

Schenectady Chapter of the ADK

December 2004/January 2005

New & Reinstated Members

Amirant, Tom and Barbara
Balch, Janice and Richard
Christman, Richard
Clayman, Art
Cox, Kevin
Fernandez, Aracelis
Gullotta, Darla and George
Hayden, Terry
Klymkow, Emil
Lasher, Beth
Lawrence, Mike

Magee, Kathleen
Martin, Elizabeth A.
Martin, Patricia and Richard
Matula, Paul and Denise
McGrattan, Stephen
Moak, John and Karen
Newsom, Kimberly
Onorata, Anastasia
Padula, Fred and Alice
Parks, Margaret I.
Piccolo, Karen L. and Leon Barnish

Rodbell, Donald and Cecilia
Schisano, John
Sum, Gisele and Thomas Bush
Szablewski, Garen and Marcia
Tool, Walter B.
Tuchovsky, Brandon
Van Heusen, April
VanDenburgh, Ronald
Willis, Steven
Zeller, Ben

Schenectady Chapter Winter Weekend at Adirondak Loj January 28-30

Why rough it? Ski and snowshoe in the backcountry, then return to the warm and cozy Adirondack Loj at Heart Lake for hot cocoa by the fireplace!

Prices range from approximately \$110 to \$130 per person for a bunk and meals for the weekend. A deposit is required.

For reservations or more information, call Stan Stoklosa at 383-3066.

For the best room choice, call **before Dec 28.**

(A few spaces may be available to mid January)

Due to unforeseen circumstances, David Wordle was unable to take the position of Lookout Editor. Gillian Scott will now fill that position.

Campers Wanted for NYS DEC Environmental Summer Camps

The chapter will sponsor two teenagers for a week at a DEC summer camp. Those selected will have the opportunity to enjoy a blend of learning and recreation. Activities may include hiking, trail building, water sports and environmental workshops.

There are four camps available: Camp Colby, DeBruce and Rushford for ages 12-14. Pack Forest Camp is for 15-17 year olds. Camp sessions are one week long in July and August.

Applicants are requested to write an essay as to why they wish to participate, and send it to "Project Coordinator, c/o Schenectady ADK, P.O. Box 733, Schenectady, NY 12301-0733. Preference will be given to the families of Schenectady chapter members, then affiliates, other ADK chapters, and then the public.

Applications will be submitted to the DEC starting Feb. 15, 2005. If there is no response from ADK members by this date, campers will be selected from the general public applications.

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	

Innings & Outings Schedule for November and December 2004 and January 2005

*FOR FURTHER DETAILS and TO SIGN UP, CALL TRIP LEADER. Try to call at least two days in advance.
Leaders may cancel on the day before an outing if there is insufficient interest.*

VOLUNTEER TO BE A LEADER or CO-LEADER FOR AN OUTING -- CALL WALT HAYES, 399-7482

Sat 4 Dec
Pigeon Mountain, Class C2C
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Climb the highest peak in Fulton County at 2780 feet. The route follows an old road through an attractive valley with a bushwhack to the top from the road. About five miles with an ascent of about 1240 feet.

Sat 4 Dec
Kaaterskill High Peak, Class A3B
Sid Borthwick, 347-2901
Or e-mail sborthwi@nycap.rr.com

This outing is a moderately strenuous hike with a short bushwhack. Plan on an easy pace with a total round-trip of approximately 8 miles and total ascent of 1730 feet. This peak is included in the Catskill 3500 Club "35 Highest." Please contact leader for details.

Sat 11 Dec
Tremper Mtn Fire Tower, Class C3C
Betty Lou Bailey, 355-0604

FIRE TOWER CHALLENGE
This trip in the northeastern Catskills goes up an old road at a steady climb to the 2740-foot summit from parking next to Esopus Creek at 750 feet. There is a lean-to near the fire tower which is convenient for lunch. Might need instep crampons and/or snowshoes. Round-trip is 6.1 miles.

Sat 11 Dec
Harrington Mountain, Class B2B
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Bushwhack this 2613-foot peak in the Town of Thurman off Route 8 on the East Branch of the Sacandaga River. The route will be via Eagle Pond. About 5 miles with an ascent of about 1300 feet. Hopefully there will be views of Mt. Blue to the east.

Sat 11 Dec
Rusk and Halcott, Class A2B
Sid Borthwick, 347-2901
or e-mail sborthwi@nycap.rr.com

This outing is a moderately strenuous bushwhack of two mountains at a moderate pace. The total distance is 10 miles with ascent of 3200 feet. These peaks are included in the Catskill 3500 Club "35 Highest." Please contact leader for details.

