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The Lookout

The newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

ADK sponsors trail work for teens

Since 1986, thousands of volunteers have worked with trained ADK trail crew leaders to give back to the trails they use by completing trail maintenance and reconstruction projects all over the Adirondacks and Catskills.

In 2012, five trail projects are reserved for high school aged teenagers (ages 14-17) who want to spend a week in the woods camping in the backcountry and experiencing trail work. Each year, the Schenectady Chapter of ADK sponsors two local teens, providing the \$250 fee so they can participate at no cost.

To apply for the teen trail project scholarship, write an essay explaining why you wish to participate in trail project and send it to Teen Trails Project Coordinator, Schenectady ADK, P.O. Box 733, Schenectady, NY 12301-0733, no later than March 26, 2012. The scholarship is open to the public, but preference is given to teens with an affiliation with ADK. The teens selected to receive the scholarship will be able to choose one of the five-day projects listed below:

- **July 8-13 --- Phelps Trail:** Johns Brook Valley – High Peaks Wilderness. Camping at an ADK lean-to next to Johns Brook, participants will replace a foot bridge over Black Brook. The volunteer crew will also re-route a short section of hiking trail.
- **July 15-20 --- Orebed Trail – High Peaks Wilderness.** Starting at the beginning of this popular hiking trail, rock stepping stones and turnpiking will be built to curtail future soil erosion. Participants will camp at an ADK lean-to next to Johns Brook.

- **July 22-27 --- Big Slide Trail: Johns Brook Valley – High Peaks Wilderness.** Rock steps and rock waterbars will be placed at the beginning of this popular hiking trail and participants will camp at an ADK lean-to.
- **July 29-August 3 --- Cedar Lake : Northville Placid Trail – West Canada Lake Wilderness.** The Cedar Lakes south lean-to will be used as a base camp. Participants will sidecut and remove blowdown between the south end of Cedar Lake and Mud Creek.
- **August 5 -10 --- Spruce Lake : Northville Placid Trail – West Canada Lake Wilderness.** Participants will replace small footbridges using native timbers and camp at one of the Spruce Lake lean-tos.

For all of the five-day projects, participants arrive at base camp (at the Adirondack Loj Campground adjacent to Heart Lake) on Sunday evening for dinner and orientation. Participants will be back at base camp late afternoon on Friday. Trail work is demanding so volunteers should expect to be challenged both physically and mentally.

ADK provides leadership, group camping gear, tools, transportation from base camp, and food for multi-day projects. Project information, including an equipment list, will be sent to all volunteers upon registration.

Questions? Call project coordinator Gillian Scott at 372-8478.

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. For further information, call Larry Woods (271-0270) or Herb Terns (372-8478).

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	

Feb. 1-7 (Wed-Tue) and Mar 1-7 (Thu-Wed)

Moonlight Snowshoe

Featherstonhaugh SF

Class C3D

Rich Vertigan, 381-9319

In the days before the full moon every month, the moon is at 70-80 percent of its brightness, and also rises early enough to light up the winter woods in the early evening. This will be a 1-to-2-hour moonlit walk (snowshoes only, please) through Featherstonhaugh SF, near Mariaville. Exact date, time, and route will depend on snow, temperatures, sky conditions, status of logging operations, and my schedule. Please call a week or so in advance and let me know which nights

you are/aren't available, and I'll coordinate the details as the weather evolves. Cancelled if no snow or cloudy all week. Kids welcome with parents. Snowshoes required, as are flexibility and a sense of adventure.

Sat 4 Feb

Bloody Mountain snowshoe bushwhack

Class B2B

Walt Hayes, 399-7482

An explore in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest to seek a route for the North Country National Scenic Trail. The trip will include a visit to remote Pine Pond and the north slope of Hail Mountain. Seven miles with ascent of 1,000 feet.

Innings and Outings, cont.

Sun 5 Feb

Mt. Sherrill

Elie Bijou, adirondacks@verizon.net

Or 718-377-2990 9am - 9 pm, weekends till 6 pm

Sherrill, (3,540 ft) is a complete bushwhack. Please bring full winter gear, lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Pace slower moderate. ascent 1,800 ft, distance 6 miles. Joint with ADK NoJ-Ramapo and ADK-LI

Leader coming from NYC, unable to carpool.

