult Trip
A 8-12 Miles	2. Moderate	B Strenuous	B2C Moderate Trip
B 5-8 Miles	3. Slow	C Average	C3D Easy Trip
C Under 5 Miles		D Easy	

Sun 4 Apr Ski Trip – Camp Santanoni Class A2C Roy Keats, 370-0399

This ski tour follows a road into Camp Santanoni. There is a gradual uphill from the parking lot to a high point of land after which there is a nice downhill to the camp. The camp is an historic great camp with a lot of interesting buildings. The trip length is about 10 miles round trip. This is generally one of the last skiable areas in the Adirondacks.

Sat 17 Apr Falls on Indian Lake and Stewart Lake outlets, Class B2B Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

Last fall, while bushwhacking in the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest north of Caroga Lake, we came across a nice set of cascades on the outlet stream from Indian Lake and remarked that they might be spectacular during the spring runoff. On this bushwhack, we'll check this out and also explore the adjacent valley of the Stewart Lake outlet stream, which might also have some falls based on a look at the topo map. We'll return by climbing over the two

Innings and Outings, cont.

knobs on a small mountain called Camelhump, looking (perhaps in vain) for views. About 5 miles, with 750 ft ascent.

Sun 18 Apr
Schenectady Urban Trek, Class C+
Herb Terns, 372-8478 or
Trailhed@verizon.net

This will be an "urban hike" through the city of Schenectady. We'll start in Central Park and make our way through the GE Plot, Union College and the historic Stockade section of Schenectady. We'll also swing by the Schenectady Greenmarket (where participants can shop) and have some lunch downtown. Round trip is 7 miles but we'll spot a car roughly halfway for anyone who just wants to do the first half.

Thu 22 Apr
Windham Mountain, Class B2C
Jay Summerson, 673-2664

A nearby Catskill 3500 peak with a view will limber hiking muscles for the upcoming season. Ascent from Rt 23. Snowshoes or crampons may be necessary in the higher elevations. Call leader for time and meeting place.

Sat 24 Apr
Foxlair Estate Explore, Class C3D
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Walk the site of the former estate of Richard Hudnut, where Rudolph Valentino honeymooned after marrying the daughter of Hudnut's second wife. The buildings were burned in the 1960s after the property became part of the Forest Preserve but foundations, roadways, bridges and swimming hole remain. The property also contains foundations of the Oregon Tannery built in 1877 and destroyed by fire in 1892. The site is located along the East Branch of the Sacandaga River near Bakers Mills and Eleventh Mountain.

Sat 1 May
Porter Mountain trail maintenance
Stan Stoklosa, 383-3066

The chapter trail maintenance on Porter Mountain is tentatively scheduled, subject to trail conditions.

Sat 1 May
The Brothers Mountains of Brant Lake
Class B+
Herb Terns, 372-8478 or
trailhed@verizon.net

These are the three peaks at the northern end of Brant Lake and all hiking will be off trail. We'll spot a car on Rt. 8 and cross these three peaks which should all offer views. Total mileage will be roughly 6 miles with 2000 feet of climbing.

Sat 1 May
Harvey Mountain, Class C2C
Rich Vertigan, 381-9319

Harvey Mountain is on the NY/MA line near Austerlitz, off the Taconic state Parkway, and is one of the highest points in Columbia County. It's a short climb of less than 2 miles to a nice picnic spot on the summit, where there are views of the Taconics and Catskills. If we haven't had enough, we can add on Beebe Hill, a nearby fire tower summit, also with a fairly short climb.

Thu 6 May
Blackhead and Black Dome, Class B2B
Walt Addicks, 437-0941
waddicks@verizon.net

This will be a loop traverse of these two Catskill 3500 peaks. **CATSKILL 3500** We will start from the Big Hollow Rd trailhead and proceed to Blackhead via the Batavia Kill and Escarpment trails, then progress to Black Dome and back to the trailhead via the Black Dome trail. A side trip to Thomas Cole is possible. Some strenuous hiking with a nice view from Black Dome. Meet 8 am Delmar Park and Ride.

Fri 7 May
Hike or bike in Northern Columbia
County
Susan Roberts, 766-4170

Look for spring wildflowers in a local nature preserve or bike a loop, return to leader's house to eat your lunch and see the baby goats. Length: 25 miles if biking.

Sun 9 May
Hadley Mountain, Class C3C
Ruth Schottman, 399-5728

This annual outing is this year a joint trip with Glens Falls-Saratoga ADK Chapter. **FIRETOWER CHALLENGE** Hadley Mountain is steep but the pace will be slow. A great little mountain for views with the search for spring wildflowers on the ascent. Eat lunch at the top and descend according to individual preferences. Rain will cancel. The climb is 1525 feet in a one-way distance of 1.8 miles. Co-lead with Jack Whitney.

