

# The **Lookout**

*April - May 2020*



## **Adirondack Mountain Club — Schenectady Chapter**

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

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

# Adirondack Mountain Club — Schenectady Chapter Board

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On the  
cover

*There is a lot of history in a canoe paddle that Norm Kuchar presented to Neil Woodworth at the recent Conservation Committee meeting. See Page 3.  
Photo by Sally Dewes*

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April - May 2020

# The Lookout

The Newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

## Advocates Press Legislators On Rangers Budget

Along the crowded hallways of the Legislative Office Building and Capitol Feb. 10, distinctive red and black scarves adorned dozens of activists calling on Assembly and Senate members to lobby for the Adirondack Park and environmental causes generally. Cathy Pedler, of the Advocacy Office of the ADK, said about 90 people spent the day meeting with legislators and staffers on issues ranging from tick-borne diseases to the need for more forest rangers.

All the advocates – representing the ADK, Adirondack Council, Sierra Club, Protect the Adirondacks and Adirondack Wild – wore the flowing red-and-black checkered scarves, a brainchild of the organizers to demonstrate the scope of public interest in Adirondack issues. It worked well as we gathered for a group photo in "The Well" of the LOB and trekked through the meeting rooms for the day. The big group split into about a dozen smaller units with tight schedules for connections with legislators.

According to the Adirondack Council's Kevin Chlad, meetings were set with 65 legislators and staffers and represented the largest gathering of environmental supporters in more than 10 years. Overall, Chlad reported, the advocates talked about overcrowding in the High Peaks, trail maintenance and development, educational programs, reduction of road salt use in the Forest Preserve, conservation design for housing projects and increased funding for boat inspections and washing stations.



*Volunteers gather in "The Well" of the Legislative Office Building in Albany to display strength in numbers before the serious ear-bending begins at individual lawmakers' offices during the Adirondack Park lobby day, Feb. 10.*

Much is pending as Lookout goes to press in late March. The state budget should be enacted before you read this, though that is never a guarantee in New York, and of course the corona virus scramble is making a mess of a lot of routines. So among the unknowns are the fate of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's proposal for a \$3 billion (that's BILLION) bond act targeting climate change resilience such as wildlife habitat, water quality, carbon dioxide reduction and flood risk mitigation. The last environmental bond act was passed in 1996 and focused on state land and easement purchases and recreational facilities.

The Environmental Protection Fund is ready for reauthorization, providing \$300 million in the 2020-21 fiscal year for land protection, invasive species management, farmland protection and recycling. The environmental advocates want that funding protected – importantly not used for staffing, which should come from other budget lines – and perhaps reach \$500 million by 2025.

Other lobby days during February focused on the Catskill Park, the EPF specifically and tick-borne diseases.

--Mal Provost, Conservation Chair

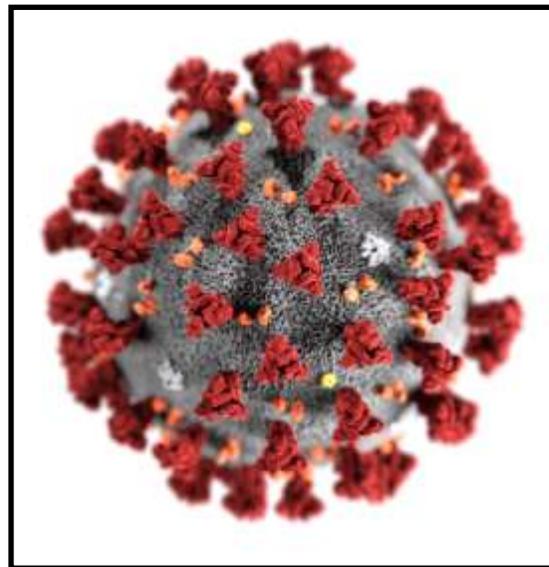
# Pandemic Interrupts Busy Spring Calendar

Well, it sure hurts to lose April, and who knows how much more of the spring? No one could predict this corona virus pandemic while late winter planning was being done, but here we are. So first, a quick note on ADK's facilities and event status as is currently known, followed by a very vague projection.

Executive Director Michael Barrett has announced closure of all ADK activity sites through April 30. These are the Heart Lake Program Center (Lake Placid) including the Adirondak Loj, Wilderness Campground at Heart Lake, Heart Lake Cabins and High Peaks Information Center. The Johns Brook Property (Keene Valley) is closed also, including Johns Brook Lodge, Grace Camp and Camp Peggy O'Brien and the Johns Brook Lean-tos. Further information should be sought through [adk.org](http://adk.org), or [michael@adk.org](mailto:michael@adk.org), as well as the chapter web site, [adk-schenectady.org](http://adk-schenectady.org).

