



ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER 2014 Newsletter

September General Meeting



General Meeting

Tuesday, September 9th

Ice Cream Social 6:45 - 7:30

General Meeting 7:30 - 9:00

77 Washington Highway, Snyder Amherst Community Church

NOTE: Please park in rear and enter through back door.

Program

Photo/Slide Show & Ice Cream Social

How has your summer gone? Your ADK friends hope you have taken lots of pictures! Don't worry, it's not too late! Whatever adventure you choose, please bring your camera, take lots of shots and be ready to share at our September meeting. Whether it's the trip or a lifetime or a paddle, day hike or a bike ride right around the corner your ADK friends want to hear all about it! You may inspire their next adventure. Sharing our vacation shots at the September meeting is even more fun than Facebook or Instagram. You get instant feedback, and the screen is a lot bigger than anyone's PC!

So review those pictures and get them to Doug Gaffney who is the director of our September program. Please pick your ten best pictures (only 10 please!). You can email them to Doug at dgaffney@roadrunner.com.

Or you can mail a disc with a minimal file size to Doug at:

830 George Urban Blvd.

Cheektowaga, NY, 14255

Important!!! The deadline to get the pictures to Doug is Sunday September 7th

After a couple of months without meetings, it's so much fun to come back and share our summer stories. Also there will be ice cream!!! Keep taking pictures and save the date: September 9, 2014. See you there!

Conservation Corner

Conservation Committee Meetings

The Conservation Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at various members' houses. You are invited to attend! Call Lyn Rhefeld-Kenney 825 7329 for details on time and location.

CONSERVATION CORNER

This summer the Conservation Committee has investigated the environmental consequences of the proposed white water Kayak park on the Cauttaurugus and reported favorably.

We have also worked at persuading the ECHDC, Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation to abandon their plan for commercial development of the Buffalo Harbor in favor of a 21st Century Olmstead Style Park.

In support of our Outer Harbor Advocacy this Op-ed and this letter were published in the Buffalo News:

Letter to Everybody's Column on the Outer Harbor Planning Forum June 10
Larry Beahan
5 Darwin Snyder NY 14226
839 3112

The deck was stacked at the Outer Harbor Planning Forum. Perkins and Will, architects hired by ECHDC, were to ask for ideas. Instead, they had all the ideas they wanted.

You walked in the door and bumped into a row of pyramid-shaped poster boards with all their ideas stuck on them. Over half were bricks-and-mortar: high-rise apartments, shopping malls, boutiques, a stadium. Lost in the glitter were open space, trails, and beaches. A P+W representative gave me 12 green sticky dots to place as votes on the ideas that appealed.

There was no place to vote for the 21st Century Olmsted Park about which we have heard so much. I posted the Olmsted Park concept at the bottom of a pyramid and put all my stickers on it.

The Chairman of ECHDC laid out guidelines. He wanted our input on the Outer Harbor as long as they were for "mixed use and economic productivity."

At "The Planning Game," we had a map of the outer harbor and scraps of paper representing Ferris Wheels, condos, bridges, roads, parking spaces, boutiques and even some meadows. A P+W leader refereed our free-for-all and every development she had in mind got a spot. A woman showed a postcard copy of the Olmsted Plan, and was waved off, "Yes, we've heard of that." Allow the outer harbor to be a natural park, the envy of the world, for its fresh waters, its view, its birds, fish and fantastic sunsets. Economic benefit will follow.

The Olmsted- inspired 21st Century Park on the Outer Harbor, as presented by its promoters over the past several months, is an ideal use of that invaluable 100-acre stretch of shore from Times Beach and Wilkerson Point to the Terminal facilities just before the Small Boat Harbor. The Park's concept which includes continuous public access for sailing, boating, kayaking, paddle-boarding and fishing, strolling, sunset viewing, an outdoor amphitheater, restaurants, a promenade, meadows, beaches and lagoons would rival the waterfronts of any city in this country.

It is very difficult to understand why then these seemingly well-intentioned promoters brought representatives of Brooklyn Bridge Park to Buffalo to advertise their approach to another waterfront, an approach that has failed miserably as a Park. Instead of a Park they have a high-rise, luxury, residential development with a nice front lawn. In fact the lawn isn't so nice because ordinary people who can't afford these apartments have to trample on it to catch a glimpse of the harbor.

