



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

DECEMBER 2014 Newsletter

December General Meeting

General Meeting

Tuesday, December 9th

Setup for Potluck 6:00

Potluck Dinner 6:30 - 7:45

General Meeting 7:45 - 9:00

77 Washington Highway, Snyder Amherst Community Church

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

HOLIDAY POTLUCK DINNER AND ADK WINTER MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Schedule:

6:00: DECK THE HALLS! All are invited to help set up (no education workshop)

6:30: POT LUCK DINNER: Eat, Drink and Be Merry! (See details below)

7:45: Meeting and Presentation: ADK Winter Mountaineering School

Potluck Dinner

Please bring a tasty dish to share. Bring dishes hot or in a crock pot to plug in. Beverages will be provided. A small supply of paper products will be available, but on behalf of the planet, members are asked to bring their own (reusable) plates, utensils and cups. You are welcome to bring wine or beer to accompany dinner. Look for the ADK 2015 Resolutions display! Add your own good intentions for 2015. We already have some gems, including "lead at least 2 hikes", "invite friends to go on outings with me", "assist on a trail maintenance or ADK cleanup project", and "join the new ADK Book Club".

This jolly annual event is not to be missed, with great food, fun socializing and great speakers. It is a perfect way to kick off the winter ADK season!

PROGRAM: ADK WINTER MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL

Presented by Aaron Slosman and Len Pratt

The ADK Winter Mountaineering School is non-profit group that has been sponsored for 61 years by the Adirondack Mountain Club. The program educates and promotes enjoyable winter mountaineering and camping through a learn-by-doing approach. "Past participants have included three-season hikers and backpackers looking to expand their skills to include winter hiking and camping. Others are more experienced skiers and winter mountaineers who wish to refine their skills. Our friendly, experienced, all-volunteer staff, and pricing make the ADK Winter Mountaineering School the best value in the Northeast for learning winter skills. We offer day trip, weekend and week-long backpacking options."

If you are interested in attending ADK Winter Mountaineering School workshops, our local chapter offers scholarships (see below). Several program options take place in the Adirondacks between 1/29/15 and 2/4 15 (see adk.org for details). If you do not attend the workshop, it is still invigorating to learn about these winter wilderness opportunities.



Aaron Slosman is an ADK member and has been an Instructor at the ADK Winter School for four years. He is a four-season backpacker/camper and also enjoys hiking, snowshoeing, cross country and downhill skiing, and paddling. He also mentors Boy Scouts on high adventure programs, and gives leadership training to adult volunteers.

Len Pratt is also an ADK member and WMS Instructor, and has enjoyed hiking, backpacking, hunting and fishing the Adirondacks for the past 45 years. He is also President of the Niagara Frontier Search and Rescue Team that provides DEC search support in Western NY and the Adirondacks.

MISSED THE NOVEMBER MEETING? NOVEMBER PROGRAM REVIEW: JASON BRINER

An engaged audience of 82 was transported to the Arctic under the guidance of our excellent December speaker Jason Briner, Greenland Ice sheet researcher and Associate Professor from the UB Geology Department. Jason's fascinating presentation was well suited for our diverse audience, with breathtaking photos artfully mixed with short videos, cutting edge research and captivating stories about working in the Arctic.

Jason's talk was educational and inspiring. He explained why the Arctic is warming at a faster rate than the rest of the planet, and gave a factual overview on global warming and rising sea levels. He shared the details of his personal journey into glacier research, and through his stories Jason conveyed the attraction of carrying out innovative and exciting research. We learned about the requirements and demands of doing research in the Arctic, like being transported in an Air Force C-130 plane and local helicopter, and the feeling of serenity once your means of transportation departs. Jason conveyed the simplicity and joys of the group dynamic focused on a common research goal, and the challenges of staying warm and coping with the elements. It was impressive to hear about their creative and yummy food options despite the harsh climate setting.

We are grateful to Jason for sharing his time and experiences with us for this extremely enriching and exhilarating evening.