Tues 11 May
Peaked Mountain Pond and Trail,
Class B2B
Mary MacDonald, 371-1293 or
mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com

This gradual climb 7.2 miles through woods and along stream brings hikers to the pond below the summit. The last section is rather steep and short. Hikers then emerge at the

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Innings and Outings, cont.

(Continued from page 3)

summit with wonderful views and a great spot for lunch. We hike from Thirteenth Lake near North River.

Sat 15 May

Southerland Mountain, Class B2B

Norm Kuchar, 399-6243

nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

Southerland Mountain lies west of the Sacandaga River near Wells. Although trailless, it has some open ledges with good views to Cathead Mountain and across the Silver Lake Wilderness. We'll bushwhack a route from the north, as described by Bill Ingersoll in a recent issue of Adirondack Sports and Fitness. This route goes up the narrow valley of Vly Creek, past a cascade and the open vly, before climbing to the south end of Southerland Mountain with its open ledges. On the return, we may traverse north along the summit ridge looking for other views, before descending back to Vly Creek. Distance is about 7 miles, with 1200 ft ascent.

Thu 20 May

Ashokan High Peak, Class A2B

Jay Summerson, 673-2664

This peak at only 3088 feet doesn't qualify as a Catskill 3500 peak but stands alone south of the Ashokan Reservoir and reputedly commands a grand view of other Catskill peaks. Call leader for time and meeting place.

Sat 22 May

Canoe/Kayak Trip – Middle Saranac Lake to Second Pond, Class A2C

Roy Keats, 370-0399

This trip starts at the car-top boat launch on Middle Saranac Lake. We will leave cars at the Boat Launch just before the Rt. 3 bridge over the Saranac River (Second Pond) for our take out. We will paddle the South Creek inlet to Middle Saranac, and if the winds are not too high, we will explore Hungry Bay and Weller Pond on the far side of Middle Saranac. From there we will head over to Lower Saranac Lake by paddling past the big islands on Middle Saranac and then into the Saranac River. With a little luck, we might be able to operate the lock separating the Middle and Lower Saranac Lakes by hand. This is always an interesting operation. If time and weather conditions allow, we may explore another bay or some islands on Lower Saranac Lake before heading down the Saranac River to Second Pond and our take out. The trip length, depending on what we decide to explore, will be on the order of 10 to 12 miles. If the weather is extremely windy, we will move the trip to a more sheltered location or a smaller lake.

Saturday, May 22

**Northville-Placid Trail Steward Trip
Class B3D**

Rich Vertigan, 381-9319

Join us for our semiannual cleanup patrol on the Northville-Placid Trail, between Lake Durant and Stephens

TRAIL MAINTENANCE Pond. Sidecutting, drainage clearing, light blowdown removal. Easy introduction to trail maintenance, and with

the opening of the new NPT section to Wakely Dam, our responsibility has been shortened to only 2.5 miles of trail! This is now an out-and-back trip of about 6 miles. Limited to 6 participants.

Sat 22 May

Bald Mountain, Class B2C

Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Located in the Clarksburg State Forest, Town of Clarksburg, Berkshire County, Massachusetts. We will access the 2200 foot summit via the Appalachian Trail from North Adams and a series of old woods roads. There may be limited bushwhacking in open woods. There is no public road access to this State Forest and no public access of any kind from the Town of Clarksburg. The ascent will be about 1500 feet and round trip distance of about six miles.

Sat 29 May

**Deer Brook Gorge & Snow Mountain
Class C3C**

Ken & Nilde Marcinowski

885-9400 or Nildekens@msn.com

This is such a pretty hike, we can't help but do it every year on our way to Lake Placid. We will start our hike through the wild and picturesque gorge along Deer Brook and then continue on the Deer Brook Trail to Snow Mountain, with a short excursion to Deer Brook Falls along the way. Great views of Giant, Dix, The Wolfjaws and more. Three and a half miles R.T. with 1280' elevation change. Depending upon group interest, we may also continue on to Rooster Comb, which would add about two miles R.T. to the hike. Please call or e-mail by Thursday evening prior to the hike. There may be an opportunity for car pooling, but participants will be responsible for the return home from the hike. Rain will cancel.

Sat + Sun, 29 and 30 May

**The Devil's Path "slack" Pack, Class A+
Herb Terns 372-8478 or**

trailhed@verizon.net

The Devil's Path is a 25-mile route through the northern Catskills that crosses five peaks over 3500 feet. This will be an overnight hike but not a backpack; we'll spot our camping

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Whitewater events

Do you want to learn how to paddle whitewater? Call Chuck Wilkison (793-8041) for canoe or Horst deLorenzi (399-4615) for kayak. We can help you get started.

