

The **Lookout**

February - March 2018



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

*Emily Litwin, Alyssa Woodworth and Rich Rogers attain the peak
of Cascade Mountain! (See Trip Tales, page 12)
Photo by Dustin Wright*

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February - March 2018

The Lookout

The newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Boreas Ponds Status Focus of State Politicking

To bike or not to bike – forgive the abuse of Shakespeare – is a crux question as the state classification of the Boreas Ponds Tract creeps forward.

It is possible that a classification recommendation will come out of the Adirondack Park Agency's February meeting, which would formally place the status of the scenic tract near the High Peaks on Gov. Andrew Cuomo's desk. But there is a lot of debate and politicking going on before that.

Neil Woodworth, attorney and executive director of the Adirondack Mountain Club, in a recent interview said his understanding is that allowance of mountain bike traffic beyond Gulf Brook Road – part of a complex of former Finch-Pruyn logging roads in the tract – and further to the area of White Lily Pond is now central to the talks among state decision-makers. That pressure, Woodworth said, is coming from the five towns that comprise the tract: Minerva, Newcomb, North Hudson, Indian Lake, and Long Lake.



*Winter view of Boreas Ponds
Photo courtesy of Nature Conservancy*

Earlier pressure from the town governments and economic interests for motorized boat and snowmobile access now seems diminished, Woodworth said. Also, the highly contested idea that Cuomo tossed out of "glamping" -- permanent site and serviced camping on five acres near the ponds -- apparently is now off the table. But bikes are a live issue.

The ADK, Adirondack Council and other environmental groups remain opposed to bikes, Woodworth said, as this would be prohibited in wilderness areas, which remains their preferred classification.

There's a lot still in play. The Department of Environmental Conservation wants Gulf Brook Road to be a "primitive" corridor to allow heavy equipment to be driven in to service the small dams that create both the Boreas Ponds and the LaBiere Flow; the Boreas River runs free below the dams until it joins the Hudson River above the hamlet of North River.

Woodworth said there is also a possibility that the 21,000-acre tract could be classified "wild forest" – allowing motor vehicle use – but with unit management plan restrictions on motorized traffic. Similar restricted allowances could put mountain bikes on the marginal logging roads to the White Lily Pond area, which could be a jumping off point to the Allen Mountain peak for hikers. A decision of this nature was done to allow bikes in the former logging roads around the Essex Chain of Lakes, Woodworth noted. (Now, mountain bikes are used along Gulf Brook Road up to the Boreas Ponds dam. Mountain bikes frequently are used to tow in canoes and kayaks to the ponds.)

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\$500 Scholarships Available to Graduates

In keeping with the Adirondack Mountain Club's dedication to the conservation and preservation of New York State's parks, preserves and wild spaces, each year the Schenectady Chapter offers two high school scholarships. Each \$500 scholarship is awarded to a senior in the Schenectady area who shows an interest in the preservation and protection of the environment and will be pursuing in the upcoming academic year, study in a field such as forestry, marine biology, conservation or environmental science. This is open to all area graduating students, not just ADK members and their children.

To apply:

Submit an essay describing your motivation for pursuing your course of study, your future goals and any current or past activities that show your commitment to protecting the environment.

Submissions should include the following information (Please send in either word or pdf format);

Name; Address; Contact Number & Email Address; Parents' Names; Name of High School; Name of College attending in September. Reference: **Please also include the name, phone number and/or email of a reference we may contact.**

Send submissions, no later than **March 30, 2018** to: jeve3@aol.com (Subject Line: ADK HS Scholarship) or mail to;

Schenectady Chapter ADK
PO Box 733
Schenectady, NY 12301-0733

Questions? Call Jacqueline McGinn, HS Scholarship Project Coordinator at 518-281-3673 or email her at jeve3@aol.com.

Chapter Offers Teen Trails Scholarship

Since 1986, thousands of volunteers have worked with trained ADK trail crew leaders to give back to the trails they use by completing trail maintenance and reconstruction projects all over the Adirondacks and Catskills. Each year, the Schenectady Chapter of ADK sponsors a local teen, providing the \$285 fee so they can participate at no cost. The high school projects, listed below, are designed for teenagers who want to spend a week in the woods camping in the backcountry and experiencing trail work.

Requirements:

Must be between the ages of 14 and 17 and live in the Schenectady region; Must have an interest in nature and outdoor activities; be willing to camp out in the backcountry and to participate in a physically & mentally challenging trail project.

To Apply:

See the ADK webpage, <https://www.adk.org/high-school-projects/> and submit your application.

Any questions, including specific projects available, please contact Project Coordinator Jacqueline McGinn at jeve3@aol.com or call 518-281-3673.

Applications must be received by April 15, 2018.

Audit Committee Needs New Members

The Adirondack Mountain Club's Audit Committee is seeking new members. A familiarity with corporate finance is required, but being a CPA is not, according to discussion at the Dec. 2 Board of Directors meeting in Lake George. The committee meets twice yearly, on weekdays in the Glens Falls / Lake George area. For further details contact Committee chair Laura Fiske at lheacox@nycap.rr.com

Scenic Trail Project Looks Toward Spring

On a cold, bright late November day, four Schenectady Chapter members and two Department of Environmental Conservation personnel wrapped up the 2017 work toward establishing new Adirondack elements for the North Country National Scenic Trail.

