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April-May 2009

The Lookout

The newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Chapter members can communicate online

Schenectady Chapter members can stay in touch with two online methods: our outings e-mail list or the newly established Facebook group.

Outings E-mail list

The chapter maintains the Schenectady Chapter Outings E-mail List to promote outings related communication with other Schenectady Chapter members... Organize an outing, report last minute changes or tell everyone about a trip!

The chapter warmly invites you to join our outings e-mail list, but first you must read and agree to abide by our Acceptable Use Policy. If you're new to Yahoo! Groups you may want to peruse Ya-

hoo! Groups Help before you get started.

It's easy to join — just visit the Schenectady Chapter ADK web site at:

<http://www.adk-schenectady.org>

Then, along the left side, one will find a menu with several choices. Click on the "Email Subscriptions" to get a page with the several options.

To use the e-mail via Internet web pages, one can join the list, read messages, send messages, quit the list, etc. by visiting these web pages:

Group Home Page:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/schdyadk_outings

Web Join (for beginners or Yahoo! Members):

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/schdyadk_outings/join

[schdyadk_outings/join](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/schdyadk_outings/join)

To use the e-mail list via sending e-mail messages, one can join the list, quit the list, send messages (post message) by sending email messages to the following e-mail addresses:

Subscribe (Join):

schdyadk_outings_subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Unsubscribe (Quit):

schdyadk_outings_unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Post message (Write to the group):

schdyadk_outings@yahoogroups.com

Please note that you must be a member of
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Teens sought for trail crew

The Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club is offering high school students (ages 14-17) an exceptional 4-5 days outdoor work experience in the Adirondack Mountains during the 2009 summer season.

The \$ 250 participation fee to the ADK's Volunteer Trails Program will be covered by the chapter. Participants will camp and participate in quality trail work. Food, group camping gear, tools and experienced leadership are provided.

To apply, write an essay explaining why you wish to participate in one of the trail project listed below and send it to: Teen Trails Project Coordinator, Schenectady ADK, P. O. Box 733, Schenectady, NY 12301-0733 no later

than April 15, 2009. This experience is available to the public with preference given to those with affiliation in ADK. Please indicate any affiliation, scout group or church you with which you are associated.

The teenager selected should choose one of the projects listed below:

Five-day high school projects

July 6-10 — Hurricane Mountain.

During this week long project, participants will work on building wooden piers for a bridge and various rock projects.

July 13-17 — Clements Pond. A

(Continued on page 11)

New and reinstated members

Lars Anderas
Auriella Baker
David and Gretchen Carlson
Donald and Debra Casey
Kevin Denman
Stacy Gioeli and Thomas Richardson
Gary and Patricia Goodness
Richard Hoffa
Mark Kirker
Allen Koziol
James and Kristin Lebrou
John and Bobbie DeLong
James Maitino
Judy and Charlie Spencer
Brian and Tammy Stocker

Innings and Outings

How do I sign up for a hike?

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

What do I need to bring?

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

What if I don't have snowshoes/crampons?

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

Should I reimburse drivers for gas?

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

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

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

Wilderness First Aid Course

The Schenectady Chapter Board agreed to provide partial (\$150) tuition refund for outings leaders who take Wilderness First Aid courses. The program is modeled after the 46ers current program so people who are both 46ers and Schenectady trip leaders can get a total of \$200 reimbursement. Call Chuck Wilkison (793-8041) or Herb Terns (372-8478) for further information.

HIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

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

Sat 4 Apr

Ski Trip – Camp Santanoni Class A2C (novice to intermediate) 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 many interesting buildings. About 10 miles round trip. This is generally one of the last skiable areas in the Adirondacks.

Mon 6 Apr

Bike path walk Class C2D Gillian Scott, 372-8478 or adklookout@verizon.net

Starting at Lions Park in Niskayuna (the train station park off River Road) we'll walk at a brisk pace approximately 2 miles east along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail to the bridge over Shaker Creek, then turn around and head back. Strollers and leashed dogs are welcome. Start time 8 a.m.; please call or e-mail to let me know you're coming. Rain cancels.

Innings and Outings, cont.

Sat 11 Apr
Urban Trek through Schenectady
Class B2C
Herb Terns, 372-8478 or
trailhed@verizon.net

This will be a fun, easy walk through some of the historic areas of Schenectady. We'll start in Central Park and meander down towards downtown going through the GE Plot, Union College and the Stockade. Last year it became an eating tour as we stopped for lunch near City Hall and then later couldn't resist one of the many bakeries and pastry shops we passed so we stopped again. 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 on Union Street.

Sat 18 Apr
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.
CATSKILL 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 ~2500 feet of ascent.
3500

Sun 19 Apr
Wakely Mt.. Class B2B
Mary MacDonald, 371-1293 or
mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com

This hike is just west and south of the town of Indian Lake with access from Cedar River Road. We will walk along a gravel road before ascending steeply to the fire tower at 3 miles. This fire tower is the tallest in the Forest Preserve and offers wonderful views. Ascent 1194 with round trip 6 miles.
FIRETOWER
CHALLENGE

Mon 20 Apr
Bike path walk
Class C2D
Gillian Scott, 372-8478 or
adklookout@verizon.net

Starting at Lions Park in Niskayuna (the train station park off River Road) we'll walk at a brisk pace approximately 2 miles west along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail to Lock 7 Road, then turn around and head back. Strollers and leashed dogs are welcome. Start time 8 a.m.; please call or e-mail to let me know you're coming. Rain cancels.

