



# TRAILMARKER

Adirondack Mountain Club

Iroquois Chapter

Est 1972

January 2018



Paul Kalek on Gothics looking toward Saddleback, Basin and Haystack Mountains.

*photo by Doug Tinkler*

Our Christmas dinner on December 2 was very well attended by nearly thirty individuals. As usual the food was wonderful, and the camaraderie festive. My appreciation to the many individuals who attended and brought a dish to pass. I would like to recognize Norm for bringing the video screen, Doug for purchasing extra food and program chair Dave for tapping Dr. LeRoy Cooley as speaker. Dr. Cooley's presentation concerning his five best hikes in British Columbia was outstanding and very informative. Thank you Dr. Cooley; we look forward to having you again.

Since we actually had a quorum at the dinner, I held a very brief business meeting to quickly present the by-law amendments. I am pleased to announce that the packaged amendments were passed. I will outline those changes within this current Trailmarker issue.

As I contemplate our near future, the chapter will be busy with several projects for which help is needed. We will be involved with National trails day in early June. That event will take place in Old Forge. Our turn for winter outing will occur in January, 2019. Thus, the executive committee will

be meeting regularly to begin planning. I do plan to visit our colleagues from the Black River Chapter on January 20 to get a feel for how the operation is organized and implemented. Feel free to join me. That said, the executive committee will need to decide by early February as to which venue we will pursue—Mad River Club, Camp Fowler in Speculator, or Vanderkamp in Cleveland. My time for waffling on the fence is fast approaching; a decision needs to be reached. In any event, for all these endeavors, your participation is encouraged and most welcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our current director Tom Andrews as the Vice-President for the ADK organization, and wish him the best with his new responsibilities..... leading to the Presidency? In the same vein, I welcome Tom Blackstone as our new director, as well as Glenn Larish as the alternate director. On behalf of the chapter, thank you to all!

While on the topic of chapter positions, the chapter needs an individual to assume the role as publicity chair.

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# TRAILMARKER

## Iroquois Chapter

**Chairman – Paul Sirtoli**  
315-737-8353  
alexsirtoli@outlook.com

**Vice Chair – Doug Tinkler**  
315-271-4759  
dt46x40@yahoo.com

**Secretary – Charlene Zebley**  
315-942-5176  
jwg@frontiernet.net

**Treasurer – David White**  
**Membership – Carol White**  
315-853-1070  
ccswhite@juno.com

**Director – Thomas Blackstone**  
826-7870 tbckstone@ntcnet.com

**Education – Greg Smith**  
796-0906  
greg@adirondack-park.net

**Stewardship (Lean-tos) – Norm Landis**  
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**Stewardship (Trails) &  
Newsletter – Carl Anderson**  
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**Adopt-a-Highway – Doug Tinkler**  
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**Hospitality – Wendy Sanders**  
315-797-6962

**Trips & Meet Up Group – Bill Lupino**  
315-360-0359 wluppino@msn.com

**Conservation – Brian Sanders**  
315-797-6962  
sandersbrian@hotmail.com

**Programs – Dave Jones**  
315-601-6019  
davidjones0422@gmail.com

## Iroquois Chapter Officers Needed!

The following positions are vacant and need to be filled. Please step up and do your part to make our chapter a vital part of ADK!

**Publicity Chair** – Publicity duties would be to contact the local newspapers, publications, television, etc. providing information regarding chapter meeting - date, time and the speaker each month.

## Up Coming Events

**Tuesday, January 2, 2018**

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

New Hartford Presbyterian Church

Our program speaker will be John Pitarresi whose topic will be “Stream Fishing for Trout in Central New York”. He’s a life-long fisherman and especially likes fly fishing. He recently retired from the *Utica Observer-Dispatch*, where he was a longtime sportswriter and outdoors columnist.

**Saturday, January 6, 2018 - Winter Workshop**

See article on page 9

**Friday-Sunday, January 19-21, 2018**

**ADK TUG HILL WINTER OUTING 2018,**

**Guests welcome - Black River Chapter, Host.**

We will be staying at the Mad River Club. Bring a sleeping bag and pad or stay at a motel nearby. Camping is also an option. Full package includes floor space for sleeping bag, snacks Friday night, all meals on Saturday (including gourmet dinner) and breakfast and lunch on Sunday.

