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August-September 2010

# The Lookout

The newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

## Details on Fall Outing are announced

This year's Fall Outing, hosted by the Schenectady Chapter, will take place at Camp Fowler in Speculator September 10-12.

A brochure detailing the outing, the excursions offered, and local accommodations, is now available online at <http://www.adktravel.org/fallouting.htm>. Trips are

also listed on page 4 of The Lookout. Anyone wishing to participate in any of the trips that weekend **must** register for the outing using the form in the brochure.

In addition to the excursions, a banquet on Saturday evening will feature historian and author Don Williams, who will discuss the history and culture of

the southern Adirondacks.

The seasonal outings are a great opportunity to catch up with chapter members and meet friends from other chapters. ADK membership is not required.

Contact Bob Grimm at 842-7436 or [grimmbob@capital.net](mailto:grimmbob@capital.net) for more information. Volunteers will be needed in a

### Fall Outing

**When:** September 10-12  
**Where:** Camp Fowler, Speculator  
**Cost:** \$25 excursions only; add \$13 for Saturday's dinner banquet, \$9 a day for breakfast, \$5 a day for trail lunches.

variety of positions.

## Volunteers needed to serve on board

The slate of candidates for the Schenectady Chapter Board fall election is as follows:

Chair — Stan Stoklosa

**Vice Chair — Vacant**

Secretary — Jacque McGinn

Treasurer — Mike Brun

Project Coordinator — Horst deLorenzi

**Project Coordinator — Vacant**

The chapter is looking for nominations to the board's vacant positions.

The vice chair serves a one-year term and is primarily responsible for organizing the annual dinner and arranging our Innings, the informative talks and slide shows.

The project coordinators serve

two-year terms. They help run our scholarship programs, coordinate donations for the main club auctions, and perform other tasks that interest them and help the chapter.

The standing committees such as Trails and Conservation always welcome new faces.

If you are interested in the ADK mission of conservation, education, and recreation, consider joining the board where you will have the people and resources to multiply your efforts.

The official ballot for the fall election will be included in the October/November issue of The Lookout.

Contact Stan Stoklosa at 383-3066 or send an e-mail to [stanstok89@aol.com](mailto:stanstok89@aol.com)

## Annual dinner to feature talk on art, wilderness

The annual dinner and meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 26, at Schenectady County Community College.

Our featured speakers will be authors Russell Dunn and Barbara Delaney, who will talk on "Hiking with Winslow Homer and Others: How Painters and Their Outdoor Guides Shaped our Vision of the Adirondack Wilderness."

Put the date on your calendar and look for registration details in the next *Lookout*.

For more information, contact Norm Kuchar at 399-6243 or e-mail [nkuchar@nycap.rr.com](mailto:nkuchar@nycap.rr.com)

### Annual dinner

**When:** Tuesday, Oct. 26

**Where:** Schenectady County Community College

# 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	

## Sat 7 Aug

### Barnes Pond NCT explore

#### Class B2B

Walt Hayes, 399-7482

This is a trail hike from Hewitt Pond to Barnes Pond and a bushwhack to explore for a route for the North Country Trail. About two miles on trail and two to four miles off trail bushwhacking. Under 500 feet of ascent. Will be looking for swimming spot along the way to enjoy if weather warrents.

## Sat 14 Aug

### Nun-da-ga-o Ridge

#### Class B2B

Norm Kuchar, 399-6243

[nkuchar@nycap.rr.com](mailto:nkuchar@nycap.rr.com)

This loop hike east of Keene is one of the most scenic in the Adirondacks. Beginning at Crow Clearing east of Keene, we will first climb on a marked trail to the top of Big Crow, which has views of 28 major peaks according to the ADK High Peaks guide. We'll then follow the minimally maintained trail, marked with blazes and cairns, along the rocky ledges of Nun-da-ga-o Ridge, with good views from many rocky openings. After climbing

## Innings and Outings, cont.

Weston Mountain, with great views of Lost Pond and a circle of peaks, the route descends past the pond and back to Crow Clearing. Distance is about 6.6 miles, with about 1500 ft total climb.

### Sat 21 Aug Blackhead Mountain Class B2B

**John Susko, 383-1284**

We'll take the trail from the end of Black Dome Valley Road and do a loop over Blackhead Mountain. While the hike is not long it does include some steep sections and it provides some very good views. The distance is 4 miles with 1500-2000 feet of ascent.

### Wed 25 Aug Indian Head Mts (Catskills) Class B2B

**Jay Summerson, 673-2664**

We will make a loop taking the Jimmy Dolan Trail to the col between Twin and Indian Head, then summitting and returning via the Devil's Path trail. About 7 miles and 2200 feet of elevation gain. Possible side trip to the Twin peaks. Call for time and meeting place.

### Fri 27 August Canoe/Kayak Trip – Lake Lila Class A2C

**Roy Keats, 370-0399**

Lake Lila is a beautiful clear lake with a lot of interesting paddling. The lake itself has many bays and islands. It also has great paddling up Shingle Shanty Brook and down the Beaver River for extra attractions. The Beaver River goes all the way to Stillwater Reservoir, and Shingle Shanty Brook can be used to reach Little Tupper Lake. We will only explore the beginning reaches of these two streams depending on the water level. Our total paddling could be on the order of 10 to 11 miles depending on how much our group wants to explore. To get to Lake Lila a 0.3 mile portage is necessary from the parking lot. If the weather is extremely windy, we will move the trip to a more sheltered location or a smaller lake.

