



# TRAILMARKER

Adirondack Mountain Club

Iroquois Chapter

Est 1972

November 2017



Pharaoh Lake as viewed from Treadway Mt. in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness.

*Photo credit: Greg Smith*

During our October chapter meeting, I presented the amended changes to our by-laws. Most of the changes involved adding language reflecting our increasing use of social media: the Trailmarker and the meetup web site. Unfortunately, since a quorum was not present, we were unable to vote upon the amended changes. I am hoping that with the November chapter meeting, we will have sufficient members present to conduct a vote in order to update the by-laws.

Speaking about meetings, due to another rummage sale at the Presbyterian Church, we will once again convene upstairs in the Sunday School classroom. Simply walk past our usual meeting area and proceed up the stairs into the large room. Check out this issue of the Trailmarker for November's featured speaker.

During late September, Doug Tinkler, with assistance from Tom Blackstone, conducted his first successful adopt-a-highway event. Doug's report is presented in this issue. Many thanks to those members who participated.

I have noted that our chapter meet up site is gaining membership and use. Check it out by googling "Iroquois Chapter meetup." The site will list members as well as trips, both current and past. In order to participate you will have to "join" meetup with your name, and then establish a password. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Bill Lupino for his effort in taking the initiative to establish and maintain our chapter meet up site. Thank you Bill!

In closing, I wish to remind members about our annual Christmas dinner at the First Baptist Church on Oxford Road in New Hartford, across from the fire station. This traditional event will take place on the first Saturday in December. Details are in this issue of the Trailmarker.

Have an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday and I will see you at a meeting or perhaps on the trail.

*Paul Sirtoli*

# TRAILMARKER Iroquois Chapter

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## Up Coming Events

**Tuesday, November 7, 2017**

**Chapter meeting** at 7:00 PM,

New Hartford Presbyterian Church

Our program speaker will be Jim Fox of Friends of Stillwater Fire Tower, who will present a slide show about their efforts to restore and reopen the tower and tell the incredible story about the recovery of the Colvin “Station 77” survey marker.

*NOTE: The meeting will be held upstairs in the nursery room. Simply walk by the usual meeting rooms, and walk up the steep flight of stairs. Our regular meeting area is taken up with rummage sale items.*

**Tuesday,**

**Saturday, December 2, 2017**

**Chapter annual dinner** at 6:00 PM,

First Baptist Church, 7 Oxford Rd., New Hartford

Members should bring a dish to pass (appetizers, main dish, dessert) and their own place settings. The chapter will provide non-alcoholic beverages (punch, soda, coffee, tea) as well as greens and a side order of pasta. Set up and happy hour is from 5 PM to 6 PM.

Our featured program guest following dinner is Dr. Roy Cooley, who will speak about hiking in British Columbia.

### Iroquois Chapter New Members

*We would like to welcome the following new members:*

Molly Garner • Debra Roberts

Jeffrey & Kristin Sekula

Richard Ulrich • Denise Wicks • Frank Williams

Stephen & Dana White • Richard Ulrich

### Newsletter Submissions....

Feel free to submit your stories and photos for inclusion in the Trailmarker. Please use a digital camera for taking photos as the resolution on a camera phone is too low to reproduce well.

**Email:** vanhattenanderson@gmail.com

**Photos:** use jpeg or tiff format

**Stories:** send as a .rtf or .doc file or include in an email message.

# TRIPS...

*January 5-7, 2018*

## **Annual Trails Cabin weekend at Heart Lake**

Each year our chapter rents the Weizel Trails Cabin on ADK's Heart Lake property. The Cabin accommodates 16 people in four rooms with four bunk beds each (bring your own bedding). The cabin has a full kitchen, and bathrooms with hot showers. It's a great base camp in the heart of the High Peaks, less than a hundred yards from the trailheads at Adirondack Loj! We have group breakfasts Saturday and Sunday mornings, and a big pasta dinner Saturday night. The total cost for the weekend is about \$50 per person if the cabin is full, plus a share of our supplies for meals. We each bring our own drinks and lunches. The more people come, the cheaper it is for everyone! A \$20 deposit is required at sign up.

Contact: Greg Smith

at 315-796-0906 or [greg@adirondack-park.net](mailto:greg@adirondack-park.net)

*Saturday, November 11, 2017*

## **Hike to our adopted lean-tos in the Ha-de-ron-dah Wilderness**

Lets hike into Middle Branch Lake or Middle Settlement Lake in Ha-de-ron-dah Wilderness to check on Iroquois Chapter's adopted lean-tos. Could be day hikes or overnight. Trip is 11 miles in total with little elevation change. Bring gloves and garbage bags in case there is garbage to pick up at the lean-to.