Date	Day	Trip Location	Class	Leader	Phone
4-2	Fri	Kinderhook	2	Bob Wright	279-1428
4-3	Sat	Leader's choice	2/3	Chuck Wilkison	793-8041
4-4	Sun	Leader's choice	1/2	Mal Provost	399-4615
4-10	Sat	Leader's choice	2/3	Anthony Lamano	275-6005
4-11	Sun	Hoosic River	1/2	Larry Woods	271-0270
4-17	Sat	East Canada Creek or leader's choice	2/3	Charlie Beach	459-9127
4-18	Sun	Sacandaga River	2	Dave Avigdor	654-6609
4-24	Sat	E. Branch Sacandaga	3	Horst deLorenzi	399-4615
4-25	Sun	Battenkill	1/2	Larry Woods	271-0270
5-1	Sat	Hudson — North Creek to the Glen	3	Dave Avigdor	654-6609
5-2	Sun	Hudson — North Creek to Riparius	2/3	Larry Woods	271-0270
5-8	Sat	Schroon River	3	Norm Labbe	877-0076
5-9	Sun	Hudson River — North River to North Creek in the morning. We will have a picnic lunch then set up shuttle for the afternoon section from Glen to Snake Rock.	3	Chuck Wilkison	793-8041
5-15	Sat	Sacandaga West Branch	3	Charlie Beach	459-9127
5-16	Sun	Schroon River	3	Judy Halstead	583-2504
5-22	Sat	Deerfield River: Fife Brook section. Class 2 except for option Class 3 Zoar Gap	2/3	Jim Palmer	399-9090
5-23	Sun	Hudson River — Riparius to the Glen	3	Mal Provost	399-1565
5-29	Sat	Schroon River	3	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
5-30	Sun	Sacandaga at Hadley	2	Ralph Pascale	235-1614
5-31	Mon	Hudson River — Riparius to the Glen	3	Judy Halstead	583-2504
6-5	Sat	Leader's choice	3	Anthony Lamano	275-6005

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gear at a campground and hike with just a daypack. Day 1 we'll start in Platte Clove and climb Indian Head, **CATSKILL** Twin, Sugarloaf and Plateau Mountains. It will be a roughly 13-mile day with about 5,000 feet of gain. We'll sleep Saturday night at Devil's Tombstone campground. Day 2 will be a roughly 12-mile day with around 4,000 feet of gain. **3500**

Sun 20 June

Sleeping Beauty sunset hike, Class B Herb Terns, 372-8478 or trailhed@verizon.net

Kick off summer a day early! We'll carpool up to Glens Falls to Davidson Brothers Restaurant and Brew Pub where we'll have a quick dinner. Anyone wanting to skip dinner can join us in Glens Falls afterward. Then we'll head up Sleeping Beauty to watch the sunset over Lake George, then hike back down by headlamp (headlamp required). Round trip is 3.5 miles with 1150 feet of gain. It's Father's Day so bring your dad!

Trip tales and paddling parables

Botheration Pond Ski — 1/23/2010

The day had a crystal clear blue sky with calm winds, and a temperature starting out around 15F. We did a clockwise loop starting at the parking area at the end of the plowed section of Old Farm Clearing Road. The road was thoroughly packed by snowshoers. However, once we turned left at the trail register to start towards the Botheration Pond Trail, only skis had packed a track through nice powder snow. There were a few ups and downs to where we hooked up with the original William Blake Pond trail. At that point there was a steady, relatively steep climb up to William Blake Pond. Because of the rocks showing in few key places, we were glad to be going up this instead of down. Once we reached William Blake Pond the scene was spectacular. There was hoar frost on all of the tree branches and even on small weeds poking out of the snow on the pond. With the sun on everything it was glorious. We skied across the pond, rejoined the trail, and continued on to the next small pond. After a nice downhill we reached the turnoff to Botheration Pond. There were a couple of fairly steep downhills before reaching Botheration Pond itself. We had a good view of Gore Mountain from the pond. At the far end, there was an ornate bridge spanning the outlet stream. After this bridge there was only one difficult downhill. After this downhill we crossed another ornate bridge spanning the East Branch of the Sacandaga. From here, it was a gentle uphill to the height of land before the ski down to Old Farm Clearing, and from there back out to the car. It was a glorious day with some great skiing. Participants were, Chris Grossman, Lois Leonard, Chuck and Inge Pangburn, Rich Vertigan, and the leader (Roy Keats).