### Saturday August 28th and August 29 Northville-Placid Section Hike: Wakley Dam to Long Lake Class A2B(X2)

**Herb Terns, 372-8478 or  
[trailhed@verizon.net](mailto:trailhed@verizon.net)**

This is part three of our NP Trail section hike. This will be an overnight backpack from Wakley Dam to Long Lake while camping either at Lake Durant or Tirrell Pond

### Friday, September 10 through Sunday, September 12 ADK Fall Outing

In Speculator. See page 4 for details.

### Friday, September 24 through Monday September 27 Long Lake to Lake Placid. Class A2B(X4)

**Herb Terns, 372-8478 or  
[trailhed@verizon.net](mailto:trailhed@verizon.net)**

Hoping the leaves are changing since the Cold River is a beauty in the fall. Because this is the longest drive and the trailheads are far apart we might stay in Placid the night before if there is interest. We'll be traveling 8-11 miles a day with full packs.

### Sat 25 September Canoe/Kayak Trip – Raquette Lake to Blue Mountain Lake Class A2C

**Roy Keats, 370-0399**

This trip starts at the town beach in Raquette Lake Village and ends at the town beach in Blue Mountain Lake. We will cross Raquette Lake and go up the Marion River to a 0.5 mile level portage. From there we will continue on through Utowana Lake and Eagle Lake into Blue Mountain Lake. This is a famous route from the late 1800's when steamers took passengers from Raquette Lake to hotels at Blue Mountain Lake. The route included two steamer rides and a short train ride at the portage location. The scenery is wonderful and we will be going in the direction of the prevailing westerly winds. We will place cars at both ends of the trip. If there are sufficient cars, we will place one at the midpoint of the trip in case it becomes necessary to cut the trip short because of weather or other problems. If the weather is extremely windy, we will move the trip to a more sheltered location or a smaller lake. Hopefully we will get some nice fall colors.

### Wed 29 Sep Hopkins & Spread Eagle Mts (Adirondacks) Class B2B

**Walt Addicks, 437-0941  
[waddicks@verizon.net](mailto:waddicks@verizon.net)**

Ascent and return will be via the Mossy Cascade Trail. Views of up to 22 peaks from Hopkins. About 8 miles and 2500 feet of elevation gain. Meet 7:30am at I-87 (Northway) Exit 9 Park and Ride.

## Fall Outing excursions schedule

The following trips will be offered at the Fall Outing sponsored by the Schenectady Chapter from Sept. 10-12 in Speculator. You MUST register for the outing to participate in any of these trips. You can find the registration form online at <http://www.adktravel.org/fallouting.htm>. The listings below have been edited to fit the space available; more information (including distances and start times) is available in the brochure.

### Friday, Sept. 10, 2010

#### Tenant Creek Falls

Classification C2C

Leader: Herb Terns

We'll explore a series of waterfalls on Tenant Creek on Northville. Much of our hike will be along an old road. The first falls combines with some cliffs to form a natural amphitheater.

#### Echo Cliffs (Panther Mountain)

Classification C2B

Leader: Walt Hayes

This is a small peak on the west side of Piseco Lake and should offer good views of the Silver Lake Wilderness area and Spy Lake.

#### Auger Falls

Classification C2C

Leader: Kendra Pratt

A spectacular waterfall on the Sacandaga River. This trip will be mostly along an old road until we get to the over 100 foot tall series of falls. Bring your camera!

### Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010

#### Snowy Mt.

Classification A2B

Leader: Mike Brun

With its distinctive shape and being just a bit under 4000 feet tall, Snowy is one of the landmark summits in the Adirondacks. There's over 2100 feet of climbing but the summit is more than worth it. There are a variety of view spots from the ground and a firetower which offers even more.

#### Peaked Mt. Pond and Peaked Mt.

Classification B2B

Leader: Paul Sirtoli

The ADK guidebook describes this as the perfect day hike and it's hard to disagree. It starts out on the scenic west shore of Thirteenth Lake, then follows Peaked Mt. brook with its many small waterfalls. It goes through several beaver vlys and ends

up at a beauty of a pond framed by the cliffs of Peaked Mt. behind it. We'll explore the pond and from there we'll head up to the summit where we'll have great views of the pond, the central Adirondacks and, if it's clear, the High Peaks.

#### Cedar River Paddle/Hike

Classification A2C

Leader: David Avigdor

We'll start at Wakely Dam and paddle south on Cedar River Flow, which offers lovely mountain views. Entering Cedar River from the flow can be a navigation challenge, but we'll do that and paddle upstream for a few miles on a twisty, moderate flow flatwater stretch. If the group would like, we can add a hike (about 5 miles round trip) to Cedar Lakes, with a possible swim at Beaver Lake.

#### Balm of Gilead Mountain Loop

Classification C2C

Leader: Neal Van Dorsten

This will be a loop starting on Old Farm Clearing near Thirteenth Lake where osprey are often spotted. We may take in some of the area ponds en route to Balm of Gilead Mt. The summit has a nice view of Thirteenth Lake and we may be able to spot the other outing group on Peaked Mt. across the water.

#### Crane Mt.

Classification B2B

Leader: Gillian and Herb Terns

Author Barbara McMartin called Crane the super mountain. No matter what you're looking for it lives up to that billing. There are great views from the summit and scenic pond about halfway up. Swimming or wading in the pond on the way down is a distinct possibility.

#### NP Trail — Piseco to Whitehouse

#### NP Trail – Whitehouse to Piseco

Classification B2C

Distance: 6 miles

Leaders: Jackie and Neil Parker

A nice section of the Northville-Placid trail starting or ending at NY 8 in Piseco

with easy walking and a gain (or loss) of approximately 500 ft. There'll be two groups; one hiking North to South and the other South to North. A key exchange will eliminate the need for spotting vehicles. Maximum of five participants (plus leader) per group.