Outings Chairman

Andy Urban

Scholarships Available!

2015 ADK-NFC Scholarships for Winter Mountaineering School:

Deadline for Scholarship Application: December 16, 2013

Again this year, our chapter's Executive Committee is pleased to announce that two of our members will receive reimbursements for ADK Winter School tuition up to \$405. Interested applicants should read the Winter School requirements at www.winterschool.org

Scholarship winners must pay for the course in full, and will be reimbursed after satisfactory completion of the course as documented by the participant's certificate of completion. Those attending Winter Mountaineering School are required to obtain all the necessary clothing and equipment as specified by the course requirements.

Questions about the school can be asked through the WMS website www.winterschool.org. Applicants must be current members of the ADK Niagara Frontier Chapter and may apply for the scholarship by contacting: Cheryl Peuso (Chapter Chair) 997-2349 cherylp17@verizon.net; or Andy Urban (Outings Chair) maebus.ski@gmail.com.

Previous WMS scholarship winners are not eligible. Applications for this scholarship must be received no later than December 16, 2013. If there are more than two applicants, winners will be determined by lottery, and will be announced at our December meeting.

Winter Mountaineering School Program Dates: January 29 - February 4 2014

Conservation Corner

Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney

The Conservation Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at various members' houses. You are invited to attend! Attend a committee meeting to gain an in depth understanding of local and state wide conservation issues. Please join us at the Kowalski's house on Tuesday December 16th at 700 pm. Call them at #839-3114 for directions.

Directors Report

Bob Van Hise

- Members who frequent ADK's Loj in Lake Placid will be pleased to know the Loj Road has 1.2 miles of new pavement, and the bridge replacement project was completed in May.
- The NYS Parks (OPHRP) grant for improvements to the HPIC and ADK's Heart Lake Wilderness Campground has been approved, and the bidding process is underway.
- A digital edition of the club's magazine, Adirondac (it reads like the paper version with flipping pages), may be accessed through the member portal at www.adk.org. Members may opt out of receiving the hard copy to help reduce ADK's carbon footprint.
- Adventure Outings continue to be popular, with most trips booked to capacity well ahead of time. 16 trips are planned for 2015, including trips to Hawaii, Canada, Central America, and Europe www.adktravel.org
- The Onondaga Chapter will be hosting the 2015 Winter Outing January 23-25 (Tug Hill) www.adktravel.org/winterouting - Make your reservation now!
- ADK's High Peaks map will convert from analog to digital with the next edition.
- With rerouting of the southern terminus of the Northville-Placid Trail, ADK will publish a new NPT trail guide and companion National Geographic map.
- The new edition of Central Trails is now available, and the Catskill Nat. Geo. map will be updated as well.
- The annual Ragnar relay from Saratoga to Lake Placid featured 100 ADK volunteers, generating a donation of \$10K for the club.
- August's Adirondack IDIDARIDE bicycle tour was enjoyed by nearly 500 riders this year! Please contact ADK with your personal feedback of the event.
- Outing Liability Waivers should be retained for 3 years after being turned in to our Outing Chair, Andy Urban. Accidents must be reported to ADK Executive Director Neil Woodworth within 24 hours.
- The Adirondack Mtn. Club Board of Directors meets quarterly at the Lake George headquarters. The next Director's meeting is December 6 in Lake George.

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 First Person to Finish: Richard Schraven!!!!!!

Trip Descriptions

December

12/6, 12/13, 12/20 Sat Hiking/X-County Skiing
JoAnn Ratajczak at 716 400 1030 or email jkish45@yahoo.com

Wear orange, bring water and snack/lunch. Meet at Coffee Culture on Rt 219 in the Village of Ellicottville at 11:00. Hikes will be in State Forest around the ski resorts and at the ski resorts.

