



**ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB
NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER
WWW.ADK-NFC.ORG**

FEBRUARY 2015 Newsletter

February General Meeting

General Meeting

Tuesday, February 10
Education Workshop 6:30-7:00
Happy Half Hour 7 - 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:

JOHN GILEWICZ, PRESIDENT OF ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB

John Gilewicz has been an ADK member for over 20 years, and has served as the club's President since January 2014. He is one of 2 ADK Presidents who has originated from the Niagara Frontier Chapter. John first served on the ADK Executive Committee in 2007 as the Niagara Frontier Director, and later served as ADK Vice President for 3 years before becoming President.



Over the years, John has been instrumental in connecting Western New York college students to outdoor recreation in the Adirondacks. As President, John stresses the importance of recruiting young new members to ADK to ensure a strong future for the Club. He has also introduced Sustainability initiatives for all ADK structures. John plays leadership roles in statewide issues such as natural gas drilling in Allegany State Park, preservation of the Heart Lake Region, and protection of clean air and water on Adirondack lands.

John is the Co-founder of Parker Bay Engineering, and lives in Grand Island NY with his wife Anne and their 2 children. He has been an outdoor enthusiast for many decades, and initially fell in love with the Adirondacks at Heart Lake near the Adirondack Loj.

We look forward to hearing John present an up-to-date overview of the current major issues for the Adirondack Mountain Club, and his vision for the Club's future.

Education Workshop (6:30 before main meeting) Favorite Gear

Each member can bring their favorite outdoor gear or apparel. In our chapter, there is a wealth of experience with the equipment and clothing we use in our outdoor pursuits. Please come and share

information about the things and techniques that have helped you enjoy your outdoor activities.
Submitted by Richard Schraven and Peter Corrigan

Report on Last Month's Program:

Allegany State Park Nordic Ski Patrol Program: Three women and a dog visit ADK!

On Tuesday January 13, an enthusiastic audience was treated to an inspiring presentation by Mary MacQueen, the Founder of the Nordic Ski Patrol for Allegany State Park (ASP). Mary was accompanied by two fellow ski patrollers Pam and Robin, and also her rescue dog-in-training Kindle.

Mary grew up in Salamanca within walking distance from Allegany State Park, and has always loved the area. As an adult officer for the Sheriff's Dept. she recognized the need for trained rescue and first aid patrols in the state park. Mary launched the Nordic Ski Patrol that has served ASP since 2002, mainly for search and rescue operations. Mary has spearheaded extensive training for the Ski Patrol volunteers, including winter trips to the Adirondack Mountains, snow shelter construction, and avalanche rescues. She talked extensively about rescue procedures on Nordic ski trails, including emergency first aid and how to construct a toboggan from XC skis, ropes and tarps.

Mary's colleague Pam explained to our group how she became involved with the appealing Nordic Ski Patrol operation after working for the Holiday Valley Ski Patrol. It was easy to understand the attraction of this challenging and rewarding outreach. Robin described the arduous study and training that is involved, confirming the high level of dedication and hard work that is necessary to be part of the Ski Patrol.

In addition to working for the Sheriff's Dept. and her impressive efforts with the volunteer ski patrol team, Mary also breeds Golden Retrievers. Her animal training gifts have produced many valuable canine units for drug detection and search and rescue operations. Mary's young golden retriever Kindle has a friendly disposition, and was very comfortable with all the folks who wanted to meet her afterwards. We are grateful to Mary and her colleagues for a fascinating and informative evening.
Submitted by Janet Kowalski

UPCOMING ADK PROGRAMS FOR 2015!

February 10: John Gilewicz, Adirondack Mountain Club President

March 10: Alan Lockwood, retired MD and Congressional expert on Health Effects of Climate Change

April 14: Julia Goren, ADK Summit Steward Program, protection of High Peak summit ecosystems

May 12: Sam Magavern, 2014 ADK Conservation Award Recipient

Greenway Leadership, Public Good, Attorney, Author

June 14: ADK Picnic at Bison City Rod and Gun Club, Ohio St, Buffalo, including:

Biking along the Outer Harbor

Paddling on the Buffalo River

Hiking at nearby Tiffit Farm Nature Preserve

Beautiful outdoor and indoor facilities

Conservation Corner

Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney

The Conservation Committee meeting will be held at Larry Beahan's home on Tuesday, February 17th at 7:00pm. Call #839-3112 for directions. We look forward to you joining us to participate in discussions on current environmental topics. Your help is needed in stopping the renewal of the National Fuel gas company lease in Allegany State Park. We will be strategizing on how we can remove them from "our" public park.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU to everyone who filled out postcards and letters to Governor Cuomo to prevent fracking in New York State. The environment has benefitted from your efforts. We can celebrate the ban but we need to remain vigilant in case the tide turns in the future. Please be aware that there is a new NY state law requiring people to not put electronic waste into your curbside garbage. The city of Buffalo has a recycling center on Seneca Street and Best Buy will except some electronic products for recycling at their stores. Stay tuned for more information.

ACTION ALERTS: Be sure to check out the latest alerts at www.adk.org. Go to the Advocacy section and click Action Alerts to find out how you can help. Currently letters/e-mails are needed regarding increasing funding to the state Environmental Protection Fund while NYS has a money surplus. The EPF has been under funded the past several years and needs funds desperately to purchase wilderness lands before they are gone forever and to maintain past land purchases, fund ADK trail crews in the Adirondacks and the Catskills, properly fund Forest Rangers, fill vacant DEC staff and set up an aggressive invasive species program to protect our wilderness areas. Attacks on the environment never stop. Help us by joining the Conservation Committee now.

ADK Book Club

Do you like to read and discuss good books with friends? There is no shortage of Adirondack- and nature-related literature. At our February 24 ADK Book Club meeting, we will all be reading and discussing a book to be chosen at the January 27 meeting. Please watch for the selection in upcoming ADK emails, or contact Janet at janetk300@gmail.com for the book selection, and time/place of the Feb 24 meeting. All are welcome!

Wilderness Weekends in WNY Challenge



Look for the WWWNY patch symbol on all outings that are part of the challenge. Want to know more? Check our website www.adk-nfc.org

Announcing Second Person to Finish: Mary Schraven!!!!!!

Trip Descriptions

February

2/1 - Sun - XC Ski Sprague Brook County Park (B or C)
richardschraven1@gmail.com 564-2106

This is a three mile loop over mildly hilly terrain. There is a warming hut for a lunch break. If there is no snow, we will hike the trail. Contact me for information about car-pooling time and location. It is a joint outing between ADK and BNSC.



2/7 - Sat - Beaver Meadow winter hike or snowshoe
Teresa Corrigan 835-1905

This winter hike or snowshoe is an annual tradition. Come join us on the gently rolling trails at Beaver Meadow Audubon Nature Center. We make this an afternoon hike in hopes of spotting some crepuscular animals toward the end. We also stop at a cozy spot for dinner afterward. Call to sign up and get meeting place. We will meet at 1:00. Please call by Friday at 5:00 P.M. Thanks!

2/8/ - SUN XC Ski - Reinstein Woods (C)**Carolyn Kerr - 716-553-4335 or stenolou@gmail.com**

This will be a mostly flat ski through woods in this DEC managed area. There is a nice parking lot, bathrooms, and availability to rent skis for those that need them. We'll meander through Reinstein Woods for a couple of hours, hopefully see some deer, and then for those interested we can stop for lunch at Alton's. Lack of snow cancels. This is a joint ski outing with the Buffalo Nordic Ski Club. Please call or email for meeting place and time.

2/6-8 Susquehannock Lodge Winter Weekend (C)**Ed & Jan Kramer: 716-674-7042, email: edair701@icloud.com**

Join us at the Susquehannock Lodge for the weekend of February 6-8, 2015, for our annual cross country ski/snowshoe weekend. This is a great weekend for both new and experienced cross country skiers/snowshoers. The lodge provides comfortable accommodations and great meals. Skiing/shoeing starts at the back door, or we drive to nearby trails. On Friday and Saturday nights we get together in the lodge to talk, play games and just enjoy each other's company. On Saturday and Sunday we will ski/snowshoe some of the trails available in the Susquehannock State Forest. If the snow cover is not sufficient, we'll hike instead. This weekend is a great way for new members to meet other club members and for the rest of us to renew old acquaintances. The Susquehannock Lodge is located on US Route 6, just outside of Coudersport, PA, about two hours from Buffalo. Cost, including 2 breakfasts and 2 dinners, is \$124 pp private (based on double occupancy), and \$114 pp for semi-private. Single private is available at an additional charge. Friday dinners are available for an additional \$16.00, or in place of dinner on Sunday. Trail lunches are available for purchase, or you can bring your own lunch for Saturday. A deposit of \$55 pp is required by January 15, 2015.