#### Eagle Pond and Foxlair Estate

Classification C2C

Leader: Walt Hayes

In the valley of the East Branch of the Sacandaga River, we will follow a fisherman's path to remote Eagle Pond and then explore the remains of Richard Hudnut's Foxlair estate including the foundations of the Oregon Tannery which burned about 1890. It is an easy walk of under three miles round trip to the pond with a 600 foot ascent.

#### Good Luck Cliffs

Classification B2B

Leader: Sharon Getman

We'll pass by Good Luck Lake to climb Good Luck Mt. There are good views of the cliffs on Good Luck on the way up and then views down of the surrounding area once you get on top.

#### Blue Mountain

Classification C2B

Leader: Kendra Pratt

This mountain was home to one of Verplank Colvin's survey crews. It's now home to a firetower that offers terrific views of the Central Adirondacks and especially, Blue Mountain Lake. This four mile round trip hike offers 1,500 feet of climbing and will get you one step closer to your fire tower patch.

#### Oregon Trail to Stewart Creek Flow

Classification C2C

Leader: Jack Whitney

There's no need to hitch up your wagon, this isn't Lewis and Clark's Oregon Trail. This one follows an old road past a waterfall, a flume and a scenic beaver vlei.

*(Continued on page 5)*

# 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
8/7	Sat	<b>Deerfield River. Fife Brook section.</b> Class 2 except for the optional Class 3 Zoar Gap.	2/3+	Jim Palmer	399-9090
8/8	Sun	<b>Sacandaga River</b> Hadley release.	2+	Mal Provost	399-1565
8/14	Sat	<b>Hudson Gorge.</b> About 15 miles of mostly Class 3 to 3+ rapids.	3+	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
8/21	Sat	<b>Leader's Choice.</b> Mostly likely either the Sacandaga at Hadley or Deerfield Fife Brook section.	2/3	Larry Woods	271-0270
8/22	Sun	<b>Sacandaga River.</b> Hadley release.	2+	Mal Provost	399-1565
8/28	Sat	<b>Leader's choice.</b> Mostly likely the Sacandaga at Hadley or Deerfield Fife Brook section.	2/3	Jim Palmer	399-9090
9/18	Sat	<b>Hudson Gorge.</b> About 15 miles of mostly Class 3 to 3+ rapids.	3+	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
9/25	Sat	<b>West River release.</b> Multiple runs on challenging Class 3.	3	Bob Wright	279-1428
10/2	Sat	<b>Hudson Gorge.</b> Fall foliage trip	3+	Bob Wright	279-1428

*(Continued from page 4)*

### **Kunjamuk Cave Explore with an Adirondack Naturalist**

Classification: C2B

Leader: ADK Staff

Kunjamuk Cave is manmade...or it was formed naturally? It was an old silver mine...or not. As you probably guessed there is a lot of mystery and speculation about the cave. You'll be guided by ADK's naturalist to hopefully unravel some of the mystery.

### **Introduction to Geocaching**

Classification C2C

Leader: Harold McCumber

This will be an introduction to geocaching. After an over view of what geocaching is we will then go off and try to find some geocaches in the Speculator area.

### **Biking the Speculator Loop**

Distance: 13 miles

Leader: Stan Stoklosa

This will be an easy to intermediate mountain bike trip along dirt and gravel roads. There should be views of both the Sacandaga and Kunjamuk Rivers as well as Elm Lake. We'll stop and explore any interesting spots.

### **A Family Hike into Kibby Pond**

Classification C2B

Leader: Paul and Nicole Weinstein

There are people who will tell you that Kibby might be the prettiest pond in the area. This will be a gentle, family-friendly hike into the pond where there should be good views of the clear water and nearby Kettle Mountain reflected in it.

### **Chimney Mt**

Classification C2B

Leader: Marge Karowe

This mountain is unique among Adirondack Peaks. It sports a 35 foot, massive naturally formed "chimney" at its summit. It also offers great views of the sur-

rounding areas and with some searching, the High Peaks.

### **Watch Hill**

Classification C2C

Leader: Harold McCumber

By rights you shouldn't get views this good for a hike this easy. Watch Hill is on the western shore of Indian Lake and much of the trail is along an old road. It boasts views of Snowy Mountain and the wilderness at the southern end of Indian Lake.

### **Gorge/Waterfalls on the Sacandaga River**

Classification A2A

Leaders: Neil and Holly Woodworth

Trip Size Limit (including leaders): 10

We will park at Whitehouse where the Northville-Placid Trail crosses the West Branch of the Sacandaga River. From there, we'll hike west on the NP Trail for about a mile before taking a fisherman's

*(Continued on page 12)*

# Trip tales and paddling parables

## Windham High Point — 4/22/10

There were only two of us on this trip. We thought there might be some snow at the higher elevations but there wasn't any on the trail. It seemed as if the trail was really dry for April, especially with the amount of snow that fell in the Catskills this winter. We still have high hopes that some people might want to go on hikes during the middle of the week. Co-leaders Walt Addicks and Jay Summerson.

## Hudson River — 5/1/10

The Hudson River was running at only 3.8 feet, so this trip was changed from the scheduled North Creek to The Glen, to a Riparius to The Glen Trip. That stretch was quite pleasant at that level, and everyone enjoyed a beautiful late spring day on the river. Participants remarked that it was nice to actually see the structure of the Z-Drop and other river features — maybe we'll have a better idea what we're attacking when we see high water again!

Lunch was at the island, where the low-water wave made surfing quite a challenge. The seven paddlers in seven solo boats were Jim Parmalee, Bob Brand, Rick Gonzales and Jim Palmer in kayaks, and Larry Woods, Shelly Nevard and Leader Dave Avigdor in open canoes. Pray for rain!