Similarly, there will be no chapter-sponsored events, including hikes, whitewater trips and social gatherings during April. Common sense is that our active folks are not going to hunker in front of the TV for a month, but any activities should be on an individual basis; please observe the protocols of personal distancing. Beyond that, keep in touch through phone and internet and let's hope for the best. Be safe.

--Mal Provost



*Corona Virus throws a wrench into daily life.*

## Environmental Studies Scholarships Reminder

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Schenectady Chapter has up to two scholarships to award this year. Be aware that due to recent school closings we will be extending the application due date to **May 5**.

### To Apply:

Interested candidates should submit an essay describing their motivation for pursuing their particular course of study, their future goals, and any current or past activities that show their commitment to protecting the environment.

Instructions may also be found @ <http://www.adk-schenectady.org/teen-scholarships/>

Submissions should include the following information (**and must be submitted in either Word or pdf format**):

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Contact number and email address:**

**Parent's Name(s):**

**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 who is able to validate the commitment described.**

Send submissions, no later than **May 5** to:

[jeve3@aol.com](mailto:jeve3@aol.com) (Subject Line: ADK HS Scholarship)

Questions? Call Jacqueline McGinn, HS Scholarship Project Coordinator at 518-281-3673 or email her at [jeve3@aol.com](mailto:jeve3@aol.com)

## Chapter Honors Woodworth For Service



*Norm Kuchar presents a paddle to Neil Woodworth, recently retired as ADK executive director, at the state Conservation Committee meeting March 7 at the Pine Bush Discovery Center. The paddle was the late Betty Lou Bailey's, who was an environmental leader with the Conservation Committee and the Schenectady Chapter for decades, as well as being a friend and mentor of Neil and many others. The Schenectady Chapter wanted to honor Neil for his career with the ADK and his long association with our chapter. Norm refinished the paddle and installed a plaque noting its history. (Detail: Like whitewater paddlers everywhere, Betty Lou put her contact info on the paddle, just in case.) Photo by Sally Dewes.*

## Chapter Leadership Transition Moving Along

Hey friends! Here's just a few highlights to report on what's going on in YOUR chapter of the Schenectady ADK! First, a bunch of our young members have taken on key roles on the chapter board including Colin Thomas, who has been doing an excellent job as our new interim treasurer and Heather Ipsen, who just began as our new interim secretary. I say these are both interim officers as they'll still need to be formally voted on at the next annual meeting. Jeff Newsome is taking over membership chair as well! I'd also like to thank Norm Kuchar for taking on a new "ex-officio" role on the chapter board, that of historian. We still have a bunch of leadership opportunities available in roles where the current occupant would prefer to focus on other areas; these include printing & mailing, trails and the Young Members Group. Additionally, our board has reviewed our bylaws and recommended some minor edits to be adopted at the annual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 27. Then we'll be adding an alternate director role and the historian. Our board duties document is also being extensively reviewed and will soon be approved in order to help us recruit a new generation of leaders. Finally, we'll officially be appointing both a Nominating & Finance Committee as called for in the chapter bylaws.

In short, we've spent the last couple months doing major, totally boring but incredibly important transition work. Now with most of that work near completion, I look forward to working on upcoming goals for the chapter including improving member retention, rolling out a robust social media advertising campaign for new members, recruiting and training new trip leaders and putting together a wide variety of education opportunities for the general public and chapter members alike.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns at [dustingwright@gmail.com](mailto:dustingwright@gmail.com) or 603-953-8782.

**--Rev. Dustin Wright, Chairman**

# Whitewater Season Offers Trips, Skill Training

Off and running, or paddling as the case may be. What a GREAT year this will be! Over 70 trips and events! Yes we have all of our regular rivers to run and again we will add the Gattineau Festival, the Ottawa, the Mongaup, the Kennebeck and the Dead! (don't let the name scare you, it is a great class III in Maine.)