Call JoAnn Ratajczak at 716 400 1030 or email jkish45@yahoo.com

**12/13 SAT Hike or Snowshoe - Genesee County Park & Forest, 11095 Bethany Center Road, East Bethany (C+)
Bob Ensminger 434-2969 bobolink58@gmail.com**

This joint hike with Foothills Trail Club will be about 4-5 miles. The park consists of 431 acres of rolling hills with nature trails winding through a nice mix of habitat. We should finish up around noon at which time the Nature Center opens, a must to see. MEET: 9:30 am Enter park from Bethany Center Rd., then park at the first large parking lot near the Interpretive Nature Center.

January

**1/3, 1/10, 1/17, 1/31 Sat X-County Skiing in Ellicottville
JoAnn Ratajczak at 716 400 1030 or email jkish45@yahoo.com**

Bring water and snack/lunch.

meet at Coffee Culture on Rt 219 in the Village of Ellicottville at 11:00

Call JoAnn Ratajczak at 716 400 1030 or email jkish45@yahoo.com

1/23-1/25, 2015 Fri-Sun Allegany XC Ski Weekend

Joanne Magavern 883-7127

Some of the best skiing in WNY! 3 Cabins are reserved at Summit Art Roscoe X-C

Ski area of Allegany State Park. They are heated and have electricity for our

Friday night "wine and cheese party" and Saturday night "pot luck". Ski from

your front door - great for beginners to advanced, families welcomed. 4 beds to a cabin and floor space if needed is

available. Join us also for a left over potluck lunch on Sunday, followed by the annual sled hill outing. Call Joanne by

December 31st, \$50 per person check written to ADK and mailed to Joanne by JANUARY 3RD, 2015 or cabin(s) will be

cancelled. Book early!



**1/23 - 25 ADK 2015 Winter Outing (Tug Hill) www.adktravel.org/winterouting.htm Reservation deadline January 10th.
ADK-NFC group option available.**

Come out and play in the East's heaviest snows for a weekend of xc skiing, snowshoeing, and camaraderie at the annual ADK Tug Hill Winter Outing! Enjoy the rustic setting of the Mad River Club and explore the numerous groomed and backcountry trails that are within minutes from the clubhouse. Membership in the Adirondack Mountain Club is NOT required for participation in Winter Outing.

The full weekend package includes floor space for your sleeping bag and pad, snack Friday evening, breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday, and a gourmet catered dinner on Saturday. And of course expect some of the best snows in the East. Camping is also an option for those wishing to rough it, as there are good locations on MRC property to pitch a tent.

For registration information Kathy Disque, 785 Fyler Rd #23, Kirkville N.Y. 13082, 315-656-3383/kathydisque@yahoo.com

General information can also be provided by Mary C. Coffin at MARYCCOFFIN@GMAIL.COM; 315 687 3589.

Cost is \$100 for the full weekend with or w/out floor space, or \$45 for skiing and dinner on Saturday. All but \$20 is refundable up to 12/31. Download and complete registration form and return with check by USPS. Confirmations will be sent by email in January unless USPS is requested.

Mary Schraven has located a local lodge that ADK-NFC members can rent as a group. The Harris Lodge is about 10 minutes away and has nice accommodations for a very reasonable rate. The lodge is a 2 story building with 4 bedrooms, full kitchen, living room and a bath on each floor. The rooms are outfitted with twin or bunk beds. It sleeps 10 persons per floor. The price is \$50 per person, including all linens, towels, pillows and blankets, breakfast and all taxes. Please contact Mary Schraven at 946-7489 or maryschraven1@gmail.com to book a bed or room at the Harris Lodge.