## Hudson River — 5/2/10

The water was a very low, 3.8' on the North Creek gauge. But the 53rd annual Hudson River Whitewater Derby was held anyway, and so our "Hotdog and Rescue Run" also took place.

We headed down the river an hour before the race was to start, playing a little on our way to Staircase Rapid. We arrived in time for Chuck to get a small fire going and cook his delicious hotdogs. I think I ate 3, and I'd had a pretty good breakfast just a couple of hours earlier! There were brownies for dessert too. We even had time to get in a little practice with throwbags. Next time I need a rope, I hope Ting is on the other end. He was a marksman!

Before the hotdogs had settled, our



Hikers on Snow Mountain in May.

Photo provided by Ken Marcinowski

first competitors appeared on the horizon. Although the low water exposed many rocks, most of the racers did well. There were several close calls, but only one boat capsized this year. Ken and Matt coached them back into their canoe, and sent them on their way.

After the last Derby Racer went by, we loaded up and headed down river. Though the water was quite low, there seemed to be plenty of places to go. And even several decent surf waves.

On this fun trip were: Ralph P., Ron X., Ting W., Ken P., Matt P., Shelly N., Chuck W. and the leader, Larry Woods.

## Blackheads — 5/6/10

Predicted morning showers ended as we arrived at the Big Hollow Road trail-head and the day turned clear and breezy. We ascended Blackhead via the Batavia Kill and Escarpment trails. The mountains, having only recently shed the last of their wintry mantle, were resplendent with spring flowers. We then crossed over to Black Dome, and just because the day was so nice, we had to do Thomas

Cole. We returned on the Black Dome trail. Hikers were Wyatt Waterman, John Synakowski and leaders Jay Summerson and Walt Addicks.

## Powell Sanctuary — 5/7/10

Ten people explored the Powell Sanctuary, the Alan DeVoe Bird property in Old Chatham. We saw a number of birds, including a pair of yellow warblers, a pair of sapsuckers, and a flock of crows attacking an unidentified flying object, probably a hawk. Painted turtles were sunbathing on a log in Reilly Pond and the views of the Catskills from the Dorson's Rock overlook were truly impressive. Several of us learned to identify spring wildflowers and we all agreed that this place is one of many that we are fortunate to have so close to home.

To balance the flora viewing with those of fauna, we drove to the leader's house where several of the more adventuresome participants volunteered to bottle-feed baby goats.

Hikers included Dale Blanchet, Ken Siple, Thaisa and Charlie Beach, Peg

## Trip tales, cont.

Grogan, Lynn Filarecki, Mary MacDonald, Karen Ross, Ruth Schottman (who introduced us to the sexual practices of the trout lily) and Susan Roberts, the leader.

### Hadley Mt. — 5/9/10

Our annual slow walk up Hadley while enjoying the wild flowers proceeded despite a dire weather forecast. About half of those who signed up with me or Jack Whitney for this joint Schenectady-Glens Falls-Saratoga outing canceled, leaving an appreciative, well-dressed for cold, windy weather group of 13. Unfortunately a family of three were lost around Luzerne for a while but we met eventually at the top. The very early spring bloom was past the flower stage this year, but red trilliums outdid themselves in size and yellow violets and Jack-in-pulpits excelled in numbers. A little snow and some sun now and then added to the charm of the scenery and everyone managed the resulting wet trail descent without falls. Ruth Schottman

### Peaked Pond and Mountain — 5/11/10

We had a wonderful day with many wildflowers along the way. What a way to spend a day in the Adirondacks! We saw hobblebush in bloom; pink lady slippers; red, white and painted trillium; spring beauty; strawberries in bloom; white and purple violets; gaywings; Canada mayflower; Solomon's seal; and columbine. Probably more. This is a favorite hike for many people and we were blessed to have the trail almost entirely to ourselves. To top the day off, we had the good fortune to have a performing loon at Thirteenth Lake as we came to the end of our hike. Our furry friend, the local dog, joined us and, in fact, led us up and down the trail. Others in our group were Gail Colley, Judy Brandow, Kendra Pratt, Phil Fountain, and Mary MacDonald, leader.

### Southerland Mountain — 5/15/10

We began this bushwhack from the end of Hernandez Road, accessed from the road to Whitehouse west of Wells.

After following an old road to the crossing of Vly Creek, we then found a rudimentary path along the east side of the creek, which led past a beautiful 40 ft. waterfall before reaching the large beaver vly. One of our hikers, aptly named Joe Beaver, has hunted in this area for over three decades, and he led us to a path which goes along the southwest flank of Southerland to a small col. From here we headed south to a lower summit that had a large open ledge with great views south to Cathead, Wallace and Three Ponds Mountains. By this time, the sun was out and breezes kept the black flies at bay a bit while we ate lunch and enjoyed the view. On the return, we headed north into the col, made a short, steep climb to the true summit of Southerland and then headed down the long northwest ridge; on this route we did not find any views comparable to those from the open ledge. Hikers were Joe Beaver, Jake Bortscheller, Walt Hayes, Dave Loux, John Susko and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

### Esopus Creek Paddle — 5/15/10

The low water season started early so the scheduled West Br. Sacandaga was changed. The Esopus was running an excellent level [5.70' ; 965cfs] thanks to a strong flow from the diversion tunnel. We had good weather with a gusty wind pushing us, making some rapids more exciting. Due to recent wind storms, we encountered several sweepers requiring extra caution or portage. Many of these are likely to remain a problem until a flood washes them out or they are cut. Enjoying the wild run were Larry Woods, Shelly Nevard, Jim Palmer, Mike Ryan and Charlie Beach (leader).

