

# COLD RIVER CURRENTS

January 2019

The Newsletter of the Cold River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

## Chapter Co-chairs' Report

Happy New Year "Snow Birds"!

When people hear the term "snow bird" they think of New Englanders heading south for the winter. To me, it means we "birds" like to stay up north and play in the snow, not the sand. Each year, more and more of us choose to take advantage of Mother Nature's white blanket. We enjoy walking in the quiet stillness of a the woods to breathe the fresh alpine air, noticing a bright red cardinal perched on a snow covered branch, pausing in awe at fresh fallen snow sparkling like diamonds in the sun, watching eagles land on frozen Loon Lake to collect scraps the ice fishermen have left them, and seeing water along river banks transform into so many different shapes. We are so lucky to live in the Adirondacks and treasure the "gifts" of this beautiful season.

We wish you all a very happy, healthy, and fun-filled New Year!

Rose Cooper & Greg Schaefer

### 2017-18 CRC Executive Committee

Greg Schaefer, Rose Cooper (Chapter Co-Chairs)  
Judy Thomson, Gail Gabriels (Outings Co-chairs)  
Linda Hales (Newsletter Chair)  
Ellen Schaefer, Chris Rohner (Members-at-Large)  
Nancy Haggerty (Treasurer)  
Ken Shea (Director)  
Harold Stackhouse (Alternate Director)  
Susan Rollings (Secretary)  
Ellen Collins (Membership Chair)

## Director's Report

Ken Shea  
1/9/19

1. ADK Board authorizes release of funds from the George Duncan Fund to reimburse operations for cost and overhead when the Executive Director is chosen.
2. Reminder that Neil Woodworth will work with whoever is chosen to be ED for foreseeable future.
3. ADK Board authorizes Grow ADK Funds to pay for Heart Lake Water Treatment Plant project.
4. ADK Board tables request for funds for a Public Awareness Campaign till April Board meeting.
5. ADK Presidents Award Presentation to Jean-Claude Fouere & Eric Gregory
6. ADK Marie L. Haberl Staff Recognition Award given to Rachel Karp & Seth Jones
7. IDIDARIDE 2019 is scheduled for SATURDAY JULY 27, 2019 (This is a change from SUNDAY)

# Where in the World?

---

## Desert Journeys by Greg Schaefer

Ellen and I made another visit to San Diego to visit our daughter and son-in-law in December. While there, besides making visits to beaches and parks, we made several journeys into the desert environs of the Anza Borrego Desert and Joshua Tree National Park. Here are some reflections on the visits to the desert.

Everyone “knows” the desert is a very unforgiving environment, but one must actually experience it to fully appreciate the beauty and the danger. If you are from a wet temperate area like us, you need to set aside your prejudices against the parts of the desert that always want to kill you, and enjoy the raw beauty of sharp landscapes. Blue skies, rocky horizons, and plants of every shape are all a feast for the eyes.



Parts of the Anza Borrego are frequently visited like the Calcite Mine area we hiked. The calcite was used to make gun sights for guns on Navy ships. The area is now a remote hike that in summer is a hot 120 degrees. Recent rain brought many flowers into bloom, but the desert washes and slot canyons demonstrated that one has to be well prepared when venturing out. Hot sun and low humidity require lots of water, and one always needs a well-stocked pack for emergencies. I saw many holes in the rock that reminded me of the tafoni formations near Indian Lake. Are these of the same origin? The jury is out on that....

Joshua Tree NP is more tame with park facilities in many areas (OK, they are currently closed with gov't shut down). We enjoyed the fantastical Dr. Seuss-like shapes of trees and rocks that make this a land like no other. Count this as one of the most unique areas of the USA, not to mention one of the origins of rock climbing as seen at Intersection Rock. The ranches and mines from early settlers in



# Where in the World?

---

the park are now just ghost town remnants, and another reminder that the climate is drier and hotter, unable to sustain life as it could less than 100 years ago. Life in this desert is changing, and this makes us more aware of our impact on the planet.