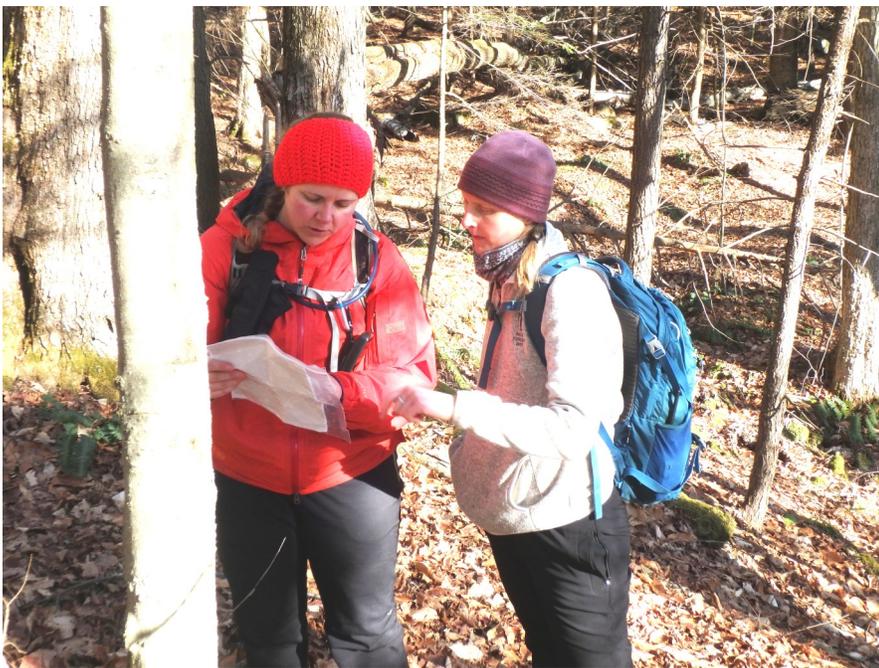
This bushwhack trip was an exploration of a potential route for the NCNST in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest near North Hudson, from Johnson Pond Road to an icy, tumbling waterfall on the outlet stream of Johnson Pond. We found a feasible route, but an alternative remains to be explored next spring before the route will be finalized, so no flags were set. However, detailed GIS records were made of the roughly 4 mile round trip, so it was a worthwhile effort.

Corrie O'Dea, DEC forester on the trip, said planning the new trail elements requires inclusion in the master plan for each Forest Preserve unit that the trail proposes to cross. For example, the conceptual trail through the Hammond Pond Wild Forest must be described in that UMP. This UMP is currently in draft stage, and scouting/layout informs the specific route location.

Taking part were leader Norm Kuchar, with Walt Hayes, Mary MacDonald and Mal Provost. DEC personnel were O'Dea, and Rebecca Terry, forester trainee.



The scouting party for the North Country National Scenic Trail takes a lunch break in Hammond Pond Wild Forest near an icy waterfall on the outlet stream of Johnson Pond. Photo by Mal Provost



Corrie O'Dea and Rebecca Terry, DEC forester and forester trainee, respectively, checking GPS during the bushwhack. Photo by Mal Provost

Another NCNST project was described in the last Lookout, involving volunteers helping DEC do preliminary clearing for a new trail to Jones Hill in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness. By the time snow forced a halt to the work in mid-November, our volunteers had cleared nearly half of the 3.2-mile corridor. Work will continue in the spring, from late April through June, in preparation for the actual building of the trail in July by the ADK Professional Trail Crew and a Teen Trails project for high schoolers.

Anyone interested in joining our volunteer group, please contact;
Walt Hayes
(518-399-7482 / Whayescbpp@aol.com)
or Norm Kuchar
(518-399-6243 / nkuchar@nycap.rr.com).

More information about the Teen Trails Project and the scholarship sponsored by the Schenectady Chapter is on page 2.

--Norm Kuchar

Conservation Report

Challenge to Parked Rail Cars Gains Support

There is some cautious optimism about removal of outmoded oil tanker cars from a rail siding along the Boreas River as mid-January chills the North Country, though "cautious" is the operative word.

Following letters from environmental groups such as the ADK and Adirondack Council and political pressure from Gov. Andrew Cuomo and local governments, there was affirmative response from the owner of many of the cars. The Union Tank Car Company announced that it would remove its cars – probably about 50 at current count -- from the rail spur, and according to some reports, get them out of not only the Forest Preserve, but New York State entirely. The Tank Car Company is a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway under CEO Warren Buffett, who was the direct target of state and environmental pressure.

Further, the state has begun action to prevent the blocking of the rail line with parked cars through the federal Surface Transportation Board, which is supposed to referee such disputes; that likely will be a long process.