Sat 25 Apr
Tibetan Buddhist Monetary Tour and
Overlook Mt. hike in Woodstock
Class C2C
Herb Terns, 372-8478 or
trailhed@verizon.net

The many times I've hiked Overlook Mt. I've been curious and impressed with the Karma Triyana Dharmachakra monastery which is directly across the street from the trailhead. On this trip we'll take a brief guided tour of the monastery before heading back across the street to take in the views of Overlook Mt. RT is 5 miles with 1400 feet of gain along an old fire road.
FIRETOWER
CHALLENGE

Sat 25 Apr
Paul Creek and Seneca Mountain
Class B2B
Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or
nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

On a chapter bushwhack last spring, we found a wonderful series of waterfalls on Paul Creek, which drains Middle Flow west of Hadley and Spruce Mountains. The falls are well worth a return trip, particularly in the spring. The bushwhack to the falls is relatively short, so we'll also climb nearby Seneca Mountain looking for views and explore a bit more of the Paul Creek valley to round out the day. Distance is about 5 miles, with a climb of about 1200 feet.

Sat May 2
Porter Mtn Trail Maintenance
Stan Stoklosa, 383-3066

This year's trip will focus on the trail from the Garden, as we lop and hand-saw our way to the top. Volunteers will be rewarded with dinner at the Noonmark Diner.
TRAIL
MAINTENANCE

Sat 2 May
Balsam Mountain, Class B2C
Rich Vertigan, 381-9319

Early May in the Catskills is wildflower time, and we hope to see plenty as we tackle this Catskill 3500 peak. Nice 5-mile loop follows streams in the valleys and climbs 1600' to the ridge and the summit.
CATSKILL
3500

Innings and Outings, cont.

(Continued from page 3)

Mon 4 May

Bike path walk, Class C2D
Gillian Scott, 372-8478 or
adklookout@verizon.net

Starting at Lock 7 Road in Niskayuna, we'll walk at a brisk pace approximately 2 miles west along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail to Blatnick Park, then turn around and head back. Strollers and leashed dogs welcome. Start time 8 a.m., but please RSVP. Rain cancels.

Tues 5 May

Graham and Balsam Lake, Class A2A
Jay Summerson and Walt Addicks,
673-2664

CATSKILL 3500 This will be a trail hike and bushwhack to two Catskill 3500 peaks lead at a moderate pace. It's a roughly 8 mile round trip with 2040 feet of accent.

Sat 9 May

Walk Across Schenectady County with the Muddy Boots Book Club
Class A+2B, B2B or C2B
Herb Terns, 372-8478 or
trailhed@verizon.net

We'll walk from the Schenectady County line near Pattersonville to the county line in Niskayuna; much of the walk will be on the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail. Our book will be "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen, which is Schenectady County's "One County, One Book" for 2009. You do not have to have read the book to attend the trip. Trip is roughly 21 miles with 350 feet of gain. There will be a half distance option, as well as a roughly 5-6 mile option. My wife and I are donating \$10 to the Schenectady County Public Library for everyone who does the full distance.

Sun 10 May

Hadley Mountain Mother's Day Wildflower hike, Class C3C
Ruth Schottman, 399-5728

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

FIRE TOWER CHALLENGE



You may be asking yourself, these are some great trips but are there more? Yes, there are!!!

Between newsletters, new trips will be added to our outings calendar on the chapter website. Go to <http://www.adk-schenectady.org/> to check it out.

Thu 14 May

Paddle Round Lake
Phil Fountain,

pfounta1@nycap.rr.com or 371-8585

This will be my annual early paddle to evaluate the Great Blue Heron nests on this nice local lake. This will be a joint trip with ADK and the Taconic Hiking Club. We will meet at the Northway Exit 9 in Clifton Park on Fire Road. Please call Phil for the meeting time. Length: 3 to 4 miles roundtrip.

Sat 16 May

North Country Trail Exploration
Class B2B

Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or
nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

The North Country National Scenic Trail, which begins in North Dakota, is being extended eastward across the Adirondacks to its planned terminus at Crown Point. In the Adirondacks, parts will follow existing trails, but other parts will cross currently trailless areas, with the route now defined only within a broad band. We'll explore one of these trailless sections in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest, looking for potential routes, viewpoints and other places on interest. We'll visit hills with names such as Indian Ridge, Long Sue and Little Canada, as well as Owl Pate and Schofield Ponds. Distance is about 6 miles, with a climb of about 1900 feet.

Sat 16 May

Northville-Placid Trail Steward Trip
Class B3D

Rich Vertigan, 381-9319

Join us for our semiannual cleanup patrol on the Northville-Placid Trail, between McCane's and Lake Durant.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Sidecutting, drainage clearing, light blowdown removal. 5.7 rolling miles as a through trip, and a nice lunch spot at Stephens Pond. Easy introduction to trail maintenance. Limited to 6 participants.

