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February-March 2008

# The Lookout

The newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

## Inning to discuss High Peaks history, lore

Join Doug Arnold on Feb. 19, as he discusses some of the wonderful history and lore of the Adirondacks. He will introduce John A. Dix, whose name is borne by three of the High Peaks, as well as the first three people to climb all 46 Adirondack High Peaks: Herb Clark #1, George Marshall #2, and Bob Marshall #3.

He will also talk about Grace Hudowalski and Russell Carson and explain the connections between Carson's book "Peaks and People of the Adirondacks," the Forty-Sixers of Troy and the Adirondack Forty-Sixers. Carson was a charter member of ADK and served as president.

He also served for 20 years as a trustee of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks. Hudowalski was the first woman and ninth person overall to climb the 46 High Peaks. She was a founder and first president of the Adirondack Forty-Sixers, and served as its historian for 60 years. During that time, she tirelessly corresponded with thousands of aspiring 46ers, giving them encouragement and sound advice.

To commemorate the contributions these two made to the history of the Adirondack High Peaks, the Forty-Sixers have formed the Grace Peak Committee to work towards re-naming East Dix,

### Chapter Inning

**When:** Tuesday, Feb. 19

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** McChesney Room, Schenectady County Public Library Main Branch, Clinton Street, Schenectady

Grace Peak for Grace Hudowalski and South Dix, Carson Peak for Russell Carson. As the committee's chair, Doug Arnold is in the middle of this effort, and he will discuss how the mountains got their names and the procedure to rename them.

The talk, titled "Shaping the History and Lore of the High Peaks," will take place starting at 7:30 p.m. in the McChesney Room of the main branch of the Schenectady County Public Library on Clinton Street in Schenectady. There is no charge to attend.

### The Grace Peak Committee



## Teens needed for trails program

The chapter will provide the participation fee for a high school-aged youth who would like to participate in Adirondack Mountain Club's Volunteer Trails Program. The chosen applicant will be able to pick a project from those scheduled.

Participants will spend a summer week in the woods camping and participating in quality trail work. The project will start with arrival at base camp on a Sunday evening for dinner and orientation. Food, group camping gear, tools and experienced leadership will be provided. The projects will end late afternoon Thursday or Friday.

Applicants should write an essay explaining why they wish to participate in a trail project and send it to Jackie Parker,

Project Coordinator, 15 Stage Run, Waterford, NY 12188-1176. Preference will be given to the families of Schenectady Chapter members, then affiliates, other ADK Chapters and then the public. Applications should be received by June 1.

At this time the 2008 schedule is not available, but the 2007 schedule appears on Page 11 of last year's February-March issue of The Lookout, which can be viewed on the chapter's web site. Also, <http://www.ADK.org> has pictures of teen projects: under Conservation, click on Trails. Under Field Programs, click on Supervised Volunteer Trails Program. A 2008 schedule will be in the next Lookout.

Call Jackie at 371-9139 with questions.

## Volunteers needed for Outdoors Show

The chapter will again be hosting a booth at the Northeast Great Outdoors Show in March to answer questions and promote ADK.

The show runs from March 14-16 (March 14, 4-9 p.m.; March 15, 9-6 p.m.; March 16, 9-5 p.m.). Members are asked to sign up for a two-hour time period; there will be two people on each shift. After your shift, you can browse the show for equipment, art, clothes, food and more. Volunteers receive free admission to the show.

Call Herb Terns at 372-8478 for more information or send an e-mail to [trailhed@verizon.net](mailto:trailhed@verizon.net).

# 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.

## How can I lead a hike myself?

To volunteer to be a leader or co-leader for an outing, call Walt Hayes at 399-7482.

## 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 Walt Hayes at 399-7482 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 Chuck Wilkison (793-8041) or Walt Hayes (399-7482) 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 2 Feb

### Prinetown Ski Trip, Class C2C

#### David and Sandra Geisinger, 887-3030

The Geisingers will lead their annual ski trip through rolling woods and open vistas. They will start at 1:30 from their Ennis Road property. Join them for an invigorating trip in the hills 10 miles westerly of Schenectady and 1000 feet higher. Snowshoers welcome. Warm fire and beverages follow trip. Call for postponement date if there is a lack of snow.