Sat 18 Dec
Hurricane Mt., Class B2B
Herb Terns, 372-8478
or e-mail Trailhed@localnet.com

Warm up to winter with what will hopefully be a snowshoe trip to Hurricane's scenic, open summit. We'll take the somewhat longer, but not quite as steep trail from Crow Clearing near Keene. Winter gear required. If there's time and group interest we'll stop at the Mountaineer for some last-minute holiday shopping. 6 miles round trip at a moderate pace.

Sun 19 Dec
West Kill, Class B2B
Sid Borthwick, 347-2901
or e-mail sborthwi@nycap.rr.com

This outing is a moderately strenuous marked-trail hike of one mountain at a moderate pace. The total distance is 6.5 miles with an ascent of 2300 feet. Full winter gear may be required. This peak is included in the Catskill 3500 Club "35 Highest." Contact leader for details.

Tues 21 Dec
Balsam Mountain, B2B
Mary MacDonald, 371-1293

Loop from Rider Hollow Road. 5.2 miles with some climbing.

Sun 26 Dec
Blackhead, Black Dome & Thomas Cole, Class A3B
Sid Borthwick, 347-2901
or e-mail sborthwi@nycap.rr.com

This outing is a moderately strenuous trail hike at an easy pace. Plan on an end-to-end distance of approximately 9 miles with total ascent of 2400 feet. Full winter gear will be required. These peaks are included in the Catskill 3500 Club "35 Highest." Please contact leader for details.

Fri 31 Dec
Hadley Mt. New Year's Eve Hike, Class C3C
Herb Terns, 372-8478
or e-mail Trailhed@localnet.com

Ring in 2005 atop this the Southern Adirondacks peak! We'll meet up at a Glens Falls area diner for dinner (optional). Then we'll hike by headlamp to Hadley's summit and toast the new year with hot cocoa and cookies when the clock strikes midnight. Winter gear and headlamp required. 3.6 miles round trip with 1500 feet of gain.

Sat 1 Jan
Slide and Panther Mts, Class A3A
Sid Borthwick, 347-2901
or e-mail sborthwi@nycap.rr.com

We will first climb Slide Mountain at an easy pace. The round-trip distance is 4 miles with total ascent of 1650 feet. We then will regroup and go to the trailhead for Panther about 2 miles down the road from the Slide parking area. We will also climb at an easy pace up to the Panther summit. The round trip distance is 6.6 miles with total ascent of 1545 feet. These peaks are included in the Catskill 3500 Club "35 Highest." Full winter gear is required. Please contact leader for details.

Sun 2 Jan
Bennett Hill, Class C3C
Betty Lou Bailey, 355-0604

This hill belongs to the Albany County Land Conservancy and makes a easy snowshoe trip with rewarding views. It is just south of Clarksville. Top is flat so there is a one-mile loop around the circumference. The approach is also one mile, first almost flat then a climb of 340 feet. Total trip is 3 miles. Bring snowshoes.

Sat 8 Jan
Snowy Mountain, near Indian Lake, Class B 2 B
Keith Martin, 869-3692
or e-mail kdm46r@aol.com

Leader is an Adirondack 46er and a Catskill 3500er but has never hiked or snowshoed up this firetower peak. 8 mile round trip. Expect great views and steep, snowy upper slopes. Come join me on a new adventure! Meet at 7 a.m. outside Dunkin Donuts at Star Plaza (just west of intersection of Rtes. 20 and 155 in Guilderland).

Sat 8 Jan
Twin Lakes Mountain, Class B2C
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

This is snowshoe bushwhack from the trail to T Lake Falls near Piseco Lake. Leader has not been there but as usual is hoping for views. Join this explore of about six miles and 1800 feet of ascent.

Sun 9 Jan
Plateau, Class C2B
Sid Borthwick, 347-2901
or e-mail sborthwi@nycap.rr.com

This outing is a moderately strenuous marked-trail hike of one mountain at a moderate pace. The total distance is 3 miles with an ascent of 1200 feet. Full winter gear is required. This peak is included in the Catskill 3500 Club "35 Highest." Please contact leader for details.

Sun 9 Jan
Beginner Snowshoe Trip, Class C3D
Chuck Wilkison, 793-8041

An easy snowshoe trip in a nearby park to get you started with your new Christmas snowshoes. Rentals also available through ADK by calling Art Haberl at 370-5888. Call leader for details.