Mon 18 May
Bike path walk, Class C2D
Gillian Scott, 372-8478 or
adklookout@verizon.net

Starting at Blatnick Park in Niskayuna, we'll walk at a brisk pace approximately 2 miles west along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail to St. Joseph's Lane, then head back. Leashed dogs are welcome; there is an off-the-bike-trail section on this trip. Start time 8 a.m.; please RSVP. Rain cancels.

Sat 23 May
Deer Brook Gorge & Snow Mountain
Class C3C
Ken & Nilde Marcinowski
885-9400 or Nildekens@msn.com

We will start our hike through the wild and picturesque gorge along Deer Brook and then continue on the Deer Brook Trail to Snow Mountain (with a short excursion to Deer Brook Falls). Great views of Giant, Dix, The Wolfjaws and more. Three and a half miles with 1280' elevation change. Depending upon group interest, we may also continue on to Rooster Comb which would add about another two and a half miles to the hike. Please call or email by Thursday evening prior to the hike. Participants will be responsible for their return home from the hike. Rain will cancel.

Sat 23 May
Canoe Trip – Chubb River, Class A2B
Roy Keats, 370-0399

This trip starts near the end point of the Northville Lake Placid Trail on Averyville Road with a 120-yard carry to the river. There is a level quarter mile portage after about a mile of paddling. It is a unique experience winding through the Chubb River Marsh towards Street and Nye Mountains. The return provides great views of Whiteface Mountain in the distance. There could be several beaver dams to negotiate, but at this time of the year, most should be easy to paddle over. The total trip distance is about 8.5 miles.

Sat-Mon 23-25 May
Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Backpack,
Class A2A
Herb Terns, 372-8478 or
trailhed@verizon.net

This will be a two-night backpack. If you can only be out one night, contact me and we can make arrangements. On Saturday we'll backpack in, passing two little ponds, Glidden Marsh and a really nice waterfall. We'll set-up camp near the pond and do a short, easy trip up nearby Peaked Hill which has an outstanding summit and great views. On Sunday we'll explore around the pond, once the site of an old mine, and then climb nearby Treadway Mt. via the state trail. We'll return to Rock Pond to camp another night. On Monday we can do another

short trip or backpack the five miles out and enjoy some pizza and ice cream in Schroon Lake on our way home. We'll compare gear before the trip to reduce duplicate equipment.

Sun 24 May
Wright Peak, Class A2A
Elie "Moose" Bijou, 523-6434 or
adirondacks@verizon.net

We meet at the HPIC parking area for an early start up the 16th highest 46'er (4,580 feet). Round trip is 7.6 miles. Please bring lunch, water and traction devices, sturdy boots and gaiters as there may be ice or packed snow on the trail. Leader will be willing to lead other hikes to encourage participants to stay for more than one day. Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the HPIC. Please register between 1 May and 22 May. No exceptions, please. Thunderstorms cancel. Ascent: 2400 feet Pace: Moderate; Mileage 7.6.

Sun 31 May
Balsam Cap and Friday, Class A2A
Elie "Moose" Bijou 523-6434 or
adirondacks@verizon.net

A bushwhack to two of the more remote Catskill peaks (3,623 and 3,694 feet respectively). This is a trailless hike and is NOT for beginners or novices. Please register between 8 May and 29 May. No exceptions, please. Thunderstorms cancel hike. Ascent: 2800 feet Pace: Slow Moderate; Mileage 7 mi.

Mon 1 June
Bike path walk, Class C2D
Gillian Scott, 372-8478 or
adklookout@verizon.net

Starting at St. Joseph's Lane in Niskayuna, we'll walk at a brisk pace approximately 2 miles along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail to Balltown Road, then head back. Leashed dogs are welcome; there is an off-the-bike-trail section on this trip. Start time 8 a.m.; please RSVP. Rain cancels.

Sun 21 June
Haystack Mt., Class A+2A
Elie "Moose" Bijou, 523-6434 or
adirondacks@verizon.net

Meet at the Garden (carpooling recommended) for an early start on the longest day of the year up the State's third highest peak (4,960 feet). This is a long and strenuous hike and participants should bring extra food, water (or filter), warm clothing, such as fleece, rain gear and headlamps. Round trip is 17.2 miles. This is not a hike for novices or beginners Leader will be available to lead other hikes to encourage participants to stay for more than one day Please register between 2 June and 19 June. No exceptions, please. Steady rain or thunderstorms postpones to 5 July. Ascent: 3441 feet from the Garden.

2009 Whitewater schedule

Check the calendar on the Sch'dy ADK website at www.adk-schenectady.org/white_water.html for the latest updates to the schedule. Do you want to learn how to paddle whitewater? Call Chuck Wilkison (793-8041) for canoe or Horst deLorenzi (399-4615) for kayak. We can help you get started.