Sun 5, Feb

Moreau Lake State Park

Class B2C

Ken & Nilde Marcinowski, 885-9400 or

Nildekens@msn.com

For those who may not be familiar with this local park and its' varied assortment of trails, here's an opportunity to explore the rolling trails around the lake and Mud Pond. We will (depending upon weather) hike or snowshoe five to six miles with many "ups and downs," but there will be no major elevation gains. Warm winter gear will be required; lunch as well as warm drinks are suggested. Call or email by Friday evening prior to the trip.

Sat 11 Feb

Avalanche Lake Ski

A2A

Mike Brun 399 1021 or brunmcts@verizon.net

We'll ski from South Meadow, with possible extension to Colden Lake. This is a pretty trip, mostly uphill on the way in, so mostly downhill on the way home. Avalanche Lake is always spectacular. Round trip is about 15 mi. Trail is moderately steep in places, not suitable for beginners. Pace would be moderate, ascent about 1,000ft.

Sat 11 Feb

Street and Nye

Class A2A

Herb Terns, 372-8478 or

trailhead@verizon.net

We'll climb these two high peaks starting at the Adirondack Loj. Full winter gear will be required for full winter fun on this 9+ mile round trip.

Sat 11 Feb

Moose Mountain Pond and Falls - snowshoe bushwhack

Class B2B

Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or

nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

We'll follow the marked Moose Mountain Pond trail south from Ensign Pond Rd. near North Hudson, passing scenic Berrymill Flow on the way to the pond. Along the way, we'll make a short side trip to explore a potential route to a nice falls on the Moose Mountain Pond outlet, which we found on our December hike to the Berrymill Flow area; this route could become a section of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Moose Mountain Pond itself is a beautiful place, with good views of the surrounding mountains and a lean-to for a lunch spot. If snow conditions are good, we may return from the pond by a different route, bushwhacking along some beaver vlys to the north or northwest of the pond. Distance is about 7.5 miles, with about 500 ft of climb. Winter gear, including snowshoes and headlamp, required.

Sun 12 Feb

Ski Sanders Preserve and Slack acres

Nancy Slack, 377-7422

A local cross-country ski trip. Ski on the leader's 50-acre property plus Sanders Preserve 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. with hot chocolate and cookies provided by leader.

Sat 18 Feb

Taconic Crest Trail – Tower Mountain Road to Route 20

Class B2A.

Mary MacDonald at mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com or 518-371-1293

Approximately 6 miles on the trail with about 1+ miles along access trail. Car shuttle. Requires full winter gear. Winter hiking is difficult and can be cold and windy. This is a snowshoe trip. Please come prepared for a great day in the snowy outdoors.

Sat 18 Feb

East Branch of the Sacandaga Ski Trip

Class A2B

Roy Keats 370-0399

This is a classic ski trip going from the trailhead at Thirteenth Lake to Route 8 near Bakers Mills. The

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Paddling Parables/Whitewater Schedule

Sacandaga Run and Picnic

Due to the Cancellation of the annual fall release on the West river in Vermont our planned whitewater trip was switched to the Sacandaga release in the town of Hadley. Our group of 14 paddlers met on a fairly nice September day and proceeded to thoroughly enjoys ourselves taking advantage of this great paddling resource

After a great whitewater workout we gathered together at the take out picnic area to enjoy a family style cook-out and barbecue. Many folks brought various dishes of food along with BBQ items to share. My thanks go out to all who participated in this fun run and picnic. Perhaps we can do this again next year. Paddlers were Anthony, Horst, Norm, Jesse, Ed, Clark, Ken,

Mike, Rachael, John, Gary, Dave, Shelly, and trip leader Bob Wright.