Buck Mt. — 1/23/10

Six of us enjoyed an absolutely perfect day with solid sunshine and moderate temperatures on the summit. Traveling to the trail head, it didn't look like we would have much snow; but we were pleasantly surprised with a well packed trail suitable



Photo provided by Ken Marcinowski

The sun shines on hikers on Buck Mountain in January.

for snowshoeing. There was over a foot of snow in the woods which we couldn't resist taking advantage of and did a partial bushwhack on our return to the cars. Participants were: Norm Kuchar, Mary MacDonald, Bernie & Celia Mansbach and leaders Ken & Nilde Marcinowski.

Giant and Rocky Peak Ridge — 1/23/10

As so often happens, we ran into a gaggle of other hikers from the Adirondack Mountain Club at the High Peaks Rest Area on the Northway. It's a popular spot to stop before the High Peaks to take your last civilized bio-break and on put gators in a nice warm building. It seemed like George from our group knew and had hiked with just about everyone there, so it was a good reunion spot, too. As we began hiking, we were a little flummoxed by the warm temperatures. The Ridge Trail up Giant starts climbing straight away so we were getting hot very quickly as the temperature was 30 degrees. We took multiple breaks early on to "delayer." During one break, we watched ice climbers walking across Chapel Pond to the climbing routes on the rugged

shoulder of Round Mountain. On the way down, we'd get birds eye views of them out on the ice. With no recent snow, the trail was broken out and good for snowshoes. We carried crampons with expectations of more ice but with a few exceptions found the snowshoes sufficient. The sky was mostly blue, broken with some clouds, although the forecast was for more clouds and precip later in the day. With the skies still clear, we headed to the summit of Giant. The wind on the summit kept us from staying for too long, but the views of the Great Range were exceptional. We headed back down to the trail junction with RPR for part I of lunch. There was one substantial patch of ice on the way over to Rocky Peak Ridge, but there was a pretty good detour already broken. After the steep climb up Giant, the trail from the col to the summit of RPR always seems pleasant and easy. The summit of Rocky Peak Ridge was a thing of beauty. There are a lot of people who will tell you this is their favorite high peak and it's easy to see why. There are exceptional views of the High Peaks, Champlain Valley and Mt. Mansfield and the Green Mountains of Vermont. Way in the distance to the east, we saw some

Trip tales, cont.

snow-covered peaks in the distance and, between wind gusts, we debated if we were looking at the White Mountains of New Hampshire. We found a nice sunny spot in the col for the second part of lunch. As we started back up Giant again, we got a look over the shoulder of Dix Mountain and knew the party was over as far as the weather was concerned. A dark bank of clouds was streaking towards us. It always amazes me just how fast the weather moves in. It was just a matter of minutes before the clouds were on us. As dark as the clouds looked and as fast as they were moving, we thought for sure we were going to get some form of precipitation with them, but it never came. They hung over the peaks and the view was just as stunning but in a dark, moody way. We headed back down, fully enjoying a great day out in the peaks and of course with a stop in Schroon Lake for coffee. Hikers were: George Baranuskas, John Sheehan, John Susko and the trip leader (Herb Terns)

Acra Point Loop — 1/30/10

We picked a cold day for this hike in the northern Catskills, with the temperature at -2F when we arrived at the trailhead. Due to the heavy rains and snow melt a few days earlier, we were unable to cross the tributary of the Batavia Kill on the Acra Point connector trail, so we bushwhacked up to the Escarpment Trail west of Acra Point.

We stopped at the open ledge on Acra Point, with its great view south to the Blackhead Range. Despite the big melt-down earlier in the week, we found plenty of snow along the Escarpment Trail. With temperatures still in the single digits, we ate a very quick lunch at the Batavia Kill lean-to before descending along the stream, which was filled with ice formations of all kinds. Hikers were Judy Brandow, Mary MacDonald, Ken and Nilde Marcinowski, and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

Superbowl hike up Hadley Mt. — 2/7/2010

The chili, beer and football were go-



Photo by Roy Keats

Mike Brun skis down Avalanche Pass during a February trip.

ing to wait until later. At this party, most people brought crampons, microspikes and snowshoes. I've been told this day was supposed to be all about football, but with clear blue skies and sunshine, it was a great winter day to get outside. A dozen of us, football fans and the football indifferent, climbed to the top of Hadley Mountain at the northern extreme of Saratoga County.

Hadley has a lot of great features, including a firetower on top. It's also fairly close, so we could be home by kickoff if not for a beer or two beforehand. We were able to fit all that in and still sleep in for a bit, plus bake a batch of chocolate chip cookies for the summit. At just under four miles round-trip, Hadley is short but offers enough of a climb to feel you've gotten a good workout. We got great views of the Green Mountains and off in the distance were able to see the Blackhead Range, roughly 70 miles away.

