

The **Lookout**

August - September 2020



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

Masked up at the put-in for a Fife Brook whitewater run July 11, Schenectady ADK paddlers observe the protocols of pandemic days before getting on the water. More photos on Pages 6 and 7. Cover photo by Mal Provost.

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August - September 2020

The Lookout

The Newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Board Selects Five “Fellows of the Chapter”

Over its 77-year history, the Schenectady Chapter has had many members who have made outstanding contributions to the chapter, to ADK and to the community. To recognize these individuals for their service, the chapter created a Fellow of the Chapter award, but, to date, these have only been awarded twice, to honor Stan Stoklosa and Maria Beurmann.

This year, the chapter board is making Fellow of the Chapter awards to five current members: Rudy Dehn, Bob Grimm, Walt Hayes, Mary MacDonald and Norm Kuchar.



Walt Hayes, left, and Norm Kuchar at the Lake George Headquarters in June, 2017, receiving ADK's Distinguished Volunteer Awards for years of trails work and scouting, plus trip leadership over decades.

Rudy Dehn was a founder of the chapter in 1943 and served as its first chair. He was instrumental in guiding the chapter in its early years and has been a dedicated ADK volunteer at the Loj and elsewhere over the past 77 years.

Bob Grimm, a chapter member since 1970, served as chair, treasurer and ably represented the chapter during several terms on the state ADK Board of Directors. He also headed ADK's Johns Brook Lodge Committee for many years and played a key role in making JBL into the great facility it is today.

Walt Hayes, a chapter member since 1971, served in several chapter offices as well as vice president and treasurer of ADK. He headed the chapter's Outings Committee for many years and has led about 400 outings. In recent years Walt has been exploring routes for the North Country National Scenic Trail in the eastern Adirondacks.

Mary MacDonald has been a chapter member since 1988. For many years, she has ably served as vice chair, project coordinator, and head of the chapter's Publicity, Mailing and Printing and Northville-Placid Trail committees. Mary has led many chapter outings and has been an outstanding volunteer for the chapter and ADK.

Norm Kuchar joined ADK in 1983 and has been a member of the Schenectady Chapter since 1993. He has served on the chapter board as chair, vice chair and project coordinator, and currently heads the Trails Committee and is the chapter historian. Norm is an Adirondack 46er and has climbed all 35 Catskill peaks over 3,500 feet, both summer and winter. He has led more than 150 chapter hikes. He has served on the ADK Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and is a member of the ADK Archives and Trails committees. For the last 10 years, Norm has been active in the development of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) in the eastern Adirondacks, exploring potential routes with Walt. In addition, two Fellow awards are also being given posthumously, to William M. (Bill) White and Betty Lou Bailey.

Bill White was a member of the chapter from 1965 to 2007. He served as chapter chair and as chair of the Outings and Conservation committees. In 1971, Bill and Clark Galloway initiated the Northville-Placid Trail patch program for end-to-end hikers, which still exists, and he administered the program for 25 years. Bill was an innovative outings leader and conducted "toothbrush tours," skate sailing trips and other unique outings. He helped initiate and run the Rogers' Rangers Run, a 32-mile ski run on Lake George inspired by Rogers' Rangers during the French and Indian War.

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Conservation Report



Volunteers get on the water to learn about sampling for and identifying invasive aquatic species, under the guidance of ADK trainers. Photo courtesy of ADK.

Sketchy Time For Environmental Progress

While we of the Schenectady Chapter scramble to keep focused and stay in touch with our members, at the state level there also are some good things happening but under the shadow of a big load of important unknowns. It's good to know a lot of people are working hard to keep the ADK on track...don't be afraid to reach out and pitch in, whether it's a letter, donation or going on a hike!

Bond Act Pending

First among the unknowns is whether state voters this year will have the chance to decide on the \$3 billion Restore Mother Nature Bond Act. Legislative approval of the bond act was a big win for Gov. Andrew Cuomo and environmental groups early this year. The bond act's objectives include major rehabs for energy efficiency in state buildings, water and sewer infrastructure upgrades, reduction of carbon emissions and recreational improvements. The last such act was approved by voters in 1996.