The reason for caution, however, is that the operator of the rail line where the cars are parked – Iowa Pacific Holdings, which operates the Saratoga-North Creek Railroad – maintains that it will simply find other businesses with surplus rail cars needing a parking place. Ed Ellis, Iowa Pacific president, has failed to make a profit with the 30-mile stretch of tracks roughly between North Creek and Tahawus, the site of a played out source of titanium ore. (That is a story with a lot of history that has been covered extensively in *Lookout*, *Adirondack Explorer* and the *Adirondack Almanack*.)

But briefly, Ellis stated in October when he began placing derelict cars along the Boreas that he had to do it to make money, which he had failed to do in earlier ventures including the scenic railway, and another that envisioned removing mining rubble from the Tahawus site for road construction. At a storage fee of four to five dollars per car per day, if he parked 1,000 or more cars there he could make a bundle. Iowa Pacific reportedly tried a similar gambit on tracks it owns in Chicago, which also created a furor.

So optimistically, the forces of environmentalism and the upper level state politics are on the same team at present, but there is a long game left.

--Mal Provost

Boreas Ponds Status Focus of State Politicking

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Snowmobile advocates also remain hopeful of using some of the spiderweb of old logging roads to create a trail joining North Hudson and Newcomb, Woodworth said, though this also would entail crossing private land holdings, plus the opposition of environmental groups.

Parking remains under discussion. Now (when the road is passable) cars can drive to a parking area about 3.5 miles from the ponds. The ADK would be OK with permitted parking about one mile below the ponds at LaBiere Flow, with the ponds tract and a one mile buffer around the water classified as wilderness.

Whether the next round will be resolved in February is still iffy, which should not be a surprise. The classification decision initially was anticipated in March of 2017 following statewide hearings in 2016. Those were needed under state rules after the state bought the Boreas Ponds Tract and numerous others from the Nature Conservancy years earlier. The slow process in many ways highlights the importance of the decision – wilderness or lower levels of use restriction -- and the struggle out of the public view between the competing interests.

--Mal Provost

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 Roy Keats at 518-370-0399

HIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

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

Innings Has New Home, Feb., March Speakers

As the Schenectady Chapter renews its practice of sponsoring speakers, slide shows and other offerings – "Innings" as we refer to them – we are happy to announce events for February and March and a new location with easy access in the Stockade neighborhood.

Our new home for Innings is the Schenectady County Historical Society Museum at 32 Washington Ave. Parking is available in the YWCA lot, 44 Washington Ave. The programs will start at 7:30 p.m., so please arrive a bit before that. There will be light refreshments and non-alcoholic drinks.

Norway Talk

On Thursday, Feb. 15, Clark and Milly Gittinger will provide a relaxing evening cruising in the fjords of Norway. We'll travel from Bergen to the Russian Border and back with stops in many picturesque villages and towns, visit with people from the Sami Culture (Lapps or the Laplanders) and learn of their way of life.

Clark and Milly are both charter members of the Schenectady Chapter of ADK, 111ers and 2000 milers (Appalachian Trail). Clark is also a winter 46er. He is a native of Colorado and came here to work for GE from which he is now retired after 37 years with Corporate Research and Development Milly is a native of Buffalo and came here to work for Sunnyview as manager of the Occupational Therapy Department for 30 years.

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Innings and Outings

Innings Has New Home, Feb., March Speakers

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Sean Madden, biologist with the Department of Environmental Conservation, examines a sample during a recent study.

Mink Scat

On Thursday March 15, you will learn how a pile of mink poop can be a gold mine of scientific information. And then there are catbird eggs. Sean Madden, biologist with the Department of Environmental Conservation, will talk about emerging science and technology in ecological studies. In particular, improvement in extracting genetic information has made piles of scat into genetic treasure. And what better way to find scat than with dogs! Sean will be talking about a recent study of mink in the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys using a combination of scat-detection dogs, genetic information, and modeling. Genetic analysis can also provide insight into sensitivity to chemicals like PCBs, in birds. Sean will discuss a recent study of catbirds along the Hudson that highlights the application of this technique.

When not working on the Hudson River, he can be found singing and playing guitar, or hiking in the Adirondacks with his wife, kids and dog.

– Sally Dewes

Thursday, February 1, 7-9 p.m.

Young Member Social: The Van Dyck

Dustin Wright, pastor@messiahschenectady.org or 603-953-8782

Great conversation awaits about how we can better protect the beautiful natural places we have a blast in! All members and prospective members are welcome and apps are free! Join us as we reconnect after the holidays and plan out some future winter outings!

Friday, February 2

Cross Country Ski to Pharaoh Lake

Class B2B

Mike Brun at brunmets@verizon.net or 518-487-8054

Round trip to the first leanto on the lake is about 8 miles on a trail with gentle slopes. We can take an optional additional ski along the lake shore. This trip is suitable for novice skiers with a good snowplow. The view is spectacular.

