

The **Lookout**

December-January 2016-17



Adirondack Mountain Club — Schenectady Chapter

Dedicated to the preservation, protection and
enjoyment of the Forest Preserve

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

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On the
cover

*Haunting sounds of an oboe drift over Stephens Pond in October.
(Details in Trip Tales)
Photo by Roy Keats*

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December-January 2016-17

The Lookout

The newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Hearings on Boreas Ponds Classification

It's crunch time on the future of the Boreas Ponds Tract, time for boots on the ground – actually attendance at public hearings – regarding the classification decision pending from the Adirondack Park Agency.

Hearings are under way already, having begun Nov. 9 at the Ray Brook Headquarters of the APA. A list of the hearings that are coming up is at the end of this article; probably most important for our readers, one will be conducted at the Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway in Albany, 2 p.m. Dec. 7.



Dave Wilber and Tupper on the Boreas Ponds in October. Wilderness classification hearings are under way. Photos by Mal Provost

There is an array of opinions on what classification – or what combination of classifications – should be applied to the nearly 21,000 acres of the Boreas Ponds Tract. These relate to access to the ponds via Gulf Brook Road and to the land surrounding the ponds. Viewpoints range from closing the road to vehicular – including bicycle – traffic under an extensive wilderness classification, to essentially opening it to traffic all the way to the dam on the Boreas River that creates the ponds. The ADK and other environmental groups are pressing for strong attendance from their membership.

The various proposals are accessible through DEC, the APA, ADK, *Adirondack Almanac*, *Adirondac*, *Adirondack Explorer* and other local publications.

Another important element of the debate is the routing of a snowmobile trail connecting North Hudson and Newcomb, which would critically affect where these are allowed in the tract.

The ADK is part of the "BeWildNY" coalition that also includes the Adirondack Council and others. That coalition has proposed a modified plan would designate Gulf Brook Road and land south of it as Wild Forest – allowing bikes and vehicles – and 13,000 acres north of the road as wilderness.



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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 Larry Woods at 518- 810-7552 and let him know.

Wilderness First Aid Course

The Schenectady Chapter Board agreed to provide partial 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 reimbursement. For further information, call Larry Woods at 518-810-7552.

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	

Saturday, Dec. 10

Moreau Lake State Park

Class B2B

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

The recent addition of the McGregor parcel to Moreau Lake State Park and the building of several new trails on this parcel have opened new possibilities for loop hikes in the park. We'll hike from the new access on Corinth Mountain Rd. and use the new trails to visit Lake Bonita and Lake Ann and to reach the nice viewpoint over the Hudson River on the Western Ridge trail. Distance is about 5.5 miles, with about 700 ft of elevation gain. Snowshoes and/or traction aids (e.g., microspikes) may be necessary.

Saturday Dec. 10

Whiteface Mountain Memorial Highway Ski

Class A2B

Roy Keats 370-0399 or royskipaddle@gmail.com

This is a beautiful ski tour up a road with great scenery all the way up (and down). It is approximately an 11 mile round trip including a quarter mile stair climb from the end of the road to the top. The last quarter mile requires snowshoes with grippers. There is a total of approximately 2,500 feet of ascent. A fairly constant 8 or 9 percent grade makes for a continuous downhill run out. Everyone should come layered (no cotton) because the long uphill will warm you up, and the long downhill will cool you off. This is rated as an intermediate trip. Please call or email

Innings and Outings

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by Thursday evening before the ski to sign up. This is a joint trip with the Cold River Chapter. Skis with metal edges are recommended.

Tuesday, December 20

Hennig Preserve

Class C3D

Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Please call by Sunday, December 18. This will be an easy snowshoe or hike in this Saratoga County preserve. Under five miles with minimal ascent. This beautiful property is in Town of Providence but the woods make you think you are deep in the Adirondack Park.

Tuesday, Dec. 27

Young Member Outing:

Giant Mountain & Rocky Peak Ridge

Class A2B

Dustin Wright, dustingwright@gmail.com or 603.953.8782

Join our young member group for a holiday week hike over two high peaks that includes some of the best views in the Adirondacks! While both summits are quite open, Rocky Peak Ridge provides unobstructed 360 degree views from the highpoint and many lookouts along the ridgeline due to a major forest fire that took place in 1913. Round trip distance is 10 miles.

Wednesday, Dec. 28

Sugarloaf Mountain,

Class B2B

John Susko 383-1284 or jpsusko@netzero.net

This is one of the more attractive hikes in the Catskills with several good views plus Dibble's Quarry. If conditions are right we will hike this as a loop for a distance of ~7 miles and 2,000 feet of ascent. At this time of year snowshoes and crampons or other traction devices may be needed.