Tohickon Release Dates

This year's Tohickon release dates were Nov. 5th. and 6th. Four Schenectady ADK paddlers drove down for two days of warm, sunny, and fun filled whitewater creaking. The Tohickon Creek on the Penns. and New Jersey border releases every spring and fall season providing whitewater enthusiasts with an exciting 3.5 mile run of class 3 fun. Local dining out and cheap motels make this an added bonus during the fall season. The drive is less than 5 hours long, and the release is attended by hundreds of boaters from all over the eastern U.S. This years participants were Horst DeLorenzi, Norm Labbe. Ralph Pascale, and trip leader Robert Wright.

Date	Day	Event	Contact	Contact Information
February 15, 2012	Wednesday	Whitewater Planning Meeting: All interested paddlers can attend at 7 p.m. Plenty of pizza will be served. Call for location.	Larry Woods	810-7552
March 17, 2012	Saturday	"The Cats-kill" (the new post-Irene Cats-kill); Class 3	Horst deLorenzi	399-4615
March 31, 2012	Saturday	Fish Creek , near Rome, NY; always challenging and always changing. The ice formations are spectacular in early spring! Class 3.	Horst deLorenzi	399-4615
March 31, 2012	Saturday	Class 3, Leader's Choice; call leader to find out plans.	Chuck Wilson	793-8041

Board of Directors report

Highlights of the December 2011, meeting

Update on High Volume Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing (HVHF): Four public hearings were held on DEC's draft generic environmental impact statement (EIS) covering HVHF in the Marcellus shales. All were heavily attended. Neil Woodworth spoke at one of the hearings, while President Jim Bird spoke at another. An examination of comments from the gas industry shows a strong push to reverse DEC's ban on drilling in state forests, parks and wildlife management areas. ADK will strongly support the ban, as well as a ban on drilling under these state lands from surrounding private lands.

Update on Consequences of Hurricane Irene: In October, it was reported that the direct losses to ADK from Hurricane Irene, during the period from the storm until DEC reopened the woods about 10 days later, were approximately \$66K. Most of this was from losses in revenues from room and campground accommodations at the Loj and JBL, parking at the Loj, and sales at the HPIC. ADK filed

insurance claims for these losses, and an advanced payment of \$20K has been received, with further payments possible. However, it is now clear that the storm caused revenue losses beyond the 10-day period after the storm. Loj and JBL revenues during October and November, normally high-use months, were significantly lower than those during the same months in 2010. It is now felt that the overall loss to the club from the storm was about \$100K.

Finances: Last December, the BOD approved a balanced budget for 2011. As of the end of October, revenues were \$250K below budget (partially due to Hurricane Irene) and expenses were \$28K below budget, so that total operations were about \$222K worse than budget for this point in the year. The BOD approved a balanced budget for 2012, with about \$100K increases above 2010 levels in both revenues and expenses.

Celebration for the Northville-Placid Trail: The BOD passed a resolution calling for a celebration of the opening

of the Northville-Placid Trail (ADK's first and flagship trail) in 2014, the 90th anniversary of the official opening of the trail in 1924.

ADK Officers for 2012: The BOD approved Dave Harrison as Secretary and Jeff Lacy as Treasurer. Tom Andrews and Noel Davis were elected to serve as BOD members on the Executive Committee. Erik Gregory will serve as chair of the Finance Committee.

Important 2012 Events:

ADK Annual Meeting: March 24, 2012, beginning at 9:00 AM, at club headquarters in Lake George.

ADK Fall Outing: September 28-30, 2012, in North Creek. Hosted by Cold River Chapter.

— Norm Kuchar

ADK lectures to include author Bill McKibben

Environmental author Bill McKibben will be among the distinguished speakers participating in the Adirondack Mountain Club's Winter 2012 Lecture Series at the [High Peaks Information Center](#) (HPIC). The Saturday evening lecture series began Jan. 7 and will run through March 17. Upcoming lectures include:

- Feb. 4: "Notes from the Front of the Climate Fight" with Bill McKibben.
- Feb. 11: "Moose in New York" with state wildlife biologist Ed Reed.

- Feb. 18: "Adirondack Environmental History: It's as Clear as Mud" with Brendan Wiltse, a Ph.D. candidate from Queens University in Kingston, Ontario.
- Feb. 25: Music by Annie and the He-donists.
- March 3: "Introduction to Square Dancing," with music and calling by Stan Burdick.
- March 10: "Flora and Fauna of the

Adirondacks."