For registration information:

Cindy Stewart, 9922 Nohle Rd., Adams, NY 13605-2184; 315-232-2263; or cindykstewart@yahoo.com. Full registration is \$100; Saturday skiing and dinner, \$45. All but \$20 is refundable until December 31. For general information contact Ron Fillhart, 315-298-7424 or rcfillhart@yahoo.com

**Tuesday, February 6, 2018**

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

New Hartford Presbyterian Church

Our program speaker will be Tyler Socash Tyler Socash who is the *ADK's Wilderness Trip Leader*. After receiving his master's degree at the University of Rochester, Tyler embarked on a 7,000-mile thru-hiking journey across the Pacific Crest Trail, Te Araroa across New Zealand, and the Appalachian Trail. His presentation will discuss wilderness preservation.

## Iroquois Chapter New Members

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

Steve Clinton • Fred & Yvonne Kovits

Catherine Ossenfort • Juan Perez • Stephen Sanderson

Thomas Smith • Michael Stripp • Darlene Whitaker

Carol White is graciously performing the duties unofficially, but given her responsibilities with other organizations, she needs to pass this role on. Generally, you will be contacting the newspapers, local publications, television, etc. regarding chapter meeting date, time and speaker. This will be a turn key operation where Carol will hand over list of contacts.

In closing, I would like to thank the many "chairperson" individuals who make the Iroquois Chapter function smoothly. Your dedication and effort behind the scene is most appreciated. In addition, thanks to all who attend the monthly meetings. Your participation is most welcome! I wish everyone a pleasant Christmas holiday, a healthy new year, and I'll see you at a meeting or perhaps on the trail.

Paul Sirtoli

## In Memoriam

### Roger W. Felske,

passed away November 2, 2017.

To view his obituary:

<https://www.fweh.com/obituaries-and-services/roger-w-felske-new-hartford-ny>

### Dave Huxtable

passed away Oct. 24, 2017.

To view his obituary:

<http://enea.eneafuneralhomes.com/tribute/details/8212/David-Huxtable/obituary.html#tribute-start>

## TRIPS

January 13, 2018

### Overlook Mountain Fire Tower Hike/Snowshoe

A single trail climbs steadily to the top of Overlook Mountain where a fire tower is located. The trail follows an old carriage road that once transported guests in the late 19th century to the Overlook Mountain House. It's ruins are visible from the trail. One-way distance is 2.4 miles. Ascent is a gradual but nonstop incline of 1370 feet. Winter and cold temperatures should be expected so dress in layers, no cotton. Bring your own snacks and water. No matter the conditions bring snowshoes and micro spikes. Poor weather /driving conditions or too small a group will postpone to another date.

Rating: B

Contact: William Luppino 360-0359 or  
Bootsmuddy@hotmail.com

January 15, 2018 (Monday)

### Hunter Mountain Traverse (Catskills)

At 4,040 feet, Hunter is the second highest peak in the Catskills and has a firetower. Starting from Spruceton Trailhead off County Route 6, we'll start our hike on the Diamond Notch trail and return via the Spruceton Trail. It will be an 8 mile hike with about 2,000 feet of climbing.

Rating: A

Leader & Reservations contact: David Pisaneschi  
518-459-5969 or [dapadk@gmail.com](mailto:dapadk@gmail.com)

January 20, 2018

### Tug Hill/Mad River Club visit and XC ski

Please join me for a visit to the Mad River Club to speak with members regarding winter outing. Bring the cross country skis to check out the trails. I am unfamiliar with the region, so no

destination/distance in mind concerning skiing. Poor driving conditions may postpone to Sunday.

Rating: C

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

January 27, 2018

### Gibbs Pond, Half Moon Pond, South Inlet Creek (Thendara)

Winter is an excellent time to explore wetlands. This snowshoe excursion involves hiking the Big Otter Lake truck trail, then bushwhacking various frozen creeks and meadows to Gibbs Lake, Half Moon Pond and vly. We will complete the loop via the truck trail. Distance, is 8 to 9 miles, half of which will be bushwhack.

Poor weather may postpone to following day.

Rating: B

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

February 17, 2018

### Cross Country Ski to Camp Sanatanoni on Winter Weekend

Let's ski the nearly 10 mile round trip on gentle rolling terrain to Camp Sanatanoni on only one of three weekends when they have their winter weekend hosted by Adirondack Architectural Heritage, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Town of Newcomb. On this day we can go into the Gate Lodge and Main Lodge of the Camp, view displays about the Great Camp and take short interpretive tours with Adirondack Architectural Heritage staff. The Artist's Studio, a stone building near the Main Lodge on the shores of Newcomb Lake, will also be open as a warming hut from 10 am to

3 pm. There we can enjoy free coffee, tea or hot chocolate by the woodstove.