Wed 12 Jan
Hurricane Mtn, Class B2B
Roger Borgen, 371-1128

FIRE TOWER CHALLENGE
A favorite hike of the leader. This trip will be a 2000 foot climb from the south to the great view on this open peak. Check with leader for equipment requirements.

Sat 15 Jan
Berrymill and Moose Mt Ponds
Snowshoe, Class B2C
Norm Kuchar, 399-6243

This snowshoe hike goes to two seldom-visited ponds in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest. There are good views of Owl Pate, Bald Pate and Moose Mountain along the way. Depending on interest and time, we might also add a short side trip to either Bass Pond or Hammond Pond. Round-trip distance is about 7 miles, with an ascent of less than 500 feet.

Sat 15 Jan
Whortleberry Pond Ski, Class B2C
Herb Terns, 372-8478
or e-mail Trailhed@localnet.com

This is a 9.3-mile round-trip ski into a pond in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness. We'll ski into Pharaoh Lake on the Mill Brook trail, enjoying distant views of Pharaoh Mt and from the lake itself. From the lake, we'll take the short trail to Whortleberry Pond and on the way out enjoy the easy glide over a gentle downhill grade.

Sat 22 Jan
Ski Speculator Tree Farm
Bob Grimm, 842-7436 after 7 p.m.

8-mile ski on gently rolling International Paper Co. property now open to public through an easement. 60% trail-breaking. No pets. Call leader for details.

Sat 22 Jan
Castle Rock snowshoe, Class C3C
Tom Kindler, 229-9041
or email Schdyadk@yahoo.com

An easy climb to this great overlook at Blue Mountain Lake. About 600 feet of ascent.

Sun 23 Jan
Blackhead, Class C2B
Sid Borthwick, 347-2901 or email
sborthwi@nycap.rr.com

This outing is a moderately strenuous marked-trail hike of one mountain at a easy pace. The total distance is 4 miles with an ascent of 1700 feet. Full winter gear is required. This peak is included in the Catskill 3500 Club "35 Highest." Please contact leader for details.

Sun 23 Jan
Backcountry Ski to Stoney Pond
Chuck Wilkison, 793-8041

Class ski trip to the woods near Minerva. Call Chuck for details.

Sat 29 Jan
No. 8 Mt., Class C2B
Herb Terns, 372-8478 or
Trailhed@localnet.com

A small mountain in the southern corner of the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness with an unimaginative name. The total trip is about 4 miles with 900 feet of gain. Two miles are on trails and two miles will be a bushwhack through

Sat 5 Feb
Ski Flowed Lands and Lake Colden
Frank Sorbero, 843-2786

Sat 5 Feb
No. 8 Hill, Class B2B
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Sun 6 Feb
Panther, Class B2B
Sid Borthwick, 347-2901
or e-mail sborthwi@nycap.rr.com

Sat 12 Feb
Cooper Kiln (or Kill) Pond and peak,
Class B2B
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Sun 13 Feb
Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary
Herb Terns and Gillian Scott,
372-8478 or
Trailhed@localnet.com

Sat Feb 19
Five Mile Mtn Snowshoe
Class B2B
Norm Kuchar, 399-6243

Sat and Sun 19-20 Feb
Allen Mtn backpack, Class A1A
Al Knight, 827-8599

Sun 20 Feb
Balsam, Class B 2 B
Sid Borthwick, 347-2901
or e-mail sborthwi@nycap.rr.com

fairly open woods. Should be good views of Brant Lake and the Pharoah Lake Wilderness.

Ski from Upper Works. Possible thru trip key swap if enough participants.

(No. 8 Hill at 1877 feet should not be confused with the taller No. 8 Mountain at 1946 feet.) This peak near Pharoah Lake has been admired from afar for its apparent open shelf just below summit that should give us great views of the area. About seven miles with about half off-trail bushwhacking with ascent of about 1000 feet.

This outing is a moderately strenuous marked-trail hike of one mountain at an easy pace with a total distance of 6.5 miles and ascent of 1500 feet. This peak is included in the Catskill 3500 Club "35 Highest". Full winter gear is required. Plan on an early start. Please contact leader for details.

We will snowshoe the trail to the pond and lean-to near Whiteface. Then we'll bushwhack to the highest summit (unnamed at 3457 feet) in the Wilmington Range. About seven miles with ascent of 1650 feet.

Join us as we explore this preserve just south of Albany either by ski, snowshoe or bare boot, as weather conditions and group interest dictate. The sanctuary is operated by the Audobon Society so even in winter we should see some interesting birds. There's seven miles of trails, including one to an old quarry and one along a creek.