- March 17: Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with The Rustic Riders, an Adirondack-based acoustic group. All lectures begin at 8 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

The High Peaks Information Center (HPIC) is at the end of the Adirondack Loj Road, 8 miles south of Lake Placid. For more information about the lecture series and other ADK programs, visit our website at www.adk.org or call (518) 523-3441.

Trip Tales

Slide Mountain Loop, 10/29/11

The road to the Slide Mountain trailhead was closed by Hurricane Irene, so a hike to Kaaterskill High Peak and Roundtop was substituted. Alas, the unusual October snowstorm on the day of the hike caused even the substitute hike to be cancelled.

— *Norm Kuchar*

Baldwin Mountain, 12/10/11

Baldwin is one of those “Where’s that?” mountains just southwest of Newcomb Lake and the Santanoni Great Camp. It raised my interest on a hike of Goodnow Mountain in Newcomb a few years ago. Perched over Newcomb Lake with the High Peaks in the background, Baldwin would host an awesome view north if one could be found. I filed it away on my “to do” list for a while until, one day looking at Google Earth, I found an encouraging-looking section of bare rock on the southwest ridge. It didn’t look like anyone else climbed Baldwin, or if they did, they weren’t talking about it. So we were surprised to see a few scattered sign-ins for Baldwin at the Santanoni Camp sign-up.... Apparently someone else had seen what we had. We picked a mostly western approach to Baldwin, leaving from the Great Camp carriage road. We found an old road that followed our compass line perfectly – bushwhacking gold! We were able to make the 1.5 mile approach in practically no time. During our hike, Rich had changed the vocabulary of what we were looking for from “possible open area” (my words) to “slide” (his). I tried not to get my hopes up too high but when we found it, Rich was right! It was a slide with really nice views south over the Fishing Brook Range, Goodnow Mountain, Snowy and Wakely mountains. We headed up towards the summit but I was already happy with what we saw. The summit was wooded, but we were accompanied by a flock of crossbills. Instead of heading over to the other cliff, we bushwhacked along Baldwin’s northern ridge looking for a view. Through the trees we could see Newcomb Lake below us and the snow capped

High Peaks beyond. It was a seductive sight and we thought with the amount of blowdown along the ridge, we had to find an open spot somewhere. We found a few partial views but nothing really open before heading over to the other open spot Rich had found. There, we found ourselves standing at the top of a cliff with some good views to the east. We never got our million dollar view to the north but I’m not complaining, especially after the southern views, the crossbills and a fun day out. We crossed some bear tracks before heading out to the carriage road and cups of hot coffee in North Creek. Hikers were Rich Vertigan and the leader Herb Terns.

North Country Trail Exploration Around Owl Pate, 12/16/11

This hike was billed as a snowshoe trip, but the ground was bare. Starting at the Moose Mountain Pond trailhead on Ensign Road, we hiked south on the trail to the place where it heads southeast away from Berry Mill Flow. We then bushwhacked south along the east edge of the flow, being squeezed between the flow and the steep slopes to the east. We found a beautiful waterfall on the outlet of Moose Mountain Pond, very close to the place where it empties into Berry Mill Flow. After passing under some impressive cliffs on the shoulder of Owl Pate, we reached our goal, a beaver pond south of Owl Pate that we had reached from the south last summer. Thus, we showed the feasibility of this route for the North Country Trail. On the return trip, we also explored an alternative route over a hill north of the Moose Mountain Pond outlet stream, to avoid a section where the narrowness of the space between the steep slopes and the flow caused difficulties. Explorers included Dale Blanchet, Susan Roberts, Herb Terns, Rich Vertigan and co-leaders Walt Hayes and Norm Kuchar.

Taconic Crest Trail 12/27/2011

Lovely day with temperatures around 30 degrees early in the day and rising to around 40 degrees by the time

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Trip Tales

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we reached our destination at Potter Mountain Road. We began hiking around 8:45 a.m. and climbed to the Crest Trail in about an hour. We then headed north for the next six miles or so. Views were excellent. We had some historical background from Karen Ross who lives in the area of Lebanon Springs, our starting point. Located in this area are warm mineral springs with a constant temperature of about 72 degrees. The road we followed over the height of land was used by farmers with their wagons to access the markets on the Massachusetts side of the trail. We had an interesting and fun day with an excellent group of hikers. We were all thankful for the early start which allowed us to return to our homes prior to the onset of the afternoon rains.