## Sat 2 Feb

### Kibby Pond cliffs bushwhack, Class B2B

#### Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Joint trip with Iroquois Chapter led by Chapter Outings Chair Paul Sirtoli. This will be a through trip of under four

miles from Route Eight to a spotted car at the parking area on the Bartman Road. This is a bushwhack so may not be as easy as the shortness of the hike would imply. About 1300 feet of ascent to a clifftop view of the Kibby Pond area near the summit of an unnamed 2766 foot mountain.

## Sat 9 Feb

### Rogers and Poplar Mountains bushwhack, Class B2B

#### Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Two small mountains with a visit to a heron rookery near Piseco and the NP Trail. Five miles with ascent of about 1400 feet. Most of the distance will be a bushwhack but we will finish the trip on the Northville - Lake Placid Trail. The woods are generally open.

## Innings and Outings, cont.

**Sat 9 Feb**

**Snow/Roostercomb Mountain,  
Class B1B**

**Mike and Meghan Libertucci**

**mikelibertucci@yahoo.com or 605-4269**

**YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP** We will try this one again. Hike up via the Roostercomb trailhead on Route 73. From the junction with the Snow Mountain trail we will decide to climb Snow, Roostercomb or both. 5-7 Miles RT

**February 14-21, 2008 (Thu – Thu)  
Moonlight Snowshoe**

**Featherstonehaugh State Forest  
Class C3D**

**Rich Vertigan, 381-9319**

The 7 days before the full moon every month, the moon is at 70-80% of its brightness, and also rises early enough to light up the winter woods in the early evening. This will be a 1-2 hour moonlit walk (snowshoes only, please) through Featherstonehaugh SF, near Mariaville. Exact date, time, and route will depend on snow, temperatures, sky conditions, 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. We may be able to view the total eclipse of the moon this time.

**Sat 16 Feb**

**Big Slide Class A+2A**

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

We'll do this climb from Keene Valley into Johns Brook and then up to Big Slide. As always, there should be good views from the summit. Depending on snow conditions we may be breaking trail some or all of the way which can be hard work. Winter gear is mandatory! A stop at the Noonmark Diner afterward for coffee and pie is likely. RT is 10 miles with roughly 2400 feet of gain.

**Sat 16 Feb**

**Ski Trip - Tirrell Pond from the South  
Class B2C**

**Roy Keats 370-0399**

This ski tour follows the Northville Lake Placid Trail from Lake Durant to Tirrell Pond. It is about a 7 mile round trip with nice views of Blue Mountain and Tirrell Mountain from the pond.

### Need snowshoes?

Want to try snowshoeing but don't know what pair to buy? The Schenectady Chapter has a variety of snowshoes available for rent: traditional wood, aluminum Sherpas and hi-tech plastic from MRS. The cost of rental is \$5 per weekend. I'm conveniently located near Northway Exit 8 for easy pick-up and drop-off. Contact Stan Stoklosa at 383-3066.

**Sat 16 Feb**

**Noonmark Mountain via Lake Road,  
Class B1A**

**YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP** **Mike and Meghan Libertucci**  
**mikelibertucci@yahoo.com**  
**or 605-4269**

We will hike the mountain to a spectacular view of the Great Range. 5.5 miles roundtrip.

**Sun 17 Feb**

**Bearpen and Vly bushwhack,  
Class A2A**

**Mary MacDonald, 371-1293 or**  
**[mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com)**

From Halcott Mountain Road, this Catskill hike will follow a logging road 1.3 miles up the mountain to the col between the two mountains. Bearpen ascent is approximately 1940' with summit at 3600 feet. Vly ascent from the col is 720' with summit elevation 3529'. About 9 miles. Call for details.