For more information on Winter Weekend at Camp Sanatanoni go to the DEC web page

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/94034.html>

Rating: B

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

*February 17, 2018 (Saturday)*

### **Black Head Range Traverse (Catskills)**

We'll spot cars at the Barnum and Black Dome Valley Road trail heads. The Blackhead Range is made up of the third, fourth, and fifth highest mountains in the Catskills: Black Dome (3990 feet), Blackhead (3940 feet), and Thomas Cole (3940 feet). The Range is located in the northern Catskills (north of Hunter Mt) in Greene County. Total distance will be about 8.5 miles with about 2,000 ft of climbing.

Rating: A

Leader & Reservations contact: David Pisaneschi, 518-459-5969 [dapack@gmail.com](mailto:dapack@gmail.com)

*February 24, 2018*

### **Boreas River exploration**

Join me for a wild Adirondack adventure exploring the Boreas River by snowshoe bushwhacking. I will need help from my Albany chapter colleagues to spot cars. My plan is to leave a car near the Boreas River where it crosses route 28 N (north of Minerva), then continue to the Cheney Pond trail head on the Blue Ridge Road. We'll cross the pond and follow its outlet to the Boreas River and continue along the winding river to route 28N. One way distance approximately 7 miles (give or take). Poor weather/driving conditions may postpone to Sunday. If interest and time, we can check out several estuaries along the way.

Rating: C+

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

<b>Chapter Outings</b>				
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

## **DEC to Host Public Information Session on Habitat Management Plan for Mohawk Valley Wildlife Management Areas**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is holding a public information session on Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) for several Mohawk Valley Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at the Utica State Office Building at 6:00 p.m. "These Habitat Management Plans will guide the management of these four Wildlife Management Areas to benefit a wide variety of species including those that require young forest habitats," said Judy Drabicki, Region 6 Director.

The HMPs cover the following WMAs:

- \* Oriskany Flats is an 806-acre parcel located in the city of Rome, and the towns of Marcy and Whites-town in Oneida County.
- \* Rome is a 1,204-acre parcel in the city of Rome, Oneida County.
- \* Utica Marsh is a 193-acre parcel along the border of the city of Utica and the town of Marcy, and between the Mohawk River on the south and the New York State Barge Canal on the north.
- \* Plantation Island is 200-acres of Mohawk River floodplain in the towns of German Flats and Herkimer, Herkimer County.

The HMP goals include managing a percentage of forested landscape as young forests to provide breeding and foraging habitat for American Woodcock, Wild turkey, white-tailed deer, and Ruffed Grouse, among other wildlife species.

WHAT: HMP Public information session

WHEN: Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018

TIME: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Utica State Office Building  
Conference Room A,  
207 Genesee St., Utica, NY 13501.

Contact DEC at 315-785-2263 or [information.R6@dec.ny.gov](mailto:information.R6@dec.ny.gov). Street parking near the state office building is free. A photo ID is necessary to enter the building.

Visit DEC's website to learn more about WMA's and to see the HMP.

## Lake Andrew October 28, 2017

It was a chilly morning on October 28th when seven members of the Adirondack Mountain Club joined me to hike to Lake Andrew. Lake Andrew is in the western side of the 5770 acre tract of land purchased by the state in 2014 and opened to the public in Oct 1st of last year. The route we followed was featured in the 2017 Outings Guide of the Adirondack Explorer magazine. We started our hike at the first parking area heading north on Tahawus Road in the direction of upper works. Its more commonly used as the starting point for the Santanoni Range. From the parking lot we followed the road/trail in a westerly direction. After about a mile and a half we passed the the right turn onto the blue marked foot trail to the Santanoni Range and Bradley Pond. We continued straight on the road. At about 2 miles we reached a road barrier with several signs warning us against entering and trespass, but we knew this land was now owned by the state so we disregarded them and moved on.

At about three miles on the road you start to pass camps on both sides of the road. These camps were leased by the occupants prior to the states purchase and they need to vacate the properties by September of 2018. While I a pleased that the state has acquired this tract of land, I have to admit after seeing these camps and a few of the occupants I could not help but feel some sadness for them. It must be difficult for them in losing a piece of such beautiful country. But of course the upside being more people, like us will be able to enjoy it.