The early birds have already hit the Schoharie Creek! But it will not be just fun times on the river. We also take seriously skills development and sharing our skills and knowledge with others. Along with a great list of rivers to paddle we have provided a great list of classes. **We will have our traditional basic skills novice/intermediate class with Sally Dewes, plus swift water rescue, slalom, creek boating and trip leader training.**

Here is a brief list of learning opportunities (**with the caution that pandemic concerns may alter or scrub schedules**):

--Intro to Slalom Racing, May 2

--Intro to Creek boating, May 10

--Intro to Whitewater on the Battenkill, May 17

--Whitewater Paddle Skills, fit and equipment (fact versus fiction of paddling) the Sacandaga, June 18

--Novice/Intermediate Whitewater Class, The Deerfield, May 16, 17 (**see Outings for details**)

--Trip Leader Training May 16, 17 and May 23, 24, Zoar Outdoor

--Whitewater First Aid and Swift Water Rescue, May 31

Check our White Water page and complete schedule on the Schenectady Chapter web site:

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

--**Ralph Pascale**  
Whitewater Chair

## Whitewater Schedule

Date	Day	Location	Class	Leader	Phone (518 area code)
5/2/2020	Saturday	West River Release	III	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
5/2/2020	Saturday	Slalom Intro at Hudson River White Water Derby	III	Rick Morse	494-4094
5/3/2020	Sunday	Hudson River White Water Derby Rescue	III	Mal Provost	399-1565
5/6/2020	Wednesday	West Branch of Sacandaga/LC	III	Bob Wright	279-1428
5/9/2020	Saturday	Schroon/Leaders Choice	II/III	Nelson Miller	813-0546
5/10/2020	Sunday	Creek /River Running Clinic	II/III	Jason LaSelva	275-6005
5/16/2020	Saturday	Riparius to the Glen	III	Bob Wright	279-1428
5/16/20-5/17/20	Sat-Sun	* Novice/Intermediate WW Class Fife Brook Deerfield	II/III	Sally Dewes	346-1761
5/16/20-5/17/20	Sat-Sun	Trip Leader Training at Zoar		Ralph Pascale	339-4810
5/17/2020	Sunday	Introducton to White Water/Battenkill	I	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
5/23/2020	Saturday	Schroon/Leaders Choice	II/III	Ed Martuscello	332-1423
5/23/20 - 5/24/20	Sat-Sun	Trip Leader Training at Zoar		Ralph Pascale	339-4810
5/24/2020	Sunday	Schroon/Leaders Choice	II/III	Clarke Darlington	370-2144
5/25/2020	Monday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
5/30/2020	Saturday	Schroon/Leaders Choice	II/III	Tom Flynn	518-883-5922
5/31/2020	Sunday	Swift Water Rescue & White Water First Aid	III	Rick Morse	494-4094
6/6/2020	Saturday	Esopus-Tentative	III	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
6/7/2020	Sunday	Riparius to the Glen	III	Anthony Cagino	727-1666
6/13/2020	Saturday	DEC Outdoor Day- 6 mile waterworks	flat water	Dennis Wischman	518-764-3399
6/13/2020	Saturday	The Schroon	III	Don Orr	421-3389
6/14/2020	Sunday	Fife Brook Deerfield	II/III	Clarke Darlington	370-2144

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# Whitewater Schedule

*Continued from Page 4*

6/20/2020	Saturday	White Water Paddling-Equipment, Fit & Skills	II/III	Pierre Cyr	744-6740
6/25/2020	Thursday	Hudson River Gorge Trip Leading	III+	Nelson Miller	813-0546
6/26/20 - 6/28/20	Fri-Sun	Zoar Outdoor Demofest			
6/27/2020	Saturday	Deerfield Festival			
6/27/2020	Saturday	Fife Brook section of the Deerfield	II/III	Don Orr	421-3389
6/28/2020	Sunday	Introduction to White Water Deerfield Shunpike	II	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
7/4/2020	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge/Clark's House	III+	Mal Provost	399-1565
7/5/2020	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Anthony Cagino	727-1666
7/11/2020	Saturday	Fife Brook Deerfield	II/III	Ed Martuscello	332-1423
7/12/2020	Sunday	Leaders Choice	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
7/18/2020	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
7/18/2020	Saturday	Grafton Lakes State Park Kayak Day	flat water	Ralph Pascale	339-4810
7/19/2020	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Anthony Lamanno	275-6005
7/25/2020	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Tom Flynn	518-883-5922
7/26/2020	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
8/1/2020	Saturday	Fife Brook Deerfield	II/III	Ed Martuscello	332-1423
8/2/2020	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Clarke Darlington	370-2144
8/8/20 - 8/10/20	Sat-Mon	* Dead and Kennebec	II/III	Anthony Cagino, G	727-1666
8/8/2020	Saturday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Bob Wright	279-1428
8/9/2020	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
8/15/2020	Saturday	Mongaup	II+	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
8/16/2020	Sunday	Sac Release, Picnic, Gear swap/sale	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
8/28/20 - 8/30/20	Fri-Sun	* Gatineau River Festival and Ottawa	III+	Sally Dewes	346-1761
8/22/2020	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Nelson Miller	813-0546
8/23/2020	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III		370-2144
8/29/2020	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Norm Labbe	877-0076
8/30/2020	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Martuscello	332-1423
8/31/2020	Monday	Esopus	II+	Bob Wright	279-1428
9/5/2020	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
9/6/2020	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
9/12/2020	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Nelson Miller	813-0546
9/13/2020	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Martuscello	332-1423
9/19/2020	Saturday	West River Release	III-	Tom Flynn	518-883-5922
9/20/2020	Sunday	West River Release	III-	Anthony Cagino	727-1666
10/3/2020	Saturday	Fall Foliage Hudson River Gorge	III+	Bob Wright	279-1428
10/4/2020	Sunday	Esopus/Leaders Choice	II+	Clarke Darlington	370-2144
10/17/2020	Saturday	Mongaup	II+	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
10/24/2020	Saturday	Farmington	III+	Nelson Miller	813-0546
10/25/2020	Sunday	Farmington	III+	John Banevicius	256-7827
		* Advanced sign-up is required.			