### Ashokan High Peak — 5/20/10

Three of us made this roughly nine-mile trip on a beautiful clear day. The steepest part of the climb to the summit was the last 1/2 mile of this hike. Views toward the reservoir were somewhat obscured by the foliage but the views were good toward the west looking at Peekamoose and Table. Although we didn't

proceed to a small open knob east of the main peak, I believe you would obtain a better view of the Ashokan Reservoir and northern Catskill peaks if you bushwhacked over there. Participants were Fred Lieber and Walt Addicks and the leader, Jay Summerson.

### Sacandaga River — 5/23/10

There was late notice (Saturday afternoon) of a short release on the Sacandaga Sunday afternoon, so three folks jumped at the chance. We were rewarded with a gorgeous day in the mid-70s and a release of about 4,800 cfs: noon to 4p.

The extra release started about 1 p.m. and made it difficult to get onto the wave above Vesuvius and washed out many of the mid-stream eddies in the first long rapids. However, it was a fine day for a workout and two kayakers and one open boater enjoyed it thoroughly.

Participants: Bob Brand and Ralph Pascale, with leader Mal Provost.

### Not-the-Schroon — 5/16/10

After a sudden drop in the Schroon's level Saturday evening, this trip was changed to Raparius to the Glen at the very last minute. My apologies to those of you who would have joined us if you knew the trip would be on the Hudson. On this beautiful Sunday, two kayakers (Nelson Miller, Clarke Darlington), two solo inflatable kayakers (Judy Halstead and Ting Chiang) and one tandem inflatable kayak (Ron Xiao and May Jiang) were joined by Chuck Wilkison in solo open canoe. Most of us practiced our eddy turns and ferries regularly while observing Nelson surfing everything in sight. There were no swims, even though some of the paddlers are fairly new to whitewater. Nelson and Chuck played extensively at the play spot by the island and we all marveled at the tenacity of the wildflowers clinging to the rock. It was great to meet Pierre and Carolyn Cyr just arriving at the island as we were leaving it.

(Trip leader: Judy Halstead. Has any-

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Trip tales, cont.

(Continued from page 7)

one else noticed that, while the hamlet is Riparius, the bridge is apparently the Raparius Bridge? Just saying.)

### Bald Mountain — 5/22/2010

This was an explore on woods roads in the Clarksburg State Forest in Berkshire County. As far as the leader knows, there are no published maps of the roads in this forest. (Published maps show the AT and its access trails in the western part of the forest.) Many of the roads are currently well used and easy to follow but their destinations are unknown. With a short bushwhack we were able to find a road that went to the summit of Bald Mountain where we had lunch. It is not currently bald. It has a very flat wooded top so there is no view. We followed other roads toward the car that eventually joined the road we had started on in the morning. There still are roads to explore. A good day in the woods with Randolph Franklin, Beth Hayes and Dave Loux. (Walt Hayes)

### NP Trail maintenance — 5/22/10

Holly and I started our 17th year of adopting the section of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail south from Lake Durant. We only had one signup, so Holly and Mary took care of cutting back brush, and I did what I could as the only one clearing last fall's leaves out of drainage ditches. It was hot, dirty work, but very tame as trail maintenance goes. The black flies were out, though not in extreme numbers, but temperatures were a little warmer than we would have liked. The trail seemed drier than usual, and we found no blowdown at all, so it was a pretty easy day compared to some we've had. The trail is now in good shape for the summer. We spent about four hours on the trail, including a pond-side lunch, then enjoyed root beer floats and soft ice cream on the way home. Thanks, Mary, for helping out yet again! Hikers were Mary MacDonald and the leaders, Rich Vertigan and Holly Hawkes.



Photo by Roy Keats

ADK members paddle up Santanoni Brook on Henderson Lake during a July outing.

### Middle Saranac Lake to Second Pond Canoe/Kayak Trip — 5/22/2010

After spotting a car at the Second Pond boat launch, we paddled from the boat launch at South Creek and wound our way out to Middle Saranac. We paddled directly across the lake to Hungry Bay and from there into Weller Pond outlet. We went up a side channel into Little Weller since it was relatively vegetation free at this early season. We found a merganser pair on Little Weller, and then headed on to Weller Pond. After a little exploration, we returned to Middle Saranac for lunch on Norway Island. This had a beautiful view out over a perfectly calm lake with a blue sky. We then continued past the next islands into the winding Saranac River to the upper lock. It was interesting watching the locks get pushed shut by two fellows physically pushing on the lock doors. The drain was then manually pulled to lower the water. The river below the lock had a little more current than above the lock. Upon reaching Lower Saranac Lake, the breeze picked up out of the west and helped push us to our destination. We went by several bays and turned into the Saranac River across

from the sheer cliff of Bluff Island. The trip participants were Wyatt Waterman, Matt Brown, George Banks, Sue and Roy Keats (the leader).

### Sacandaga River — 5/29/10

We had a fun trip on the Sacandaga today. No swims, but a few rolls. Ed was showing off his stuff on the big surf wave with a couple of very good combat rolls. Allison and Jim (the newest boaters) did a great job running the rapids and eddying out in several difficult spots, Scott and his daughter had a great time swimming in the flat water from their duckie, and Mary Pat had her way with the river especially considering she had not been on the water since last year.

Participants were: Scott and Gretchen Kraeger, Ed and Allison (sorry not sure on their last name), Jim Parmelee, Mary Pat Provost, myself and Donna.

Thanks for coming out and we look forward to seeing everyone on the river again, Harrison

### Deer Brook Gorge & Snow Mtn — 5/29/10

Things didn't look promising for us as

## Trip tales, cont.

we exited the Northway and started up Route 73 we hit rain around Pleasant Valley, but we apparently had good karma since it let up as we approached Keene Valley and started to park our cars.