Date	Day	Trip location	Class	Leader	Phone
3-21	Sat	Leaders Choice: possible choices are Pork Barrel section of the Westfield, Kinderhook, Esopus	3	Horst deLorenzi	399-4615
3-28	Sat	Leader's Choice	3	Chuck Wilkison	793-8041
4-02	Thu	Normanskill: Plan A is to do an exciting Class I/II section, which will require a shuttle. Too much or too little water and it's Plan B — a mild Class I Section which does not require a shuttle. In either case be prepared for strainers and cold water. Trip limit is 6 boats plus the 2 leaders. To ensure enough daylight we will meet early (5:15 p.m.) Location TBA.	2	Sally Dewes And Larry Woods	346-1761 271-0270
4-04	Sat	Catskill Creek	3	Norm Labbe	877-0076
4-04	Sat	Leader's Choice	2	Jim Palmer	399-9090
4-05	Sun	Afternoon Hudson Riparius-Glen. Option to ski Gore in a.m.	3	John Banevicius	256-7827
4-06	Mon	Leaders Choice	3	Sally Dewes	346-1761
4-10	Fri	Quacken Kill — After work, as early as possible.	3+	Jon Allison	383-1465
4-11	Sat	Hannacrois Creek: This is the outlet of Alcove Reservoir below Delmar and goes east towards the Hudson River	2/3	Jon Allison	383-1465
4-16	Thu	Leader's Choice	3	Bob Wright	279-1428
4-18	Sat	Hudson River: Riparius to the Glen	3	Anthony Lamanno	732-4189 c275-6005
4-19	Sun	East Branch of the Sacandaga upstream of Griffin Falls: This is a very scenic paddle that feels remote even though it is never far to rt 8. There is a lot of flat moving water where you can relax and get ready for the 3 different class 2 sections. These class 2 sections are usually more technical in nature than big volume wave trains.	2	Jim Palmer	399-9090
4-19	Sun	Afternoon W. Branch Ausable from Adk Loj Rd to Rt 73. Option to ski Whiteface in morning w/ leader.	3+	John Banevicius	256-7827
4-20	Mon	Leaders choice	3	Sally Dewes	346-1761
4-23	Thu	Leader's Choice	3	Horst deLorenzi	399-4615
4-24	Fri	Kayaderosseras from Factory village to the park in Balston Spa. This will be an after work paddle.	2+	Jon Allison	383-1465
4-25	Sat	Hudson Gorge	3	Horst deLorenzi	399-4615
4-26	Sun	Sacandaga River from Wells to Hope	2	Dave Avigdor	654-6609
4-26	Sun	Schoharie River; North Blenheim to Middleburgh	1	Chet & Kathie	346-3037
4-30	Thu	Leader's Choice	3	Bob Wright	279-1428
5-02	Sat	Hudson River: North Creek to the Glen Joint trip with NY/NJ AMC	3	Dave Avigdor	654-6609

5-03	Sun	Hudson River: North Creek to Riparius. We will start before the race and find a place. Bring throw ropes if you have them. You might get some practice using your rescue skills. Hot dogs for lunch will be provided. If we reach Riparius in time, we will take the train back to N. Creek with our boats on the flat bed. Possible group dinner afterwards.	3	Larry Woods	271-0270
5-8	Fri	Leader's Choice	3	Bob Wright	279-1428
5-9	Sat	Deerfield – Fife Brook Section Class 2 with the option of running class 3 Zoar Gap	2/3	Todd Nolte	869-0791 965-7487c
5-9	Sat	West Branch of the Sacandaga	3	Charlie Beach	459-9127
5-10	Sun	Schroon River	2/3	Norm Labbe	877-0076
5-10	Sun	Battenkill from Manchester to Arlington	1/2	Chet & Kathie	346-3037
5-14	Thu	Leader's Choice	3	Horst deLorenzi	399-4615
5-16	Sat	Schoharie - Rt.20 to Burtonsville, or Leader's Choice.	3	John Banevicius	256-7827
5-17	Sun	Hudson River; North River to North Creek where there are 2 rapids of note. Both are scoutable from the road. We will have a picnic lunch before we set up shuttle for the afternoon section from the Glen to Snake Rock. There is one class 3 rapid near the start of this section and we will take time to scout it.	2	Chuck Wilkison	793-8041
5-23	Sat	Leader's Choice	3	Larry Woods	271-0270
5-23	Sat	Leader's Choice	2	Jim Palmer	399-9090
5-24	Sun	Hoosic River: North Adams to Pownall	1	Rich Macha	346-3180
5-25	Mon	Memorial Day (Leader's Choice): Most likely Hudson/ Riparius to the Glen or The Schroon River	3	Judy Halstead	583-2504
5-28	Thu	Leader's Choice	3	Bob Wright	279-1428
5-30	Sat	Schoharie River: Burtonville to Mill Pt.	2	Steve Brabetz	843-5566
5-30	Sat	Schroon River	2/3	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
5-31	Sun	Instruction in paddling for those new to moving water: Participants must provide own boat, paddle and life jacket. Trip will be on the Hudson River or the Schroon River	1	Chuck Wilkison	793-8041
6-06	Sat	Leader's Choice	2	Jim Palmer	399-9090
6-07	Sun	Schroon River or Leader's Choice	2/3	John Banevicius	256-7827
6-11	Thu	Leader's Choice	3	Horst deLorenzi	399-4615
6-13	Sat	Hudson Gorge	3+	Horst deLorenzi	399-4615
6-14	Sun	Leader's Choice Sacandaga at Hadley if nothing else is up	2/3	Larry Woods	271-0270
6-19	Fri	Leader's Choice	?	Bob Wright	279-1428
6-20	Sat	Leader's Choice	3/3+	Norm Labbe, Helge Klockow	877-0076 210-0737
6-21	Sun	Battenkill: Arlington to Eagleville	1/2	Chet & Kathie	346-3037
6-20 6-21	Sat Sun	Lehigh River in Pa. Drive down on Fri.; motel or camp (Please call early)	3	Dave Avigdor	654-6609
6-20 & 6-21	Sat & Sun	Novice or Intermediate Canoe and kayak instruction on the Deerfield River	2	Larry Woods Sally Dewes	271-0270 346-1761