**Tues 19 Feb**

**"History and Lore of the High Peaks"  
Schenectady County Public Library  
99 Clinton St., Schenectady**

Doug Arnold will talk about men, women, and the naming – and renaming — of mountains. Details, page one.

**Sat 23 Feb**

**Moreau Park, Class B3C**

**Ken & Nilde Marcinowski, 885-9400 or**  
**[Nildekens@msn.com](mailto:Nildekens@msn.com)**

This snowshoe/hike will lead up and across the side of the Palmertown Range to a viewpoint above Moreau Lake for a short lunch break then back down to, and around, a portion of the lake. A great opportunity to try something a little more interesting than a flat snowshoe (one steep area). Snowshoes with crampons and winter clothing required. Approximately 5 miles with 600 ft. of ascent. Please call or e-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Innings and Outings, cont.

(Continued from page 3)

mail by Thursday eve. prior to the hike. Rain will cancel.

**Sat 23 Feb**  
**Indian Head & Twin Mountains,**  
**Class A-2B**  
**John Susko 383-1284**

We'll take the trail from Prediger Road to these two Catskill peaks on the Devil's Path. Both summits of Twin have good views to the West and South. Depending on conditions and the interest of the group we could take the longer, loop trail to Indian Head which has good views to the East. The distance is 7-9 miles with 2500 feet of ascent. Crampons and/or snowshoes may be needed.

**Sat 23 Feb**  
**X-C Skiing, Rockwood State**  
**Forest, Class: Varies**  
**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 by Fulton County. 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.

**Sun 24 Feb**  
**Black Dome Class B2B**  
**Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or**  
**[nkuchar@nycap.rr.com](mailto:nkuchar@nycap.rr.com)**

Black Dome (3980') is the third highest in the Catskills. We missed reaching the summit on the Dec. 22 trip, so we'll try again. This time we'll start at the winter parking area near the east end of Big Hollow Road. After an easy hike along the Batavia Kill, we'll climb to the gap between Blackhead and Black Dome. From there it is only a half mile to the summit of Black Dome, but the trail is steep in spots and crampons may be needed. There are good views from the summit and from a ledge. We will return via the same route. Total distance is about 6 miles, with 1850 ft ascent. Full winter gear (snowshoes and crampons) required.

**Sat 1 Mar**  
**Grafton Lakes hike with Dickinson Hill**  
**State Fire Tower/Brown's**  
**Brewing Company**  
**Herb Terns [traihed@verizon.net](mailto:traihed@verizon.net)**  
**or 372-8478**

A story by Fred Lebrun in October about a moose popu-

lation in Rensselaer County got me interested in doing a hike in the area. We'll meet in the early afternoon in Troy and make the short drive to Grafton. We'll hike around a couple of the lakes and ponds there and go to Dickinson Hill Fire Tower. The tower was built in 1924 and is notable for being the first tower to have a female observer. We should get views of the Berkshires, Taconic and Green mountain ranges. Snowshoes may be necessary depending on conditions. We'll stop at Brown's Brewing Company on the way back for dinner. RT 5-6 miles with 500 feet of gain. See (<http://www.viewsandbrews.com>) for more on Views & Brews.

**Sat 1 Mar**  
**SUNSET HIKE- Snake Mountain**  
**Class C1C**

**Mike and Meghan Libertucci**  
**[mikelibertucci@yahoo.com](mailto:mikelibertucci@yahoo.com)**  
**YOUNG MEMBERS or 605-4269**  
**GROUP** We will meet and drive up to Snake Mountain in Vermont. The mountain offers great views to the west of the Adirondack High Peaks. We will watch the sunset over the mountains, and return using headlamps. 3.6 miles roundtrip.

**Sat 8 Mar**  
**Black Spruce Mountain bushwhack,**  
**Class B2B**  
**Walt Hayes, 399-7482**

Near Lake George Village this will be an 8 mile hike with 1800 feet of ascent with a possible visit to the summit of the neighboring peak, Prospect Mountain. Most of the trip will be on an old road that is used by snowmobiles with about two miles of real bushwhacking. If we don't get views from Black Spruce we will be able to find them from Prospect. Snowshoes and winter gear required.