This all took shape before the coronavirus pandemic struck. That brought with it a cratering of state tax revenues and spikes in public spending. The Legislature provided the state the ability **not** to put the bond act on the ballot in November if it appears that conditions would not be favorable for its passage by voters. So that remains a possibility as the governor deals with a myriad of other pandemic-related issues. Cathy Pedler, director of advocacy for the state ADK, said "It's highly likely that the state will decide to move forward and put it on the ballot." But as desirable as the bond plan is, it is a long way to November and the shape of events to come are true unknowns.

Environmental Protection Fund

Now look at the EPF, which is approved in the current state budget at \$300 million and targets invasive species management, land and farm protection and an array of work supported by environmental groups. That money is already budgeted, but that does not necessarily mean it will be spent, Pedler cautioned. The fund "hasn't been cut, but the contracts are on hold," she said. Those decisions are likely to play out on a case-by-case basis into next year.

Invasives Training

Interested in checking remote Adirondack ponds and lakes for invasive aquatic species with an ADK guide? Happily, that work is still ongoing, and opens the possibility of trips to the backcountry for "citizen science" volunteers. Early detection of invasives can help control the spread of species like Eurasian watermilfoil, water chestnut and zebra mussels (among others). Upcoming are day trips with guide Maggie Newell to learn the ropes. Trips are scheduled for Aug., 1, 15 and 21. There also is a camping trip Aug. 7-9. To register or for more information contact Maggie at maggie@adk.org, or Cathy Pedler at cathy@adk.org.

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Schenectady Chapter Faces Challenging Period

Wow, after an extremely difficult number of months we have a lot to announce in this edition of *The Lookout*! We're happy to say that with guidance from the ADK Main Club, as long as we stay in Phase 4 of the New York Forward reopening plan, we are once again conducting outings, socials and other in-person events. (Of course these are under some restrictions, including no carpooling, maintaining social distance and carrying a facemask for when social distancing isn't possible). We look forward to seeing you out there!

We are grateful for an extremely successful virtual event with Historian Norm Kuchar, in which he provided photos and personal profiles of the founding days of the Schenectady Chapter. We're also happy to reinvigorate our "Fellow of the Chapter" award program, which recognizes long serving members of our chapter for unique contributions to the ADK. At our Annual Dinner/ Meeting set for Tuesday, Oct. 27, **(we don't know for sure yet whether this will be virtual or in-person)** we'll honor five of these members: Rudy Dehn, Robert Grimm, Walter Hayes, Mary MacDonald, and Norm Kuchar. Posthumous awards will be given in memory of William M. "Bill" White and Betty Lou Bailey. **(See related article page 1)**. In addition to saying thanks, this awards program will also help our large group of new and generally younger chapter members to understand the people and stories that have made up the Schenectady ADK for decades.

Looking toward the future, we'll also welcome Michael Barrett, the new executive director of the Adirondack Mountain Club, as our keynote speaker. He'll discuss the challenges we face during COVID-19, ways the ADK is working to address diversity in the outdoor community, how we're tackling the effects of climate change in the Adirondack Park and more. During this time, as always, we'll have the opportunity to elect officers (please send in any nominations to Nominations Committee Chair Roy Keats) and approve some modest amendments to our chapter bylaws.



Dustin Wright

We've gone through a difficult number of months friends, but as we collectively consider how to re-envision our wider society amidst COVID-19 and many justice struggles of our day, I have no doubt that the ADK Schenectady Chapter has a bright future ahead!