Trip tails and paddling parables

Lone & Rocky — 01/03/09

The forecast was for a sunny day; but, we instead got unexpected snow both on the road during the drive to the trail head and falling during much of the hike. With 3 - 4 inches of new snow over compacted old snow we used snowshoes for the entire hike to these remote, trailless peaks.

After taking the trails in across the new bridges over Deer Shanty Brook and the Neversink River we set out along the south side of the Neversink on what appeared to be the fisherman's path. The path had not been broken and its exact location was not obvious.

We headed first for Rocky, the more remote of the two peaks from the Denning trailhead. The path starts up the south side of the Neversink, criss-crossing the river twice before reaching the point where we planned to start climbing toward the summit of Rocky; however, when we reached the first crossing we found that the river was not frozen over and was running too high to allow a crossing. Initially we tried side hilling along the south bank of Neversink and then tried moving up the bank to more level ground, but still made very slow progress due to hobbleshoe so we elected to change the plan and head first to Lone. After climbing up to the ridge we followed it to the summit in a moderate snowstorm to find a winter wonderland. We had no problem finding the canister.

After lunch the snowfall had diminished enough to allow us to briefly check the view from near the top of Lone; but, the cold and windy conditions didn't encourage a lengthy stay. We decided to leave Rocky for another day and headed back down. The sun finally broke through during the trip out.

Hikers were Mary MacDonald, Norm Kuchar, George Baranauskas and the trip leader John Susko.

(As a footnote to the trip tail: On 1/27 our quartet of hikers went back to bag Rocky. This time three plus weeks of cold weather had reduced the flow in and had frozen over much of the Neversink eliminating the previous problems with cross-

ings. As a result we were able to successfully make our way over ground covered with a foot of powdery snow and through Rocky's infamous thicket of evergreens to the canister.)

Trip Leaders Meeting — 1/20/09

We held our meeting in a semi-private room at Pinhead Susan's pub in downtown Schenectady. Among the topics that were discussed were the chapter's hiking trip philosophy, offering more trips through our chapter website and just generally enjoying talking about hiking. We held a small raffle to give away two emergency space blankets (which hopefully will never be needed!) and a gift card to EMS that went to our newest trip leader Walt Addicks.

Five Mile Mountain — 1/21/09

We started from the north end of the Tongue Mountain Range trail on a cold (7F), mostly clear morning. We followed a partially drifted in snowshoe trail over Brown Mountain to the Tongue Mountain Camp leanto, but beyond that point we had to break trail to the top of Five Mile Mountain.

There were great views of Northwest Bay from the open top, but the cold wind encouraged us to retreat back to the leanto for lunch. From the leanto, we had good views north to Mt. Marcy and the High Peaks.

The three snowshoers were John Susko, Rich Vertigan and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

Berry Pond — 1/25/09

Trip rescheduled from January 24 to avoid conflict with services for Almy Coggeshall. The day was bright and cool. Starting temperatures were well below zero but got up to the mid teens by lunch. We saw many snowmobiles on the roads of the Preserve but no other snowshoers. We started out carrying snowshoes on the hard packed trails of the

Village Recreation Center but soon put on the snowshoes. There had been no non-motorized use of the preserve since the last snow. We could see old snowshoe tracks from before the latest snow. We were able to visit the blue heron rookery close up on the frozen pond. Good views from the pond of the overlook. The views from the overlook were more open without leaves on the trees so the pond was visible from the overlook and we could see Potash Mountain over toward Hadley Mountain. The views from the east overlook of Lake George are spectacular. We bushwhacked back to the Village Rec trails via the State Land just north of the Village property.

Roman Laba, Jeff O'Donnell and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

Taconic Crest Trail — 1/31/09

Our core group of 4 patch-seekers and a very welcome helper (thanks, Judy!) dropped a car at Prosser Hollow and drove uphill to Petersburg Pass to start the hike on the ridge. It was very cold and windy on the ridge, and the snow was deep and crusty. Much to our surprise and delight, an Albany ADK group of 9 was leaving just ahead of us, also headed northbound, and they left us a nicely broken trail for the first mile or so. Many thanks to all who broke trail! It would have been a much tougher hike for the five of us otherwise. The trees were covered with snow, and route finding became a challenge at times, but it was a beautiful hike.