This snowshoe hike will follow the Tongue Mountain Range trail from its north end, across Brown Mountain to the summit of Five Mile Mountain. Along the way there are great views of Lake George and the mountains on the east side of the lake. Five Mile Mountain also overlooks Northwest Bay. Round-trip distance is about 7.2 miles, with a total ascent of about 1500 feet.

We will hike to Allen Brook, set up camp, climb Allen and return to camp for overnight. Call for equipment needs and details.

This outing is a moderately strenuous marked-trail hike of one mountain at a moderate pace with a total distance of 5.5 miles and ascent of 1700 feet. This peak is included in the Catskill 3500 Club "35 Highest." Full winter gear is required. Please contact leader for details.

Wed 23 Feb
Hadley Mtn snowshoe, Class B2C
Roger Borgen, 371-1128

FIRE TOWER CHALLENGE
Enjoy a winter trip to this popular peak. If conditions are right, an additional ridge walk to Round Top may be done.

Sun 27 Feb
North Dome, Class B2B
Keith Martin, 869-3692
or kdm46r@aol.com

This is short, steep trailless peak off the Spruceton Road in the Catskills. Depending on the crew and conditions, perhaps we'll also bushwhack over to Sherrill [trip then becomes A2B]. Meet at 7 a.m. outside Dunkin Donuts at Star Plaza (west of the intersection of Rtes. 20 and 155 in Guilderland).

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 Chuck Wilkison (793-8041) or Walt Hayes(399-7482) for further info.

Trip Tales & Paddling Parables

Peaked Mountain 08/11/04

A nice day, a leisurely trip and good views. We picked up a few small garnet rocks on the trail. Participants: Betty Lou Bailey, Gerald Perregaux, Fred Lieber and Reese Satin. (Roger Borgen)

Bald Peak 09/15/04

Colin Smith, Fred Lieber and Gerald Perregaux joined me on a beautiful day to climb Bald Peak. Lots of nice views from ridges, Blueberry Cobble and the approach to the peak. We were early for fall colors and late for blueberries, but the nice weather and good company more than compensated for them. (Roger Borgen)

Gore Mountain 9/25/04

A very hazy, sticky, buggy day for late September. Five of us, plus a Glens Falls ADK father/son we met at the trailhead, made the steep slog to the summit. The tower was closed. Views would have been plentiful from the upper ski trails on a clearer day. Two of us completed the Fire Tower Challenge with this hike. Good group and an interesting hike. Participants: Holly Hawkes, Randolph, Neil Parker, Kevin Cox and leader. (Rich Vertigan)

Moreau Lake State Park 09/26/04

Eight ADK members and a well-behaved dog enjoyed hiking the western ridge trail of Moreau Lake State Park on a perfect day. Participants: Tom Schottman, Marty Connor, Don Darmer, Carol Connolly, Peg Wallingford, Jack Daniels, Sheila Daniels and leader. (Ruth Schottman)

Pitchoff Mountain 10/07/04

This hike was postponed for a few days because of rain, but the delay was worth it. We enjoyed a perfect day, with blue skies and mild temperatures. We hiked past the balanced rocks and up along the summit ridge to a great lunch spot with views extending from Algonquin, past Colden, Marcy, Big Slide, Cascade, Giant and Hurricane, to the Jays. Fall colors were near peak. Participants: Jerry Perregaux, Colin Smith and the leader. (Norm Kuchar)

Second Pond 10/09/04

Seven hikers enjoyed the golden yellows and softened greens of the autumn woods on our way to a beautiful Adirondack pond. Participants were: Kathleen Gill, Lois Shapland, Peg Wallingford, Ruth and Tom Schottman, Emily and the leader. (Howard Hart)

Bald (Rondaxe) Mountain 10/13/04

The drive to Bald Mountain, near Old Forge, was long, but the pleasant hiking along the ridge to the restored fire tower, the great views over the Fulton Chain of Lakes and near-peak fall colors made for an enjoyable day. We rounded out the day with a hike along the nearby Vista Trail, but, finding no vistas, we decided to explore Mountain Pond instead. This quiet pond provided a good lunch spot, and the reflections of the fall foliage in the water reminded us of an impressionist painting. Participants were Mary MacDonald, Sharon Getman, Bill DeWitt and the leader. (Norm Kuchar)