Saturday, February 3

Young Member Outing: Owl's Head Firetower

Class B2B

Dustin Wright, pastor@messiahschenectady.org or 603-953-8782

Owl's Head Mountain Trail is a 6.3 mile heavily trafficked out and back trail located near Long Lake, New York that features a great forest setting and a fire tower! Total elevation gain is roughly 1,500 feet with micro spikes and snowshoes required. Young member outings are open to all ADK members no matter your age!

Sunday, February 4

Young Member Hike: Balsam Mountain

Difficulty: Moderate 5.5 miles; features many stream crossings

Mary Zawacki, text 914-373-8733

Balsam Mountain is a winter requirement for aspiring 3500ers. Join us for a gorgeous loop trek that crosses streams, and features great views near the summit. All participants must be prepared for a winter trek, and bring microspikes, snowshoes, and winter gear. Be advised that there are many stream crossings on this trail, which may be icy, slippery, or dangerous. Dogs welcome. Severe weather or cold will cancel this hike.

Saturday, February 10

The Schermerhorn Ride

Class Brrrrr!

Herb Terns, 518-372-8478 or trailhead@verizon.net

Symon says ride! This will be a bike ride from Schenectady's Stockade to downtown Albany in memory of the ride of Symon Schermerhorn. On a cold winter night in 1690, French and Indian troops from Montreal looted and burned the Schenectady Stockade. Schermerhorn, fearful that Albany might be attacked next, rode his horse to Albany to warn the residents. We'll make the ride on bikes and then have some lunch at the Albany Pump Station in downtown Albany where my wife will meet us to bring us home. Approximately 20 miles on the bike. Dress warm!

Saturday February 10

Balsam Mountain

Class B2B

John Susko 518-383-1284 or jpsusko@netzero.net

Balsam mountain is one of the Catskill 3500 club required winter peaks and has good views near the summit. We'll start the hike from McKinley Hollow. Depending on conditions we may do this as a bushwhack up and/or down for a distance of 4 - 6 miles with 2000 feet of ascent. At this time of year snowshoes and crampons or other traction devises may be needed.

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Innings and Outings

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Saturday, February 10

Young Member Hike : Tupper Lake Winter Triad
Difficulty: Easy 8 miles on three separate mountains
Mary Zawacki (text 914-373-8733)
and Jason Waters (text 518-369-5516)

We're tackling the Tupper Lake Winter Triad, and hitting up a local brewery to celebrate. Join us for three easy mountain climbs (Arab, Coney, and Goodman), which boast outstanding views of the surrounding mountains and lakes. After successfully hiking all three peaks, register on the official Triad Roster and receive a patch -- and winter bragging rights, of course. All participants must be prepared for a winter trek, and bring microspikes, snowshoes, and winter gear.

Sunday, February 11

Snowshoe at Five Rivers Environmental Center in Delmar
Class C3C

Jaque McGinn, 518-438-0557 or Jeve3@aol.com

This will be a beginner, family friendly, snowshoe. We will decide which trail or trails to explore depending upon the group. With over 10 miles of trails I'm sure we will find a little something for everyone. We'll meet in the morning, Exact time to be determined, but we will meet at the Education Center at Five Rivers. For more information regarding Five Rivers go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1835.html>

Saturday, February 17

ADK Loj - Upper Works Ski Thru
Class A+2A

Mike Brun, brunmcts@verizon.net or 518-487-8054

This is a joint ski trip with the Albany Chapter. We will have two groups, one starting from the Upper Works and skiing north, through the Flowed Lands and the second starting at the Loj and skiing south, through Avalanche Pass. The two groups will meet up in the Lake Colden area, have lunch, exchange keys and continue on in our respective directions. We will later meet for dinner and swap cars again. Distance is about 14-miles. Since both directions will require climbing, skins are recommended but not required. We will try to accommodate the direction you wish to ski, but because of the need to balance out the passengers in the cars the final decision will be up to the leaders.

Saturday, February 17

Young Member Snowshoe: Santanoni Winter Weekend
Difficulty: Moderate 10 miles

Jason Waters, (text 518-369-5516) or jwate78@gmail.com

Join us for one of only three weekends that the Santanoni Great Camp is open to guests. We'll snowshoe through the property, past the farm where the Santanoni Barn once stood, and past several buildings including a smoke house, creamery, boat house, and dairy barn foundation. Both the Gate Lodge and the Main Lodge will be open to view inside. Winter gear required.

Saturday, February 24

Pinnacle Icefalls
Class B2B

Norm Kuchar, 518-399-6243 or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

It's time for the annual trip to see the icefalls on the northwestern slopes of Pinnacle, in northern Fulton County. The colorful icefalls -- Butter-scotch, Big Blue and the Ice Wall -- are a bit different each year, but they are always spectacular. The hike to reach them (half on trails, half bush-

whack) is also attractive, as it follows Pinnacle Creek and traverses open woods and an open vly. Round trip distance is about 5 miles, with a total climb of about 550 ft. Snowshoes and winter gear will be required.