Hikers were Dave Ganje, John Kloznowski, Bernie and Celia Mansbach, Ken and Nilde Marcinowski, Cliff Prenwicki, John Synhowski, TuAnh Turnbull, Wyatt Waterman and the leader (Herb Terns)

Pinnacle Bushwhack — 2/13/10

Nine snowshoers turned out for an enjoyable mid-winter exploration in the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest. From the end of Pinnacle Road, we followed Pinnacle Creek to the side stream between Pinnacle and Panther Mountain. Just off the vly on this stream, we found the large icfall on the side of Pinnacle, which seemed to be even larger and more colorful than usual, with turquoise and amber hues. From the icfall, we climbed through deep snow to the summit of Pinnacle, passing more ledges with amber-colored icfalls. On the way down, we found still another icfall with an intense butterscotch color. Following the hike, Gail Livingston treated us to pie, ice cream and coffee at her home near the trailhead. Snowshoers were Charlie Beach, Dale Blanchette, Gail Gaskin, Gail Livingston, Kathy Miles, Susan Roberts, James Rochford, Larry Simek and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

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Trip tales, cont.

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Pharaoh Lake Ski Tour – Dexter and Dry Lakes – 2/13/2010

Because the ski conditions around Pharaoh Lake were poor, we skied in an area with good snow instead. We went to Route 10 in the town of Arietta and skied into Dexter and Dry Lakes. The trail starts up from Route 10 at a moderate grade, and after about a quarter of a mile intersects with two snowmobile trails at the main sign-in location. One trail leads to Dexter Lake after passing by Dry Lake. This trail generally has very little snowmobile traffic. However, we happened to pick the day of the local snowmobile “Poker Run,” and our trail was part of the Poker Run Loop. So soon after we started on the trail from the sign-in, we had several groups of snowmobiles going by. Fortunately, they were all very considerate, and because of the terrain were out of earshot rather quickly. By the time we got to Dry Lake we had no more snowmobile traffic. The trail was a “groomed” trail and was excellent for skiing. Control on downhills was generally great because of the packed powder grooming. From the sign-in to the top of the big hill down to Dexter Lake, the trail was very scenic with gentle ups and downs. The final hill to Dexter Lake was very steep. We all walked the steepest section, which also had a few exposed rocks making maneuvering very difficult. The views from both lakes were very nice with blue skies all day. Our trip out was unmarred by any snowmobile traffic. Participants were Karen and Richard Wang, Mike Brun, Lois Leonard, and Sue and Roy Keats (trip leader).

Mt. Colden — 2/13/2010

I felt inspired at 5 a.m. as I drove up Balltown Road and saw a cyclist headed in the other direction. Sunrise was nothing more than a rumor and it was 15 degrees out — you go, bike guy! There were just four of us for our trip, a fairly small group for a winter High Peak, although we were pretty sure there wouldn't be much trail breaking so the going



Chapter members gathered over breakfast to discuss plans for the day during the chapter weekend at the Adirondac Loj on Heart Lake. Clockwise from left are: Ken and Nilde Marciniowski, Stan and Tess Stoklosa with their niece Olivia, Sue and Roy Keats and Gillian Scott and Herb Terns.

would be pretty easy. At the High Peaks rest area we met (of course) a group of seven from the Glens Falls Chapter of the ADK who were headed to climb Skyline and Gray peaks. They were going to take much of the same route we were going to take from Marcy Dam to Lake Arnold. We got on the trail around 8 a.m. and blasted through the obligatory two miles into Marcy Dam. It sometimes seems like Marcy Dam is more crowded in the winter than in the summer. There are lots of cross-country skiers coming in from South Meadow to add to the overall scene. The skies were pretty clear and we got good views of our destination. We also ran into our friends from the Glens Fall Chapter and we leap-frogged each other several times to our turnoff at Lake Arnold. As we took a break and said goodbye it was nice knowing we only had about a mile and a half to the summit of Colden while they had roughly five miles left to get to their two peaks. Winter does a lot for the aesthetics of Lake Arnold; often an unimpressive looking pond in the summer, it looked magnificent

coated in snow. The trail from Lake Arnold up was already broken and the walking was pretty easy. Just below the famous false summit, we got an inspiring view of Mt. Marcy. Then, within five minutes, clouds rolled in and the views were gone like someone pulled down a shade. We enjoyed some lunch on the cloud covered summit before heading back down. Hikers were: Walt Addicks, Terryl Brown, Mike Schaeffer and the leader (Herb Terns).