Monday, Jan. 16

Ski Trip Camp Santanoni,

Class A2C

Roy Keats 370-0399 or email royskipaddle@gmail.com

On this weekend the artists studio of the camp is expected to be open for warming up and impromptu tours of the main lodge. The camp is an historic great camp with a lot of interesting buildings. 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 with occasional views of the high peaks. The outing is about 10 miles round trip.

Tuesday, Jan. 17

Partridge Run Snowshoe Hike

Class B2B

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

Last year we did two chapter hikes in the eastern and central parts of the 4,500-acre Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area, in the Town of Berne, Albany County. This time we'll explore the western end, using trails (including a 2-mile section of the Long Path) and a town road (closed for the winter). As we traverse the rolling terrain, we'll pass a couple of ponds and an old cemetery, reputed to contain the grave of a witch! Distance will be about 5.5 miles, with about 600 ft. of elevation gain. Snowshoes will be necessary.

Saturday, Jan. 28

Preserve at Hawkwood Estate snowshoe

Class C3D

Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Please call by Thursday, January 26. This is a new nearby Town of Ballston preserve with incomplete trail system as of this writing. Exact route will be determined by trail conditions by date of outing. The property is quite flat. It contains remains of houses, stone walls and wells. The estate was visited by President Theodore Roosevelt. It is mostly covered with a mature woods.

Saturday Jan. 28

Peekamoose & Table Mountains

Class A2B

John Susko 383-1284 or jpsusko@netzero.net

Peekamoose & Table Mountains are the 11th and 10th highest peaks in the Catskills. We'll take the trail from Peekamoose Road, which has good views along the way. The distance is ~10 miles with ~3,000 feet of ascent. At this time of year snowshoes, crampons or other traction devices may be needed.

Young Members Group Outings

(Jointly with Albany and Glens Falls/Saratoga chapters)

Young Member Update

Wow, we're going really strong reaching out to young people in the ADK Schenectady Chapter! Every month we host a social at a local watering hole in Schenectady and in partnership with Albany and Glens Falls/ Saratoga chapters provide a wide variety of young member outings as well! While we've grown significantly in terms of YM membership, we do however need to begin increasing programming for all our new folks, so if you're a young member interested in leading outings (even if it's just a walk in a nearby park after work), please message YM Chair Dustin Wright at dustingwright@gmail.com

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Innings and Outings

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Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2016

Evening Trail Walk

We'll do an easy trail walk after work at a local preserve in the Albany area. Location and time are to be determined. Burn off some Thanksgiving calories in advance! Email Josh Baker at jdl3aker@gmail.com for more info.

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Game Night

Join us for a fun night of board games and socializing in Glens Falls, from 6-9 p.m. There will be a stack of games to choose from, or bring your own! Please bring a snack or a dessert to share. Email Julia at jules@adk.org for additional details and for address.

Thursday, Dec. 15,

Holiday Gathering

Capital District area young members will be meeting up for a holiday gathering at the Van Dyck from 7-9 p.m. in Schenectady. Come enjoy delicious food and beverages in good company. Bring a <\$10 gift for the Yankee swap! Email Dustin Wright at dustingwright@gmail.com for more info and to RSVP.

Tuesday, Dec. 27

Giant Mountain & Rocky Peak Ridge Class A2B

Dustin Wright, dustingwright@gmail.com or 603.953.8782

Join our young member group for a holiday week hike over two high peaks that includes some of the best views in the Adirondacks! While both summits are quite open, Rocky Peak Ridge provides unobstructed 360 degree views from the highpoint and many lookouts along the ridgeline, due to a major forest fire that took place in 1913. Round trip distance is 10 miles. **Be prepared for severe winter conditions.**

Saturday, Jan. 7, 2017

Winterfest (Event)

Join us for ADK's 4th annual Winterfest at the Heart Lake Program Center in Lake Placid. This family-friendly event offers an introduction to winter recreation, from guided hikes to fat bikes, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, lessons and clinics to get you started. End the day with live music and a delicious dinner served in the event tent. Activities are free, purchase meal ticket upon arrival. For more info and schedule of events, visit www.adk.org/play/snow-sports-information/winterfest/

Jan. 14-16, 2017

Winter Teen Adventure (Guided Program)

This three-day, two-night winter adventure is for teens ages 14 to 17. Explore the High Peaks Region while we build friendship, camaraderie and winter outdoor skills in the Adirondacks. Participants will experience staying in a heated yurt at Heart Lake while hiking high peaks and learning the skills to become a proficient winter hiker. Cost: \$199 (members receive 10% discount); includes instruction, transportation during the course, all meals, and use of group equipment (yurt, stoves, cook sets, etc.) Visit www.adk.org or email programs@adk.org for additional info.