It was also at about this point that the trail offered some wonderful views of Mt. Santanoni. Our hike continued on the road until about four miles when the road ends and a fairly well defined trail, probably from years of ATV travel, leads to the Lake. Our group consisted of Elizabeth DeVries, Wendy Sanders, Doug Tinkler, Paul Sirtoli and myself from the Iroquois chapter. Joined by Doug Rosenberry, Leslie Siegard and Steve Siegard of the Albany Chapter. At the lake we ate lunch. After lunch our group explored a few of the trails around the lake then returned the way we came returning to the parking lot at about 4pm.

*Submitted by Bill Lupino*

The hiking group at Lake Andrew.

*Photo: Wendy Sanders*

## Saunders, Bear (e-town 5) and Buck Mts. November 8, 2017

Long on my bushwhack radar, Saunders Mt. (1985 ft.), Bear Mt. (2285 ft.) and Buck Mt. (2106 ft.) are nestled together and lie east of South Dix and McComb Mountains. Each mountain sport a varying mix of open rock and deciduous forest, with Saunders being the most barren with a near bald summit. All the mountains lend a superb view of Giant Mt, Rocky Ridge Peak, Wyman Mt. and Spotted Mt in an extremely panoramic mountainous landscape.

For this cold, clear blue sky, sunny morning Jim Lomonaco, David Pisaneschi (ADK Albany Chapter) and I assessed these Adirondack gems from the Shingletree Pond trail head, a short distance from the DEC Sharp Bridge camp ground on route 9. The 1.1 mile trail leads to an underground tunnel beneath the Northway, and allows eastern access to the Dix Wilderness. No trails exist beyond the tunnel exit. We chose to bushwhack counter clockwise, climbing Saunders Mt. to Bear and then to Buck Mt.

Should the reader study a topographic map, you will see that there is no easy approach, as a rugged morass of small, rather steep hills border the southeast flank of the tight mountainous triad. Thankfully, the deciduous forest was quite open for the duration of our excursion to facilitate reasonable bushwhacking.

Bear Mt, known as Elizabethtown #5, was my actual goal for the day. It marked the fifth and last "e-mountain"





David Pisaneschi and Jim Lomonaco on Saunders Mtn

*Photo by Paul Sirtoli*

to climb on the Elizabethtown mountain list. Should the reader be looking for a hiking list to complete the 5 e-town mountains are very worth climbing, and offer incredible varying views of the high peak region. They are in cardinal numbered order: Knob Lock Mt., Iron Mt., Bald Mt., shoulder off Spotted Mt, and Bear Mt. Iron and Bald Mountains have trails.

In case the reader is contemplating to hike the triad, it took our party seven hours for approximately eight miles of hiking.

*Submitted by Paul Sirtoli*

## **Moxham Mt.** *November 11, 2017*

Postponed in late October due to torrential rain, Steve Siegard and David Pisaneschi (ADK Albany Chapter members) joined Paul Sirtoli to climb the rocky, bald summit of Moxham Mt. when the temperature hovered around 15 degrees F. Despite the brutal cold, the sun shone brilliantly in a deep blue sky.

Steve Siegard and Dave Pisaneschi on Moxham Mt.

*Photo: Paul Sirtoli*

Newly constructed in 2012, the two and a half plus marked mile trail gradually climbs and circles a large hill to an open ridge line, the first of many awesome view points. Descending into a valley with a small beaver pond, the trail again climbs to a saddle between Moxham Mt. and a smaller unnamed mt to its west. From the saddle, the trail continues to climb along the Moxham Mt. ridge line, and offers phenomenal views of Gore Mt., Eleventh Mt., Snowy Mt., and Blue Mt. in an otherwise panoramic mountainous landscape.

After lingering for thirty minutes at the summit, and with the bulk of the day before us, we chose to descend into the massive valley below us. The bulk of the valley below the cliff is comprised of an expansive grassy meadow surrounded by an open deciduous forest. A small creek snakes through the meadow. Our plan was to check out Mud Pond, Long Pond, and Clear Pond, all within close proximity. Coincidentally, Long Pond and Clear Pond are separated by a different Moxham Mt. This we also climbed. Its southern slope had a small, somewhat barren viewpoint with Gore Mt. and the Hudson River as the prominent spectacles.