Lower Moose River 10/16/04

The river got up to approximately 3 feet by Saturday morning, which is a low level for doing this class 3/4 section. Our group of four kayaks, two solo open canoes and one tandem decided we did not make the trip up to the Moose Fest to just socialize, although we had a great time doing that also. The drops had plenty of water to test our skills and the flat sections had enough that we did not have to get out of our boats. It was a long day, however, in covering the 9-mile paddle. The group worked smoothly setting up safety and scouting when appropriate. The weather was cool with intermittent showers, clouds and even an occasional glimpse of the sun. Most of the group got together to rent a home for the weekend and we shared meals and camaraderie. Trip participants were: Mal Provost, Bob Wright, Horst deLorenzi, Rick Gonzales, Jack, Shelly Nevard, Larry Woods and trip leader. (Chuck Wilkison)

Plateau (Catskills) 10/17/04

It was a cool day with some sleet remaining on the ground from the previous day. Nilde Marcinowski, Monica Riccardi and the leader climbed 1800 steep feet to a wonderful but windy lookout. We could see the fire tower on Hunter Mountain and had clear views and lustrous fall colors. Five hours later we were back at our car having achieved our goal of another Catskill 3500 peak. (Mary MacDonald)

Huckleberry Mountain 10/19/04

A forecast of rain reduced participants to two. There was no rain north of Glens Falls so we had a good day checking out the amazing recover from the 2002 forest fire on the Huckleberry ridge. Grass, moss and small birches covered the blackened areas with new life. We found an easy route between cliffs to the valley floor where we explored the site of the old paint mine. Participants were: Peter Butryn and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

Tripod 10/23/04

This 3297 foot trailless peak has no view from its summit rock located in the midst of a flat wooded area. The rock contained evidence of a previous climb by the infamous Canadian rabbit, Pin Pin. We had some good views from rock ledges both north (to Hurricane) and east (to Knob Lock) as we came up the eastern ridge. The ridge is without lines of cliffs but gets thick near the top. The leader found out about getting a torn bicep on the ascent. Participants: Herb Terns and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

Farmington River 10/23/04

The Farmington was running at 355 cfs, which is low, but normal for this fall release. This was our last scheduled trip of the year. We started with 9 paddlers, in 9 boats, who were ready for the challenge of this class 2/3/4 river. Everyone showed up early and we had set up the shuttles and were on the river by 10:20 a.m. The top class 2 section went by quickly and without incident. We stopped at the slalom section so Larry Woods and Shelly Nevard could switch from solo to tandem for the upcoming class 3-4 section of the river. Everyone did a great job staying together by eddying out regularly. There were several incidents of boats getting pinned, but everyone was able to extricate themselves without aid. When we reached the bottom of the middle section, we quickly loaded our boats onto the cars we had left there so we could shuttle up to the top to do this section over again. The second trip went much faster and when we reached the bottom, we continued down the last section of the river, which is class 2 except for the ending "Bear Den" rapid, which is class 3. We did have a little excitement there as one boater got pinned and I crashed into him. It looked like we both were going for a swim. I was over on my off side, and was getting ready to get out of my boat when all of a sudden my boat was being righted by Rick Gonzales, who I had collided with. This got us both upright and I was able to paddle to shore. Rick, after being my rescuer, got quickly pinned downstream and had a short swim that he self-

rescued from. We got off the river at 5 p.m. We were all tired, but the trip will give us a lot of good memories over the winter. Participants were: Norm Labbe, Rick Gonzales, Mal Provost, Horst deLorenzi, Bob Wright, Pete Nightingale, Shelly Nevard, Larry Woods and trip leader. (Chuck Wilkison)

Appalachian Trail, MA 10/23/04

From Fernside Road to Lake Buel Road. Cool fall weather and lovely foliage added to this Massachusetts AT journey. This section had fewer rocks, roots and muddy spots on the footpath so we enjoyed the scenery more – ferns and moss covered rock walls, streams beside us, ledge-top views into a chasm and various lakes. When we walked through a parking lot where the trail crosses Mass 23, we noticed the three cars there were all out of state: from Connecticut, Illinois and Utah. This emphasized how widely known the Appalachian Trail is. Participants: Colin Smith and the leader. (Betty Lou Bailey)

Trout Brook explore 10/28/04

This trip was rescheduled from Oct. 27. A beautiful sunny fall day with open woods was enjoyed on our search for rumored waterfalls on the Buck Hollow branch of the Trout Brook in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness. We ran short of time to complete the search but will save it for another day. We visited beautiful Big Pond on the way in and again as we took another route back. Participants: Liz and Roger Feuerstein, Susan Roberts and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