Thursday, Jan. 19

Centre Street Public House & Beer Garden

Dustin Wright, dustingwright@gmail.com or 603.953.8782

If you're in your twenties and thirties and looking to build some community with other like minded young adults in the Schenectady area, join us for a good food, delicious brews and great conversation! We'll spend an evening, 7 to 9 p.m., in one of Schenectady's top beer gardens discussing the many opportunities available through the ADK for young adults and brainstorming about future events. All are welcome, members and prospective members alike!

Jan. 27 - 29

Young Member Winter Adventure (Guided Program)

Spend two nights in the heated yurt at Heart Lake and explore the High Peaks Region with other young adults. You'll have the opportunity to participate in winter recreation including snowshoeing and cross country skiing, climb a high peak, meet new friends, and learn outdoor skills to become a proficient winter hiker.

Cost: \$125 (members receive 10% discount); includes instruction, transportation during the course, all meals, and use of group equipment (yurt, stoves, cook sets, etc.). Email Stephanie at stephanie@adk.org for more info.

Thank you for scholarship support

First, thank you to all the members at the annual dinner this year who bought the raffle tickets to support our high school scholarship program. We raised \$186. Congratulations to Rudy Dehn for winning the \$50 Gift Card to the Mazzone Group of Restaurants! Second, I would like to share a thank you from one of this year's winners of the scholarship. Jason Perreault wrote to us to say, "Thank you very much for the very generous scholarship. I intend to put it to very good use with respect to my education. I hope to stay active in the protection of the environment and other environmental issues."

- Jacque McGinn

North Country National Scenic Trail Develops

The North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) is one of 11 National Scenic Trails authorized by Congress. The NCNST, 4,600 miles long, traverses the northern tier of states from the prairies of central North Dakota to the Adirondacks of New York. The trail enters western New York in Allegany State Park, touches the south ends of the Finger Lakes, then turns northeastward to enter the Adirondack Park near Forestport, north of Utica.

The plan for the NCNST in the Adirondacks, approved by DEC in September 2015, carries the trail across the central Adirondacks, passing through the Black River Wild Forest, West Canada Lake Wilderness, Moose River Plains Wild Forest, Little Moose Wilderness, Siamese Ponds Wilderness, Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest, Hoffman Notch Wilderness, and Hammond Pond Wild Forest. It reaches its eastern terminus at Crown Point on Lake Champlain. In addition, the route crosses several conservation easement properties and a small number of other private properties. The route will require about 39 miles of new trail construction, out of the total 146 miles of trail within the Adirondack Park.

Much of the needed new trail construction is in the eastern part of the Adirondacks, and the Schenectady Chapter has been active in helping to define the route. Over the last eight years, we, assisted by others from the chapter, have made about 50 hikes along the proposed route in the eastern Adirondacks, from near Thirteenth Lake to Crown Point, focusing on identifying new trail routes in the currently trailless areas. Mary Coffin and her team from the ADK Onondaga Chapter and the North Country Trail Association's (NCTA) Central New York Chapter have done similar work in the western Adirondacks. The results of these explorations, including GPS tracks of recommended routes, were sent to DEC, and most have been incorporated in the approved 2015 plan.



*Giant and Rocky Peak Ridge from Bloody Mountain.
Photo by Norm Kuchar*

We are now moving to put the plan approved on paper into reality on the ground. This requires action by the responsible DEC foresters to amend the Unit Management Plans for the various Wild Forest and Wilderness units and to flag the detailed routes for new trails prior to actual trail construction. This year, we have accompanied foresters on several route planning and flagging trips in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness, Hammond Pond Wild Forest and private lands under easement. We are undoubtedly biased, but we feel that the views from Jones Hill, Bloody Mountain, Bald Peak and Bulwagga Mountain in the eastern Adirondacks will be the best along the entire 4,600-mile NCNST.

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North Country National Scenic Trail Develops

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We feel that helping to develop the NCNST in the Adirondacks is a worthy goal and consistent with the missions of the ADK and the Schenectady Chapter. ADK and the NCTA, a non-profit volunteer organization that builds, promotes and protects the NCNST, recently signed a memo of understanding to formally establish and maintain a strong partnership leading to the completion and perpetuity of the NCNST in New York.