**2/14/15 - SUN - XC Ski Byrnclyff Ski Resort (A to C)****Mike Promowicz mikeprom1@gmail.com 297-3126**

There is a network of trails over the rolling hills in Wyoming County. The fees for trail passes and rental equipment are discounted to club members. Car-pooling can be done from the Williamsville Park & Ride at Main St. & Union Road. Meeting time there is 9 am. You can bring a brown bag lunch to eat on the trail in a lean-to or in the heated lunch-room. For those wanting to make a weekend of the event, Byrnclyff has weekend packages celebrating Valentine's Day including Dinner Saturday evening dancing to live music and Sunday Brunch. Reservations for that are made directly with Byrnclyff. Please rsvp by Saturday evening if you plan to attend.

2/15/15 Sun - XC Ski - Letchworth State Park**Carolyn Kerr - 716-553-4335 or stenolou@gmail.com**

Our home base will be The Chalet, a rental property that I have for the weekend. Meet there at 11 AM and then ski out onto the trails nearby. For those that haven't skied at Letchworth, it is very nice. Bring a dish to pass and plan on spending the day as we will have a pot luck meal at The Chalet after our ski. There are facilities to change clothes and use restrooms at our rental. There's also a tubing hill that's super fun. The tubes are provided by the park for free. Lack of snow cancels. PLEASE CALL BEFORE FEBRUARY 11th to sign up and so that I can give you directions to The Chalet.

**2/21/15 - SAT - North Rim, Zoar Valley Snowshoe/Hike (B)****Richard & Mary Schraven, 564-2106 or 964-8974 richardschraven1@gmail.com, maryschraven1@gmail.com**

We will meet at the Park & Ride on Rt. 20a at Rt 219 and drive to the Zoar Valley Multiple Use entrance on Vail Road. Depending on conditions we will hike or snow shoe to the Rim Trail. Winter is a great time to do this trip. With the leaves off the trees, the views of the gorge are spectacular. One year, while taking a break, a porcupine could be seen high up in a tree near-by. Bring snack, water, snowshoes, day-pack with ten essentials and layer your clothing to adapt to changes needed when changing from exerting during the hike and resting for a break. If there is no snow, this will be a hike. After the outing, we can go to a restaurant in Springville to eat. Call for time of trip start.



2/22 - SUN - XC Ski - Genesee County Park & Forest (B) Approx. 4 mi.

Bob Ensminger (716) 434-2969 This is a joint outing with the Buffalo Nordic Ski Club. Meet at the Park & Ride lot at Main and Union in Williamsville. Carpooling departs at 9am sharp! Or meet us at Genesee County Park, 11095 Bethany Center Rd., East Bethany. Park at the Interpretive Nature Center. Outing and location subject to change depending on conditions, call to confirm.



2/28/15 - Sat - XC Ski - Elma Meadows

Carolyn Kerr - 716-553-4335 or stenolou@gmail.com

With its easy rolling hills Elma Meadows is a county park that is one of my favorite place s to ski. There's also a comfortable casino overlooking a sledding hill where we can set up for lunch. I would encourage everyone to bring something to eat so we can enjoy the fire and each other's company in the casino afterwards. Lack of snow cancels. This is a joint outing with the Buffalo Nordic Ski Club. Please call or email for meeting place and time.



March

3/6 Fri to Mon. 3/9/2015 - X-C Ski Trip - Algonquin Provincial Park (C to A)

richardschraven1@gmail.com (716) 564-2106, maryschraven1@gmail.com (716) 946-7489

Eight or nine skiers will drive to Algonquin Park Friday morning. It is about a five hour drive and we should arrive in time for a short ski at the Fen Lake Ski Trail near the West