Changes to Chapter By-laws

At the annual dinner and business meeting, the chapter will consider modest changes to our by-laws, mostly suggested as a wider effort to streamline our board job descriptions. In addition to slight tweaks to these, an alternate director and historian position would be added as ex-officio members of the chapter board. Also, an officer of the chapter would be required to be members of the chapter as well. As it would be difficult to summarize here every little tweak to the by-laws to be considered, draft changes will be posted to our chapter website and mailed to members for review upon request

--Rev. Dustin Wright, Chapter Chair

Board Selects Five "Fellows of the Chapter"

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Betty Lou Bailey served as chapter chair and secretary, but her most significant contributions were as head of the chapter's Conservation Committee from 1983 to 2007. She actively participated in the licensing processes for hydro dams to insure that adequate attention was given to the environment and recreation. In the late 1970s she initiated the chapter's whitewater activities, which have become ADK's strongest whitewater program.

It is hoped that the awards can be made at the Annual Dinner in the fall. It is expected that Chapter Fellow awards will continue to be made in the future, to recognize other members who have made outstanding contributions the Schenectady Chapter and ADK.

Sketchy Time For Environmental Progress

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Summit Stewards

Seth Jones, education director for the ADK, reports that summit stewards – the folks who meet hikers at some High Peaks to help promote and develop good practices – are a bit more limited this year due to state cutbacks and training limitations under COVID-19 protocols. "We started stewarding 7 days a week on Marcy and Algonquin on June 20th. We will not be stewarding Cascade this year on the weekends, only on weekdays because the usage numbers are just too high on weekends for stewards to properly distance from hikers," he said. State DEC financial support has also been on hold.

Trail Work Report: Avalanche Lake – Lake Colden Connector

For June, ADK’s professional trail crew was hard at work rerouting a popular hiking trail: the connector trail between Avalanche Lake and Lake Colden. This 0.3 mile section of trail is often visited by hikers looking to hike the Algonquin or Mt. Colden loop trails and backpackers planning to overnight at Lake Colden. However, due to its current proximity to the stream outlet from Avalanche Lake, the trail floods every spring which creates conditions that are unsafe for hikers, accelerates soil erosion, and affects the adjacent ecosystem.



Doing the hard work of rerouting the Avalanche Lake bypass trail are members of the ADK Pro-Crew. (Above) Avalanche Lake on a calm, beautiful summer day. Photos courtesy of ADK.

This trail project was made possible by a grant from the Adirondack 46ers. As part of a three-year commitment from the organization to support ADK’s stewardship efforts in the High Peaks Wilderness, the Adirondack 46ers pledged \$41,000 toward the professional trail crew in December 2019, which will also fund a project on Haystack.

--Mal Provost, Conservation Chair

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@nysenate.gov

Steve Englebright

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

Outings

Wednesday, Aug. 5

**Panther Mountain
Class B2B**

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

Panther is one of the Catskill 3500 foot peaks. We will hike in and out over Giant Ledge which provides good views along the way and from the summit. The distance will be 7 miles with 2000 feet of ascent. In case of rain or excessive heat/humidity the hike will be postponed to 8/12.

Friday, Aug. 14

**Canoe Raquette River - Axton Landing to Raquette Falls
Class A2C**

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

This trip starts and ends at Axton Landing which is a few miles outside of the village of Tupper Lake. We will paddle up the Raquette for approximately 6 miles to the falls (note, round trip 12 miles). It is a flat water paddle with a lot of bays and blind channels depending on the water level. The river has a barely noticeable current at this time of year. Once at our destination, we will walk a short distance to the lower falls. If people are interested we could continue the hike over the portage (without boats) to explore some of the other falls along the river. Please contact leader by Wednesday, Aug. 12.

Saturday, Aug. 15

**Young Member Outing: McKenzie & Haystack
Class A1B**

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

Join our Young Member Group as we bag two of the Saranac 6 over 11.9 miles of trail and 3,303 feet of elevation gain. Epic views of Lake Placid and the surrounding area will be had and this is definitely a puppy friendly hike. Get a good long hike in before mud season! All are welcome!

Thursday, Aug. 20, 7 p.m.

Young Member Social: Great Flats Brewery

Now that we are in phase four a number of our local watering holes have re-opened and folks are looking forward to reconnect! While social distancing and masks will be required when not in small groups at tables, all young adults are encouraged to come out for an evening of fun and conversation about how to protest and play in the great outdoors! Appetizers are on the club! Please message Dustin Wright at dustingwright@gmail.com or 603-953-8782 in case you have any further questions!