As part of this partnership, ADK and NCTA are now seeking chapters or individuals to adopt and become stewards of existing trails that will be incorporated into the national trail. Stewards would be responsible for 2-3 visits annually to inspect the adopted trail and do light maintenance. ADK will provide one-day training workshops in the field for all new trail stewards, covering basic trail maintenance and safety standards.

Stewards would sign and be covered by a DEC Volunteer Steward Agreement through the ADK Trails Program. As part of this NCNST trail adoption, the Schenectady Chapter is adopting two trail sections in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness: the Bailey Pond trail and the portion of the Hoffman Notch trail between Loch Muller and the western end of the Big Pond trail.

Other trail sections in the eastern Adirondacks available for adoption include:

Vanderwhacker Wild Forest

Stony Pond Trail from NY 28N

Hoffman Notch Wilderness

Big Pond Trail (currently adopted, but help needed)

Hammond Pond Wild Forest

Moose Mt Pond Trail

Berrymill Flow-Hammond Pond Connector

Hammond Pond-Bloody Pond Trail

To adopt one of these, or for more information, please contact Mary Coffin, the Adirondack NCNST Steward Coordinator (maryccoffin@gmail.com or 315-687-3589).

--Norm Kuchar and Walt Hayes

Hearings on Boreas Ponds Classification

Continued from Page 1

That wilderness tract would be part of 33,000 acres that BeWildNY wants added to the High Peaks Wilderness, including some now classified as wild forest. That, plus combining the High Peaks and Dix Mountain Wilderness would create a 280,000 wilderness tract.

The proposals and counter-proposals are as complex as they are important. Best advice from this publication is to do a fair amount of reading and get to the hearing. Written comments also will be accepted via email:

ClassificationComments@apa.ny.gov

The other pending hearings:

Nov. 21, Schroon Lake; Nov. 28, Rochester; Nov. 29, Canton; Dec. 6, Tomkins Cove; Dec. 7, Albany.

--Mal Provost

Great Day on Boreas Ponds

Put it on the list. Not the bucket list, rather the must-do list.

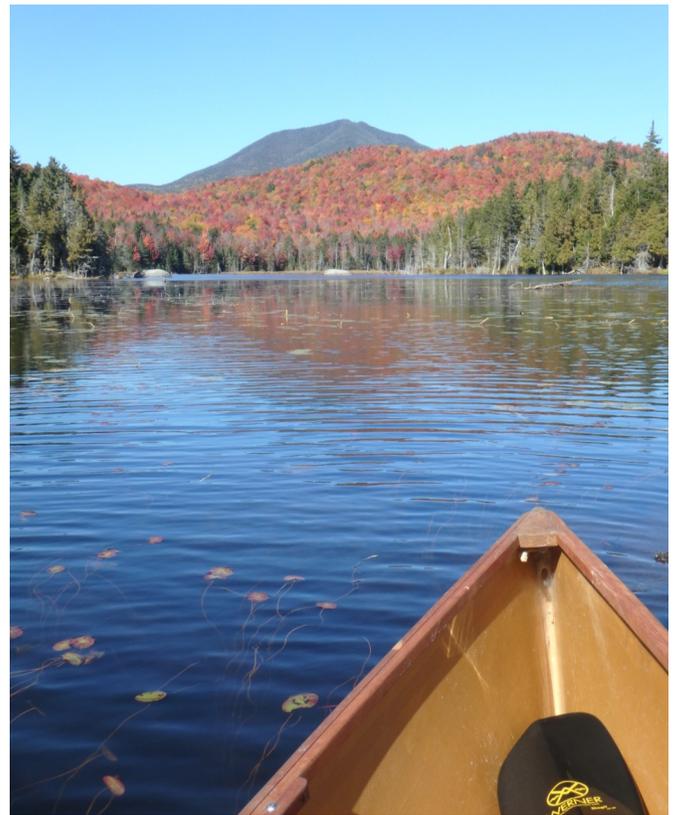
Paddling the Boreas Ponds – or perhaps skiing or snowshoeing them this winter – is everything it is cracked up to be. They are beautiful, accessible, moderately trafficked – so far – and rightly the focus of public discussion over vehicle restrictions. (See related article on hearings.)

But for three of us on Oct. 7 the focus was a healthy walk – some seven miles total of dirt road – with canoes on wheels, a bright blue, cloudless sky, no wind and the Adirondack High Peaks in full color. It doesn't get much better.