Harvey Mountain New Year's Eve 12/31/11-1/1/12

The year 2011 ended with a decided lack of clarity. This is no metaphor and it wasn't the result of alcohol. It was because 14 of us rang in 2012 by hiking into the clouds on Harvey Mountain in Columbia County. We assembled at the Harvey Mountain trailhead at 10 p.m., slightly earlier than expected as our pre-hike dinner went faster than expected. This was our eighth New Year's hike and I'm pretty sure the first with no snow on the ground. Snowshoes and stable-icers remained in the cars. We didn't even need to bundle up that much at the trailhead as the temperatures were in the 40s. The first portion of the 1.5 mile hike is gently rolling on old roads. It gave us a chance to chat and catch up. Several times a gap would form between the front and back of the group and we'd stop and wait, concerned there was a problem. Then we'd hear a loud laugh from the dark and realize there was no problem at all, there was fun instead. After a somewhat icy stream crossing, we began the bulk of our climb. The wind began to pick up and visibility decreased as we headed into the mist. By the time we got to the open area that make up the view areas of Harvey's summit, the clouds were swirling around us. The sight of more than a dozen headlamps, their light diffused in the



Gillian Scott handing out brownies on Harvey Mountain on New Year's Eve. (Photo by Herb Terns)

mist, was other-worldly. We found a place away from the wind to ring in the year. Because we'd made such good time up, we decided to ring in Nova Scotia New Year instead at 11 p.m.. We passed around a batch of brownies Gillian had made for the trip and toasted with some champagne. On a night that's often notorious for excess, it was enriching to stand with a big group of healthy, happy friends on a mountain-side swapping stories and laughs. I can't imagine a better way to begin a new year. We were on our way back down by 11:30 p.m.. We dropped out of the clouds and were near the stream at midnight. We gave an official New Year's cheer under the light of headlamps. We signed out at the solidly constructed register that almost requires two people to lift. There more laughs and more cheer in the last quarter mile to the car, almost enough to make you wish the hike was a little longer. Hikers were Judy Brandow, Gillian Scott, Virginia and Bill Traver, Jan O'Hare, Aileen Genett, Cliff Prenwicki, Marth Waldman, Mary MacDonald, Joe, Ken and Nilde Marcinowski, Wyatt Waterman and the leader Herb Terns.

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Innings and Outings, cont.

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trip has a couple of intermediate downhill coming from Thirteenth Lake down to the Sacandaga Valley. After reaching the valley the trail generally follows alongside the East Branch for a very scenic tour. Near Route 8 there is a relatively steep ascent out of the valley followed by a steep descent to the parking lot. There may be a way to avoid this steep descent. The trip is about 11 miles long. This is rated as an intermediate trip.

Sun 19 Feb
The WolfJaws
Class A2A
Herb Terns, 372-8478 or
traihed@verizon.net

For those looking to do the Great Range this winter this is a companion trip an Albany Chapter outing going up Sawteeth, Gothics and Armstrong the following weekend. Depending on conditions we'll likely head up from the Lake Road for these two High Peaks. Round trip over 10 miles and 3,500 feet of gain.

Sat 25 Feb
X-C Skiing, Clapper Hollow State Forest
Class: Intermediate
Rich Vertigan, 381-9319

Clapper Hollow State Forest is in southwestern Schoharie County, and gets a lot of snow. At least it did last year, and the skiing was excellent. We'll try it again this year, and relocate if the snow is elsewhere. Probably not a beginner area, but easy intermediate with some hills.

Sat 10 Mar
X-C Skiing, Rockwood State Forest,
Class: variable
Rich Vertigan, 381-9319

Rockwood State Forest is just west of Johnstown, and usually has good snow. Variety of terrain available, from beginner to "challenging." Some trails groomed. We'll do this as an afternoon trip from Schenectady, about an hour drive each way. Expect to spend a couple of hours skiing when we get there, with the ski route depending on the group.