Gate of the park. There is a choice of trail loops here over easy to moderate terrain. All trails are groomed and trackset. We then drive to the Mew Lake Campground and the two yurts that will be our abode for the stay. Yurts are heated heavy tent-like structures on a concrete pad with bunks that accommodate four to six people. The two bunks are arranged with a double on the bottom and a single on the top. The yurts have electricity and a covered, outdoor cooking area with a gas grill. The winterized comfort station has flush toilets, hot and cold running water, showers and washers and dryers. The second day is spent at Leaf Lake Ski Trail. Here there is an extensive network of trail loops ranging from easy to most difficult in terrain. We can choose on the third day, to go to the Minnesing Wilderness Ski Trail for some back-country skiing, snowshoeing on one of several interpretive trails along the Hwy 60 corridor or a dogsledding experience at Sunday Lake. On the fourth day we can go for a short snowshoe hike and ski at Fen Lake Trail on our way home. For trail maps check out the websites: www.OntarioParks.com and www.algonquinpark.on.ca (online bookstore)



3/11 - 3/13 Sat. - Sat. Winter sports around Lake Placid NY (don't need to stay the whole week)

JoAnn Ratajczak at 716 400 1030 or email jkish45@yahoo.com Activities available: X-Country Skiing/ice skating/Downhill Skiing

X-Country Skiing at Cascade <http://www.cascadeski.com/>

and Mt Van Hoevenberg <http://www.whiteface.com/activities/cross-country-skiing>

Ice skating at Lake Placid Outdoor Olympic Speed Skating Oval. You don't need to speed skate.

Skates available for rent. Weather permitting Thurs-Mon 7:00-9:00

Downhill available at Whiteface. Downhill skiing is not a covered sport by ADK, so you will be skiing at your own risk as an individual. Anyone who chooses to downhill ski will not be at an ADK sponsored event. Various accommodations available. Email for details.

JoAnn Ratajczak jkish45@yahoo.com

TRIP REPORTS

12/28 Royalton Ravines County Park Hike

We originally were scheduled to have a cross-country ski trip to Reinstein Woods on this date, but the lack of snow and the fact that the Reinstein Woods Pavilion would not be open until January caused us to make it to a hike at a different location. This is one of our favorite short hikes because of the nearness and because of several interesting features. As advertised, we did encounter slippery conditions with mud and wet leaves predominating. The swinging footbridge, remains of Belva

Lockwoods homestead, the waterfalls and the picturesque walk through a spruce forest were still there. Additionally, we ran into past-NFC Chairman, Jerry Sultz. He was there with the Search and Rescue group to train dogs and handlers in search techniques. Except for our Snowvember event we have had little opportunity to ski so far this year, but we can still get out and hike on our many beautiful trails in Western New York. Submitted by Richard Schraven

Winter Equipment Available to Borrow

Remember: Our chapter has hiking poles and snowshoes available to members to borrow for free. It is a benefit of membership. Contact Cheryl Peluso 997-2349 or cherylp17@verizon.net for more information.

New Members

Welcome to the following new members!

Michael Bonarski, Nancy Hanavan, and Michael Hilburger

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Executive Board will meet on February 3rd 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

ADK-NFC WEBSITE

Check out our website www.adk-nfc.org for a calendar of future events and outings, conservation news, newsletters and upcoming programs.

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 at the bottom of the Home page. 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).

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
716-648-9027
cherylp17@verizon.net

**1ST VICE
CHAIR/OUTINGS**

Andy Urban
716-909-6165
maebus.ski@gmail.com

DIRECTOR

Bob Van Hise
(716) 628-0355
adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com

**2ND VICE CO-CHAIR
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21 Hillside Ave.
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**3RD VICE CO-CHAIR
PROGRAMS**

Janet Kowalski
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BOOKSTORE/LIBRARY

Bruce Lockwood
716-982-6627
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4TH VICE CO-CHAIR EDUCATION

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SECRETARY

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larry_beahan@roadrunner.com

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)
JoAnn Kish Ratajczak
400-1030
jkish45@yahoo.com

WATERWAYS

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BACKPACK

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BIKING

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NOTICE TO ALL WHO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER

For several years now Diane and Peter Fenski have taken the responsibility to pick up, fold, stamp and mail 70 copies of the monthly newsletter. They would like to hand over this task to someone else now.

Would anyone like to volunteer? The newsletters would be picked up from Latko printing on Niagara Falls Blvd.

It would be wonderful if someone who lived near there would be willing to step up and help our club in this manner.

If interested please contact Cheryl Peluso 997-2349.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Cheryl Peluso 3618 Howard Road Hamburg NY 14075