Picturesque Clear Pond is simply that, the water is very clear. It is nestled in a cirque surrounded in part by small rocky cliffs in an open conifer forest. Since the day was getting late, we bushwhacked north to a massive open rock ledge on the unnamed mountain that shares the ridge with Moxham Mt. The expansive steeply sloped ledge, dominated by lichen and reindeer moss, offered a superb view of the Moxham Mt. cliffs. Intersecting the trail in the saddle several hundred yards from this mountain viewpoint, we thereby completed a bushwhack loop. Arriving at the parking area by 4:30 PM, we had hiked 11 miles in eight hours with an elevation gain of 3160 feet.

*Submitted by Paul Sirtoli*



## **John and Clear Ponds** *November 28, 2017*

During the past year the state has completed the trail extension from John Pond to Clear Pond, thereby completing a continuous hiking loop of five plus miles. Located off Big Brook Road in Indian Lake (Siamese Pond Wilderness), this fairly level, slightly hilly loop is conducive to an advanced beginner X-C skier.

It was on a very cold, but pleasantly sunny day when Dave Pisaneschi (ADK Albany Chapter), Jim Lomonaco and I decided to check out the two ponds. Parking at the John Pond trail



John Pond

*Photo: Dave Pisaneschi*

entrance, we commenced our hike on a snow covered, marked trail at 9:30 AM. By 11 AM we were eating snacks at the well built, very clean lean-to near John Pond. A prominent rocky, craggy ridge line overlooked the pond, and with time on our hands, took the opportunity to scramble up the steep incline to the first rock ledge. The forest is open, thus navigation is not a problem. We were not disappointed for our effort. From the several vantage points we visited, there were phenomenal views of the pond, Puffer Mt. and the full Bullhead Mt. range. The pointed summit of Peaked Mt. popped above the Bullhead ridge line.

Twelve-thirty saw us marching down the newly constructed trail toward Clear Pond. The trail generally followed a small hilly ridge between the two ponds.

It was well groomed, quite wide, and easy to follow. Evidently the DEC cut out the trail to accommodate X-C skiing. By 2 PM we had completed the loop, and with nearly three hours of daylight remaining decided to climb Chimney Mt., which is a short drive from the John-Clear Pond loop.

Besides visiting the exposed chimney at the end of the official trail, I treated Dave and Jim by taking them to the very bare, treeless, expansive rock summit. The 2,947 ft. summit of the mountain is several hundred yards beyond the state marked campsite near the chimney, and is accessed by a well used herd path through an open deciduous forest.

Nearly panoramic in scope, the reader will be awed by the scenery. Snow covered Mt. Marcy and Algonquin Mt. govern the far distant landscape. Kings Flow and John Pond, as well as the nearby prominent peaks of Humphrey Mt., Blue Mt., Puffer Mt., Bullhead Mt. dominate the nearby very mountainous region.

Should you be looking for a leisurely day of hiking in the Adirondacks with the best of two scenic ponds and a short climb to a grand mountain, consider visiting Indian Lake. Your engagement will not be disappointing.

*Submitted by Paul Sirtoli*

## Cat and Thomas Mountain December 3, 2017

Accompanied by Kim Brown of the Saratoga Chapter of the ADK, I hiked the seven mile loop bagging Cat and Thomas Mountains in the Lake George Area. These mountains are part of one of the newest hiking challenge in the Adirondacks, *The Lake George 12*. We decided to hike out to Cat Mountain first. It was the longest stretch but easy hiking. The summit of Cat at 1956 ft. offers sweeping views of Lake George and the Tongue Range. The most strenuous part of the hike is the 2.2 mile trek between the peaks. On the summit of Thomas we rested and ate lunch in the spectacular cabin on the summit.

We learned from other hikers we met that day that the cabin is going to be removed by the DEC the following weekend. Apparently some irresponsible hikers have been vandalizing it and in one instance set it on fire. I later learned that the cabin was built by the Lake George Land Conservancy. The state purchased the 1,900 acre Cat and Thomas land from the Lake George Land Conservancy in 2013. Therefore as part of the forest preserve it is also considered a non-conforming under the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and as such had to be removed. In fact as I write this that has already happened and the cabin is gone.

The hike down from Thomas was an easy 1.4 miles.

*Submitted by Bill Lupino*



Bill Lupino and Kim Brown at the cabin on Thomas Mt.