Sat 10 Mar
Botheration Pond Ski Trip
Class A2B
Roy Keats 370-0399

This ski starts at the end of Old Farm Clearing Road. It is about an 8 mile loop trip. The trail goes by two small ponds, and has nice views of Gore Mountain. This is a relatively new trail in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness with a great variety of terrain. This is rated as an intermediate trip.

Sat 10 March
Table, Peekamoose and possibly Lone
Elie Bijou, adirondacks@verizon.net
Or 718-377-2990 9am - 9 pm, weekends till 6 pm

We'll ascend the most southerly of the Catskill High peaks, Table (3,847ft) and Peekamoose (3,843 ft) and, if we have enough time, we'll cut across the ridge off Table to Lone. Please bring full winter gear, lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Pace slower moderate. Ascent 2,000 ft, distance 7 miles (Peek and Table, not Lone). Joint with ADK NoJ-Ramapo and ADK-LI. Leader coming from NYC, unable to carpool.

Sat 17 March
Thomas Cole & Blackdome Mountains
Class B2B
John Susko 383-1284

Thomas Cole & Blackdome Mountains are the 5th and 3rd highest peaks in the Catskills. There are good views from both of the summits as well as on the way up. We'll take the trail from Barnum Road which is one of the more scenic trails in the Catskills. The distance is 7 miles with 2,500 feet of ascent. At this time of year snowshoes, crampons or other traction devices may be needed.

Sun 17 March
Phelps
Elie Bijou, adirondacks@verizon.net
Or 718-377-2990 9am - 9 pm, weekends till 6 pm

Please join me for a great winter climb. We'll ascend the normal way and then descend via a slide often used by skiers. Back country skiers and snow-shoers welcome.

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Innings and Outings, cont.

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Elevation 4,161 ft; ascent 2,000 –ft, distance, about 9 miles. Please bring full winter gear, lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Pace slower moderate. Joint with ADK NoJ-Ramapo and ADK-LI. Leader will be in Adirondacks, unable to carpool.

Sat 24 Mar
Lost Pond to Berrymill Pond Explore
Class B+2B
Herb Terns, 372-8478 or
trailhed@verizon.net

There are trails to both Berrymill and Lost Pond but no trail connecting them. We will follow the state trail into Lost Pond and then bushwhack over Burnt Ridge to Berrymill Pond where we'll pick-up the state trail and follow it out. There are several promising looking open areas on Burnt Ridge than I'm hoping will host views of Lake George and the Lord Howe Valley below. The only way to find out for sure is to go there. 7-8 miles round trip, roughly half a bushwhack, with 1,200 feet of gain.

Tue 27 Mar
Severance and Hedgehog Hills -
Snowshoe bushwhack
Class B2B
Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or
nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

We'll begin by taking the short (1.2 mi) marked trail to the top of Severance Hill near Schroon Lake . The summit has good views to the east, over Schroon Lake, Paradox Lake and the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness. We'll then begin a bushwhack, trying to find

and follow an old trail or logging road which went west from the Severance trail toward Hedgehog Hill. Hedgehog Hill reputedly has open rocks on its summit, with views over Schroon Lake . If time and snow conditions permit, we'll also explore the valley between Hedgehog and Jones Hill as a possible route for the North Country National Scenic Trail. Distance is about 5.5 to 6.5 miles, with about 1450 ft of climb. Winter gear, including snowshoes and headlamp, required.

Sat 31 Mar
Camp Santanoni Ski Trip
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 and is considered novice in difficulty. This is generally one of the last skiable areas in the Adirondacks .

Sat 31 Mar
Three pond snowshoe bushwhack
Class B2B
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

We will visit Prier Pond, Grassy Ponds and Gardner Pond just south of Route 28 in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness in an attempt to find a reasonable route for the North Country National Scenic Trail. About 5 miles with ascent of 800 feet.