For a little while it was questionable whether or not to put on rain gear, but our luck held and we had a very pleasant and leisurely hike through the gorge as everyone was busy taking in the wild beauty of the area. We took our time to explore a small cave which now has a sign identifying it as Andre's Cave; fortunately or unfortunately, Andre was not home at the time. Of course we had to make a stop at Deer Brook Falls which was not quite as spectacular as last year, but still worth a visit.

After enjoying the views and a leisurely lunch on Snow Mtn., part of the group continued on to Rooster Comb, where it was reported to have nice views of Wolf Jaws, Marcy, Snow and Giant as well as Pink Lady Slippers along the trail. The remaining hikers returned to the cars to make the "arduous" trek to the Noonmark Diner for ice cream and on to The Mountaineer for a little shopping before returning back to the parking area to regroup before departing. Participants were: Holly Hawkes & Rich Vertigan, Theresa & Dave Huda, Karen Kast, Norm Kuchar, Paula Miller & Donald Isaacson and leaders — Nilde & Ken Marcinowski.

### Sacandaga — 5/30/10

Great day enjoyed by a group of 11, including two duckies, one canoe and six kayaks. We had everything from the very experienced to newbie's and even first timers. As always, the more experienced ADK members in the group provided valuable tips and instruction for the new paddlers in the group, and were there for our one swimmer retrieving his kayak and getting him safely back on his way. The Sac was hopping with ADK trips on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. I would say we are off to a great season of paddling. Trip Leader Ralph Pascale

### Sacandaga at Hadley — 5/31/10

On this warm, sunny Memorial Day

### 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!

we had to give up on our traditional Hudson (Riparius to the Glen) trip due to continued low river levels nearly everywhere. Three kayakers (Clarke Darlington, Ed Cunningham and Allison St Pierre), two OC-1s (Mal Provost, Ken Perrault) and the trip leader (Judy Halstead in a IK-1) started river left and ferried to the surf wave on river right. The top rapid went by quickly after one paddler swam and one of his rescuers joined him in the river. Everyone agreed that the water was much warmer than expected and it was useful to practice swimming and rescue skills in familiar surroundings with flat-water downstream. Through the rest of the trip eddy turns, ferries and rolls were all polished.

### National Trails Day Bike Path Cleanup — 6/5/10

The overnight rain ended, the sun came out, and 16 volunteers braved the tropical humidity to trim back jungle like growth and pick up litter on the bike path near SCCC and old Lock 23. Many thanks to Matt and Emily from Eastern Mountain Sports-Niskayuna Commons, Dave Mead, Tina Mead, and M Delaney from the Knox Boy Scouts, Herb Terns, Gillian Scott, Bob Grimm, Arden Rauch, Rudy Dehn, Fred Thompson, Kathy MacCauley, Chris Koebelin, and Sue Troll. Leaders Stan Stoklosa and Howard Halstead

### Deerfield River — 6/12/10

The idea was to run multiple times through Zoar gap on the Deerfield river in Massachusetts, aiming to learn by repetition, improving control and confidence in

this class 3+ rapid.

Four paddlers took the challenge on a rainy, cool day: Mike Brun in solo open canoe, and Chris Norton, Jim Palmer & John Banevicius in kayaks.

The river did not disappoint, quite pushy at 800-1000cfs. Some began by careful inspection to plan a route; but too much scouting resulted in cold feet also.... Others just dove in, with varying results. All learned from trying different approaches and watching others. We also got some good rescue practice, and a chance to warm up and stretch our legs by walking back up to run again.

There are at least three routes through the gap, plus many variants and some challenging eddy-moves, ferries, a boof-move over a hole, and at least one good front surf-wave. Below the gap are some good squirt-lines and some good side-surfing spots (also window-shading practice...).

After a while, more canoeists showed up (Larry & Shelly), so part of the group wrapped up the day by running the river from below the gap to the Shunpike rest area, a nice class 2 section. Others continued to practice in the gap, up to six runs, for quite a full day of paddling.

### Pharoah Lake Wilderness — 6/19/2010

We followed the trail from Crane Pond to Oxshoe Pond. After a brief break at the leanto we began our clockwise bushwhack circumnavigation of the pond. The first part on the south and west sides of the pond contained informal trails to campsites along the shore. There were several places that would be good swimming access to the pond. We chose one and some of us took a quick dip. As we continued, we took time to enjoy the wildflowers including a one flowered pyrola and marsh speedwell. After lunch on the northeast shore we finished the rest of the route back to the trail. We stopped near the leanto for a second swim. Oxshoe is a very attractive rock lined pond with many nice swimming spots. Hikers: Paul Dean, Sandy Gordon, Mary MacDonald, Lin Neil and the leader. (Walt

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Trip tales, cont.

(Continued from page 9)  
Hayes)

### Deerfield River — 6/19/2010

Five people enjoyed the Fife Brook fun run paddle on Saturday June 19th. Four kayaks and one ducky had a great day with warm weather and cool water with a water level of 1000 csf. We had such a good time that Sally Dewes' intermediate whitewater class caught us at the "Bridge to No-Where." We stopped at the optional Zoar Gap run and four of us decided to take the plunge (I mean, did the paddle). The new fellow to Zoar Gap did take a swim. He had minor scrapes and bruises to his legs, but nothing serious. Outside of that we had a great fun run. Leader: Jim Palmer

### Round-the-Mountain Canoe/Kayak Trip — 6/19/2010

We started at Ampersand Bay State Boat Launch on Lower Saranac Lake after leaving a car in Saranac Lake Village. We headed off into a fairly strong southwest wind. We ran into white caps as we crossed over Crescent Bay on our way to Eagle Island. After that the wind simmered down a little. The scenery was beautiful as it was another great sunny day. We had lunch at a point just before going down the river towards the lower lock. We saw two guys jump off the big cliff of Bluff Island into the water. Not something that any of us was interested in trying. Once in the river, we found a lot of boat traffic including many jetskis. Many of the boaters do not appear to realize there is a 5 mph speed limit on the river. We saw a family of mergansers on the river, and a bald eagle on Oseetah Lake. Fortunately the wind was with us on both Oseetah and Lake Flower pushing us to Saranac Lake Village. Trip participants were Marc and Jan Limeri, Karen Kast, and Sue and Roy Keats (the leader).