Friday, Sept. 11

**Paddling Rollins Pond Loop (Saranac Lake area)
Class A2B**

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

The exact route would depend on the weather. With warmer weather we would do several short portages to give us a complete loop (put-in to Copperas Pond, Whey Pond, Rollins Pond, Flood-

wood Pond, and Fish Creek to take out (same as put-in)), otherwise we would do an out and back on Fish Creek itself from Square Pond to Floodwood and return. This would avoid all portages. The round trip would be 8 to 9 miles. Please contact leader by Wednesday, Sept. 9.

Saturday, Sept. 12

**Young Member Outing: Noonmark Mountain
Class B2B**

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

Join our Young Member Group as we bag one of the best of the ADK 29er peaks on a puppy friendly route! Noonmark via Round Pond is a 6.4 mile lightly trafficked out and back trail located near Keene, that features a lake, great views and only 2,086 of elevation gain. Depending on time we might even bag nearby Round Mountain, another ADK 29er as well.

Thursday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m.

Young Member Social: Frog Alley

Let's get together while staying safe and discuss where we're headed out to in the fall! While social distancing and masks will be required when not in small groups at tables, all young adults are encouraged to come out for an evening of fun and conversation! Appetizers are on the club! Please message Dustin Wright at dustingwright@gmail.com or 603-953-8782 in case you have any further questions.

Friday, Sept. 25

**Fish Creek Paddle
Class B3D**

Marc Limeri, wwebbie@yahoo.com or Text 518-545-6456

Explore the fall colors on a quiet section of Fish Creek above the dam that controls the water level in Saratoga Lake. We'll paddle 3.5 miles downstream to the dam and back and then another 1.25 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. You can reward yourself with an ice cream cone at the Farmer's Daughters after the paddle. This trip is limited to 6 participants and rain will cancel.

Sunday, Sept. 27

**North Tongue Mountain Range
Class B2B**

Jason Waters, 518-369-5516, Steve Maloney 518-429-5671

The hike will start at the Deer Leap Parking area. We'll trek over Brown, Huckleberry and Five Mile Mountain for a total distance of about 7 miles. There should be good views of Lake George in many locations. These are three of the mountains included in the Lake George 12sters challenge.



(Right) Watching loons on the Cedar River Flow July 15 are from left, Dave and Carol Furman and Susan Keats. (Above) the flow on a bright July day. Photos by Roy Keats

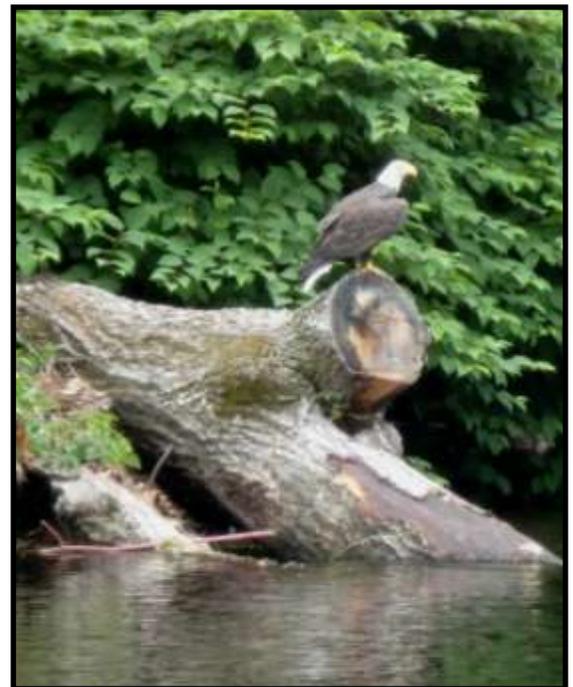


Chapter Outdoor Activities Still Going Strong

Hikers are hiking, paddlers are paddling, birders are birding and bikers are biking. There is just no way that the worries and real problems of a pandemic virus are going to keep people who love the outdoors and are dedicated to their chosen activities from engaging in them. The leadership of the ADK recognizes this – while also recognizing the reality of the pandemic – and is instructing its members to be respectful of the rules while getting out. Happily, the aggressive response of New York to the crisis has been effective in limiting the spread and we are now at a point where respect for others plus a little common sense and awareness is all you need to get out and play. **(But note that the ADK wants no carpooling, period.)** Biking for shuttle runs has been popular among our paddlers in particular, and we commend them.