Trip Tales

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ADK/TCT Hike 01/08/2012

Wilton Preserve near Saratoga Springs – 01/08/2012 – We began our hike about 9:45 a.m. on a pleasant Sunday morning with temps in the upper 30s and a slight wind blowing. We started

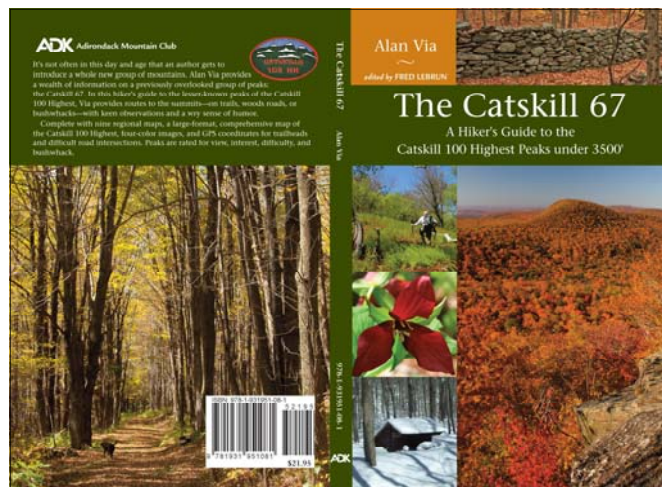
north from the Scout Road parking lot on the blue trail with a side trip onto the new Opdahl Farm trail. We then continued to walk the perimeter of that portion of the preserve. We saw no wildlife nor bird activity. We drove to another access point along Route 50 and walked around the Old Gick Farm trail. Here we saw a group of 5 horses and their riders.

March Inning Planned

Alan Via to present at library event

Alan Via will be presenting a slide presentation of the Catskill 67 on March 7 at 7 p.m. at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, 475 Moe Road.

Via was Albany ADK's Outings chair for 14 years and a main club chair for 24. After completing the ADK100 he started looking for another challenge and then completed the Catskill 100 Highest. The Adirondack Mt Club published Alan's book, *The Catskill 67 - A Hiker's Guide to the Catskill 100 Highest under 3500'* in January. His slide presentation shows off the mountains, flowers, animals and views of these other peaks in four seasons, with photography from the photographers who contributed to the book. The book will be available for sale at the Catskill 3500 Winter Weekend on Jan. 28-29, and should be available by contacting the ADK in Lake George the following week.



Cover art for Alan Via's book.s

Tidbits of Interest

New ECOS Ski & Snowshoe book of tips now available

ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse has released a new edition of their popular book ECOS Ski & Snowshoe Tips. Last revised in 2001, this new edition features 67 pages of maps and information for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the Greater Capital District. ECOS volunteers spent nearly two years collecting maps, reviewing and visiting areas and preparing this new edition. The book includes easy to use maps of 50 locations in the Capital Region for skiers and snow-shoers. The new revision has a "locator map" to simplify finding your desired map. The elevations of all areas are also included in the Table of Contents to help determine the best snow possibilities. Each map comes with specific directions, general trail

descriptions, and, for many maps, explicit locations of steep trail sections. The book is available at bookstores and sporting goods stores around the Capital Region or by contacting ECOS at 518-370-4125 or info@ecosny.org

Kayak rolling instruction offered in Duanesburg

The Duanesburg Community Center is offering beginner kayak rolling instruction. Advanced registration is required. Ralph Pascale is the leader. The instruction will take place on February 2,9,16,23. For detailed information and registration go to www.spendwood.com and click on information. There is a \$15 pool fee required.

Bon Ton Roulet Bike Tour planned for July 2012

As we all know, we lost member

Phil Fountain this year to a tragic accident as he was volunteering at this year's Bon Ton Roulet bicycle tour in the Finger Lakes. Rich Vertigan is currently canvassing several local clubs to assess interest in sending a Capital District contingent to next year's tour, to ride it as a team in his memory. He's thinking about getting matching shirts or jerseys, and riding together as a group to honor Phil as our friend.

The tour will run from July 22-28, and there is more information on the web site at <http://www.bontonroulet.com>. July is a long way off for planning purposes, but if this idea potentially interests you, please contact Rich at vertiganr@gmail.com, and he'll get a list going, and will check back in the spring to see whether this idea can come to fruition.