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)



3/14 - 3/21 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

10/26 Halloween Paddle & Party

17 heart paddlers gathered to get another trip in under an overcast sky. With a cool temperature and breezy conditions, we canoed and kayaked with the wind through the flood zone that is situated next to the Amherst Bike Path. At the I-990 Hwy. Bridge, we turned into the traditional Ellicott Creek as it winds its way back west. There was still some colorful Autumn foliage and the paddling was made easier by being protected from the wind by tree lined banks. Some of the paddlers were dressed in Halloween costumes lending a festive atmosphere to the proceedings. It was a relatively quick paddle, but most of us were anxious to get on with the indoor party part of the program. The party was a great opportunity to renew acquaintances and to create some new connections. The paddlers were joined by a few new participants. We all enjoyed some hot and cold beverages and a wonderful potluck supper. For many of us, this event is the unofficial end of the paddling season. It gives us an opportunity to share our experiences of the past year and to anticipate what we will do next year. Submitted by: Richard & Mary Schraven

11/8/14 Niagara Gorge / Artpark Hike

On a windy and overcast day, 17 of us met at Artpark. As we headed into the gorge it was decided to take the Lower Fisherman's Trail. Previously that trail had dead ended at the Lewiston/Queenston Bridge but there were rumors of a new connecting trail. It was decided to explore and see what was there. About 10 minutes into the hike we passed a large group of about 50 geology students from Cincinnati.

When you hike the gorge it is always easier to see the power of the river from the lower trails. As we hiked we saw many fisherman looking to hook into the trout which were running. Over 30 boats were working the back eddies of the river close to Artpark hoping to hook in the famous Steelhead Trout.

The trail from the bridge to the Power Authority has been greatly improved and is a pleasure to hike. Upon reaching the top of the gorge we said farewell to a number of the group who had other plans they had to attend to. The balance of the group headed to Devils Hole and then across the road to Niagara University.

Our Lunch break was taken at the beautiful Castellani Art Museum. After a quick tour of the artwork we headed back to the gorge. Our route back took us on a railroad bed, through a tunnel, jumping an embankment, crossing a road and finally backtracking to Devils Hole. After that it was all back down hill to the parking lot.

It was a fantastic time seeing old friends and making new ones. We had hikers from St Catherines and Pittsburgh joining us on the trip. I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. Submitted by: Mike Promowicz

10/16 - 10/19 Susquehannock Lodge 2014 Fall Weekend

Nine participants enjoyed our ADK Fall trip to the Susquehannock Lodge in PA, the weekend of October 16-19, 2014. For the first time in a few years, the fall foliage was spectacular. Three participants took advantage of the added Thursday arrival, which allowed us to check out a couple of new locations for future reference. The group enjoyed hiking the Susquehannock State Forest, and some participants also explored Pine Creek, Lyman Run State Park, and the PA Lumber Museum. Highlights of the trip included bald eagle and other bird sightings, spectacular views, great company, and of course, the excellent food and accommodations at the lodge. Submitted by: Ed &



Jan Kramer

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 cherylpl17@verizon.net for more information.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Executive Board will meet on December 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

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 on the Home page, at the bottom. They 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).

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.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members!

Richard and Sarah Brewer
Donald Cialone Jr.
Michael and Diane Hart
Tim and Sue Houseknecht
Michelle Johnson
Gary Kanaley
Charles Raimondo
Anne Roberts

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIRPERSON

Cheryl Peluso
3618 Howard Rd
Hamburg, NY 14075
716-648-9027
cherylp17@verizon.net

4TH VICE CO-CHAIR EDUCATION

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Buffalo, NY 14214-2313
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hikepmc@roadrunner.com

PUBLICITY

Help Needed!

1ST VICE CHAIR/OUTINGS

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3RD VICE CO-CHAIR PROGRAMS

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MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS

Kathy Clerkin
kmclerkin@gmail.com

WEBMASTER/ALT. DIRECTOR

Rob Laing
webmaster@adk-nfc.org

BOOKSTORE/LIBRARY

Bruce Lockwood
716-982-6627
2006gojake@roadrunner.com

HOSPITALITY

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

Outings Co-Chairs

DAY HIKES

(Apr - Nov)
New co-chair needed!

WATERWAYS

Richard Schraven
91 N. Parrish Dr.
Amherst, NY 14228
(716) 564-2106
richardschraven1@gmail.com

BIKING

Ron Dorr
693-6832
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WINTER SPORTS

(Nov - Mar)
JoAnn Kish Ratajczak
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BACKPACK

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