### Black and Elephant Mountains — 6/21/10

The date of this hike was changed to



Photos by Roy Keats

An ADK group in the Upper Saranac Lock in May.

avoid wet weather. We picked a beautiful, clear day, with the only downside being an abundance of biting deer flies. Starting on Pike Brook Road, we first climbed Black Mountain, where we found that the old, noisy windmill used to power the communications equipment has been replaced by a much quieter one plus solar panels. We then bushwhacked north down the Black Mountain ridge, finding numerous signs of moose along the way. Our goal was a small knob lying about 0.3 miles west of Elephant Mountain, which we thought might offer views of Lake George. We were not disappointed, for the knob is quite open and has great views of the deep-blue lake and the Mother Bunch Islands lying 1400 ft. directly below. From the knob, we then climbed to the top of Elephant Mountain, a pleasant open place with a mix of grassy meadows and red pines, but without distant views. Our return route led south through a marshy valley to avoid private lands, before reconnecting with the Black Mountain trail about 1.7 miles west of the Pike Brook Rd. trailhead. Hikers were Walt Hayes, Dave Loux and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

### Redfield — 6/26/10

There were just the two of us on this overcast and rainy day. We met up with three hikers from the Utica chapter of ADK and made it to the top of Redfield together — then they were on their way to conquer Cliff Mt. — much more than I needed. They e-mailed Walt the next day and said they didn't get back to the Upper Works until 9 p.m.— wet and muddy. The Calamity Brook trail from Upper Works to Flowed Lands, in spots, weren't meant for man nor beast— mud all over the place. We also saw a black bear crossing the road on the road from Newcomb. The herd path from near the Uphill lean-to was easy to follow — didn't encounter much blowdown. The feeling coming out after the hike when you cross the bridge where the Hudson comes out of Lake Henderson is a great relief, making it all worthwhile. Co-leaders Jay Summerson and Walt Addicks.

### Henderson Lake Canoe Trip — 7/2/2010

After meeting at the Upper Works parking area, we carried our boats and gear up to the lake. We paddled away from the dam and across the lake to the marsh formed by Santanoni Brook. Once in the brook, we were able to paddle upstream about a third of a mile without any beaver dams. The views of Santanoni and Panther were outstanding on the way in. On the way out, the view of Marshall was great. After reaching the lake, we headed south for the bay with Harkness Lake outlet entering. We were able to paddle about a quarter of a mile up this stream. At places the stream was so narrow and twisty that it took three point turns to get the longest canoe around. We then paddled north up the lake into a fairly strong wind. Once at the north end, we paddled up Indian Pass Brook for about a third of a mile. The views of Wallface are very impressive as you come up the lake and even more so as you get closer on the stream. Normally, we have never been able to get this far up any of these inlets. After returning to the lake we stopped at the lean-to on the northwest shore to hike into Upper Preston Pond. The trail was a little rough and wet, but the cliffs on the

## Board of Directors report

### Highlights of the June meeting:

**Conservation Advocacy** - ADK provided key support in Albany for keeping the state parks and historic sites open and for providing funds for state land stewardship, including support for ADK's professional trail crews and the Summit Steward program. As of the meeting date, it appeared that the ADK trail crews would be adequately funded this year. ADK also fought to keep budgetary losses in the Environmental Protection Fund to a minimum. Although the final numbers reduced the EPF budget to \$134 million (vs \$212 million last year), the 2010 budget does provide \$17.6 million for open-space protection and \$16.2 million for state land stewardship – better than zero, which was a possibility.

**Operations** - Several ADK facility improvements were made recently, including upgrades to the Great Rooms at both Adirondak Loj and Johns Brook Lodge; a new kitchen floor at the Loj; and renovation of the women's rest room at the High

Peaks Information Center at Heart Lake.

**Johns Brook Lodge** - A revision of the master plan for the JBL property was presented by Bob Grimm and approved by the board. It calls for a number of improvements in the JBL facilities, including winterization, and the lodge's educational programs.

**Trails** - A major part of the project to replace bog bridging and relocate a muddy section of the Klondike Notch Trail (connecting Adirondak Loj and JBL) was completed this spring. The project was helped by a DEC decision to allow ferrying heavy new bridging material to the work site by helicopter, rather than requiring that it be hand-carried.

The year 2012 is the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Northville-Placid Trail, the first project undertaken by the newly-formed ADK. To celebrate, the next major ADK trails project is likely to be a renovation of this route.

**Cathead Mountain Resolution** - A proposal regarding a land swap between the Hatchbrook Sportsman's Club and New York State was discussed. The proposal would transfer 480 acres of club lands to NYS, plus grant public access to the summit of Cathead Mountain (near Benson), in exchange for a transfer of 80 acres of state lands to the club for motor vehicle and power line access to the club's currently landlocked camp, plus the right to establish one new hunting camp. This proposal would require an amendment to the NYS constitution, since it involves transfer of Forest Preserve land. The ADK Conservation Committee recently voted to recommend rejection of the proposal. After a spirited debate, the board voted to uphold the Conservation Committee's position against the proposal. I voted in favor of the proposal, feeling that the land area and recreational benefits to NYS and the public outweighed the possible legal precedent of allowing a private property owner to gain access over current Forest Preserve lands.

