



THE NIAGARA EXPLORER

Newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club
Niagara Frontier Chapter



A Chat with Outside Chronicles

At our March meeting, Mike Radomski will discuss the WNY Hiking Challenge and some of the inner workings of map creation. He will show how he went about mapping local parks using existing maps, GPS devices, and tools like AllTrails and Strava. These methods can be used to plan any kind of future hiking and backpacking trips. Mike will briefly discuss how to create your own maps using these methods and free mapping tools.

Mike created the WNY Hiking Challenge last winter. He has run two successful challenges and is in the midst of a third. To date, WNY Hiking Challenge has raised over \$20,000 for local groups and stands to donate about \$30,000 from this winter's Challenge. The WNY Hiking Challenge runs from March - December with a Winter Hiking Challenge running December - March. There is still time to register for this year's winter challenge at <https://outsidechronicles.com/winter>

Looking Ahead

During our April meeting you can get yourself ready for spring with paddling!! With this overview from Mary and Richard Schraven (past Outings Chair and Waterways Co-Chair), we will discuss essential equipment as well as other tips to keep you comfortable on the water!

Our Virtual General Meeting:

Tuesday, March 9, at 7 PM

The February Zoom meeting will start with a brief chapter meeting, with our program starting around 7:10 pm.

Join using the Zoom link that will be sent out via the weekly email.



Message from the Chair

As I have noted in another section of this newsletter, the Western New York outdoor community has suffered a loss. Please refer to the notice for more information. Now on to happier news.

On February 9, we had another successful online chapter meeting and program. We welcomed Andrew Hamlin, ADK's Trails Coordinator, as he discussed ADK's trail work program. Our new online programming has been well-received, and I encourage all of you to consider joining us. Look for more information in this newsletter, and upcoming emails. We will most likely continue

operating in this fashion until it is safe to, once again, meet in person. I do not expect conditions to allow this until at least September.

At February's executive committee meeting, we reviewed the progress that Western New York has made in managing the pandemic holiday surge. Since the number of new cases has declined, and the daily positivity rate is once again low, we voted to resume our outings program. We will continue to follow the safety protocols we adopted last summer, and will carefully monitor the status of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, our nominating committee continues its search for new leaders who are willing to take on the responsibilities of Chapter chair and 1st Vice-chair / Outings when Greg and I complete our terms at the end of August. We also need members to volunteer to be appointed to immediately fill the vacant positions of 3rd Vice-chair / Programs and Education chair.

I appeal to all of our members to seriously consider making this commitment to serve our chapter. It requires effort, that is true. However, it is also very rewarding. Please reach out to Kate Hacker, Leslie Salathe, or Fran D'Amico, of the nominating committee. Thank you.

Take care, be safe, and stay healthy...

Paul M. Gannon | Chapter Chair



Announcements

Local Outdoor Community Suffers Great Loss

It is with profound sadness that we acknowledge the loss of a great local outdoorsman.

On February 7, 2021, Michael T. Roth, the vice president of Niagara Frontier Search and Rescue, died after a 39-day battle with Covid-19, at the age of 55.

Michael was a friend and guardian to all lovers of the outdoors. He, along with the other team members, spent many hours studying and drilling in order to acquire the skills necessary to assist in an emergency.

As we all went about our various activities, enjoying the outdoors in our favorite ways, Michael stood by, ready to respond if any of us should become sick, injured, or lost.

We salute Michael and his selfless service. On behalf of the entire chapter, the executive committee offers its sincere condolences to his grieving family.

[Visit this link for Obituary information](#)

Leaders Needed!

In June the Niagara Frontier chapter of ADK will elect a new Chapter Chair and First vice Chair for outings. The state Director position, which I currently occupy, will convert to an Advisory board position and we may need to vote for that also. The Chapter and Program Chair positions are critical positions for which we currently do not have anyone to nominate.



Are you someone who thinks you want to try out something new? The state ADK mission says “ADK works to protect NY wild lands and waters by promoting responsible outdoor recreation and building a statewide constituency of land stewardship advocates.” We are not just another meetup group scheduling local hikes! We have a strong conservation committee and provide monthly presentations on outdoor education topics and topics of interest to members. Our club supports outdoor activities including paddling, hiking and biking. ADK also has opportunities for people to start other activities such as trail work, local publications, local education programs, websites with information and anything you might be interested in related to the club mission.