Rating: C+ (Easy to moderate)

Meeting Place: Pull off on Rt 28 across from the trailhead

Meeting time: 7:00am

Contact: William Luppino 360-0359

or [Bootsmuddy@hotmail.com](mailto:Bootsmuddy@hotmail.com)

*Sunday, November 12, 2017*

## **New Michigan State Forest (Pharsalia/ South Plymouth)**

Join me as I "explore" the old CCC truck trails with my mountain bike. The roads are similar to those in the Brookfield State lands, but less hilly. There are no loops, so all excursions are out and back. I do not intend to scout this region out, so it will my first exposure.

Pending cooperative weather, we will meet mid- morning at Planet Fitness in New Hartford. The state forest is about 30 minutes south of Hamilton. No set mileage, but the main road is approximately 9 miles long. Poor weather postpones this trip.

Rating: B (Moderate)

Meeting Time & Place: Contact trip leader

Contact: Paul Sirtoli at 315-737-8353 or [alexsirtoli@outlook.com](mailto:alexsirtoli@outlook.com)

*Sunday, December 3, 2017*

## **Thomas and Cat Mountains**

Let's start the quest to be Lake George 12sters by summiting Cat and Thomas Mountains. It's a relatively easy 1.4 mile hike to the summit of Thomas Mountain where there is a cabin to use as a rest stop. From here it is a much more rugged foot trail as you proceed along the ridge trail to the summit of Cat Mountain at 1956 feet. The trek is 2.2 miles from Thomas to Cat. The summit of Cat Mountain is said to offer good views over the Lake George Region. The entire loop is about 6.6 miles. Expect four to five hours. This could be a hike or a snow shoe depending on weather conditions. Poor weather will postpone to another date.

Rating: B+ (moderate to strenuous)

Meeting Time & Place: TBA

Contact: William Luppino 360-0359  
or [Bootsmuddy@hotmail.com](mailto:Bootsmuddy@hotmail.com)

**For additional trip offerings,  
last minute additions and updates check out  
our Meet-up page at**

[https://www.meetup.com/  
Iroquois-Chapter-of-the-Adirondack-Mountain-Club/](https://www.meetup.com/Iroquois-Chapter-of-the-Adirondack-Mountain-Club/)

## Chapter Outings

Rating	Effort Level	Elevation gain	Miles (round trip)	Time in Hours
A +	Very Strenuous	4000 ft +	10 +	10 +
A	Strenuous	3000 ft +	5 - 10	8 - 10
B +	Mod. Strenuous	2000 ft +	5 - 10	6 - 8
B	Moderate	1000 ft +	8 - 10	5 - 7
C +	Fairly Easy	1000 ft +	5 - 8	4 - 6
C	Easy	under 1000 ft	under 5	under 5

# BACKTRACKS

## Bartonville Mt. and Lily, Duck, Round and Buttermilk Ponds

August 28, 2017

We started our hiking day in Brant Lake village with a climb up Bartonville Mt. It is on private property but the trail is maintained by *The Hub*, a bike shop/café on Meadow Street. They request that you sign-in before using the trail. They also have a mountain bike trail there that they maintain. The trail starts right behind the shop and is only 1.7 miles round trip. The summit is closed in but just below the summit there is an open area with a great view down the length of Brant Lake. We then drove to the end of Grassville Rd., about half way down the shore of Brant Lake off of route 8. We started on trail #61 (National Geographic Map) which leads to Lily Pond. Just before reaching the pond there is a junction for Island Pond. (We didn't check that out today.) From Lily Pond we took trail #62 visiting Round Pond, Duck Pond and ending at Buttermilk Pond. On our return to Lily Pond we used trail #62A making a loop of nearly nine miles. The trails are wide, well-marked and rolling terrain. We think it would be a good cross-country ski loop. There are many small bodies of water in the area. Paul's brain was already thinking about future bushwhacking trips in the area. Our only sightings today were turtle head flowers, a loon, deer scat, bear scat and many fungi in a variety of colors and shapes.

*Kathy Miles with Paul Sirtoli*

## Hail Mt.

September 2, 2017

Having failed to summit this magnificent peak in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest in December of 2016, Doug Tinkler, Paul Sirtoli, Dave Pisaneschi, Steve and Leslie Siegard (ADK Albany Chapter) hiked nearly fourteen miles (RT) to the arguably most scenic viewing mountain in the park. The Hail Mt. range consists of seven mixed forest, partially rocky knobs. The summit knob, marked by a large cairn is furthest from the trail head. It is essentially all slab rock, interspersed with small birch trees, a result of a ravaging fire years ago.