— Norm Kuchar

## Trip tales, cont.

side of the trail and the view on the Pond made the trek worth it. As we returned to our put in next to the dam on Henderson Lake, we had a great view of Mt Colden in the distance. Trip participants were Carol and Dave Furman, Marc and Jan Limeri, and Sue, Sarah and Roy Keats (the leader).

### Northville-Placid Trail — 7/3/10

On a hot Saturday in early July, we did a long car shuttle to Piseco, then back to the end of West River Drive and Whitehouse, where we commenced our approximately 9-mile hike back to Piseco. All went along normally, with a stop at the Hamilton Lake Stream lean-to for a short rest. When we reached Route 30 at Piseco, we were able to drop our packs in the car. One of our party did not wish to hike the 3-mile road walk to the parking lot at the Cold Stream bridge. We finished in good

time, then back to Whitehouse for the other car. Hikers were Charlie Beach, Gail Colley, Kendra Pratt, John Susko and Mary MacDonald, leader.

### Hudson River Gorge — 7/4/2010

My annual Hudson River Gorge trip was blessed with a nice river level of 4 feet and temperatures in the high 80s. We had seven people (Host deLorenzi, Sally Dewes, Nelson Miller, Carolyn Cyr, Pierre Cyr, Derrick Snyder, and Norm from N.J. who had no one to paddle with and was an asset) in hard shell kayaks and 3 in inflatable kayaks (Rick Morse, Judy Halstead and Trip Leader Chuck Wilkison.) Rick and Judy provided evidence that we are all between swims. Fortunately no one had physical injuries. Pierre and Nelson won the contest for the most waves surfed. Sally bribed her way to a ducky ride out

from Bus Stop with Chuck via a great chocolate bar. The great day of paddling was followed by a pot luck supper at our home where we had a number of extra valued guests who could not make the paddling trip. Thanks to everybody for a great day!

### Bagels by the Lisha Kill — 7/13/2010

The staff at Bruegger's was pulling out a fresh batch of bagels when I went in. Good fortune for us, as they would still be warm when we ate them by the stream in the Liska Kill Nature Preserve in Niskayuna. We may have spent just as long sitting by the water talking as we did hiking but we had an enjoyable morning. After breakfast, we completed a short hike through the preserve on Frank's Trail. Matt Hogan, Rocky the hiking dog and the leader (Herb Terns)

## Local news and announcements

### Attention, Northville Placid hikers!

To the Northville Placid Trail Patch applicant who sent in \$4 and request in Jan/Feb: Please let us know who you are. Send information to the P.O. Box, attn NPT Coordinator. We do not have your information.

### 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/>.

### Adirondack Life collection sale to benefit chapter

A chapter member has offered his collection of Adirondack Life magazines for sale, with proceeds to benefit the

### In Memoriam

#### Art Fatum

The chapter mourns the passing of Art Fatum on June 17, in Melbourne, Fla. A member of the Schenectady Chapter since 1972, Art became Vice Chair in 1977, Chapter Chair in 1978, and served as a Director in 1979 and 1980. He also was an active whitewater trip leader for the chapter, and he and his wife Evelyn hosted an annual cross-country ski day at their country home in Rotterdam for many years.

chapter.

Bill Price has nearly a complete set of the magazines (only three issues missing) from the first issue in 1970 through 2003. The first six years are in Adirondack Life binders. Special issues from 1991 through 2008 are included.

Anyone interested should contact Bill Price at [wwprice@aol.com](mailto:wwprice@aol.com) by Sept. 1 with their offer.

*(Continued from page 5)*

path to the Big Eddy, a still water in the river. We'll hike west to the mouth of the gorge where a great swimming spot exists. We will either rock hop to the base of the first falls or ascend a herd path to a spectacular lookout at the top of the gorge.

## Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010

### Blue Ledges (on the Hudson River)

Classification C2B

Leader: Ken and Nilde Marcinowski  
Blue Ledges is a unique place where the Hudson River makes a horseshoe bend at the base of gigantic cliffs. Except for the end of the trail near the river, the trail features easy grades. We'll hike down to the river's edge where the cliffs rise over 300 feet over head.

### Pillsbury Mountain

Classification C2B

Leader: Elie Bijou

This is a firetower peak which offers

great views from the tower. The West Canada Lakes, Snowy Mountain the Miami River and many of the areas that were hiked as part of the outing should be visible. This trip is 3.2 miles with roughly 1200 feet of gain.

### G Lake

Classification C2C

Leader: Bob Grimm

This will be an easy to moderate hike of about 5 miles RT to G lake with only minor elevation change; just west of Piseco lake and north of Rte. 8. We'll take the former service road to the dam, and hopefully view beaver activity, loons and beech blight. Time permitting we'll visit the remnants of a Syracuse China Camp for employees.

### Kibby Pond

Classification C2B

Leader: Pat Desbiens

There are people who will tell you that Kibby might be the prettiest pond in the area. This will be a gentle hike into the

pond where there should be good views of the clear water and nearby Kettle Mountain reflected in it.

### Kunjamuk Paddle

Classification B2C

Leader: David Avigdor

The Kunjamuk is a lovely, twisty little river with some beaver dams. We will paddle the section from the Sacandaga River to Elm Lake (round trip), and can add a stretch in the smaller stream above Elm Lake if the group wishes. We'll take the short walk from the river to Kunjamuk Cave. Paddlers should be prepared for multiple beaver dams.

### Echo Cliffs (Panther Mountain)

Classification C2B

Leader: Sharon Getman

The cliffs aren't at the actual summit of the mountain but the views are. This is a small peak on the west side of Piseco Lake and should offer good views of the Silver Lake Wilderness area and Spy Lake.