Westkill Snowshoe Hike — 2/16/10

Lois Leonard, James Rochford, and Mary MacDonald, leader, climbed Westkill Mountain in the Catskills. The day was snowy with about 6-8 inches falling during the time we were on the trail. We had the forest to ourselves and thoroughly enjoyed the day's events. Temperatures were around 30° with a healthy breeze at the summit. We had no views to speak of but enjoyed the sudden emergence of two

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So long, winter!

Who says winter stinks? While neighbors and co-workers were kvetching about cold temperatures and snow storms, chapter members found a variety of ways to make the most of what a Northeast winter has to offer.

At right, Mike Brun, Lois Leonard, Sue Keats and Karen and Richard Wang at Dexter Lake in February.

Below, skiers at Rockwood State Forest in February.



Photo by Roy Keats



Photo by Rich Vertigan



Photo by Roy Keats
Inge Pangburn at an ornate bridge on the ski to Botheration Pond in January.



Photo by Herb Terns
George Baranauskas on Giant Mountain in January.

Trip tales, cont.

(Continued from page 8)

grouse from their holes in the snow. Fortunately, the snowplow showed up as we prepared for our departure, so even that part of the day went well.

Avalanche Lake and Lake Colden Ski Tour from South Meadow — 2/20/10

Our day started on the South Meadow Road which had been well packed by skiers and snowshoers. Upon reaching Marcy Dam via the Truck Trail we were rewarded with a few patches of blue sky along with hoards of Chickadees vying for handouts. Past Marcy Dam the trail was much less traveled, and became beautiful packed powder which was ideal for skiing. Once at the top of Avalanche Pass, the slides all appeared to be mainly ice covered with some snow on the lower portion of the Avalanche Slide. This portion had some nice carved turns in it from someone who ignored the "do not ski the slide" signs. The powder was perfect for the downhill to Avalanche Lake. We skied across the lake on good snow cover with only a moderate breeze. There were two intrepid souls climbing the Trap Dyke of Colden as we skied by. The ski down to Lake Colden was gentler than that to Avalanche Lake with the exception of one spot which must be a stairway in the summer (there appeared to be a railing). At the sign-in at Lake Colden we continued straight on the winter route which brings you onto the lake much more directly than the normal summer trails. Once at the lake we headed to the Interior Outpost and had lunch on the porch. The views of the surrounding mountains were limited to about halfway up because of the low cloud cover. The returning uphill to Avalanche Lake and then to the Pass seemed short. We then enjoyed the downhill from Avalanche Pass. The snow was perfect for nice controlled turns. It was a great day. The participants were Mike Brun and Roy Keats (the leader).

Photos and more online

If you'd like to see more photos and news, go online to our Web site at <http://www.adk-schenectady.org> or go to our Facebook page. If you'd like to share your own trip photos, you can do so at the Facebook site. We'd love to see them!

Moreau State Park Traverse — 2/20/10

Five of us made our way from Moreau Lake up to the ridge overlook and across the mountain to the Hudson River Overlook for a great view of the 270 degree turn in the River, and down to our spotted car on Spier Falls Road. As we traveled through the mixed woods, we found varied conditions and made use of: stabilizers, insteps, snowshoes and bare booting. Participants were: Bernie Mansbach, new member James Rochford, John Susko and leaders Ken and Nilde Marcinowski.

Featherstonehaugh SF — 2/21/2010

With cloudiness and snow forecast for every other night in the coming week leading up to the full moon, Sunday looked like the only night with any remote hope of clear skies. So our group of four headed up to Featherstonehaugh and gave it a shot. When we arrived, the skies had completely clouded over, though with only thin clouds. As our eyes adjusted to the dark, the visibility became better as we left the snowmobile trail and headed off into the forest. We (meaning the leader) lost the official trail at one point and got sidetracked on the unofficial "Purple Duct Tape Trail". After backtracking to the real trail with the help of a flashlight, we continued on our intended route under rapidly clearing skies. For the last third of the trip, the moon shone brilliantly, though only a glimmer of how it would look if visible when full later in the

week. The stars were bright and it was a beautiful night to be out. Wanderers were David and Sandra Geisinger, Holly Hawkes, and the leader, Rich Vertigan.

Rockwood State Forest XC Ski — 2/27/10

Five of us left the parking area to find well over a foot of extremely heavy wet snow, and the only previous tracks those of snowshoers and bare-booters. Although the new snow was very pretty to look at, it didn't provide the best skiing conditions, since we basically had to stay in that trench. Downhill control was next to impossible via normal snowplow means, since we were in ruts and the heavy snow to the sides did not give way easily. After doing the usual long loop with a couple of good-sized "interesting" hills, we decided to avoid any more exciting downhills and do another easier loop. But we then found that loop to be still buried in 20" of unbroken heavy wet snow and thought better of it. It was tough conditions, and we'd all had enough, so we headed back home to the continuing rain in the valley. Skiers were Marcia Hanson, Mary MacDonald, Bernie Mansbach, Holly Hawkes, and the leader, Rich Vertigan.