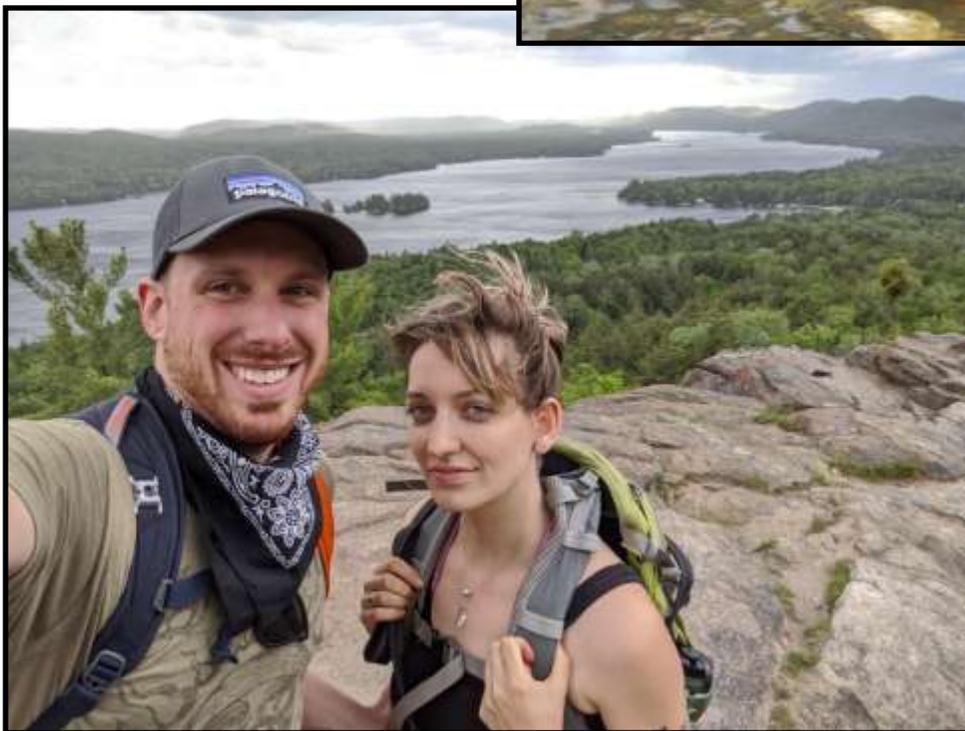
Fife Brook is a fun practice run for paddlers of intermediate skill, and has the bonus of being peaceful and scenic all the way. (Right) Along the Fife Brook section of the Deerfield River, an adult bald eagle strikes a pose as paddlers quietly drift by on July 11. Photos by Mal Provost





Don Orr working on his squirt moves along the Deerfield River July 11. Photo by Mal Provost.

Ed and Pam Martuscello at a quiet moment on the Fife Brook run July 11. Photo by Mal Provost.



Mary Zawacki and fellow Schenectady ADK member Mike Steinberg on Bald Mountain, while completing the Fulton Chain Trifecta.

Ididaride! 2020: Ride, Report For The Record

ADK's Iddaride! is its largest annual fundraiser to support the education, responsible outdoor recreation, and advocacy ADK has stood for over the last 98 years. To ensure rider safety as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, ADK's annual bicycle tour has transitioned to a virtual mode for 2020. While this is an unexpected twist, excitement and fun are still key elements.