# Amended Changes To By-Laws

## Iroquois Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

### **Duties of Officers:**

#### **VICE-CHAIR**

The vice-chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair. The vice-chair shall help coordinate special projects such as but not limited to the Winter Outing, the Chapter Open House, the annual picnic and the Christmas dinner.

#### **TREASURER**

The treasurer shall receive that portion of the annual membership fees granted by the Club and other such monies as may be donated, granted, earned or collected by the chapter, shall pay the chapter expenditures upon approval of the Executive Committee, shall keep the financial records of the chapter, shall assist the chair in preparing a proposed annual budget, and shall submit an annual financial report to the Executive Committee, at the end of the chapter fiscal year, to be published to the membership in the newsletter. The treasurer, or the designee, will also take care of selling chapter patches and club calendars.

#### **SECRETARY**

The secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Iroquois Chapter. The secretary shall also maintain a documentary history of the chapter to include a copy of the printed copy of the Trail-marker and the tenure of the officers.

#### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

This person shall coordinate getting articles for the chapter newsletter and lay out materials for the printer or use electronic communication (e-mail, club web site). This person will make sure that the text is appropriate and is appropriate in accordance with Club publishing guidelines and will edit articles when needed.

#### **PUBLICITY**

This person is in charge of getting articles and

announcements to the newspapers, radio and television and social media or electronic communication about meetings, special events and work done by the ADK.

#### **TRIPS**

This person shall solicit trips and leaders for various outdoor activities and post them in the newsletter, or through electronic communication (e-mail, club web site, social media).

### **Article VI-COMMITTEES**

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

.....A tentative schedule of regular meeting dates for the Executive Committee shall be announced in the newsletter or electronic communication (e-mail, Club web site) and special meetings shall be announced to the extent possible.

#### **Article IX-QUORUM AND MAJORITY**

A quorum for the transaction of business at general meetings shall be constituted by the presence of the lesser of 20 members or five (5%) of the voting membership of the chapter.

#### **Article XI- AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws shall be amended only by a majority vote by the voting members of the chapter present at a chapter meeting provided a quorum is present and a written notice of the meeting and propose amendment (s) has been submitted to all full members at least four weeks in advance of the meeting. Mail or electronic ballots may be used in lieu of a meeting, with a return of ten percent (10%) of the ballots mailed constituting the equivalent of a quorum.

Approved Dec. 2017

## Workshop: Winter Hiking

In partnership with the Old Forge Mountainman Outdoor Supply Company, Iroquois Chapter member Wendy Sanders will be leading a workshop called *Winter Preparation for Hiking in the Adirondack High Peaks*. It will be on Sat. Jan 6, 2018, from 11-2. The store will give people who sign up a 20% discount on all gear they purchase. If you've wanted to climb a High Peak in the winter, but needed advice on gear, clothing, and safety, go to Mountainman's website and click on the Events tab and finally on "*Winter Preparation for Hiking in the Adirondack High Peaks*".

## By-Law Amendment Summary

The following is a quick overview regarding the changes made to the Iroquois Chapter By-Laws. See complete By-Laws on page 8>

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

**VICE-CHAIR**-this individual will NOT be designated as an alternate director should the director be unable to attend a Board of Director meeting. Language was loosened regarding duties concerning special projects.

**TREASURY**-language included to allow the treasurer to appoint a designee to help sell calendars and club patches.

**SECRETARY**-Increased responsibility to having the individual keep a record of officer tenure, as well as a printed paper copy of the Trailmarker

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**-language included to allow the editor to send Trailmarker via the internet, social media.

**PUBLICITY**- language included allowing chair person to use social media concerning announcements of meetings or other special events.

**TRIPS**- language included allowing chair person to use social media, including the chapter meetup site to post trips.

### ARTICLE VI-COMMITTEES

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**- language was included allowing special meetings to be announced via social media, club web site (meet - up).

### ARTICLE IX-QUORUM AND MAJORITY

**QUORUM**-For the transaction of official business, the presence of 25 members was REDUCED to 20 members. The five percent (5%) value of voting membership remained the same.

### ARTICLE XI-AMENDMENTS

**AMENDMENTS**- In addition to mailed ballots, language was included to allow the use of electronic ballots via the internet.