The mid-way parking area on Gulf Brook Road – about three miles in -- gets you past most of the elevation climb on the route in, and past the sections of the road that are the rockiest and most potholed. There is parking just off Blue Ridge Road if one wants to hoof it or bike the full length, as Schenectady ADK member Shelly Nevard did that day, catching up with us as we got to the ponds. We also crossed paths with ADKer Charlie Beach and a friend, who used mountain bikes from the parking area we used.

The road for the final half to the ponds is packed sand and rock, perfect for bikes and is easy walking. We also saw at least four bikers using trailer gear to haul their canoes, essentially a standard canoe carrier and hitch linked to a heavy duty frame over the rear wheel of a bike. They zipped along in easily less than half the nearly four hour hike in and out for us, with water breaks and some photos at LaBiere Flow.

LaBiere Flow was too low to paddle and offers south and east views, nice, but not the north and west views of the High Peaks -- Marcy, Gothics, Sawteeth -- that make the ponds spectacular. The put-in at the ponds is open and easy and from there it is all



*Looking north on Boreas Ponds
Photo by Mal Provost*



*Exploring a rock formation on Boreas Ponds.
Photo by Rick Gonzales*

just relaxing paddling, scouting along the marshy edges, finding the northern inlet of the Boreas River and listening to loons. Total carrying and paddle time was about eight hours, plus about 20 minutes each way from Blue Ridge Road to the parking.

The day's travelers were Rick Gonzales, Dave Wilber with terrier-ish pup Tupper, and myself.

--Mal Provost

Winter Pool Sessions in Cohoes and Duanesburg

The creeks are frozen and most of the kayaks and canoes are tucked away in the garage, but keep at least one handy and work on your rolling skills for the coming season. The ADK and affiliates are again offering open pool sessions and instructions through the winter, so bundle up, come out and get wet!

Cohoes

Sponsored by The Cohoes Community Center and the Schenectady Chapter ADK, there will be time to practice rolling and recovery skills in a large, modern pool every Tuesday, Jan. 3 through March 8 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

These will be open pool sessions, but ADK volunteer instructors are available to assist if requested in advance.

Email ahead and reserve a spot for the day that you plan to attend to ensure space is available. Space will be limited to 10 paddlers. If you reserve and then cannot make it please call to cancel, so that others may take your spot. rpascale@spendwood.com.

Boats enter the pool through the double doors on the left side of the main entrance. Bring in your boat and walk around the building to the main entrance to pay or check in. Fees are \$10 each or \$75 for all 10 sessions. Please pay the Community Center directly.



Anthony Lamanno works with a student at Cohoes Pool.

Duanesburg

Fall and Winter Pool Sessions at the Duanesburg YMCA The Duanesburg YMCA pool practice sessions will be held on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., but plan to exit the pool at 9:15 to leave time to reset lanes and finish in the locker room.

Beginning canoe/kayak instruction is available with reservation (to ensure instructors and equipment are available). For recreational/touring/sea kayaking and/or canoe basic strokes, rescues or rolling contact: John Ozard ozardjw@netscape.net

The pool practice sessions will start again on Thursday evening, Jan. 5, and will continue every Thursday through April 20, 2017. The fall schedule is also listed on Northeast Paddlers Message Board: <http://www.npmb.com/3/events/events-list/> and the Duanesburg YMCA Website: <http://cdymca.org/locations/duanesburg-ymca/>

Also, contact the YMCA at 518-895-9500 to reserve a spot or check for closings.

Free admission for Capital District YMCA members, \$15 per person per session for non-members or you may purchase a discount four session pass card for \$50 (\$12.50 per session). These may be purchased at the main entrance desk. Canoes, kayaks and SUPs Welcome!

Make sure your boats are clean – no leaves or debris in the pool! Call ahead and reserve a spot on or before the day that you plan to attend to ensure space is available. Space will be limited to 15 paddlers. If you reserve and then cannot make it please call to cancel, so that others may take your spot.

The Duanesburg YMCA may close early during winter storms, so it is best to call and confirm if the weather is questionable.

--Ralph Pascale

Want to Become a Whitewater Leader?

Here is an opportunity to up your whitewater game, learn more, give back to the ADK's paddle sports and have a fun and rewarding experience!

The Schenectady ADK is THE Whitewater Chapter. We have experienced, well-trained trip leaders who are happy to help you join the team. We have our own instructors' manual, classes and we will connect you with a mentor.



*Rescue Practice on the Sacandaga River.
Photo by David Avigdor*

Skill and leadership training will be offered through Zoar Outdoor in 2017. That means some of the best instruction available anywhere, based on our experience with Zoar over recent years. Some of the topics covered will include: trip leader issues and planning, interpersonal skills, group management (including leadership and judgment), CLAP (communication, line of sight, avoid problem areas, position of maximum usefulness), choosing an appropriate venue/class site, weather protocols, river features, hazards and strategies.