Hunter Mt 10/31/2004

We had rather balmy temperatures for this treat of a Halloween hike. Newly fallen leaves hid the loose rock on the lower sections of the Devil's Path and made for tricky footing starting out but the trail eased as we went on. We explored the foundations of the old tower site and after some searching discovered the ice cave where the first tower observers stored provisions to keep them cold. Views were plentiful from the tower, where we were able to discern Smiley Tower on Sky Top Mountain in the Shawangunks to the south. After the hike down, we stopped at a local diner for dinner. Participants were: Walt Hayes, Erika Scott, Gillian Scott, Diann Terns-Thorpe, Hooch and Casey the hiking dogs and the leader. (Herb Terns)

Plotterkill Trail Run 11/6/2004

There were no signups for this trip as a run, so my wife and I turned the outing into a gorgeous fall hike instead, trekking from the entrance on Coplon Road to Jacob's Ladder Falls. Participants: Gillian Scott, Hooch the dog and leader. (Herb Terns)

Blackhead 11/07/04

This trip was cancelled due to lack of response. (Mary MacDonald)

Prospect Mountain from the south 11/09/04

We took the unmarked route from the transfer station/recreation area just west of ADK Headquarters. It was a cool bright day with excellent views of Lake George and mountains in all directions. There were only two other hikers on top who had come up the regular way from Lake George Village. Participants: Mimi McGiver and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

Basic Winter Camping

We wish to thank EMS at Niskayuna for providing a Polarguard sleeping bag as a door prize at our 8th annual Winter Camping Seminar, held at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library on Nov. 1. The audience enjoyed Maria Beurmann and Mac Stafford's

presentation and Jackie Parker's homemade refreshments.

The winner of the door prize was Susan Lapis. Al Czerpak won Bruce Wadsworth's book, "Adirondack Sampler." Thank you to all who attended.

Annual Dinner Meeting

Oct. 26

The annual chapter dinner meeting was held at the Schenectady County Community College. The event began at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour in the Casola Dining Room followed by dinner at 6:15 p.m. The meeting began about 7:15 p.m. Chair Frank Sorbero introduced the current Chapter Board; Neil Woodworth, ADK Executive Director; guests Holly Fabro and Rich Albro from EMS; and Walt Hayes, Betty Lou Bailey, and Sid Borthwick, who were honored for leading the most outings during the past year. The 2005 election results were announced, with the nominated candidate slate being elected. The Chair position is still vacant, and Frank urged members to consider volunteering for this position. Frank gave a brief overview of the 2004 Chapter highlights. Neil Woodworth made some remarks on ADK's status and direction.

Norm Kuchar introduced guest speaker Tom Alworth, executive director of The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development. Tom spoke on "The Future of the Catskills," describing today's severe challenges from development and overuse. He also described The Catskill Center, which works to preserve the Catskills while addressing sustainable economic development and quality-of-life issues in the region. The meeting ended about 8:30 p.m.

Dinner cost was \$21.85. The Chapter Board voted to charge members \$15, with the balance subsidized by Chapter funds. The Chapter also provided wine. Attendance was 59 vs. 93 last year and 62 in 2002. The quality of the food was high, and we should consider SCCC for next year's annual dinner meeting.

Submitted by: Norm Kuchar, Vice Chair and annual dinner coordinator.

Volunteer needed

The Schenectady chapter is still looking for a volunteer to fill the position of chair for Printing/Mailing, a position currently held by Sue MacDonald. Duties include collecting copies of *The Lookout* from the printer in Albany, coordinating the labeling, sorting and bundling of *Lookouts* for bulk mailing and delivering the bundles to the post office.

Thank you letter from Camp Colby Camper

Thank you for the opportunity to go to Camp Colby. I learned a lot about conservation and the environment while I was there. I'm so glad I went and I hope I can go again next year.

Sincerely,
Lisa Limeri

Anyone interested in volunteering should call Sue MacDonald at 371-1193.

2005 Schenectady ADK Chapter election results

The following members were elected to serve as officers on the Schenectady ADK Chapter Board:

Vice Chair	Norm Kuchar
Treasurer	Jeff Farbaniec
Secretary	Lois Leonard
Director	Bob Grimm
Project coordinator	Bob Grimm
Project Coordinator	Sally Dewes

The new officers will begin their terms at the January 2005 board meeting. The director and project coordinators serve for two-year terms. All other terms are for one year.

The office of Chair is still open. The duties of the position include: assuring that the activities and business of the chapter are conducted in accordance with the bylaws of the chapter; presiding over all general membership meetings and all Chapter Board meetings; presenting the chapter report at the annual meeting; maintaining a file of incoming and outgoing chapter correspondence; examining the annual budget; appointing various committee members; securing a room for monthly Chapter Board meetings; and keeping the chapter supplied with stationery.