Chapter Loj Weekend — 2/26-2/28/10

Our annual weekend was moved from the depths of January to late February. We were rewarded with deep snow, coated trees, moderate temperatures, blue skies, and strong sunshine. Herb, Gillian, and I had an adventure on the poorly maintained Mr Van Trail to ski to Marcy Dam. The Marcinowskis and Keats snowshoed and skied the Old Marcy Trail with ease. Tess and my young niece did a dogsled ride in Lake Placid and a Heart Lake snowshoe. Followed by the Chapter party, dinner, a moose talk at HPIC, and moonlight hikes on Heart Lake. And that was just Saturday! Save the March 4, 2011 weekend on your calendars. (Stan Stoklosa)

Board of directors report

Highlights of the March meeting at Lake George

Most of the meeting focused on summary reports of 2009 activities by officers and committee chairs. Financially, ADK ended 2009 in good condition, with an operating deficit of about \$13K, or about 0.3% of budget. The 2009 budget had a projected deficit of \$67K, but this was substantially reduced by strong control of costs. In difficult economic times, the club actually grew membership by over 700 households, an increase of about 6%. Total membership at the end of 2009 was 28,800. Looking ahead, Neil Woodworth is cautiously optimistic that, despite the

projected large deficits in the state budget, ADK's funding from the state for the professional trail maintenance crew and the summit steward program will be approved.

The ADK advocacy team was active and effective last year on the Low's Lake classification, the snowmobile policy changes, clean air initiatives and state payments in lieu of taxes on forest preserve lands. In 2010, major efforts will include lobbying to prevent gas drilling in the Marcellus shale, particularly in the Allegany State Park, and to keep the state parks open.

Adirondack magazine has been im-

proved by printing in full color, and will be further improved this year by increasing the content to 40 pages. This year, continued improvements at the High Peaks Information Center at Heart Lake (particularly in the rest rooms) are planned.

The board approved a resolution renaming the club's archives and library at Lake George the *Newhouse and Ringlee Presidential Archives and Library*, in recognition of the vision and nurturing by four Schenectady Chapter members, Dave and Helen Newhouse and Bob and Helen Ringlee.

— Norm Kuchar

Main club activities

For more information or to register for any of the following programs, call (518) 523-3441. For questions about the courses, contact Ryan Doyle, Outdoor Leadership Coordinator, (518) 523-3480 ext. 19 or by e-mail to workshops@adk.org. For costs, the first number is the cost to members, the second the cost to non-members.

"Stealth Towers" exhibit

"Stealth Towers" is industry parlance for cell-phone towers disguised to blend in to natural landscapes. It's also the title of Peter Seward's art exhibit at the ADK Bookstore, 814 Goggins Road, Lake George, which opened March 2 and runs through April 30. This series of landscape paintings depicts real and imagined "stealth towers."

The incognito towers are symbols of commerce co-opting sacred icons—trees, church steeples, flagpoles, totem poles—for industrial use. Modern communication infrastructure is contrasted with wilderness, suburbia, and the 19th-century world of discovery and innovation. A persistent, symmetrical composition orders the picture plain around the tower presenting an object of worship. The central motif and the elevated height of the cell-phone towers suggests our "connectedness" has taken on religious significance.

Hours: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Exhibits are free and open to the public.

Information: 518-668-4447 or send an e-mail to adkinfo@adk.org.

Black Fly Affair

This year's Black Fly Affair: A Hiker's Ball will take place from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. on Friday, May 21 at the Fort William

Henry Hotel overlooking Lake George. The fundraising gala and auction will again feature gift baskets from each chapter as well as a variety of Adirondack-themed silent and live auction items.

Ididaride scheduled for Aug. 15

The Ididaride Adirondack Bike Tour will take place this year on Sunday, Aug. 15. The one-day supported bike tour offers a long route (75 miles) and a short route (20 miles), both on roads.

The ride is all on-road, with wide shoulders for much of the route. You'll ride through some of the most beautiful scenery – cutting right through the central Adirondack Mountains, most of which is public Forest Preserve land. We'll cycle through the towns and hamlets of Bakers Mills, Wells, Speculator, Sabael, Indian Lake, North River, and back to North Creek. Your ride will take you alongside Mason Lake, Lewey Lake and Indian Lake. A long descent begins in the hamlet of Indian Lake and meets the Hudson River in the hamlet of North River with a relatively easy ride into North Creek.

Total elevation gain for 75 mile loop = 6,840 ft.

Total elevation gain for 20 mile loop = 1,340 ft.