Feb 24-28 (Sat - Wed)

Moonlight Snowshoe: Featherstonhaugh State Forest
Class C3D

Rich Vertigan, 518-381-9319, vertiganr@gmail.com

The week 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 early in the evening. This will be a 1.3 mile casual moonlit walk (snowshoes only, please) through Featherstonhaugh State Forest, near Mariaville. Exact date, time, and route will depend on snow, temperatures, sky conditions, and my schedule. Please contact me a week or so in advance, let me know which nights you prefer, provide a phone number, and I'll pick the night as the weather evolves, possibly on short notice. Canceled if no snow or cloudy all week. Kids welcome with parents. Snowshoes required, as are flexibility and a sense of adventure.

Sunday, February 25

Cross Country Ski Wilton Wildlife Preserve - Camp Saratoga
Class C3D

Marc Limeri at webbiee@yahoo.com

This is an easy afternoon XC tour on mostly wooded trails. The trails are groomed for classic or skating style. But if you're skating, we are very slow! The distance is about 3 miles with one moderate hill. You need to travel the hill both directions.

Saturday, March 3

Fifth Peak: Tongue Mountain Chain
Class B2B

Roy Keats 518-370-0399 or royskipaddle@gmail.com

We'll park at the Clay Meadow parking lot. From there we will climb about 2.5 miles to the summit of Fifth Peak (elevation gain about 1300 feet). We should have great views out onto Lake George. From there we will retrace our steps to the car. Winter gear is necessary - snowshoes and microspikes.

Saturday, March 3

Young Member Outing: Dial & Nippletop
Class A+2B

Dustin Wright, pastor@messiahschenectady.org or 603-953-8782

Bear Den Trail to Dial Mountain and Nippletop is a 12.8 mile lightly trafficked loop trail located near Saint Huberts, New York that features a lake and two high peaks! Total elevation gain is roughly 4000 feet with micro spikes and snowshoes required. Young member outings are open to all ADK members no matter your age and please leave dogs home for this one!

Sunday, March 4

Young Member Hike: Panther Mountain
Difficulty: Moderate 6.5 miles with 1500 elevation
Mary Zawacki, text 914-373-8733

Panther is a winter requirement for aspiring 3500ers. Join us for a peaceful alpine forest hike to the summit, featuring some great views. Dogs welcome. Severe weather or cold will cancel this hike.

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Innings and Outings

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Saturday, March 10

Cross Country Ski to Santanoni Lodge

Class B2B

Mike Brun at brunmets@verizon.net or 518-487-8054

Round trip is 9.8 miles on road with gentle slopes. Trip is suitable for beginner and intermediate skiers. The lodge is one of the Adirondack great lodges with nice views over the lake. All the buildings have been restored. It is a popular destination so we will probably not need to make our own tracks. This weekend there is an open house at the lodge. All buildings will be open and there will be fire and hot coffee and chocolate provided so we will be able to eat our lunch in a warm place.

Saturday, March 10

Plateau Mountain

Class B+2B

John Susko 518-383-1284 or jpsusko@netzero.net

We'll take the Warner Creek trail up and to the summit of Plateau (one of the Catskill 3500' peaks) and continue on to a good view point, before returning the same way. This route will take us past another four scenic views and is longer; but, less steep than other approaches to Plateau. The distance is 8-9 miles with ~2000 feet of ascent. At this time of year snowshoes and crampons or other traction devices may be needed.

Sunday, March 11

Young Member Snowshoe/Bushwhack: TR Mountain

Difficulty: Strenuous 12 Miles

Jason Waters, 518-369-5516 or jwate78@gmail.com

Named after Teddy Roosevelt, the 26th president, TR Mountain is number 61 out of the Adirondack 100 highest peaks. The trek includes 8 miles on the Van Hoevenberg Trail, and a half mile of bushwhacks climbing 400 feet. If time and weather permit, we will also climb Tabletop and Phelps on this trek. Inexperienced hikers are not recommended to join this hike. Winter gear required.

Saturday, March 17

Young Member Snowshoe: Fulton Chain Trifecta

Difficulty: Easy 7.5 miles on three separate mountains

Jason Waters, 518-369-5516 or jwate78@gmail.com

We will be hiking the Fulton Chain Trifecta Mountains which included Bald Mountain, Rocky Mountain and Black Bear Mountain. This is a fun winter trip for hikers of all levels. After completing the challenge, you're eligible for a patch and climbing number.

Thursday, March 22, 7-9 p.m.

Young Member Social: Wolf Hollow

Dustin G. Wright, pastor@messiahschenectady.org or 603-953-8782

If you're roughly in your twenties and thirties and looking to build some community with other likeminded young adults in the Schenectady area, join us for a good food, delicious brews and great conversation! We'll spend an evening discussing the many opportunities available through the ADK for younger members and help us brainstorm about how to increase our programming. All are welcome, members and prospective members alike!

Friday, March 30

Vischer Ferry Hike

Class B2C

Mary MacDonald at 518-371-1293

or mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com

We will be looking for signs of spring at Vischer Ferry as we walk along the Mohawk River and through the Preserve. Come see the new bridge and the trail going to Halfmoon. Meet at the main entrance to the Preserve at the Whipple Bridge.