For more information on the position, call Frank Sorbero, 843-2786.

Conservation Notes

DEC Management of Rangers My letter of Oct. 14 to Commissioner Crotty criticized the delays in rescuing the injured caused by new rules that require a forest ranger to get permission to respond to a call for help, then to go in alone to evaluate what is needed, followed finally by the rescue team. Previously, rangers could "self dispatch" themselves and other rescuers based on what they had been told. I got a Oct. 26 reply from Andrew Jacob, the boss over the forest rangers, saying "... present work rules... serve the public well." He said over 300 calls for rescue (or missing persons) are answered per year across New York state, with most of them in the Adirondack Park.

Upper Hudson Conference (Oct. 5 at RPI)

This conference, organized by the Hudson River Environmental Society, had many speakers giving a summary of their recent scientific studies. Especially interesting to recreational users was a talk about the effects of high flows, natural and man-made, in the Hudson, Indian, Cedar and Boreas rivers. Fishermen (especially trout fishermen) are often at odds with paddlers and claim high flow releases ruin a river for fishing. To the investigator's surprise, the macro-invertebrates in the Indian thrive in an environment of frequent, very large releases. I've written the presenter to get more details. It is particularly important to the Housatonic, where the new license requires no releases (increase in generation mid-day), supposedly to restore natural conditions.

Catskill Forest Preserve Addition 41 acres in Kaaterskill Clove were transferred in July from the Catskill Center for Conservation & Development to the state to become part of the Forest Preserve. The Clove contains NY23A between Haines Falls and Palenville with several scenic falls in the tributaries. This assures preservation of the aesthetic integrity of this steep, winding road and environs. This is a fine way to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Catskill Park.

Saratoga PLAN needs volunteers. Many of our members live in or close to Saratoga County and can readily use the various preserves that PLAN (Preserving Land and Nature) owns. At present, PLAN needs help in making trails and parking areas, clearing debris, posting boundaries, putting up signs, etc. For details on PLAN's properties, totaling over 500 acres, go to

the Web at <http://www.saratogaplan.org>. You can volunteer by calling Anne at 587-5554 or e-mailing her at anne@saratogaplan.org. One of these properties was owned by ADK member Kay Flickenger (now deceased).

Unit Management Plan Status In 1999, Gov. Pataki announced a 5-year plan to expedite completion of all outstanding UMPs. The Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks had a scorecard on the 38 needed Adirondack UMPs in their latest "Park Report." Five of the 38 have been completed and three more have gone through the public comments so would likely be issued in 2005. There are nine draft UMPs which have been written and may be out for public comment within the next year. In the Catskills, only two UMPs have been issued in the last five years. Previously, there was one (or sometimes two) per year from the Catskills. Region 3 (Southern Catskills) has finished all of theirs.

Schenectady County State Park I'm still looking for proposals for a state park in Schenectady County.

Pollution problems of note 1) Hoosick Falls – In June 2001, Oak Mitsui released thousands of gallons of copper sulfate into the Hoosick River at Hoosick Falls, resulting in a fish kill as far as Buskirk. In court, the consent decree required Oak Mitsui to pay \$190,000 as of June 20, 2004. The money is being used to buy land and fishing access between Eagle Bridge and Buskirk on the south bank for canoeists and fishermen. The Rensselaer-Taconic Land Conservancy will manage the site. Parking will be off NY 67. 2) Greenpoint, Brooklyn subsurface oil spill – This underground lake of an estimated 17 million gallons of oil leaks into Newtown Creek and thence (3.5 miles beyond) into New York harbor. The source was the Standard Oil (now Exxon Mobil) refinery. It apparently dates back to a 1950 explosion at Mobil. Initially, the Coast Guard investigated the leaks, then turned it over to NYS DOT, who later passed the problem on to DEC. This is a major mess and also a legal mess since most of the pollution laws were passed after 1950.

Shaker Place canoe access. As part of the huge International paper land and easement transfer to NYS, we will regain use of Shaker Place, a former popular take-out for the flat water canoe trip on the West Branch of the Sacandaga along NY 10.

Submitted by:

Betty Lou Bailey 355-0604

Philanthropic Giving Challenge
- Items for ADK Main Club -

The Schenectady ADK will be donating \$1000 for items needed by the Main Club for trail work, education and maintenance. We are challenging *every member* of the Schenectady Chapter to help us double this amount by donating one dollar. One hundred percent participation would give us a match for a total of over \$2000 to contribute towards these items. Let's meet this easy challenge!