The Chapter Chair is responsible for convening monthly meetings, coordinating various volunteers and maintaining communication with the main club. The Outings Chair is responsible for coordinating outing leaders and developing a list of outings each month. Currently, the outings chair does the weekly email to members, which includes a description of the outings each week. This is done through an easy to use computer program. This function can be done by the newsletter editor, which is a position we need a local person, as our current editor, Mary Noack, lives in the North Country working for the main club.

We also have many other appointed positions that are available, although most of those are filled by dedicated volunteers at this point. Dedicated members who think they want to move up into a leadership position are welcome to volunteer! Anyone who thinks they might be interested should call or email me (hackerks@gmail.com), Leslie Salathe (lesliesalathe@live.com), or Fran D’Amico (billsfran@aol.com)

- *Kate Hacker | Nominating Committee*

Outings for ADK-NFC have resumed!

We are looking for Trip Leaders to setup outings during March and April!! Please contact Greg (gwg99t@gmail.com) with your outing. If you need suggestions or want to become a Trip Leader, our Outings Co-Chairs can help!

- Hiking & Winter, Leslie Salathe, lesliesalathe@live.com
- Waterways, Richard Schraven, richardschraven1@gmail.com
- Biking, Mike Lex, mblex@roadrunner.com

Please note that we will operate under the same guidelines established July 2020 to remain as safe as possible during this pandemic. A brief overview is listed below:

*Day trips ONLY. Overnight outings are prohibited.

*Outings are limited to a maximum of 10 participants.

*Participants must contact the leader and register in advance.

*Carpooling and spotting of cars are not allowed. Participants from different households are to provide their own transportation.

*The trip plan may not include eating in restaurants prior to or after the outing. Purchasing food from take out windows, such as ice cream stands, is allowed.

*All participants must carry sanitizer/ (or) soap and face masks, and review the following mask use rules. Masks are to be readily accessible so that they may be donned quickly when needed. Masks must be worn when within 6 feet of others, especially at busy trailheads and parking areas, public restrooms, when passing others on a trail, at a destination such as a summit, pond, or other attraction, and when stopping at rest areas, gas stations, and other crowded areas.

*Participants from different households are not to share equipment, food, or drinks. They need to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or more from members of other households.

A meeting was held to discuss the formation of the new state level Advisory Council. Chapter Chairs and current and past directors attended. The new Advisory Council will have its first meeting on March 30th and the Niagara Frontier chapter will appoint a Trustee to serve on the council by then. The Council will have several roles including communicating with the main club board regarding chapter-specific concerns and issues, reviewing board decisions that may affect chapter operations and directions, promoting and supporting the ADK mission and fund-raising, and sharing information and ideas between chapters. Each chapter will have one member who will serve a one or two year term to start to ensure the entire group doesn't turn over, and all will be allowed to serve two terms.

A large agenda for the first year is envisioned, including updating chapter bylaws, sharing chapter goals for education, conservation and advocacy, developing ideas on how the chapters can support the main club, sharing of guidelines on outings planning, consolidating chapters where desired, and finding members who can serve on main club committees.

This is a quick summary! If you would like more information please contact me at hackerks@gmail.com or call my cell at 716-491-7046. I'm often out skiing so evenings are good. I can email you the outline we received.

Submitted by Kate Hacker | Director

02/09 & 02/10 – Snowshoe – Mckenzie and Ampersand Mtns

Winter wonderland was truly appreciated on these hikes - beautiful fluffy snow, decent temperatures, plenty of glissading! We were even lucky enough to run into some Buffalonians on trail!

- *Submitted by Mary K. Noack*



Looking for Adventure Inspiration?

Wilderness Weekends in WNY

Presented by your very own ADK-NFC, 'WWinWNY' is a 25 hike challenge that has no time limit! Work your way through WNY using our Wilderness Weekends guide book, or visit [WW in WNY](#) for more information!

WNY Winter Hiking Challenge

Presented by *Outside Chronicles*, our interim Webinar Coordinator and local adventurer/blogger designed this challenge to not only give people an opportunity to visit local parks and explore new trails, but also to educate participants on parks' history and local tree species while on the trail.

Visit outsidechronicles.com for more information!



Our Executive Committee

Chair	Paul Gannon	paulmgannon54@gmail.com	(716) 395-5739
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Conservation Chair	Bob Van Hise	adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com	(716) 628-0355
Programs Chair			
Education Chair			
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Outings Co-chair: Biking	Mike Lex	mblex@roadrunner.com	(716) 430-8986
Outings Co-chair: Hiking & Winter	Leslie Salathe	lesliesalathe@live.com	
Webinar coordinator (interim)	Mike Radomski	mike.radomski@gmail.com	(716) 807-4040

**Working for
Wilderness**