Saturday, April 7

Young Member Snowshoe/Hike: Hunter Mountain

Difficulty: Hard 6.3 miles

Jason Waters, 518-369-5516 or jwate78@gmail.com

Hunter Mountain is the second highest mountain in the Catskills, and one of the Northeast 111. We will be taking the out-and-back Becker Hollow Trail. Snowshoes and/or microspikes may be required, as is winter gear. All friendly canines are welcome as well!

Contact State Legislative Chairmen

It never hurts to write to political leaders to make your positions known, and there are a ton of topics active this year for sure. Over time these will include the classification of the Boreas Ponds Tract, decisions regarding parking outdated oil tanker cars along the Boreas River, and budget issues such as how many forest rangers are employed. **Your voice counts.**

The following are the chairmen of environmental conservation committees for 2018 in the state Senate and Assembly.

Thomas O'Mara

Chair of Senate Environmental Conservation Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 307

Albany, NY 12247

Phone: 518-455-2091

omara@nysenate.gov

Steve Englebright

Chair of Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee
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Let's Get Ready for 2018 Whitewater Season

The kayaks are stacked in the garage or buried in snow, but it's actually a good time now to do some pre-season work in indoor pools.

First, there are two options to work on your roll, as this year we have access to the Troy YMCA pool on Saturdays as well as the Duaneburg YMCA on Thursday evenings.

DUANESBURG YMCA:

The Duaneburg sessions will be on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., but one has to get out of the pool at 9:15 to leave time to reset lanes and finish in the locker room.

The sessions will start on January 11 and continue through April 19.

The schedule is also listed on <http://www.npmb.com/3/events/events-list/> or the

YMCA Website: <http://www.CDYMCA.ORG/> (and click on Duaneburg)

Call ahead and reserve a spot on or before the day that you plan to attend to ensure space is available. If you reserve and then cannot make it please call to cancel. Boats enter the pool through the double doors on the right side of the building when facing the front entrance. Bring in your boat and walk around the building to the main entrance to pay or check in. Free admission for 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.

The Duaneburg YMCA may close early during winter storms, so it is best to call and confirm they are open before making the drive if the weather is questionable. Contact the Y at 518-895-9500.

Kayak instruction is available with reservation (to ensure instructors and equipment are available). There is no charge for instruction. For recreational/touring/sea kayaking, basic strokes and/or rolling contact: John Ozard ozardjw@netscape.net or Ralph Pascale pascale@spendwood.com

Make sure your boats are clean – no leaves or debris in the pool!

TROY YMCA:

The Troy YMCA sessions will be on Saturday afternoons on the following dates: Jan. 27, Feb. 3 and 17, March 3 and 17.

Our pool time is 2-3 p.m. The address is 2500 21st Street Troy. The load-in is behind the building at the pool door. I suggest getting there early so you are ready to get in the water promptly at 2 and have the full hour to paddle. The fee is \$15 per person per session or you may purchase a session pass card for \$75. Payment is by check made payable to Sch'dy ADK. (In order to make this work, the ADK is renting the pool.) We do need to have names and phone numbers of participants for the YMCA records.

Kayak instruction is available with reservation (to ensure instructors and equipment are available). There is no charge for instruction.

PLEASE email me in advance, space is limited. rpascale@spendwood.com

Make sure your boats are clean – no leaves or debris in the pool!

Annual Whitewater Planning Session February 2 in Cohoes

Also, I am looking at 6 p.m. Friday Feb. 2, for our annual planning meeting. Most of our paddling trip leaders gather for this and we set up the basic schedule for the year, understanding river and weather conditions can force changes. We would be happy also to have new paddlers join us and discuss the season. All ideas welcome.

The meeting features pizza, soda and snacks; bring beer or wine if you choose. We meet at Spendwood School of Dance and Gymnastics, 50 Johnston Ave. Cohoes. Call 518-235-1614 or email whitewater@adk-schenectady.org

**--Ralph Pascale,
Whitewater Chairman**

Ididaride to Offer 20-Mile Off-road Circuit

The ADK's 13th annual Ididaride! bike tour on July 29 will put a new wrinkle in its 20-mile ride, turning that into a mostly off-pavement circuit, beginning and ending at the Gore Mountain Ski Bowl, while keeping its traditional 75-mile endurance road ride. The new 20-miler off-road will replace the 20-miler that has involved a shuttle for cyclists and bikes from the Ski Bowl to the hamlet of Indian Lake and a ride along Route 28 back to the base. Sunday Conine, annual fund director for the ADK, said the change will eliminate the cost of shuttle service, which took a bite out of the proceeds from the Ididaride. The rides – both long and short, plus the cookout and social elements – are a major part of the ADK's annual fund-raising.

The ADK web site says "The new route is ideal for off-road riders, fat-tire bikes, gravel-grinders and overland riders. For those ididaride! cyclists who prefer being in the woods and a little closer to nature, rather than sharing the pavement and enjoying the expansive views along the traditional 75-mile road course..."