The key element is the importance of Iddaride! to ADK programs, as registrations generally net about \$30,000 to support these for the year. This year the virtual format will be lighter on the wallet as registrations are \$50 per rider, since there will be no infrastructure such as rest stops with their drinks and munchies, no SAG wagon and safety support. This year marks the 15th for the tour and it was to feature major changes. The road tour was to be 55 miles on a new route including Brant Lake, and the "Gravel Grinder" tour was to continue. The formal event and socializing dinner will have to wait, but the virtual tour is good for riders and the club.

Here's ADK instructions:

- **Registration is open until 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28.**
- **Once registered, get out there and ride on your schedule, alone or with a group, wherever you live and enjoy riding.**
- **Finishers who report their rides by Sept. 7 will receive an event T-shirt.**
- **Detailed instructions are on the website, adk.org.**

When your ride is complete, log your experience by uploading your route/distance using the Ride With GPS app, or manually through email by 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 7. We encourage you to send us a photo of yourself out riding as well. If possible, include an ADK-branded item in the photo, such as a shirt, jersey, sticker, water bottle, past event shirt, or other ADK garment. Photos and mileage will be loaded to a gallery.

All finishers will receive an exclusive 2020 Iddaride! T-shirt and be entered to win one of three, \$100 ADK Store gift certificates. Shirts will be mailed to you in mid-September.

Questions? Contact Sunday Conine, ADK's annual fund manager, at sunday@adk.org

Tick Prevention Critical For Summer Safety

As if there were not enough to worry about these days – COVID-19, face masks, the economy – we still need to be aware of ticks. If you are out for a walk or a hike or dragging your canoe to a lakeside put-in, you need to be careful. (And just to make it even more interesting, some of the nasty infections that ticks can transmit also have similar symptoms to those of the coronavirus.) Most of us know this so there's no point dwelling on the negative. But the state Health Department has a commonsense list of preventive measures, so here they are as a reminder:

- **Wear light-colored clothes for easy tick detection.**
- **Tuck pant legs into socks or boots. Tuck shirt into pants.**
- **Wear long pants and long sleeves.**
- **Use insect repellent.**
- **Hike on clear and well-traveled trails. Avoid dense woods and bushes.**
- **Bathe or shower after being outside.**
- **Check clothes and body for ticks.**



Some outdoor enthusiasts recommend treating clothes with permethrin.

If a person does get bitten by a tick, the sooner it can be removed, the less likely the tick will transmit any diseases. Fine-pointed tweezers are your friend. Have fun and be safe.

Schenectady ADK
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<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 regarding fees may be expressed to any board member listed on the inside front cover, or attend the meetings which are open to the general public. Call a board member for date, time & directions.

CHAPTER DISCLAIMER: People who attend outings provided 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.

NONPROFITABLE CHAPTER SATUR: This lovely patch (shown at right) can be purchased by sending a check payable to Schenectady Chapter ADK to Mary MacDonell, 27 Woodside Drive, Clifton Park NY 12065. The cost is \$5 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.

ADK TRIP SAFETY REPORTS: The chapter has a tech spreadsheet and one copy of universal FR worksheets available to rent at \$40/yr. Call Dave Beckman at 518-399-6100 to arrange for rent.

MEMBERSHIP: <http://www.adk-schenectady.org>. All of the latest information will be posted on the Web, or any change in conditions. Please review our website and related Internet resources. Acknowledge the Policy.

CHAPTER CO-ADDRESS: If you move, you must inform the ADK in order to continue receiving The Lookout. The Lookout is sent via airmail, which the Postal Service will not forward. Send changes of address to the State Club to ensure uninterrupted delivery.

Adirondack Adirondack

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

Adirondack Adirondack Club, 2015 Staggins Road, Lake George, NY 12845 or drop it off at Adirondack Tailor Headquarters.

Check Membership Level:

- Life \$1250
- Individual \$1300
- Youth \$50
- Family \$50
- Senior (65+) \$50
- Senior Family (65+) \$50
- Student (Full time HS) \$25
- School _____

Please save paper and postage and print a member or electronic version of the Chapter newsletter. The easiest via email.

No spouse & children under 18 and birth dates:

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the Lookout

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