There are four rest stops with snacks and water provided along the route. SAG wagon and mobile mechanical support provided. Rider packet with map and t-shirt provided at registration.

More than 200 riders took part in last year's Ididaride; 173 rode the 75-mile course and 34 rode the 20-mile course.

To find out more about the ride, go to <http://www.ididaride.org/>.

Local news and announcements

Save the date!

This year's annual chapter dinner and meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 26, at Schenectady County Community College. Watch for more details in future issues of The Lookout.

Save the date, part III!

The chapter will be participating again in National Trails Day on Saturday, June 5. Come out and help clean up litter and cut back brush along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail. Look for details in the next issue of The Lookout.

Old Lookouts sought for chapter records

Throughout our history, the *Lookout* has been the primary means of communication for the chapter. It also provides a superb record of the people, outings, innings and other activities that have made the Schenectady Chapter a vital part of ADK over the years. We would like to have a complete collection of *Lookouts* for our chapter records. We currently have *Lookouts* back to 1976, but there are many missing issues.

If you have any of the missing issues and would be willing to donate them for the chapter records, or make them available for copying, please contact Norm Kuchar at 399-6243 or nku-char@nycap.rr.com.

The missing bimonthly issues are:

- Oct/Nov 1982
- Aug/Sep 1983
- Dec 1984/Jan 1985 through Feb/Mar 1987
- Dec 1987/Jan 1988
- Dec 1988/Jan 1989 through Dec 1991/Jan 1992
- Aug/Sep 1992
- Feb/Mar 1994 through Aug/Sep 1995
- Dec 1997/Jan 1998 through Oct/Nov 2000
- Dec 2001/Jan 2002 through Apr/May 2002
- Jun/Jul 2003 through Feb/Mar 2004

ADK Volunteer Teen Trails Program

Teens, if you missed the Chapter's deadline of April 1 to apply for the participation fee of \$250 for a teen trail project, you still have time to apply for a scholarship through the main club. Visit www.ADK.org and locate the 2010 Schedule for Supervised Volunteer Trails under Four and Five Day High School Projects. Click where indicated and download a scholarship application and return it to ADK by May 1.

Chapter to host fall outing

Schenectady Chapter will lead and sponsor the Main Club Fall Outing this year, from Sept. 10-12 at Camp Fowler in Speculator. Various volunteers are needed. Contact Bob Grimm at 842-7436 or grimmbob@capital.net

Trail volunteers needed

The Friends of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail is seeking volunteers to serve as Canalway Trail Ambassadors.

The role of ambassadors is threefold: to assist and inform trail users, offering directions and details about the trail and the surrounding area; to promote courtesy, safety and awareness of the trail as a valuable public resource; and to monitor the trail and the conditions around it.

The trail ambassador program began in 2008 in the town of Niskayuna. Over the past two years, volunteers have logged more than 300 patrols on the bike-hike trail.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Gillian Scott at 372-8478 or e-mail gvscott07@verizon.net.

Deepest apologies to the person who called several weeks ago: we had a power outage and your message disappeared from our machine before I wrote the number down. Please call again!

Paddle 'N' Pole club days

Adirondack Paddle 'N' Pole will hold club days on April 1-3 (Thu-Sat). On club days, club members get 20% off everything in stock (10%-20% off canoes and kayaks) and most special orders. Proof of

New members

Daniel Eno
Mark and Lisa Kedik
Natalie and Joseph Seagriff

membership is required. The store is at 2123 Central Ave in Colonie. Call or check website for hours.

Call (518) 346-3180 for more information or log on to www.onewithwater.com

Wilderness First Aid at Heart Lake Program Center

The Adirondack Mountain Club will host a wilderness first aid course with Wilderness Medical Associates on April 10-11.

This intense course teaches students how to deal with medical emergencies when they are miles from help. The class offers hands-on scenarios and lecture structure, through which students will learn to assess patients and become certified in wilderness first aid, CPR, and anaphylaxis training. Class time will be spent both inside and out.

Location: Heart Lake Program Center
Cost: \$225, includes instruction and materials. Package: \$310, includes instruction, materials, meals, and lodging for two nights.

The Schenectady Chapter provides a \$150 tuition reimbursement for chapter outings leaders who complete wilderness first aid training. Call Larry Woods (271-0270) or Herb Terns (372-8478) for more information.

New Cranberry Lake 50 maps available

Five Ponds Partners, the organization behind the new Cranberry Lake 50 trail circumnavigating Cranberry Lake, has new maps of the hike available. The new maps feature detailed information on camping sites and what to see along the trail. Send \$5 and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Cranberry Lake 50 Brochure, P.O. Box 115, Wanakena NY, 13695.