Elements also include first aid, legal liability for instructors and much much more.

As the season has closed up, it is time to think about next year. We will again have winter pool sessions to sharpen your skills (see related article); we will have a planning session for 2017 and we will set up trip leader classes at Zoar. Join the fun.

If you are interested contact Ralph.rpascale@spendwood.com

--Ralph Pascale

Extra Hands Needed for Schenectady Chapter

Have you ever felt like you wanted to participate more with ADK but didn't know how? Well, there are lots of ways.

The Schenectady Chapter Board has several opportunities for members who want to make a difference. The board is a fluid body that thrives on change and the addition of your experience, knowledge and background can boost our efforts.

Currently, we are recruiting for the positions cited below, but are always open to suggestions of new roles. The recent addition of the Young Members Group is just one example of how members have made their own mark. A detail of the duties of each position is available on our website (www.adk-schenectady.org) on the Contacts page under Chapter Documents.

Open Board Positions:

Vice-Chair: Generally this position fills in for the chair when necessary and organizes chapter Innings.

Project Coordinators (3): Currently there are several projects (High School Scholarships, Summer Teen Trails and

Summer DEC Camp sponsorships, Chapter Picnic) but we are open to new projects.

Membership: Welcome new members, report monthly numbers and organize new member activities.

In addition, if you love to hike or paddle but don't always see the kinds of trips you want, or are capable of, please consider becoming a trip leader. This is an open invitation and we can never have too many leaders. The chapter leaders guide can also be found on our website where the Chapter Documents are found. Check it out!

If you are interested in finding out more or just want to talk about ideas you may call any of the members on the board. Our numbers are listed on the inside cover of the Lookout. Or you may give me a call at 438-0557 and we can discuss your interests and/or questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

-- Jacque McGinn

Trip Tales

Boots on the Ground

Mt. Gilligan Trail Maintenance August 27

Three chapter members were joined by Chris Maron, executive director of Champlain Area Trails, on this maintenance trip. The Mt. Gilligan trail, built by the Schenectady Chapter in the 1940's, lies a short distance from Bouquet River Lodge, our chapter's outings base in the early years. We found the trail to be in fairly good shape, but using handsaws and muscle power we removed about a half-dozen logs that had blown down across the trail and also did quite a bit of side cutting. Our reward for the work was having lunch with a beautiful view of Giant, Rocky Peak Ridge and the Dixes from the open ledge near the summit. Lending hands and backs were Walt Hayes, Chris Maron, John Susko and the leader Norm Kuchar.

Number 8 Hill Sept. 27

We had a beautiful fall day for this hike in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness, which followed the Sucker Brook trail to reach the northwest base of the hill. Just beyond a prominent wetland we began a bushwhack up the hill. Most of the off-trail route was moderate, but just before the summit we found a band of 40-ft. cliffs that those of us who had climbed the hill previously did not remember. With a bit of searching we found a steep but safe way to the top. And what a reward! The views from the open summit extended nearly 360-degrees. To the east, Pharaoh Mountain with its cliffs was prominent, while to the north we could see the High Peaks from Skylight to Rocky Peak Ridge. We enjoyed a long lunch basking in the sun and drinking in the views. We avoided the cliffs on our return, but still descended some steep terrain. Enduring and enjoying the 9-mile, 7-hour trek were Serena Benson, Nancy Buckley, Walt Hayes, Dave Loux, Nate Mack, Ken Marcinowski, Kathy Miles, Paul Sirtoli, Wayne Virkler and the leader Norm Kuchar.



*Clearing the trail to Stephen's Pond. From Left; Marti Townley, Sue Keats and Mary MacDonald.
Photo by Roy Keats*

Stephens Pond trail clearing Oct. 4

Lake Durant to Stephens Pond trail clean up along Northville Placid Trail is a lovely three mile woods walk. Three strong women led by Roy Keats lopped, hoed out drainages, and wrestled with about seven blowdown logs to clean up the trail. It actually was not in bad shape. We noted a few large trees down that were reported to DEC. This trail is also a great cross country ski in the winter. We were pleasantly rewarded by a surprise guest after lunch! A "mystery man" greeted us with his oboe. He said this particular spot by the water was great for the sound of the oboe to resonate throughout the forest. And indeed it was! The participants were Marti Townley, Mary MacDonald, and Sue and Roy Keats.