BBP, as it is called, is a stretch of abandoned wharves along the Brooklyn waterfront with a magnificent vista of New York Harbor. A group of Brooklyn residents organized to preserve it as a public park with full public access: lawns, walkways, ball fields, pools, an open-air theater, a recreational building. These original organizers lost control of the process. Another group took over and devoted 25 percent of the non-water portion of the Park to high-rise apartment buildings, the proceeds from which pay Park maintenance. Today I drove down the 190 along the Niagara River past that long stretch of condos, an earlier mistake of ours, that obscures the view of the water. I crossed the Buffalo River via the Skyway. Then I drove back along this magnificent water scape that should be a public Park. The earthen and concrete rise of Route 5 formed a wall to my right. I imagined a wall of condos to the left and realized that I would be in a ditch if we were to follow the BBP model. There would be no view at all.

Poor old Fredrick Law Olmsted must be doing back flips in his grave if he has heard of this tragic possibility.

With the BBP in mind, on May 6 2014, the Board of the local 800-member Adirondack Mountain Club passed this resolution: "The Adirondack Mountain Club Niagara Frontier Group has endorsed the concept of a 21st Century Park on Buffalo's outer Harbor in the spirit of Fredrick Law Olmsted.

However we do most vigorously oppose any Outer Harbor Park that would include residential or other large scale commercial buildings, after the unfortunate example set by Brooklyn Bridge Park."

In short, ADK hopes that the organizers of Buffalo's 21st Century Outer Harbor Park drop the BBP condo idea like the hot potato or rotten tomato it is.

Outings Committee

Words from the Outings Committee

What a great summer. I hope everybody had a great time and got outside. I can see from our chapters Facebook feed that a lot of people took some great trips. I can't wait to see the pictures at the September meeting. As a reminder get your pictures to Doug Gaffney. Our club calendar was filled with bike and paddle outings. Sadly we were lacking hikes and backpack outings. In the next month we get to one of my favorite times of the year, Fall. With the leaves turning and the temperature cooling off it is ideal hiking weather. The chapter is actively looking for people to lead outings. This chapter works only if we have a strong and diverse outings program. Next time you want to go on a hike please get the word out and bring some ADK friends with you. Outings can be submitted by email to myself or by going on our Meetup site. If you are unsure of how to lead an outing please contact me and we can get things rolling.

The heart of our outings program is our volunteer coordinators. Ron and Richard have been great over the last several years getting our bike and paddles organized. We need help in some other areas. Currently there are vacancies at the Day Hiking and Winter Sports

Co-Chair positions. All those who are interested in helping the chapter fill those important rolls please contact myself or Cheryl. As always be safe in the outdoors.

Waterways Committee

Waterways Committee

Please contact me in advance with your ideas of lakes and streams you would like to see the club feature in its outings. (716) 564-2106, richardschraven1@gmail.com

Trip Descriptions

SEPTEMBER

9/13 - Sat - 10 a.m. - Bike Ride - Erie Canal Towpath (C+) About 26 miles

Tom Lenz 912-0608

We start at the Erie Canal Discovery Center, 24 Church St. in Lockport and ride to Peggy's Towpath Café in Middleport. Helmets required, locks, etc.

9/19 - 9/21- ADK Fall Outing www.adktravel.org/fallouting.htm

Kate Hacker, 688-8618, hackerks@gmail.com

ADK will be holding its Fall Outing in Keene Valley this year. According to the ADK website:

"The mountains, rivers, lakes, and roadways near Keene and Keene Valley await you for the 2014 Fall Outing. A wide variety of hikes, paddles and pedaling adventures are planned that will include a number of truly unique offerings. A full schedule of activities will commence on Friday and run through Sunday. Keene Valley Fire Department will host Saturday night's dinner, followed by a free folk music concert at the nearby high school. Sunday morning starts with a pancake breakfast at Keene's Fire Department. This is an opportunity for us to engage with the search and rescue volunteers who come to our aid whenever needed."

I will be the Campground Host at the ADK Wilderness Campground at Heart Lake from September 14th through the 21st and encourage you to sign up for a campground site any time that week so we can have a group from our chapter at the Fall Outing. Many outings from beginner to advanced can be started right at the campground, and there is a nice lake to paddle on. I can advise you on what you need to bring and different outings you can take in the area. You can also stay at the ADK Loj and get your meals from the Loj even if you are camping. It will be important to register early (www.adk.org) to get a site since there will be many people registering for the fall outing and the campsite fills up that time of year anyway. As of mid May the website shows no one has registered. In addition to campsites there are tent cabins and a few lean-tos, some of which are on Heart Lake.