**March 14-21, 2008 (Fri-Fri)**  
**Moonlight Snowshoe**  
**Featherstonehaugh State Forest**  
**Class C3D**  
**Rich Vertigan, 381-9319**

The 7 days before the full moon every month, the moon is at 70-80% of its brightness, and also rises early enough to light up the winter woods in the early evening. This will be a 1-2 hour moonlit walk (snowshoes only, please) through Featherstonehaugh SF, near Mariaville. Exact date, time, and route will depend on snow, temperatures, sky conditions, 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.

# Whitewater schedule

## Whitewater Trip Planning Meeting:

The annual whitewater trip-planning meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at Chet Harvey and Kathy Armstrong's home. Their address is 37 Oakmont St., Niskayuna.

Supper will be provided via pizza and soda. We need everyone's help and input to have a full schedule with the rivers and streams you want to paddle. Please call Chuck Wilkinson (793-8041) or Chet and Kathy (346-3037) to RSVP.

## Innings and Outings, cont.

**Tues 18 Mar**

**Sugarloaf, Class B2A**

**Mary MacDonald, 371-1293 or**

**[mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com)**

**CATSKILL 3500** From Elka Park Road. Ascent 1900', elevation 3800'. Distance around 7 miles. For further information please call Mary MacDonald.

**Sat 22 Mar**

**Lower Ausable Lake Ski Trip**

**Class A2C**

**Roy Keats 370-0399**

This is a nice trip up a gently graded road to a spectacular view. It is about an 8 mile round trip to the Lower Lake. If conditions are right, we might take in Rainbow Falls.

**Sat 22 Mar**

**Eleventh Mountain - Western Cliffs**

**bushwhack, Class B2B**

**Walt Hayes, 399-7482**

Snow conditions will determine the length of this bushwhack. We will do more cliffs if the snow is well consolidated. There are great views from this vantage point of the valley of the East Branch of the Sacandaga in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness area. Up to about six miles with 1800 feet of ascent.

**Sat 29 Mar**

**Bloody Pond and Bloody Mountain**

**Bushwhack, Class B2B**

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

It's unfortunate this 1900 ft peak near Hammond Pond has a name that sounds like a bad horror-movie because it's supposed to have good views of the Dix Range. We'll take the trail up Black Brook and an informal trail to Bloody Pond. From there we'll bushwhack about a mile to the summit of Bloody Mountain. RT approx 6 miles with 1000 feet of gain.

**Sat 12 Apr**

**Schenectady Urban Trek, Class B2D**

**Herb Terns, 372-8478 or**

**[Trailhed@verizon.net](mailto:Trailhed@verizon.net)**

We'll start this trip in Central Park and walk through some of the city's historical areas as we make our way to Upper Union St. We'll visit the Jay Street area, Union College, Proctors and the GE Plot. We'll stop for lunch downtown. There are a number of good delis here or you can bring your own lunch. Round trip will be roughly 7 miles with approx. 150 feet of gain. If anyone is interested in just doing half the "trek" we can spot a car.

**Sat 26 April**

**Muddy Boots Book Club**

**French Point Mountain**

**Herb Terns 372-8478 or**

**[trailhed@verizon.net](mailto:trailhed@verizon.net)**

This is the first for the "Muddy Boots Book Club." The idea: People will read the book before the hike (although everyone is welcome to come if they've read it or not) and we'll discuss the book on the ride up and during the hike. The book: Local author Mike Virtanen's debut novel "Within a Forest Dark" set in the Capital Region and in the Adirondacks. The author has kindly agreed to come with us on our trip to talk about the book. The hike: To French Point Mountain near Lake George. Two of the characters in "Within a Forest Dark" take this hike in the book. It's about 8.5 miles RT with roughly 2000 feet of elevation gain to a great vantage point over Lake George.