We hiked the Hammond Pond/Bloody Pond trail to the Black Brook wet lands, which due to beaver activity, were inundated with water. Bushwhacking around the beaver ponds, we intersected the non-marked, non-maintained woods road, which is actually an extension of the Bloody Pond trail. Shortly before the Black Ponds, we struck north off the trail, heading toward the summit range ridge line. The deciduous woods were easy to navigate; the various shoulder flanks of the knobs had many rocky, and at times



Lily Pond

*Photo by Kathy Miles*



Dave Pisaneschi, Paul Sirtoli, Steve and Leslie Siegard on the Hail summit

*Photo by Doug Tinkler*

spacious outcroppings lending superb views to the south. Bushwhacking, at times, was tedious as we attempted to negotiate around the many shoulders and valley ravines that dominate the southern side of the mountain range.

Hail Mt. offers a 360 degree panoramic view, with Lake Champlain to the east, the Dix range to the west, and rugged mountains otherwise in all directions. Having arrived around 4 PM, we enjoyed thirty minutes of viewing, and then headed south on the rocky summit flank toward the Black Ponds. When all was said and done, we had to hike out with head lamps, arriving at the parking area by 8:30 PM. Given some non-anticipated difficulties omitted in this write-up, our trek took eleven hours and it was worth every minute!

*Submitted by Paul Sirtoli*

## Cascade and Porter Mountains

September 23, 2017

Bob Hutchins and Paul Sirtoli accompanied me in my quest to climb the Adirondack 46 highest peaks. For this very warm, brilliantly sunny day we joined nearly 600 other climbers hiking to Porter and/or Cascade Mts. (my first and second). Needless to say, there were hordes of hikers on each summit, either wandering around or staking out their piece of the rock. There was a constant parade of “individuals” going up and down the well used, rocky trail. Several were hiking in sandals, many in sneakers, a few without packs, and quite unbelievably, a few without anything, including water. We did see a number of families with children which is so encouraging. Also a Summit Steward was on the peak speaking to folks about trail etiquette, to ensure we are able to enjoy these trails and mountains for years to come. Our trek took 5.5 hours with 2200 ft. in elevation change. It was a perfect day and a perfect way to begin my quest for the Adirondack 46 highest peaks.

*Submitted by Amy DeVries*



Amy, Paul and Bob on summit.

## Fall Route 12 Roadside Clean-up

Thursday September 28, 2017

Our group of eight chapter members worked for almost three hours picking up trash along our adopted two mile stretch of route 12. After our work, we enjoyed pizza and lively conversation at Jak's Bar & Grill. Thanks to Bill, Brian, Wendy, Dick, Jim, Tom and Paul for their work picking up trash along Route 12.

*Submitted by Doug Tinkler*



Doug Tinkler, Virginia Touhey, and Doug Dewey.

*photo by Paul Sirtoli*

## Bald Mt (Elizabethtown #3) Rocky Ridge

September 30, 2017

Doug Tinkler and Paul Sirtoli were accompanied by Doug Dewey (Syracuse) and Virginia Touhey (Saratoga) for my first successful use of the chapter meetup web site. We commenced our hike at 9 AM from the very packed parking area on route 9. The well used trail climbed steadily toward Bald Peak (3060 ft.), with occasional side trails to view spots. By noon, we were gazing at the distant false summit of Rocky Peak Ridge (RPR) from the expansive rock summit of Bald Mt. While eating lunch, we noted that the approach to the false peak was quite steep, and later while climbing discovered that it was also quite rocky.

I would characterize the hike to RPR as a series of ridge walks, interspersed with up or down steep pitches. Indeed, the ridge walk is somewhat similar to the Soda Ridge, except that there is more intervening rock, as well as viewing perches.

The first false summit of the RPR is a large rock knob, with a 360 degree panoramic view of the surrounding mountains and valleys. From the knob, we dropped steeply into the col, which shelters Mary Louise Pond. A new pressure treated plank bridge stretches across the southern part of the tiny, shallow pond. Its crossing allows hikers to clearly gaze at the second false summit of the RPR, with its fairly open approaching ridge line. The true summit is about a mile away. Climbing out of the col onto another large treeless rock slab, we now discussed turning back. We had hiked five hours to reach this point, and we estimated that the actual summit was about a 40 minute trek from our position. Despite having head lamps, none of us were keen on hiking back in the dusk/dark down steep rocky gradients. Erring on the side of caution, we reluctantly turned

back, re-tracing our steps. Our group arrived at the now empty parking area by 7 PM, logging 12 miles for our ten hours of hiking.