Fall Foliage Mountain Bike Oct. 7

Our latest exploration was a ride up to Boreas Ponds. From the Blue Ridge Road it is a round trip of 14 miles. On the way we passed many people on foot and on bikes, even some pulling boats with their bikes using many kinds of creative boat trailers. The colors at the Ponds were beautiful and the road was very easy to ride a bike on. The participants were Shelly Nevard, Charlie Beach and Karen.

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Huyck Preserve

Oct. 15

We started at the Wood Road entrance and did six miles on the three northern Partridge Path Loops. It was a perfect, sunny fall day. The trails are in great shape and the terrain climbs over low rolling hills on old woods roads. Good trail maintenance. Open woods. Lots of old stone walls and a few cellar holes. Beth Baumert, Jeanne Haubrich and the leader Walt Hayes

Paddle Reports and Whitewater Wrap-up for 2016

The year 2016 was very good for paddling. We had 58 scheduled trips from March to November with a record number of paddlers. It was not unusual to have 20 people or more show up for a trip! Our paddlers list has now grown to 225.

Activities included our novice training with Sally Dewes and Anthony Lamanno, our play boating class with Mike Raley, our safety/rescue class with Rick Morse and Ed Cunningham and a record number of Hudson Gorge trips.

The year also saw indoor winter pool sessions at the Cohoes Community Center and an outdoor summer pool session at the Cohoes Olympic outdoor pool. These were great sessions for learning and practicing skills.

Once again a big thank you to our dedicated group of trip leaders: David, John, Charlie, Peter, Ed, Clarke, Horst, Sally, Rick, Judy, Norm, Anthony, Rick, Todd, Ralph, Mal, Michael, Alyson and Larry, and last but not least, Bob.

-- Ralph Pascale

Hudson Gorge, Sept. 3

Due to the dry season and few other options, paddlers made repeated trips to the Hudson River Gorge over the summer, so many that the groups at times got smaller. That was true for the Sept. 3 trip, made on a decent but non-descript day, essentially a business trip with the standard crew. All went well, and the Gorge is always good to get focused and work

on strokes.

Participants: Clarke Darlington, Ed Martuscello, Bob Wright, Horse DeLorenzi and Nelson Miller, kayak, and trip leader Mal Provost, open boat.

West River, Vt., Sept. 24

We all look forward to the release on the West River through Jamaica State Park in Vermont each fall. The release is reliable, the water very warm due to the large impoundment that supplies it and the environment fun and full of enthusiasts and gear sales. The fee for shuttle service in open trucks for the three-mile run has been \$25 for a full day, which can be a bit of a shock after a season of freebie paddling, but consider the price of a ski pass.

The day of the club trip was beautiful, bright and mild and the river was wall-to-wall paddlers. It can get a bit congested at a few spots, but things get sorted out with patience and most of us managed three runs and a good day on the river.

Participants: Clarke Darlington, Ed Martuscello, Ed Cunningham, Nelson Miller and Norm Labbe, kayak; Martin Plante, Bob Wright and trip leader Mal Provost, open boat.

Hudson Gorge foliage trip, Oct. 1

The level of the Hudson for this favorite annual junket was 3.8 feet with the release which means a nice smooth run down the Gorge, although somewhat technical due to the low water level. The weather was fine for the fall season and the trees along the river were splendid in color. This is always our last club trip down the Gorge for the year, and many new paddlers were introduced to the beauty of the run this year thanks to the dedicated members of the club willing to help out the newer paddlers with the different nuances and lines of the trip. Next year should be even better.

Participants: Eight paddlers made the trip in three kayaks, one tandem inflatable, one solo canoe, and one tandem paddlecat. Paddlers were Clarke Darlington, Rick Gonzales, Nelson Miller and friend Hannah Maret, Shelly Nevard, Donald Orr, Mal Provost, and trip leader Robert Wright.

Hudson Gorge and party, July 3

The trip on the Hudson Gorge started with a disappointment. We had a big group of 24 people and were looking

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Trip Tales

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forward to a fun day on the Gorge, but when we got to the Indian River put in there was no water. The release is from a dam at Lake Abanakee and the dam mechanism was broken. Maintenance people were trying to fix it, but it took almost 2 hours before they were able to start the flow again. In the meantime we were standing around looking for the first trickle of water.

Except for the initial disappointment, it was a successful day. We had a large mix of boats: single and double inflatable kayaks, single and double hard shell kayaks, one open canoe and a two person raft. We didn't have any mishaps, the sun was shining and the temperature was in the upper 70s.

Afterwards most of us went to a picnic at Clarke Darlington's vacation home near 13th Lake, where we enjoyed plenty of food and drinks. Trip leaders: Horst deLorenzi for the river and Clarke for the picnic.