**Sat 17 and Sun 18 May**

**Wine, Women and (Bird)song**

**in the Finger Lakes**

**Herb Terns 372-8478 or**

**[trailhed@verizon.net](mailto:trailhed@verizon.net)**

A little of everything on this trip and hopefully a lot of fun. We'll camp for the weekend at Cayuga Lake State Park outside Seneca Falls. On Saturday we'll explore the town of Seneca Falls a little and anyone interested can visit the Women's Museum there (that's the women part, I'm not sure what else you were thinking!). From there we'll head south and possibly do a short hike at Taghkanic Falls State Park and of course, visit a winery or two. On Sunday, we'll explore nearby Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. May is supposed to be a great time to visit the refuge as it's on the flight path of many arctic shorebirds.

# Trip tails and paddling parables

## Wilton Wildlife Preserve — 9/9/07

Light rain fell as the walk leader waits at the Park and Ride for the expected hikers. It's sunrise and one wonders if they will turn over in bed and reset the alarm once they notice the gray sky. However by 6:30, both parties arrive and we head up the Northway (now it is pouring) to our destination. Once we turn into the parking lot at Camp Saratoga, the rain stops to accommodate those who did not bring rain gear. Six hit the trail at 7:00, four walkers and two dogs. First task is to find the Karner Blue Butterfly habitat and try to identify the blue lupine. The weather holds and the walk is pleasant, rich with conversation. We walk the outer blue trail with a distance of about 3 miles in about an hour. First time visit to the Preserve for the group except the leader. Walkers include: Tatiana Zarnowski, Mary Nicotera, Jim Hussey and the leader. (Lois Leonard)

## West River release — 9/22/07

The annual fall release on the West river in Jamaica, Vt., was held this year on a nice sunny warm day. The release was reduced to 1100 cfs due to low water levels in the reservoir. However, the run still proved to be technically challenging, and many fun play spots were enjoyed throughout the day. Our group opted to use the park shuttle for a total of 3 runs on the upper section. Participants were Horst Delorenzi, Norm Labbe, Anthony La-Manno, Shelley Nevard, Mal Provost, Larry Woods, and Robert Wright.

## Moose Fest Weekend — 10/12/07-10/14/07

The Moose weekend in Old Forge was among the best: decent water and very moderate weather by Moose River standards... chilly but dry, with confirmed sightings of the sun on several instances. Topping that is the gathering of good friends and some new faces.

Friday was our usual half-day startup with the noon meeting at Walt's Diner in Old Forge. The short trip that day was

from the lower end of the Middle Moose, the rapids above House Rock, through the top end of the Lower Moose: Iron Bridge and Tannery.

River level was about 3.8, which is low-moderate but OK for the startup run. All went well, and the carry back from the bottom of Tannery to the cars is a good aerobic workout.

Saturday started wet but we drove out of the rain on the way to the put-in for the lower Moose and it was dry the rest of the day. The river was about 4.0 that morning, which added enough to make it solid, and aggressive in some spots (for most of us). We had good runs down Iron Bridge (though Chuck Wilkison was kind enough to prove that duckies can flip) and Tannery. There, and through the day, Oscar, Mike Raley and John Banevicius demonstrated real impressive surfing style.

On Rooster Tail, it was Mal Provost's turn to take a short swim, fortunately above the powerful "tail." No harm done.

At Froth Hole it was strong, with the recirculation quite powerful below the waterfall. A few elected to walk, but all of ours that ran did so safely. However, we witnessed what our group agreed was a very serious incident, likely a near drowning. A kayaker flipped above the falls, failed after many tries to roll up and was swept over and into the turbulent slot at river left. It was a long and tense wait until he popped up beyond the boil line and was helped out, spent.

The rest of the run was fun and without incident. Bob Wright introduced us to a vertical slide route at far river left at Mixmaster, which is a neat option. It does not have the consequences of the main route, though it is fast and shallow at the runoff; bad spot for a roll. Several ran there. Rick Gonzalez looked smooth on that, though he did some swimming as we closed out on Elevator Shaft.