Hikers were Norm Kuchar, Mary MacDonald, Judy Brandow, Dave Cole, and the leader, Rich Vertigan.

Long Path — 1/31/09

Six of us enjoyed touring the Long Path at the north end of Boyd Thacher State Park under clear cold skies with great snow conditions. At one point we came out at the edge of the escarpment for a view of the entire Capital District. In three hours we only scratched the surface of trails available to explore. Par-

Trip tales, cont.

ticipants were Gerry Chartier, Barbara Fuller, Jane Ainslie, Jim Spring, Mimi Zucher, and David Geisinger.

Featherstonehaugh Moonlight Snowshoe — February

Three signups, but a constantly changing weather forecast made for short-notice unavailability, and this trip was a no-go for this month (Rich Vertigan.)

Pharaoh Lake Ski — 2/7/09

We decided to do our ski into Pharaoh Lake a day earlier than scheduled because of the wet forecast for the scheduled date. That was a great decision. The day was perfect with blue sky and very light winds. The temperature started out in the low teens, but rose to nearly freezing on our way out. We had beautiful powder all the way into the lake and a trail nicely packed (packed powder) by snowshoes and previous skiers. The view of Pharaoh Mountain from the bog area about a mile before the lake was quite nice.

Once at the lake, the conditions were perfect for skiing, so we skied to the closest lean-to for lunch. Treadway Mountain was visible in the distance at the far end of the lake. After lunch we skied a little further on the lake. The downhills on the way out were just perfect.

Trip participants were Bob Boromisa, Mike Brun, and Sue and Roy Keats (the leader).

Big Indian Mountain— 2/7/09

Starting at the Seager trailhead, we followed the Seager Trail up the beautiful valleys of Dry and Shandaken Brooks. After a stretch of very cold weather, the brooks were easily crossed on thick ice, and the trail itself had been packed a week earlier by snowshoers. But, beyond the junction with the Pine Hill-West Branch trail, the going became much harder, with knee-deep snow depths and traces of previous snowshoers mostly covered by fresh or drifted snow.

After some hard work, we found the



Photo by Ken Marcinowski

Hikers enjoy the view from Buck Mountain on a brisk Feb. 15.

3500 Club's canister, signed in and immediately headed back because of the strong, cold winds. Once off the windy summit, we enjoyed the 4.5 mile downhill return along the trail we had packed in the morning.

Snowshoers were Mary MacDonald, Jerry Perregaux and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

White water planning meeting and TGIF party — 2/13/09

18 people got together to share old paddling stories, plan trips for the spring and summer seasons, and to enjoy a few slices of pizza with accompanying beverages. A good start on the paddling season. (Horst deLorenzi)

Buck Mountain — 2/15/09

Six of us enjoyed a brisk but beautiful day with a cobalt sky. The trail was hard-packed with crusty snow, but not extremely iced over so we had the choice to snowshoe or bare boot with crampons. The views were clear with no haze, only distant clouds over the High Peaks.

Thanks to Donna Lustenhouwer, Stacey Kelley, Neil and Jackie Parker for joining leaders Ken and Nilde Marcinowski.

Balsam Lake Fire Tower — 2/15/09

On a clear and cool Sunday 6 adventurers headed to the Catskills for this walk along an old road. Three miles further we found this wonderful fire tower. Some members of the group climbed the tower and found some wind along with great views of the surrounding mountains including Graham and Doubletop. After a quick lunch we headed back down the trail. Our descent was rapid. The trail was well packed and we saw several other snowshoers, hikers and dogs.

Happy hikers were Ginny Parsons, Rich Vertigan, Phil Fountain, Lois Leonard, Jerry Perregaux and the leader, Mary MacDonald

Rockwood State Forest — 2/21/09

The snow situation in Schenectady

(Continued on page 10)

Trip tales, cont.

(Continued from page 9)

was pretty sad, but by all reports, Rockwood, at 1200 feet and closer to the lake-effect belts, had received 5-7" of new snow over the past few days. So we decided to give it a try. Five of us drove for an hour, pulled into the unplowed parking lot, and stepped out into 6" of fresh powder. Good decision!

For experience/confidence reasons, we split into two groups and went via different routes, meeting up at a designated time. As it turned out, we all wound up doing almost the same route, but with different beginnings and endings, depending on the hills desired. All told, we skied for about two-and-a-half hours, and were amazed at the difference between Rockwood and home.

Skiers were Holly Hawkes, Barbara Fuller, Mary MacDonald, Randolph Franklin, and the leader, Rich Vertigan



Photo by Roy Keats

Skiers pause on a ski across Pharaoh Lake, where they found "perfect" conditions.

Old Maid Woods — 2/21/09

This trip was looking like a snowshoe trip until the week before when we received a big thaw. Instead we met at Lock 8 and barebooted down the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail to check out Old Lock 23, once a lock on the Old Erie Canal. From there we crossed Rice Rd. and entered Old Maid Woods.

The woods are on a ridge above the Mohawk River and the signs are well-hidden from the road. They also are reported to host some of the oldest trees in Schenectady County, as well as a nice grove of American Chesnuts. The trip leader's tree book unfortunately described the trees by their leaves (which they did not have in February) so we made a guess as to where the grove is.