# Outings

## Saturday May 2

### Thomas Cole & Blackdome Mountains

#### Class B2B

**John Susko, 518-383-1284 or jpsusko@nycap.rr.com**

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. 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.

## Sunday, May 3

### Slide, Wittenberg and Cornell

#### Class A2A

**Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185**

Join us on three Catskill peaks over 3500 feet. If we can get another car this hike could ideally be a thru hike starting with Slide Mountain making the trip about 9 miles. If not we will make this about a 13 mile out and back hike. LEASHED dogs are welcome.

## Sunday, May 3

### Indian Lake Challenge 4-3-2-1 Hikes

#### Class A2C

**Jason Waters, 518-369-5516**

We will be hiking some of the Indian Lake Challenge: Blue Ledges, Pashley Falls and some of the smaller trails. We will start with the Blue Ledges hike which is 5 miles. The other trails will include Buttermilk Falls, Secret Falls AKA Death Brook Falls, and Sawyer Mountain. Canines are welcome on the hike.

## Wednesday, May 6

### Willie Wildlife Marsh Hike

#### Class C3D

**Walt Hayes, 518-399-7482**

This is a good place to view waterfowl and painted turtles, located just north of Gloversville outside of the Blue Line of the Adirondack Park. Small changes in elevation. You should know this nearby marsh as an easy place to take children or friends with limited effort. There is a handicap accessible picnic area near viewing bridges over the water. We will have a relaxed pace with possible visit to the outlet stream of Peck Lake in the Adirondack Park. Back to meeting place by 4 p.m.

## Thursday, May 7

### Young Member Social: Wolf Hollow Brewery

**Dustin Wright, dustingwright@gmail.com or 603-953-8782**

The weather's getting warmer and it's time to start thinking about another epic summer season of hiking together! Join the young adults of the Adirondack Mountain Club's Schenectady Chapter for some time dreaming up warm weather outings and catching up during the spring thaw. Apps are on the club! Please message Dustin in case you have any further questions!

## Friday, May 15

### Paddle Middle Saranac Lake to Second Pond

**Class A2C Moderate 10 to 12 miles; 4 to 6 hours**

**Limit: 8 boats**

**Roy Keats, 518-466-8544 or royskipaddle@gmail.com**

This trip starts at the car-top boat launch on Middle Saranac Lake (South Creek Boat Launch). We will leave cars at the boat launch adjacent to the Rt. 3 bridge over the Saranac River (Second Pond) for our take out. We will paddle the South Creek inlet to Middle Saranac, and, if the winds are not too high, we will explore Hungry Bay and Weller Pond on the far side of Middle Saranac. From there we will head over to Lower Saranac Lake by paddling past the big islands on Middle Saranac and then into the Saranac River. With a little luck, we might be able to operate the lock separating Middle and Lower Saranac Lakes by hand. We will take out at Second Pond on the Saranac River. The trip length will be on the order of 10 to 12 miles. If the weather is extremely windy, we will move the trip to a more sheltered location.