Sunday was a run on the Middle Moose, on which the water was surprisingly low, despite a hard rain all night before. Disappointing.

Horst DeLorenzi had a good full run down Nelson's Falls; Mal made it half-way then parted company with his boat, retrieved about a half-mile downstream.

Please note that while the house signup is limited to eight, we had 10 paddlers. Rick and John joined us for the trips, which is always an option. All are encouraged to discuss joining us, even if they don't do the weekend. Chuck and Horst in particular can advise an individual on whether his/her skills are up to it. A great weekend! (Mal Provost)

## NP Trail Steward Trip — 10/13/07

Lake Durant to McCanes section. The weather threatened rain, but once we hit the trail we had no more than a few sprinkles. The sun was even out for our lunch break. We did a lot of sidecutting and removed a few blowdowns. The trail should be in great shape for ski season. Many thanks to Bill Eades for helping us out. (Rich Vertigan and Holly Hawkes)

## Kibby pond and Kettle Mountain — 11/6/07

Cancelled by leader. (Walt Hayes)

## Acra Point and Burnt Knob — 11/10/07

The envisioned late fall hike in the Catskills turned into an early winter trip, as we encountered three inches of fresh snow, the first of the season, at the trailhead. Nevertheless, everyone was prepared for cold weather, and we enjoyed the day. By early afternoon, the mists and clouds had lifted, and we enjoyed great views of the Blackhead Range across the Batavia Kill valley. At the west end of Burnt Knob, the trail went through the area devastated by last April's heavy, wet snow. The trail is cleared, but the maze of downed trees showed the extent of the damage to the forest. Hikers were Judy Brandow, Phil Fountain, Walt Hayes, Ken and Nilde Marcinowski, Tom Sausville, Colin Smith, Donna Vrooman, Wyatt Waterman and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

## Hadley State Forest Preserve — 11/14/07

Four of us enjoyed a midweek explore just west of Hadley Mountain. There is a

## Trip tales, cont.

series of old roads — some for logging and some more substantial — that are still used to access the area by hunters and hikers. We found several sections and learned more by talking to hunters we met. It was a good fall day in the woods. There is potential for a variety of hikes including through trips from the road to Lens Lake. Participants: Paul Breslin, Phil Fountain, Norm Kuchar and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

### Pharaoh Mountain — 11/17/07

Wonderful day of hiking with temperatures in the 30s and intermittent winds. Views were excellent in all directions — we enjoyed the snow topped High Peaks. The Pharaoh Mountain trail was in good condition with some icy patches. Eleven hikers included Leslie Beader, Judy Brandow, Kathleen Gill, Walt Hayes, Lois Leonard, Bernard and Celia Mansbach, Ginny Parsons, Susan Roberts, Phil Seward and the leader. 9:40 a.m. departure and out at 4:15 p.m. (Mary MacDonald)

### Whiteface Mountain Ski Trip — 12/01/07

Cancelled because of icy conditions. (Roy Keats)

### Twin Lakes Mountain — 12/01/07

We drove up with a dusting of snow most of the way but near Piseco Lake found several inches of accumulation. For most of us this was the first severe cold of the winter hiking season. Temperature at the cars was 11 degrees. There was a wind from the north making it feel even colder. Soon after starting, some thought it was too cold to continue. After reorganizing, we were without enough time to finish the original objective so we switched to a bushwhack climb of 2868 foot Stacy Mountain. We encountered three backpackers who had suffered through the cold night at the T Lake leanto and were retreating to their car. There was more sun than we expected so the climb of Stacy was a de-

light, with good views of the lake and distant peaks under dark blue skies. We ate lunch in the lee of the wind in the sun just off the summit. There were about 5 or 6 inches of snow on top. It was a relaxed return to the trailhead where the temperature had risen to 15 degrees. Participants were Bruce Allard, Benn Bundy, Paula Crehan, Eileen Daley, Norm Kuchar, Ken and Nilde Marcinowski, James Taft, Doug Tinkler, John Wimmer and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