After a short circuit of the wood many of us elected to extend the outing by having soup and sandwiches at Ambition Café on Jay Street in Schenectady.

Participants were Jeanne Haubrich, Ken and Nilde Marcinowski, Bernie and Celia Mansbauch, Linda Nowak, Gail Livingston, Gillian Scott and Rocky the dog, Mary Jo Crance, Lesley Robbins, Linda Bernhardt, Sue Sheridan and the leader (Herb Terns.)

The Polar Bears of Churchill — 3/3/09

Our inning speaker on March 3rd in the McChesney Room of the main branch of the Schenectady County Public Library was Jean Quattrocchi. She is in her 25th year of teaching science at Farnsworth Middle School in Guilderland, is an Adirondack 46er, Catskill 35er and is working on her Northeast 111. She climbed the Grand Teton in July 2007 and is planning to climb Mr. Rainier in July of this year.

She spoke about her trip with her 83-year-old aunt to the small town of Churchill, Manitoba, Canada, on the shores of the Hudson Bay, just south of the Arctic Circle. They spent a week there, traveling around on a school bus, observing the bears and how the change in climate is threatening the animals' lifestyle. She spoke of their shrinking habitat due to later freezing of the bay and ice floes that are fewer and farther in between. The bears now have to swim further differences, despite having limited nutrients in their bodies due to the season, making them weaker.

The photos of the polar bears were endearing. Many interested parties re-

mained afterwards to speak with Jean about her trip. (Gisele Sum)

Taconic Crest Trail — 3/7/09

Continuing our quest for the winter TCT patch, this trip's section was about 5.5 miles from Tower Mountain Road north to Potter Mountain Road, off NY/MA43 near Hancock, MA. The snow on the ridge was 8-12" deep, and soft, mushy, and wet. It was like breaking trail in mashed potatoes, and provided a fairly strenuous outing. On the positive side, temps were near 50F with a light wind and lots of sun, so it was a beautiful spring-like day to be out. We found a nice dry picnic table overlooking Berry Pond in the [Pittsfield State Forest](#), and stopped there for lunch before continuing north. There is a lot of up and down on this ridge, and the ups were especially tough given the snow conditions and the unbroken trail. It took us about 5 hours to cover the 5.5 miles, and we'd all had enough when we reached the pre-positioned car on Potter Mountain Road.

Hikers were Dave Cole, Phil Fountain, Kendra Pratt, David Pratt, and the leader, Rich Vertigan.

Local news and announcements

Main Club to work at Wanakena for Trails Day

The main club will be sponsoring a cleanup at the Wanakena Ranger School in Wanakena for National Trails Day on Saturday, June 6. Highlights will include a Nick's Pond Trail reclamation project to reopen a trail closed by blowdown since 1995, free camping at the Cranberry Lake Campgrounds, a kick-off party and post-trail work party with music, food and drinks, and chances to win gear and prizes.

For more information on the project, or to sign up, call 523-3441 or visit <http://www.adk.org>.

ONLINE: Set up trips, share photos online

(Continued from page 1)

the e-mail list to send and receive these messages. For example:

Re: Taconic Crest Trail - Winter Patch

Yes, Rich, I am interested. Also need to do Schen trips about now. Thanks. Mary ...
From: Rich Vertigan To: schdyadk_outings@yahoo.com Sent: Monday, Posted - Mon Nov 3, 2008 4:37 pm

Taconic Crest Trail - Winter Patch

This winter, several of us will be section-hiking the Taconic Crest Trail in pursuit of the Taconic Hiking Club's winter TCT patch. We can always use more
Posted - Mon Nov 3, 2008 10:19 am

If you have any questions, e-mail us at schdyadk@yahoo.com.

Facebook

The Schenectady Chapter also has a new group site on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com>). From your Facebook account, look for the group called "Schenectady Chapter Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK)" then click on "join group."

Facebook is a free social networking site that allows people to share news, information, photos and links among a group of designated "friends."

Schenectady Chapter offers whitewater instruction

Intermediate/novice whitewater instruction for either kayak or open canoe will be available the weekend of June 20 and 21. This clinic is designed for boaters who have had some previous instruction, but still need more work to perfect the basic strokes and maneuvers.

Students should have paddled class 1 or 2 whitewater 5 or more times and be able to perform eddy turns, peel-outs, and ferries on class I water. They should be able to paddle in a straight line with confidence, identify river features including eddies, waves, and holes, and self rescue in class I and II whitewater. Kayakers are working on or have a flat-water roll and are comfortable with wet exits.

Learning goals would include skills that would bring students to solid class 2 or 2+ paddling ability. We will start on flatwater to refine paddling techniques as well as practicing low braces for open canoe and rolls for kayakers.

On the river, we will work on performing crisp, reliable eddy turns, peel-outs, controlling the angle on ferries and gaining overall experience. Instruction will start Saturday at 9AM either in the Adirondacks or the Deerfield River (to be determined) and be over each day by late afternoon. Enrollment is limited. Students must provide their own equipment including the boat.

Sign up after April 1. In order to encourage new class participants, prior to April 30 class enrollment is limited to people who haven't taken the class before. After that date anyone can apply. Cost for the two days of instruction is \$30.