## Saturday, May 16

### Bailey Pond Trail and South End Hoffman Notch Trail Maintenance

#### Class C3C

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

The Bailey Pond trail (0.9 miles) and the south end of the Hoffman Notch trail (1.2 miles), in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness, will become parts of the North Country National Scenic Trail. In 2017, our chapter took on the task of maintaining these short trails. This year, as usual, we plan to do maintenance in the spring and fall. From the trailhead at Loch Muller we will hike in and out on both trails, doing blowdown removal and side cutting using hand saws and loppers. The chapter has equipment, or bring your own. Total round trip distance is about 4.5 miles, with a total climb of about 450 ft. over gentle slopes.

## Saturday, May 16

### Young Member Outing: Table & Peekamoose

#### Class A2B

**Dustin Wright, dustingwright@gmail.com or 603-953-8782**

Two Catskill High Peaks! 10 miles and 2368 ft. of elevation gain near Claryville that features a waterfall! Bring your dogs! It's gonna be awesome!

## Saturday - Sunday, May 16-17

### Novice/Intermediate Whitewater Kayak Instruction

#### Class I-II, III

**Sally Dewes, 518-346-1761**

This two-day clinic is designed for boaters who have had some previous experience but still need more work to perfect the basic strokes and maneuvers. Students should have paddled class I or II whitewater five or more times and be able to perform eddy turns,

*Continued on Page 7*

# Outings

*Continued from Page 6*

peelouts and ferries on class I water. They should be able to paddle in a straight line, identify river features including eddies, waves, and holes, and self-rescue in class I and II water. Kayakers should have or be working on a roll and must be comfortable with wet exits. We will start on flat water to refine paddling techniques as well as rolls. On the river we will work on performing crisp reliable eddy turns, peel-outs, angle control on ferries, and gaining overall experience. Instruction will start at 8 a.m. at a location to be determined later and be over each day by late afternoon. Students must provide their own equipment including the boat. Cost for the two days of instruction is \$40.

**Last day to sign-up is Saturday May 9.**

**Sunday, May 17**

**Blackhead, Black Dome, and Thomas Cole.**

**Class A2B**

**Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185**

Join on us on three Catskill peaks over 3500 ft. We will start this hike from Big Hollow Road heading up Blackhead Mountain first. This hike doesn't offer a lot of views but there are some rock scrambles. This will be about a 12 mile out and back hike. LEASHED dogs are welcome.

**Tuesday, May 19**

**Petersburg Pass to Berlin Mountain**

**Class B2B, 5.4 mile round trip**

**Mary MacDonald, mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com**

**or 518-371-1293**

Have lunch in the sun atop Berlin Mountain. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, hat and poles. Some fairly steep climbing involved.

**Friday, May 22**

**Fish Creek Paddle**

**Marc Limeri, text 518-545-6456 or wwebbiee@yahoo.com**

Explore a quiet section of Fish Creek above the dam that controls the water level in Saratoga Lake. We'll paddle 3-1/2 miles down-

stream to the dam and back and then another 1-1/4 miles or more upstream towards the lake (which we won't reach; this is the quiet section) making the total paddle 6+ miles depending on the group preferences. *Note that the entry/exit to the water requires some big steps up and down (although with more than 2 people, we might be able to manhandle the boats down and up without having to step).* You can reward yourself with an ice cream cone at the Farmer's Daughters after the paddle.

**Wednesday, May 27**

**Hammond Pond Wild Forest Trail Work**

**Class C3D**

**Walt Hayes 518-399-7482**

This work will be clearing blowdown from an old road that will become an access trail to the North Country National Scenic Trail. We will do no cutting of live trees of any size. Very limited side cutting to be done. Most of the work will be clearing dead trees under 10 inches in diameter. Bring a good hand saw. The trail is relatively flat and the part to be cleared is about one mile in length. Back by 6 p.m.

**Friday, May 29**

**Warren County Bikeway to Lake George**

**Class A2B**

**Roy Keats, 518-466-8544 or royskipaddle@gmail.com**

This is nice ride from Glens Falls to Lake George and return to Glens Falls; 17 mile round trip and about 600 ft. elevation gain each way. It has a variety of scenery along the way from residential to golf courses, and a historic path for battles during the French and Indian War. This historic path is on our gradual climb to a high point going over French Mountain with historic signs along the way followed by a gradual downhill to Lake George. The path is well paved and a great ride. Rain will cancel. Please sign up by Wednesday, May 27.

## HIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

**Distance**

- A+ 13 Miles or More
- A 8-12 Miles
- B 5-8 Miles
- C Under 5 Miles

**Leader's Pace**

- 1. Fast
- 2. Moderate
- 3. Slow

**Terrain**

- A Very Difficult
- B Strenuous
- C Average
- D Easy

**Examples**

- A+1A Most Difficult Trip
- B2C Moderate Trip
- C3D Easy Trip

**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.

# Big Changes Coming For The July Ididaride

Ready to start cranking out the miles? Secure your spot now in one of the best bike rides in the Northeast: Register for the 15th annual Ididaride! and support ADK at the same time. This year's ride will take place on Sunday, July 26, rolling out from scenic North Creek but with big route changes.



*A fat tire biker navigates the "gravel-grinder" element of the Ididaride's 23 mile course during 2019's ride. Lower right bikers navigate the dirt section of the Ididaride. Photos by Chuck Helfer*

This year's scenic highway route of many years moves a little deeper into the sights and sounds of our beautiful Adirondack countryside. Not far from the start, riders will be able to experience all the benefits of biking the roads less traveled through the villages of Pottersville, Adirondack, Brant Lake, Olmstedville, and of course, North Creek. Ididaride's 2020 route mostly sheds the painted shoulders of Routes 30 and 8 and utilizes sections of roads along Schroom Lake and Brant Lake that are described by cyclists as being among the most beautiful ever experienced! Total mileage has decreased to 55 miles from the classic 75, but there are still plenty of challenging hills!

Also, the Gravel Grinder will be available for the third year in a row. This has proven to be an enjoyable, yet challenging ride and has delighted riders the past two years. The mixed-surface 23-mile route (short loop) is ideal for off-road riders, fat-tire bikes, gravel-grinders, and overland riders

-- ideal for those Ididaride! cyclists who prefer being in the woods and a little closer to nature. Some highlights of the 23-miler include biking along North Creek, crossing both Straight and Chatiemac Brooks and their waterfalls (familiar names to Gore 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 -- possibly saving the best for last -- biking on the suspended boardwalk trail that crosses under Rt. 28, bringing riders back to the Ski Bowl. Both rides start from the Gore Mountain Ski Bowl in North Creek. Each course is supported by rest stops, SAG wagon(s), and bike tech. Volunteers needed!

Registration is open. Please contact ADK's Annual Fund Manager, Sunday Conine at [sunday@adk.org](mailto:sunday@adk.org) or 518-668-4447 with any questions or visit <https://www.adk.org/play/cycling-information/ididaride/>. See you at Ididaride!

**-- Sunday Conine  
Annual Fund Manager**



## Galloway Passes, 53 Year Chapter Member

Long-time Schenectady Chapter member and leader Clark Galloway passed away on January 16. Born in Carthage, NY, Clark served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. After the war, he received a BA in engineering from Boston University and a master's in political science from Rutgers University. After a time in New York City, he moved with his family to the Albany area to work for the state Commerce Department.

Clark was an avid outdoorsman. He loved hiking and biking and was a member of several hiking clubs including the ADK and the Appalachian Mountain Club. He joined the ADK Schenectady Chapter in 1967 and maintained his membership for nearly 53 years until his passing. He served as chair of the chapter's Trails Committee from 1968 through 1970, and then became the chapter's vice chair in 1971. He led numerous hikes, particularly in the Catskills. He climbed all 35 Catskill peaks with elevations of 3500 feet or higher, becoming Catskill 3500 Club member #136 and Winter 35er #66.

About 1970, Clark and fellow chapter member Bill White originated the idea of awarding an "end-to-end" patch for hikers who completed the Northville-Placid Trail. They designed the patch, and, during the period from 1971 to 1995, they awarded about 950 patches. The chapter has continued to award this patch to the present day, with nearly 2,400 being given to "end-to-enders."

--Norm Kuchar

## NPT Hikers Recognized for Completion

One of the roles of the Schenectady Chapter is to acknowledge those who report finishing the Northville Placid Trail and send them congratulations and patch noting the achievement. This is the province of Mary MacDonald.

The following people have hiked the complete Northville Placid Trail and reported during January and February 2020: Ariana Gerdis of Troy, completed on Aug. 27, 2019; James Davis of Geneva, completed on Sept. 19, 2019; Greg Ramsey of Montreal, Quebec, completed on Oct. 3, 2019; Christina Higham of Montreal, Quebec, also completed on Oct. 3, 2019; David Irwin of Essex Junction, VT, completed on Aug. 12, 2019; Mark Schmidt of New York, completed on Sept. 21, 2019; Maya Gonzales Berry of New York, completed on Sept. 21, 2019.