Chapter Annual Dinner

A crowd of 70 came out on a summerlike evening Oct. 18 at Schenectady County Community College for the annual dinner of the Schenectady Chapter, Adirondack Mountrain Club..

After a fine meal provided by the Culinary Arts students, Neil Woodworth Executive Director of ADK, gave us a brief update on Adirondack issues such as the Boreas Ponds classification hearings and the overcrowding of the High Peaks during holiday weekends.

Our featured speaker, Peter Fedorick from Glens Falls, continued the theme by showing us marvelous slides of natural areas in and around the Adirondacks that are not the High Peaks. His travels have taken him through Europe and South America as well as extensively in the northern realms.

Officers also were elected for 2017 on an uncontested slate: Stan Stoklosa chair, Mike Brun, treasurer, Dustin Wright, director, and Horst DeLorenzi and Jacque McGinn, project coordinators. Also, Jacque will take over as secretary.

Invasive Species Project Report

There's a bit of mental conflict in the process of surveying water bodies for aquatic invasive species (AIS).

First of all, despite the effort of gearing up, making a 65 mile drive and hiking into a pond to check for AIS – Eurasian watermilfoil, water chestnut, hydrilla and such – you really don't want to find them. They pose a problem as these species can multiply destructively, clogging waterways and diminishing fish habitat, for examples. Also, finding significant infestation could well mean a foray by other volunteers to tear out the invasives.

Well, in the survey of Round Pond in mid-September in the Lake George Wild Forest, we came up with a couple near misses, which was interesting. These were plants that looked very similar to curly leaf pondweed and European frog-bit – two invasive species likely to show up – but which turned out to be native look-alikes; this was confirmed through the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program via samples brought back.

So it was a nice hike on a mild day for Norm Kuchar, Walt Hayes and myself, marking the third pond surveyed by the Schenectady Chapter in 2016 in the Brant Lake area. We reached the trailhead to Round Pond via Grassville Road.

Our trip was the final for the season by the ADK, which works in cooperation with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, Adirondack Watershed Institute of Paul Smith's College, DEC and the Lake Champlain Basin Program, among an array of others.

Grim Footnote

Finally, a footnote to the Round Pond survey was our stumble across the evidence of a tragically unsuccessful search for a missing hunter.

The lost hunter is a police matter and remains unresolved, the only indications now being strips of brightly colored plastic tape marking quadrant searches that took place after he was reported missing Nov. 15, 2015. These showed up at regular intervals on the trail to Round Pond and were dated through more than a week after the hunter was lost. He was Thomas Messick of Troy, 82. DEC forest rangers in Northville confirmed that Messick has not been found.

-- Mal Provost

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CHAPTER BOARD MEETINGS: Are held regularly on the first Tuesday of the month. No meetings are held in July or August. Any concerns members have may be expressed to any board member listed on the inside front cover, or attend the meetings which are open to the membership. Call a board member for date, time & directions.

CHAPTER DISCLAIMER: People who attend outings reminded that such activities entail a certain degree of danger; and persons participating do so at their own risk. This disclaimer is for both whitewater and regular outings of the chapter.

SCHENECTADY CHAPTER PATCH: This lovely patch (shown at right) can be purchased by mailing a check (payable to Schenectady Chapter ADK) to Mary MacDonald, 27 Woodside Drive, Clifton Park NY 12065. The cost is \$3 per patch, which includes the mailing cost.

TRIP LEADERS: If you do not want your trip listed in the local newspapers, call Publicity Chair Roy Keats at 518-370-0399, or roysueski@yahoo.com. This newsletter goes out over the Internet.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL: The chapter has hi-tech snowshoes and one pair of universal fit crampons available to rent at \$5/trip. Call Stan Stoklosa at 383-3066 to arrange for pick-up.

WEBSITE: <http://www.adk-schenectady.org> — All of the latest information will be posted on the Web, i.e. any changes or corrections. Please review our website and related Internet resources Acceptable Use Policy.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: If you move, you must inform the ADK in order to continue receiving The Lookout. The Lookout is sent via bulk mail, which the Postal Service will not forward. Send changes of address to the Main Club to ensure uninterrupted delivery.

Membership Application

To join the Schenectady Chapter, send this form with payment to:

Adirondack Mountain Club 814 Goggins Road, Lake George, NY 12845 or drop it off at Adirondak Loj or Headquarters.

Check Membership Level:

- Family Life \$1950
- Individual Life \$1300
- Adult \$50
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- Senior (65+) \$40
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