"Some highlights of the 20-miler include biking along North Creek, crossing both Straight and Chatiemac Brooks and their waterfalls (familiar names to Gore Mt. skiers), biking along Mill Brook, passing tiny Riparius and its historic train depot, biking along rural sections of the mighty Hudson River as it flows through the Village of North Creek to Riparius...and finally, possibly saving the best for last, biking on the suspended boardwalk trail that crosses under Rt. 28, bringing riders back to the Ski Bowl."

The traditional 75-mile tour will be unchanged, passing through the towns and hamlets of Bakers Mills, Wells, Speculator, Sabael, Indian Lake, North River, and back to North Creek, along the way passing Mason Lake, Lewey Lake and Indian Lake. Registration details are available at the ADK web site or from Sunday Conine, sunday@adk.org

--Mal Provost

Photos, Birds Highlights at Kelly Adk. Center

Photography exhibits and talks will highlight the offerings of the Kelly Adirondack Center, 897 St. David's Lane, Niskayuna, during the mid-winter and spring.

During February and March the KAC, part of Union College, will exhibit sharp and powerful images of the Adirondack High Peaks taken by Manny Palacios. On his Facebook post Palacios writes: "I spend most of my time wandering around in the Adirondacks; day and night. Quite often you will find me 'somewhere' enjoying the outdoors and trying to interpret a landscape with my camera, certainly lost, but on the trail."

Then from April 12 through May 2 the KAC will host a traveling exhibit of Audubon Award winning photography. That will include a reception for Jeremy Kirchman, the New York State Museum's curator of birds, on April 26 at the KAC from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. At 7 p.m. he will discuss Adirondack birds in the Old Chapel on the Union College campus.

May 14 through 19 will be Adirondack Week. The KAC have the opening of the exhibit of photography by 46er #41 Kay Flickinger Dockstader and books owned by Grace Hudowalski, a panel discussion on the future of the 46ers, an update on the Jefferson Project's work on Lake George, and Blake Cortright will present his film *The 46ers*. Schedules for these events are still pending, according to Margie Amodeo, KAC director.



Manny Palacios' photos will be featured at the Kelly Adirondack Center.

People can view the exhibits Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the KAC.

--Mal Provost

Trip Tales

Balsam Lake & Graham

November 11

On one of the first truly frosty days of winter, a small group bundled up for a half day of hiking in the western Catskills. The trails had a light dusting of snow, and ice was present in some spots, but all were prepared with microspikes. The group made it to the fire tower after only an hour, so decided to tackle nearby Graham Mountain as well. The late afternoon sun coming through the trees on the way down was a bonus. Participants for the trip were Marika Robak, Mary Zawacki, leader, and Rusty the dog.

Northwest Bay Tract

November 4

A large group of 12 hikers had a perfect fall day to explore the Northwest Bay tract (also known as the Pole Hill Pond tract) at the head of Lake George's Northwest Bay. We explored an off-trail part of the tract -- purchased by the state from the Lake George Land Conservancy -- mainly using a logging road that goes along the base of the steep slopes of Middle Mountain. Most of the leaves were down, but there were enough still on the beeches to give the open woods a beautiful russet and gold glow. Enjoying the day were Charlie Beach, Peter Bishop, Linda Davern, Michelle Garrah, Walt Hayes, Ken and Nilde Marciniowski, Elizabeth Milo, Robbie Roessle, Linda Neil, Wayne Virkler and leader Norm Kuchar.

Haystack Mountain Newport, CT

November 11

A sunny cool day was perfect for a climb of Haystack Mountain, with height of 1683 feet and climb of just under 500 feet. The woods contained cherry and oak and lots of mountain laurel. There was a picnic table for lunch and a handsome round stone lookout tower on the summit. The 360 degree view from the top included Mt Greylock, 43 miles to the north. We took a different route back to the car and visited two not for profit private forests in the Town of Norfolk. Exploration of these properties will have to wait for a future visit. In the nearby Town of North Canaan we saw a restored iron furnace at the Beckley Furnace Industrial Monument, of the type seen at Tahawus unrestored. A very charming town with three state forests, Yale forestry school site and a summer Chamber Music Festival. Norm Kuchar, Lin Neil and the leader, Walt Hayes.

Haystack Mountain, Pawlet, VT

November 14,

A cloudy overcast day with moderate temperatures gave us very limited views from this open summit, accessed through a Nature Conservancy preserve off a private road. Trail markings end before reaching the summit (possibly at the end of Nature Conservancy land). There was a little snow remaining from the day before and in some places the rocks in the trail were slippery. It is a good trail that would be more fun on a sunny day. About 1200

foot ascent in 1.8 miles; we returned the same route. We later found out that the 65 acre summit property was purchased in 2012 by the not-for-profit Friends of Haystack. This is highly recommended as a good family hike. Dorie Valenti, Wayne Virkler and leader Walt Hayes.