### Pharaoh Lake — 12/15/07

On a beautiful cold day between two late fall snowstorms we enjoyed the trail to Pharaoh Lake from Beaver Pond Road. The temperature was 1 degree when we left the car. It was a sunny morning as we barebooted it, watching for animal tracks along the way. There was enough snow that we should have had snowshoes. We stopped for lunch at the second leanto on the east side of the lake. We did not hang around long since the temperature was probably not over 10 degrees at noon. John found an upright thin stone on the way out that looked like a marker though writing was not obvious from the trail. On close inspection we found that the stone was a border marker between Essex and Warren Counties that had been inscribed by hand. Participants: John Antonio, Mike Brun, Marianne Comfort, Aileen Genett, Mary MacDonald, Lin Neil and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

### Moonlight Snowshoe — 12/17/07

Featherstonehaugh State Forest — Eight of us headed out on a night when the moon was questionable, but looking like the best night of the week. It clouded over shortly after we arrived except for an occasional glimpse of the moon and stars. We needed lights to follow the unbroken ski trail for about 45 minutes and then retraced our steps to the car. As we were driving home, the sky naturally cleared completely. Better luck next month. Judy Brandow, Jack and Sheila Daniels, Holly Hawkes, Bernie and Celia Mansbach, Terry Tamer and the leader.

(Rich Vertigan)

### Sanders Preserve — 12/22/07

Four snowshoers enjoyed the unexpected sunshine as we looped through the most scenic loops of Sanders Preserve, north and south. Bernie and Celia Mansbach, Susan Roberts and the leader. (Ruth Schottman)

### Thomas Cole — 12/22/07

Four of us hit the trail at the beginning of the official winter season, aiming to bag two of the peaks required for the Catskill 3500 Club's winter badge. But we were slowed by about 10 inches of snow as well as the steep climb from the trailhead at the end of Barnum Road. By the time we reached the summit of Thomas Cole, we were running late and were fatigued, so we decided to save Black Dome for another day. The entire Blackhead Range above 2800 feet was in the clouds, so we had no distant views. But this was compensated for by a beautiful display of hoarfrost on every tree, making the firs look like flocked Christmas trees, and fresh bear tracks at the summit of Thomas Cole. Hikers were Betty Dykstra, Mary MacDonald, Wyatt Waterman and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

### West Kill — 12/22/07

The weather during the drive down appeared to promise an almost perfect day with sunshine filtered through thin clouds; however, when we got closer to the Catskills it was apparent that the upper parts of the mountains were covered with low hanging clouds. We hiked up to the summit and back from the end of Spruceton Road. Apparently no one else had been up West Kill since the last major snow storm as the trail was not broken. This didn't prove to be a problem since the older, deep snow had consolidated enough so that we could easily walk on top of it with snowshoes. The low hanging clouds continued to cover the upper elevations all day which meant no views; but the snow and frost on the

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## Trip tales, cont.

(Continued from page 7)

trees turned it into a winter wonderland. Hikers were Sharon Getman, Ron Toseland and the leader. (John Susko)

### Shippee's Ledge — 12/29/07

This trip was originally scheduled by Betty Lou Bailey and we did it as a memorial hike for her. Some of her friends signed up for the trip and the weather forecast looked good. The only problem: the trip leader couldn't find information on the trail to Shippee's Ledge. The person I would generally ask about a local hike was Betty Lou, who seemed to know where every hidden trail was located. Luckily, Minna Broman signed up for the trip and knew where the trail was. Eleven of us started out under sunny skies and enough new snow for snowshoes. We followed a wood road up over the ridge to a terrific view of the Sacandaga Lake. The trip down was peppered with praise and anecdotes about Betty Lou. Betty Lou was known for stopping for lunch or a snack somewhere after her trips and we honored her tradition by stopping for

lunch at the diner in Edinburgh. For pictures of our trip go to <http://community.webshots.com/user/Ternshike> and click on Shippee's Ledge. Participants were Minna Broman, Lynne Christian, Jack and Sheila Daniels, Gail Livingston, Ken and Nilde Marcinowski, Linda Nowak, Arden Rauch, Gillian Scott and the leader (Herb Terns)