We are interested in helping to defray costs on some of the items listed below:

	<u>Total Cost</u>
<u>Lawn Mower</u> for maintenance of Heart Lake property grounds	-- \$ 1,000.00
<u>Canoe Gear for Education Programs</u> to include: six PFD's, four paddles, four dry bags, and six canoe straps	-- \$ 260.00
<u>Camping Gear for Backcountry Education Courses</u> : MSR Dragonfly stove, two new stove pumps, a new water purifier (PUR Hiker), and two replacement filters	-- \$ 315.00
<u>Signage for Directions at Heart Lake Property</u>	-- \$ 1,500.00
<u>Needed Roof Replacement at Lake George Property</u>	-- \$25,000.00
<u>Washhouse Renovations</u> – Campground upgrades	-- \$ 3,500.00

We also have some additional funds and Members are invited to suggest philanthropic projects that are consistent with ADK's goals of Conservation, Education and Recreation. Your written request should include: a detailed description, any Chapter involvement, amount of funds required to make a meaningful impact, your name, address and phone number.

Donations and/or requests may be mailed to:

Frank Sorbero
7 McClellan Avenue
Amsterdam, NY 12010-3424



Through its philanthropic giving this past year, Schenectady Chapter donated this tent (blue) which houses the volunteer campground hosts at Adirondak Loj campground. Photo courtesy of Jacque Crowe (Albany Chapter) who took it while at the Loj Volunteer Work Weekend.

Tom Andrews, Chair of the Heart Lake Property Committee, sent a thank you letter for the purchase of the tent.

Thank yous were also received for our philanthropic giving from Environmental Clearinghouse of Schenectady (\$200), ADK Main Club (\$1,000), JBL Bill Matthews Roof Project (\$500), Republication of Nancy Slack's book, "85 Acres".

ADK Winter Outing

**January 28-30, 2005
Mad River Club
Tug Hill Region**

Enjoy a rustic weekend of x-country skiing and snowshoeing in the Tug Hill region, which boasts the greatest snowfall in the state. We will be staying at the Mad River Club, a rustic yet comfortable building. There is indoor plumbing, electricity and wood stove heat. Sleeping will be on the floor. If you prefer privacy, a soft bed and your own shower, we encourage you to stay in alternate lodging nearby and attend all the daily activities.

The cost to participate is \$55 (includes trips, lodging and breakfast, lunch and dinner Saturday and Sunday); \$55 for trips, meals but no accommodation; and \$18 for trips and the Saturday banquet only.

Completed registration form and payment, sent by US mail, are required for registration. No refund after December 31, 2004.

More information and a copy of the reservation form (to be printed out and mailed) can be found on the ADK web site at www.adk.org. Click on "Recreation," then "Seasonal Outings," then "Winter Outing."

For general questions contact Phil Waite, 315-788-4463, Email: pgwaite@northnet.org

Membership in the Adirondack Mountain Club is NOT required for participation.

Classes, Exhibits & More

**Adirondack Mountain Club
Member Services Center, Lake George**

Dec. 8 - Borderland Mountain Bike Expedition. Outdoor enthusiast E. Schlimmer presents a slide show of his 1,950-mile bike expedition along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Dec. 11 - Adirondack packbasket. Create your own Adirondack packbasket with the owners of Clear Creek Weavers. Cost: \$60 for a small basket; \$70 for large, includes materials and instruction for this full-day course.

Through Jan. 1 - Holiday Treasures to Give or Keep. Headquarters will exhibit quilts and pillows by Susan Rivers, candles by Carolyn Rudolph and Eileen Ruel and soap from Lisa Smith. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Saturday.

**Adirondack Mountain Club
Adirondack Loj, Lake Placid**

Jan. 8-9 - Winter Mountain Skills101. Cost: \$86 (members)/95 (non-members); includes instruction and use of equipment.

Jan. 15 - Intro to Snowshoe & Animal Tracking. Cost: \$31/\$35; includes instruction and snowshoe use.

Jan. 15-17 - Winter Camping. Cost: \$135/150; includes instruction, snowshoe use, group gear, and meals.

Jan. 22 - Introduction to Telemark Skiing - Cost: \$45/50; includes instruction.

Jan. 23 - Jackrabbit Trail Guided Ski - Lake Placid to Saranac Lake. Cost: \$36/40; includes instruction.

Jan. 29 - Street and Nye Mtn. Guided Snowshoe. Cost: \$36/40; includes instruction and snowshoe use.

Jan. 30 - Tabletop Mtn. Guided Snowshoe. Cost: \$36/40; includes instruction and snowshoe use.