For further information, contact either Sally Dewes for kayak (346-1761) or Larry Woods for open canoe (271-0270).

TRAILS: Chapter seeks teen participants to sponsor

(Continued from page 1)

new trail will be constructed to this remote pond located south of Upper Jay. Participants will learn how to create and manage a properly designed trail.

July 20-24 — The Kunjamuk-Long Pond Trail. Workers will construct a new connector trail from the Kunjamuk Trail to Long Pond. This is a remote location, so the crew will camp on a beautiful site at Long Pond.

July 27-31 — Lyon Mountain. Rock steps will be placed

on this new hiking trail that was created during the summer of 2008.

August 3-7 — Marble Mountain connector trail. The trail crew will construct a new trail that will connect to the Marble Mountain trail. This new trail will continue the development of mountain bike and hiking trails in the Wilmington Wild Forest near the Flume on the Ausable River.

If you have questions about the teen trail crew scholarship, please call Jackie Parker at 371-9139.

Local news and announcements

Mark your calendar!

The annual Trails Day cleanup of the Schenectady bike path (the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail) will be on Saturday, June 6. Details will be in the next Lookout, or call Stan Stoklosa at 383-3066.

Save The Date!

This year's annual chapter dinner and meeting will be held on Thursday, October 29, at Schenectady County Community College.

Watch for more details in future issues of The Lookout.

JBL work weekend

Friday-Sunday, May 8-10. Yes, this is indeed Mother's Day weekend, but it is socially acceptable to bring Mom along. We can use every conceivable skill:

Carpenters, trail workers, decorators, landscapers, domestics and laborers will all be put to use. The event includes a 3.5 mile (750 foot elevation gain) hike from the Garden in Keene Valley to JBL, and participants will carry in a share of the food. A bunk with two wool blankets will be provided, but you should bring a three-season sleeping bag as well. We cannot control the weather, so bring long johns, shorts, rain gear and bug dope. Advance notice is required by Monday, May 4. Contact Bob Grimm at (518) 842-7436 evenings after 7 p.m.

Research library garage sale

The Adirondack Research Library is having a garage sale at 897 St. David's Lane (AfPA's headquarters) in Niskayuna on May 2 and 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Items to be sold include books from the collection of Almy and Ann Coggeshall; duplicates from the library's collection of books, pamphlets, and maps; posters; binders; video cover cases; cabinets; and more.

Club days at Adirondack Paddle 'N' Pole

Adirondack Paddle 'N' Pole is having a club day sale on April 2 and 3. Club members get 20% off everything in stock (10%-20% off msrp on canoes and kay-

aks) including special orders. Proof of membership is required. The store is located at 2123 Central Ave in Colonie. Call or check website for hours. For more information, call (518)346-3180, or go to <http://www.onewithwater.com>

Club days at EMS

The Eastern Mountain Sports store at Mohawk Commons in Niskayuna will be having a club day sale on April 17-18. Members of outdoor clubs and organizations get 20% off everything in the store (in-stock items only). One percent of the proceeds of the sale will be donated to The Conservation Alliance.

For more information, call the store at 388-2700.

Kayak pool practice

Kayak pool practice will be available from 8-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Schenectady Jewish Community Center at 2565 Balltown Rd, Niskayuna.

\$10 ADK member pool fee (\$15 non-member) - practice on your own.

\$20 ADK member pool fee with instruction (\$35 non-member).

Rescues & Recovery Instruction for Touring Kayaks will be offered May 6.

Eskimo Rolling Instruction for White-water & Touring Kayaks will be offered April 15, 22, 29 and May 13.

Contact Rich Macha at Adirondack Paddle'n' Pole, 2123 Central Ave in Colonie; (518)346-3180. More info: www.onewithwater.com. Kayaks brought to the pool must be clean inside and out. Rentals are available. Limited space, sign up early.

For sale

Adirondack Life, Summer 1972 thru 2008, very nearly complete, excellent condition, \$50

Conservationist, Summer 1970 thru 2008, Very nearly complete, excellent condition, \$50

Both sold as full units only, will not sub-divide. Call Bob Grimm at 842 -7436 or e-mail grimmbob@capital.net.

Trail volunteers needed

The Friends of the Mohawk-Hudson

Working on a Hiking List?



Bike-Hike Trail is seeking volunteers to serve as Canalway Trail Ambassadors.

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

For more information or to volunteer, contact Gillian Scott at 372-8478 or e-mail gvsco07@verizon.net.

ACC opens Keene facility to ADK

The Alpine Club of Canada, Keene Farm Inc., a 501 (C) (3), has a 105-acre rustic, mountainside property in Keene. To encourage use of the facility, the club has decided to allow Adirondack Mountain Club members to use it also. The ACC will contribute the difference between what their members pay and what ADK guests pay to the ADK when ADK members stay in the hut or camp on the property. Guest cabin rates are \$25 per person per night and camping rates are \$12 per person per night.

Contact Murray at acckeene-farm@gmail.com for full details. The Keene Farm's Web site is <http://accmontreal.ca/facilities/keenefarm.php>