### Beebe Hill — 12/31/07

Fourteen of us met for dinner at the Cracker Barrel in East Greenbush to get to know each other and fuel up for the short climb up Beebe. We carpoled over and got a surprise welcome from Wally Herrod, who had written a New Year's greeting on the register for us (Thanks Wally!) Despite the forecast for clouds and wind, it was clear and calm. The fresh snow was just about perfect snowshoe depth and we made good time, getting to the summit about 15 minutes before midnight. There we had brownies, cookies and cheese. Many thanks to Bernie for lugging the champagne to the summit. Munching, we all turned our headlamps off and got an eyeful of a very

clear, very starry sky – a real treat. We rang in the new year with “Auld Lang Syne” (until we ran out of lyrics) and then were treated to a very nice rendition of a Brazilian New Year's song. For pictures, go to <http://community.webshots.com/user/Ternshike> and click on First Hike 2008. Revelers were Jim Coonley, Ann Fiore, Aileen Genett, Ken Johnson, Maria, Bernie and Celia Mansbach, Elissa Pruden, Marsha and Steve Ras, Gillian Scott, Virginia and Bill Traver, Norman Thibodeau and the leader (Herb Terns)

### West Kill — 1/5/08

We had a beautiful day and great snow conditions for snowshoeing to the top of West Kill, sixth highest in the Catskills. From the end of Spruceton Road, we climbed up the Devils Path, steep in places, to the wooded summit. With clear skies and only a light breeze, we had a pleasant lunch at the magnificent Buck Ridge viewpoint just below the summit. Snowshoers were Zachary Bell, Ken and Nilde Marcinowski, Dan Pekrol, Jerry Perregaux and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

## December directors meeting notes

Betty Lou Bailey was remembered fondly several times throughout the December Board of Directors meeting.

The 2007 fiscal year will show a small surplus thanks to effective management. NY/NJ Trails Conference will no longer pay us \$20,000/year for advocacy. Replacement funds are being sought.

Deb Zack at Development has added an assistant and is interviewing for a database person. A recent direct mail campaign more than paid for itself with 1,200 new members. Stan Hall of Cooperstown Brewing (an experienced college fundraiser) heads the Development Committee.

Wilderness Affair auction proceeds were down, largely due to a lack of staff and volunteers.

Neil Woodworth explained a

switch in insurance carriers saved the club \$25,000 and provided greater protection in the event of carrier bankruptcy. Newly restricted activities affect a few Schenectady and Genesee Valley chapter whitewater trips and some Long Island rock climbing.

A resolution was passed discouraging chapter hikes during mud season. A trailwork scholarship was approved in the memory of Jane Neale, Albany Chapter.

A 2008 budget with a \$150,000 deficit was approved as part of a 3-year plan to increase revenues. We have cut costs at the expense of programs, member services, and facility upgrades. The Finance Committee will monitor on a monthly basis to avoid year-end surprises.

— Stan Stoklosa, Director

## Chapter to remove Education Committee

A motion to eliminate the Education Committee passed by a 2/3 vote at the January board meeting. If any member objects to the elimination of the committee, he or she should write to the board at P.O. Box 733, Schenectady, NY 12301-0733. If 2/3 of members voting oppose the change, it cannot go forward. All objections must be received by March 1, 2008.

The duties of the Education Committee are currently covered by other board committees (including Innings, Outings and Whitewater committees and project coordinators).

The chapter does have a opportunities available for those interested in participating:

**Trails chair:** Stan Stoklosa has agreed to co-chair the trails committee, but is looking for someone to help.

**Conservation:** Charlie Morrison, formerly of DEC Rivers and Waterways, will take on Betty Lou Bailey's river conservation project at the main club level. However, we are still in need of someone interested in conservation issues at the local level.