New and Prospective Trip Leader Workshop

November 14

Ten of us got together at Pinhead Susan's in Schenectady for about 2 hours of sharing our experiences leading trips, discussing what is expected of a trip leader, and what to take along with you on your outings to ensure a safe and successful trip. We had five experienced leaders, two relatively new leaders and three prospective leaders attending. Hopefully, the prospective leaders will come on board shortly as leaders. The workshop was very positive, and I hope to do it annually. The attendees were Norm Kuchar, Walt Hayes, Mary MacDonald, Dustin Wright, Mary Zawacki, Jason Waters, Marc and Jan Limeri, John Ravas, and Roy Keats, outings chair.



Santanoni trip participants were Gail Gabriels, Jan McCann, Ken Shea, Marti Townley, Rob Haggerty, and Sue and Roy Keats, leader. This was a joint trip with the Cold River Chapter.

Whiteface Highway Ski - turned into Camp Santanoni

December 21

It was supposed to be the Winter Solstice ski trip up Whiteface. Unfortunately we were told that there were going to be some construction vehicles using the road and the sudden change in weather had turned it to an icy crust. So we changed the trip to Camp Santanoni hoping there would be a track with a little new snow! It worked! We had a sunny, cold day (not too cold with no wind). There were 2 tracks which made it even better. The scenery on the way in was great. Several of the High Peaks could be

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Trip Tales

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seen glistening white in the sun against the blue of the sky. We ate lunch in front of the boat house where there was warm sunshine. We each had a gold chocolate coin (not a bitcoin) for dessert, so we could make a wish at the winter solstice. The day was perfect. The participants were Gail Gabriels, Jan McCann, Ken Shea, Marti Townley, Rob Haggerty, and Sue and Roy Keats, leader. This was a joint trip with the Cold River Chapter.

Fifth Peak November 18

It was a crisp, clear day for our hike. Unfortunately, the day before had brought some high winds, so we had quite a few freshly downed trees to negotiate over on our way to the summit. There were great views out over Lake George from the ledge just below the lean-to and views out over the rest of the Tongue Mountain chain from another ledge behind the lean-to along with the snow covered trails on Gore Mountain. The participants were Ron Karpian and Roy Keats, leader.

Young Member Outing: Cascade & Porter December 2

An epic early winter hike! The frost formations were really awesome and both summits had very little wind. We kept a quick pace and didn't quite yet need snowshoes but micro spikes were definitely our best friend. Everyone a delightful day. The participants were Emily Litwin, Alyssa Woodworth, Rich Rogers and Dustin Wright, leader.

Bearpen/Vly December 23

Light rain and slush didn't keep our group of four off the trail! Unfortunately, it also meant no views along the trail, which is supposed to have some of the best in the Catskills. We summited Bearpen quickly, then leisurely made our way back down the col and up to Vly. By the end of the trip, spirits were high and feet were just a tad damp. In attendance: Mary Zawacki, trip leader, Scott Birdsey, Colette Levinstein, Jill Moretto.



*Emily Litwin, Alyssa Woodworth and Rich Rogers get ready to brave the summit of Porter!
Photo by Dustin Wright*

Camp Santanoni Winter Open House Set

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has announced Three Winter Weekend events will be held for the fifth consecutive year at Camp Santanoni in the Adirondacks.

Events are scheduled during the President's Day holiday weekend, February 17-19 and the weekend of March 10-11. Cross-country skiers and snowshoers will have access to the historic camp properties located in the town of Newcomb, Essex County, to rest, tour the buildings, and view interpretative displays.

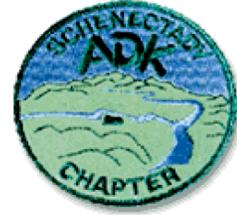
A 9.8-mile round trip cross-country ski or snowshoe excursion traverses from Camp Santanoni's Gate Lodge complex to the remote lakeside main lodge complex. Visitors can enjoy the wilderness surroundings and the rich cultural history of the Adirondacks.

Amenities are provided in the nearby community of Newcomb. The Winter Weekend Event in February will once again coincide with Newcomb's Winter Carnival on February 13.

During the Winter Weekend events, cross-country skiers and snowshoers will be able to visit both the Gate Lodge and Main Lodge of Camp Santanoni, view displays about the great camp, and take interpretive tours with Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH) staff. The wood stove heated Artist's Studio, a log and stone building near the main lodge on the shores of Newcomb Lake, will be open as a warming hut. Participants are encouraged to bring their own cups to enjoy free coffee, tea or hot chocolate. The Adirondack Interpretive Center will provide snowshoes at the Gate Lodge.

--Reprinted courtesy of the Adirondack Almanack.

Schenectady ADK
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CHAPTER BOARD MEETINGS: Are held regularly on the 4th 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 Richard Wang at 518-399-3108 or publicity@adk-schenectady.org. 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 Adirondack Loj or Headquarters.

Check Membership Level:

- Family Life \$1950
- Individual Life \$1300
- Adult \$50
- Family \$60
- Senior (65+) \$40
- Senior Family 65+ \$50
- Student (full time 18+) \$25
- School _____

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List spouse & children under 18 and birth dates

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Signature (required for charge)

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the Lookout

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