*Submitted by Paul Sirtoli*

## Potash Mt.

*October 14, 2017, morning*

In our plan to climb Number Seven Mt. north of Lake Luzerne, Doug Tinkler and I missed River Road and found ourselves on Potash Road. About half way down the road, we observed a newly constructed parking area with a trail at the far end. Stopping to investigate, the home made sign indicated that it was the Harris Preserve. Since Potash Mt. was just north of the parking area, we surmised that perhaps a trail would lead to the partially bald 1750 ft. summit. And indeed we were correct. The "trail" is not officially marked with state discs, but green/red ribbons clearly indicate the maintained path. This mountain is quite steep on all sides; the trail meandered to the eastern, less steep flank. From the parking area, the trail rises gently to the back side, but the last quarter mile or so is not only very steep but extremely rocky. Your effort to climb will be richly rewarded. The south western edge of the mountain, just below the open, oak forested summit is a massive expanse of rock and lends an incredible view of the mountainous landscape from the southwest to the northwest.

After an hour of gazing and exploring, we carefully descended, and upon doing so ran into two fellas who were working the trail. Sanctioned and guided by the DEC forester, these two local individuals spear headed the trail project, and apparently took it upon themselves to maintain the trail. When all was said and done, this side excursion took us three hours.

## Number Seven Mountain

*Oct. 14, 2017, afternoon*

River Road is adjacent to and parallels the nearby Hudson River in the Lake George Wild Forest. The road terminates at its summer parking lot, with a spur apparently continuing to Gay Pond. Ten *first come-first serve* and very private no fee camping areas are widely spaced along the road.

From the summer parking area near camp 10, Doug and I walked about 1.5 miles down the somewhat gravelly road, now marked as a snowmobile corridor. With the placid Hudson River nearby, there were occasional rough camping areas interspersed among the conifers lining the road. Number 7 Mt. lies within a mile of the road corridor. Doug and I commenced our bushwhack directly east toward the summit ridge line.

The mixed open conifer/hardwood forest facilitated easy navigation. Roughly half way toward the ridge sum-

mit, we encountered the steep slope of the mountain with occasional cliff bands. Similar to Potash Mt., we swung to the north side of the mountain and although still quite steep, was more manageable than the eastern flank.

Just below the summit ridge, the western edge of the mountain is mostly open, bare rock. It affords wonderful views of Hadley Mt, Crane Mt, Moose and Bald Head Mts., as well as the Hudson River. The immediate rounded summit is mostly an oak orchard, in a grassy, boulder field. We lingered for an hour, after which we decided to exit directly south on the very open, gradual grassy slope. Working the terrain, we looped our way back to the woods corridor, thus completing a mini loop. This adventure took us about five hours to complete.

*Submitted by Paul Sirtoli*



ABOVE: Hudson River from Number Seven Mt.

BELOW: View from Potash Mt

*Photos by Doug Tinkler*



## ADK Conservation Committee Meeting

August 25-27, 2017

The ADK Conservation Committee Meeting Weekend included a field trip to Boreas Ponds on Saturday August 26. Starting from the present temporary parking lot and gate on Gulf Brook Road, the committee walked remaining 3 ½ miles along the road to Boreas Ponds, passing by Labier Flow on the way. There is still driving access to some previous users, and use of a hunting lodge near Labier Flow will be allowed until September 2018. A final decision on the classification and access to the Boreas Ponds tract has not yet been made.

A brief meeting in the evening included a report on the Blue Hole in the Catskills, previously designated as a Hot Spot due to severe overuse. Under the Hot Spot program, Leave-No-Trace trainers participated with ADK staff, local land planners, and DEC during August 14 to 21 in outreach events in Ashokan, Phoenicia, and at the Blue Hole trail head. Cleanup of the site has been accomplished, the illegal parking situation has improved, and DEC provided fliers to inform users about alternative places of interest. In the future the Hot Spot program may be helpful in addressing overuse issues in the High Peaks area.



TOP TO BOTTOM: Labier Flow and Boreas Pond

*Photos and report submitted by Brian Sanders, Iroquois Chapter Conservation Chair*

### ***DEC Summer Camp attendee thanks Iroquois Chapter for sponsorship***

Norm,

Please pass along Dylan's appreciation for the sponsorship to camp. This was a chance in a lifetime for him as we would of never been able to go any other way. Dylan learned how to kayak and also many things about nature and got a lot of fishing in (he loves fishing). Dylan even received an award for waking up early every morning to go fishing. He made friends from all over the country and one from Mexico.

Thank you so much for what you have done for my son, it means the world to me.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Piersall and Dylan Piersall