09/21 - Sun. - Canoe/kayak- "Marden E. Cobb Waterway Trail" on Conewango Creek. Rt. 62, Frewsburg to Rt. 62 south of Frewsburg (B)

RichardSchraven1@gmail.com (716) 564-2106

Conewango Creek is in central Chautauqua County. We will paddle it downstream from its confluence with Cassadaga creek, which drains Bear Lake and Cassadaga string of lakes. This is a joint paddle with the Finger Lakes Trail Conference Fall Outing, being centered at the Chautauqua Institute this year. We will meet in the downstairs lounge of Bellinger Hall in the Chautauqua Institute at 9 am. After spotting cars, the put-in is at the County Road # 62 bridge near Frewsburg, NY. It will be a 5.6 mile paddle taking two to three hours with a lunch break at a lean-to. Participants may wish to visit the Audubon Nature Center near the take-out at the ten-car parking lot off Route 62 south of Frewsburg, NY, before continuing home. Bring water, lunch, sun-block a PFD and a change of clothes. If heavy rains occur before the trip, causing excessively high water levels or if the water level is too low to paddle this creek, we may move the paddle to the Cassadaga Lakes. Dress according to the weather. Call for additional information.

OCTOBER

Susquehannock Lodge Fall Weekend (C)

October 16-19, 2014 (Thurs.-Sun.) - Susquehannock Lodge Weekend

Ed & Jan Kramer: 716-674-7042, email: edair701@icloud.com

Once again ADK members can enjoy a weekend at the Susquehannock Lodge during the fall foliage season. This is a great weekend for both new and old members. The lodge provides accommodations and great meals. All we have to do is enjoy. This year, we have added the option of a Thursday night arrival to allow for a full day of hiking/exploring on Friday for those who wish to do so. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, most of us hike in the adjacent Susquehannock State Forest, where there are numerous trails of various lengths. Participants also have the option to tour the nearby PA Lumber Museum, or drive into either Coudersport (west) or Wellsboro (east). Twenty-five miles east is PA's Grand Canyon of the East, which offers trails on both sides and also a "rails to trails" hiking/biking trail along Pine Creek. The lodge is located just east of Coudersport, Pa., about two hours south of Buffalo. Cost for the 2-day weekend is \$114pp semi private/ \$124pp private (based on double occupancy), and includes 2 breakfasts and 2 dinners. Those opting for the added Thursday night stay pay an additional \$57.00 per person for semi-private and \$62.00 pp for double occupancy private. Single private is available at an additional charge. Trail lunches are available for purchase, or you can bring your own lunch for Saturday. A deposit of \$55 is required on signing up.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Executive Board will meet on September 2nd at 6:45 pm at the Julia Reinstein library. Any member is welcome to attend. Chairpersons who cannot attend should send a report to the Secretary, larry_beahan@roadrunner.com

LIABILITY WAIVER

The OFFICIAL ADK LIABILITY WAIVER FORM needs to be filled out and SIGNED in ink by EVERY participant at EVERY outing, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, BEFORE the

outing begins! This also applies to all outing leaders and to all participants (members and non-members) on any ADK activity. Forms are available through the ADK-NFC.org website under "Outings/Leading an outing", and are usually available at our meetings. Completed forms can be submitted to Andy Urban or any Outing Co-Chair at the next meeting following the outing. If leading a joint ADK outing with another group, ADK waiver forms must be signed by all participants, even non-members, in addition to the other organization's waiver(s).<http://www.adknfc.org/forms/ADKReleaseForm2.pdf>

MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to join the Niagara Frontier Chapter you can sign up at a monthly meeting or online at www.ADK.org. If you sign up online don't forget to check that you want to join our chapter so the local chapter gets a portion of your dues.

Executive Committee Members

CHAIRPERSON

Cheryl Peluso
3618 Howard Rd
Hamburg, NY 14075
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cherylp17@verizon.net

1ST VICE

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MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS

Kathy Clerkin
kmclerkin@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY

Sandy Paine
823-0122 or 462-2925 (cell)

PUBLICITY

Help Needed!

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

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NEWSLETTER

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WEBMASTER/ALT.

DIRECTOR

Rob Laing
webmaster@adk-nfc.org

Outings Co-Chairs

DAY HIKES

(Apr - Nov)
New co-chair needed!

WINTER SPORTS

(Nov - Mar)
New co-chair needed!

WATERWAYS

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