--Mary MacDonald

### 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 budget issues such as how many forest rangers are employed. **Your voice counts.**

Following are the chairmen of environmental conservation committees for 2019 in the state Senate and Assembly:

**Todd Kaminsky**

Chair of Senate Environmental Conservation Committee  
Legislative Office Building Room 302  
Albany, NY 12247  
Phone: 518-455-3401  
[kaminsky@nyssenat.gov](mailto:kaminsky@nyssenat.gov)

**Steve Englebright**

Chair of Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee  
Legislative Office Building Room 621  
Albany, NY 12248  
Phone: 518-455-4804  
[engles@nyassembly.gov](mailto:engles@nyassembly.gov)

# Trip Tales

## Street and Nye Sunday, Feb. 2

Jason Waters and Kristin Cimmino led a 9.1 mile hike up Street and Nye peaks. The conditions were perfect for a Groundhog Day hike. The group wore micro spikes the whole way as the trails were well packed. The weather was warm and a very light snow made for a beautiful hike. Participants in addition to the leaders were Amanda Gomez, Sonia Rossi, Nora Cummings, Joel Cadbury, Nancy Morey, Colleen Armani, and Jeff Newsome.



*Street and Nye hikers, left to right, back row: Kristin Cimmino, Amanda Gomez, Sonia Rossi, Nora Cummings, Jason Waters, Joel Cadbury; middle row: Nancy Morey, Colleen Armani; front: Jeff Newsome.*

## Thomas Mountain (Lake George) Sunday, Feb. 9

We snowshoed up Thomas two days after a big ice storm hit the Adirondacks followed by several inches of snow. So the normally open logging road to the top of Thomas was festooned



*From left, Ron Philipp, Mal Provost, and leader Roy Keats.*

with beaded curtains of icy branches draping down across the trail virtually all the way to the top. The view of Lake George at the top was great. Hikers were Ron Philipp, Mal Provost, and leader Roy Keats.

## Ski to Great Camp Santanoni Saturday, Feb. 15

Shana Ederer, Ron Philipp and Mike Brun, trip leader, skied to the Santanoni Great Camp. Conditions were great, on a solid base with 2-3 inches of fresh powder. Since the camp is a popular destination there were tracks on the road so we did not need to break trail. Weather was picture-perfect, not a cloud in the sky. But it was cold, at minus 3 degrees when we started from the parking lot, but with sunshine it warmed up to 10 degrees by noon. This was one of the open weekends, so camp staff had a fire going in the Artist Cottage. That meant that we could eat our lunch in a warm place, enjoying free coffee and hot chocolate. We also went on a short tour of the camp buildings and had some nice views of Santanoni Mountain from the trail.



*Santanoni skiers: Shana Ederer and Ron Philipp.*

## Cat Mountain Saturday, March 14

Four of us climbed Cat Mountain of the Cat & Thomas Mountains Preserve from the Edgecomb Pond parking lot. This is a shorter route than from the main access. We used the main Blue trail to the top as accessed from the red trail from the parking lot. Most of the way was on an old logging road with microspikes and yaktrax being needed for traction. It was a spectacularly sunny day with gorgeous views from the top. Crane and Gore Mountains were readily visible to the east, and the southern portion of the Tongue Range and most of the eastern shore mountains of Lake George and the north and south islands were also

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# Trip Tales

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arrayed before us. Participants were Danielle Gecewicz, Ed Kautz, Charlie Pensabene, and Roy Keats, leader.



*Cat Mountain hikers: from left, Roy Keats, Danielle Gecewicz, Ed Kautz and Charlie Pensabene.*

### **Roostercomb and Snow Mountain**

**Sunday, Nov. 17**

Trip leader Kristin Cimmino led a hike up Roostercomb Mountain and then down to Snow Mountain to complete two of the ADK 29er alternative peaks. It was a warm sunny day and the trail had a little snow. Clear blue skies made way for beautiful



*On Roostercomb, from left, are Matt Dorinbrowski, Linda Hutchins, and Jeffrey Newsome. Photo by Kristin Cimmino.*

views on each summit. Matt Dorinbrowski, Linda Hutchins, and Jeffrey Newsome made the hike.