*submitted by Paul Sirtoli, Chairman*

### ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT of the IROQUOIS CHAPTER of ADK Year Ending 12/31/17

#### Assets 01/01/17:

Checking	\$ 1814.44
Savings	4573.10
CD	4070.00
Petty Cash	113.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,570.72</b>

#### Revenue:

Dues (From ADK Headquarters)	\$ 3887.70+
Calendar Sales	80.00+
Decal / Patch	4.00
Chapter Note Interest	81.40
Interest	24.09+
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 4077.19</b>

#### Expense:

Calendars	\$ 99.77
Camper Scholarship	350.00
Donation – IMO Roger Felske / Summit Stewards	500.00
ADK Scholarships	650.00
Mileage	118.63
Adopt-a-Highway / Trail Work	119.22
Meet-up	134.91
Refreshments	340.72
Programs	220.00
Adapter	27.18
Rent	535.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 3095.43</b>

#### Assets 12/31/17:

Checking	\$ 2670.20+
Savings	4631.49+
CD	4151.40
Petty Cash	99.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,552.48</b>

Submitted by David White, chapter treasurer

## Conservation Report

### *Boreas Ponds Update*

There has been a delay in the state classification decision due to the governor's proposal for "hut to hut" system. ADK staff met with the governor's counsel for environment—and discussed the 1934 Attorney General opinion (AG Bennett). AG said that this kind of proposal cannot be done on Forest Preserve. DEC responded that food and lodging would be done on Forest Preserve by the state, but this would still be inconsistent with the wild forest character of the Forest Preserve. Under ADK's interpretation, visitors would be responsible to bring their own lodging. This is now a moot issue since the "hut to hut" is off the table because the proposed route was not feasible. ADK anticipated that the APA would render a classification at the December, which did not happen. An outstanding issue is that the local governments have been pressing for mountain bike access around the Boreas Ponds. Experienced mountain bikers state that using the roads for family bicycling would be impractical. ADK's position has evolved and would be satisfied with the current situation of public parking within 3.5 miles from ponds.

### *RR Car Storage in Adirondacks*

In 1942, soon after the US entered WWII, the federal government condemned a section of the Forest Preserve to secure a RR corridor to Tahawus to mine titanium, a strategic war material. NYS sued, invoking Article 14 of the state constitution. The federal government prevailed in court, but was only granted a temporary easement, due to expire 15 years after the conclusion of WWII. In 1962, the federal government was granted a 100 year extension by the court. NOTE: President Truman did not declare WWII to be over until 1952. National Lead had taken over mine site and operation of the rail road. They continued to haul out titanium until 1989, when they ceased operation. Eventually, the Essex County Industrial Development Authority acquired the RR line from the federal government, which then sold the temporary easement to Iowa Pacific for the pur-

pose of hauling stone out of the Tahawus site. This was not economically feasible, in part because Iowa Pacific could not obtain favorable haul rates from Canadian Pacific. The Iowa Pacific also operated a tourist train from Saratoga to North Creek, which was also losing money. Consequently, the Iowa Pacific started looking for another way to raise money. When the DOT 111 rail cars could no longer be used to transport certain hazardous materials, a storage location was needed. Most railroads did not own the rail cars, but by other companies such as Berkshire Hathaway and Wells Fargo. Many of these cars are still subject to lease agreements and could not be scrapped. Iowa Pacific had 30 miles of track for which used to store rail cars (stretch of track is in Warren County). This violates the sole purpose of the easement, which is to haul material out of the Tahawus mine. Essex County pushed back on the car storage proposal, the towns of Newcomb and Minerva were opposed, as was ADK and Adirondack Council, and other groups. The proposal was at odds with the tourist focus of the governor in this area. There is a rail siding in the Stillwater area near Boreas River, on to which the Iowa Pacific has moved 53 cars.

What is the legality of this situation? Probably not a lot can be done with cars on the siding—Federal law may pre-empt NYS from forbidding that, although the Wild, Scenic & Recreational Rivers Act may come into play. The Surface Transportation Board ruled if a rail line is no longer connected to interstate commerce, they are not subject to Federal jurisdiction. (sidings could accommodate up to 250 rail cars). If the Iowa Pacific stores cars on the main line, this would violate the intent of the federal easement, which was to haul stone out of Tahawus. ADK believes that by storing cars only if it is not connected to interstate commerce. The AG can sue Iowa Pacific to get the easement extinguished since the company is not in conformity with the easement provisions. The Rail corridor would revert back to the state and Forest Preserve.

*Submitted by Dave Pisaneschi*

### **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.