### **Homestead (Saratoga) County Forest**

**Saturday, Nov. 23**

The weather was perfect for this outing. Snow covered the ground but not deep enough for snowshoes. Water levels were high and Cadman Creek Falls was beautiful and roaring more than usual. We enjoyed lunch by the falls. Beaver dams in the flatter part of Cadman were extensive. It was a very relaxed pace as we visited the sites of several 19th Century houses and sawmills. We met and talked to hunters but heard no shots fired. Participants were Dave Manieri, Ken and Nilde Marcinowski, Lin Neil, Loraine Plauth, Ron & Lillian Ramsey, Karen & Richard Wang and leader. Walt Hayes.

### **Camp Saratoga (Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park)**

**Wednesday, Dec. 11**

The Wilton area received over a foot of snow in early December, but a warm, rainy spell followed by below-freezing weather collapsed the pack to about 3 inches of crusty snow, with human, dog, snowshoe and ski tracks frozen in. Six of us used snowshoes to make a loop through the northern half of Camp Saratoga, following trails that traverse woods and some large, open fields created to form the sandy savannas inhabited by Karner Blue butterflies and other species. We had a beautiful day for the hike, with sunny skies, light winds and moderate temperatures. Snowshoers included Walt Hayes, Roy Keats, Dan Pekrol, Jerry Perregaux, Mike Tamer and leader Norm Kuchar.

### **Scarface Mountain**

**Sunday, Dec. 22**

Trip leader Kristin Cimmino and Linda Francois took a break from the holiday hustle and bustle to hike up Scarface Mountain.



*Kristin Cimmino rings the Saranac 6er bell. Photo by Linda Francois*

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## Trip Tales

### *Continued from Page 11*

The sun was shining and the temperature was perfect. There was a lot of blowdown from the Halloween storm in the beginning of the trail. The lookout was beautiful before we got to the enclosed summit. After coming down, we went into Saranac Lake Village, so Kristin could ring the bell as this hike completed her Saranac 6.

### **Phelps and Tabletop Sunday, Dec. 29**

Our group was chomping at the bit to get out and climb two 46ers after the Christmas holiday! We lucked out with ideal conditions: clear skies, low wind, and temperatures in the low 30s. The only daunting part of this 13 mile trek were the endless ice patches on the steep parts of Tabletop and Phelps trails. We summited Tabletop before noon, had a quick lunch, then made our way down the ice, and up to Phelps. The views from both mountains were incredible, and the mild temperature meant we could take a few minutes to soak in the sun, and the stunning Great Range vista. A

perfect day for winter peak-bagging! Participants were Mike Diana, Erica Goodman, Mike Steinberg, Mark Vermilyea, and trip leader Mary Zawacki.



*Taking a break on the rocks during the Phelps/Tabletop hike are Michael Diana, Michael Steinberg, Mark Vermilyea, and Erica Goodman*

## Grant to Improve Heart Lake Parking, Signage

The Adirondack Mountain Club has been awarded a \$66,000 Smart Growth grant by the New York state Department of Environmental Conservation to use towards improving parking and interpretive signage at the Heart Lake Program Center. This is part of a \$600,000 commitment to support organizations and communities in the Adirondack Park. Smart Growth Grants are funded by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund to encourage the development of public services.

Hosting one of the busiest trail heads in New York State, the Heart Lake Program Center sees over 100,000 annual visitors, making it a critical location for educational information and encouraging sustainable recreational practices. Though it has always been a popular site for hikers, visitor numbers have skyrocketed over the last decade. To keep up with higher visitor traffic, the Heart Lake Program Center began upgrades in 2018 that included a renovation of the High Peaks Information Center, the construction of an education yurt facility, and upgrades to the Wilderness Campground. However, further infrastructure is needed to provide visitors with an experience that encourages education and stewardship.

The next step will involve redesigning the hiker parking lot complex and property signage to improve accessibility and the educational experience for visitors. The specifics of these changes will be determined after a consultation phase but will not involve an expansion beyond the current car capacity of the parking area.

ADK is working on these improvements alongside the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the town of North Elba, both of which manage the lands and roadways surrounding the Heart Lake Program Center. Further details will be provided as we move forward with the consultation phase and begin development projects on site.

--Excerpted courtesy of Adirondack Almanack

**Schenectady ADK**  
**P.O. Box 733 Schenectady NY 12301-0733**  
<https://www.adk-schenectady.org>



**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Please save paper and postage and **ONLY** receive an electronic version of the Chapter newsletter *The Lookout* via email.

List spouse & children under 18 and birth dates

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Child \_\_\_\_\_ birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Child \_\_\_\_\_ birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature (required for charge)

***ADK is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Membership fees are tax deductible, as allowed by law. Please allow 6-8 weeks for receipt of first issue of Adirondack.***

*the Lookout*

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