Granite Mt. is as tall as Mt. Marcy, but totally opposite in many respects, including only half the distance climbing, but no trail. Where Marcy is under constant assault with precipitation, Granite is beaten mostly by wind and sun. Granite Mt. to my knowledge has never seen a glacier; its cactus on its nearly trail-less landscape is the worst I have traveled, making the climb down as arduous as going up. The temperature change from 7 AM to noon was 40 degrees. The few cairns marking the way are helpful. Thankfully, Anderson, my son-in-law-guide knows the route quite well. By the way, this was the third area from which I saw the Salton Sea, an extremely large but briny lake that supports little life now. This mountain is also a geologist's delight with organic granite formations, quartzes, and a multitude of igneous formations. The attached photos do them no justice. Let's just say, if you are in the neighborhood, it's worth a visit.



# Outings Reports

---

*A special thanks to everyone who led each activity and for Gail Gabriels and Judy Thompson, co-chairs of the CRC Outings Committee, for scheduling all the outings.*

## **October 4: Number 8 Mountain in Brant Lake Hike**

**Leader: Dan Smith**

If you didn't go on Dan Smith's off-trail hike on October 8 you missed an awesome outing. Five CRCers braved the threat of rain and dark clouds to attend. The group met at the YMCA in Brant Lake to carpool to the Pharaoh Wilderness area. To their surprise the group found a large new parking area and a new privy. (You will remember the old parking area held about four cars. The new parking lot will now easy handle ten to twelve cars at least. But I digress.)

Dan led the five hikers down the Pharaoh Wilderness dirt road. After walking about ten minutes the group made a right turn into the old-growth forest. At this point Dan used his GPS and backwoods knowledge to guide us up the mountain. We passed a creek valley with a bubbling stream below us. Cutting through pine branches and climbing over some small boulders the group spied an old logging road that is slowly disappearing due to erosion. In a few years it will fade from view. At the summit, despite the gloomy clouds, we were able to view the North Bay of Brant Lake and the Point O' Pines Farm and, of course, the beautiful fall leaves.

Going with Dan is a treat as he has lived in this area since he was seven years old. At the summit he regaled us with stories about the Brant Lake area. We also found out that the Point O'Pines Camp opens the gate to their farm after hunting season so the public can cross country ski there. The area is a great area for an early winter ski. When the rain drops started the group headed back.

But wait the outing wasn't over yet! Dan took us to explore a 1920s cabin with a red corrugated roof. There he told us the road used to wind around the lake until a millionaire gentleman farmer built and paved the road we presently use. It was later deeded over to the county. From the

vintage cabin we drove to the Pilgrims Christian Camp located right on Brant Lake. At one time it was a small great camp built by a gentleman named Friedman. Indians used the rocky peninsula to watch out for enemies that might come up the lake. An early explorer is said to have buried some treasure on the peninsula!

Of course, no outing would be complete without a wildlife sighting! The group saw at least fifteen turkeys.

A great shout out to Dan for the thrilling hike up Hill Eight and the very interesting home and camp tour and history lessons. You can be sure this writer won't miss Dan's next outing!

~Noelle McCrum



*Number 8*

## **October 4: Sunset Walk to Panther Mountain Overlook in Chestertown**

**Leader: Dan Smith**

Dan Smith shared his extensive knowledge of the Chestertown area with four other CRC members by showing us the way to drive up Chestertown's Panther Mountain to watch the sun set over the mountains. Although it had been a gloomy day, the skies cleared in the late afternoon so we were treated to a glorious golden sunset from the chairs Dan had thoughtfully brought along. After taking many photographs we walked the short distance back to the cars just as darkness fell, very happy to have had this opportunity to watch the sunset from such a lovely viewpoint high above Chestertown.

~Karen Wang

# Outings Reports



*Panther Mountain*

## **October 5: Avalanche Lake Hike Leader: Sue Sliva**

A group of seven CRC hikers set forth from the Adirondack Loj at 9:30 a.m. for an approximately 10-mile trek to Avalanche Lake, below Lake Colden. This outing had been postponed for a day due to inclement weather. Despite some muddy conditions and slick rock surfaces from the previous day's rainfall, the group enjoyed a classic fall hike with abundant sunshine, cool temperatures and a full palate of fall colors. Exploration of the lake's shoreline involved some challenging maneuvers amidst boulders, occasional ladders and an elevated level of water in the lake. At the chosen lunch spot, the group encountered several members of the ADK Albany Chapter. Small world! The group completed the hike around 4 p.m.

~Sara Mullins



*Avalanche Lake*

## **October 10: Hadley Mountain Hike Leader: Anne Bernat**

On Oct 10th, Ronnie Appelle, Cheryl Majewski and Anne Bernat hiked up Hadley Mountain. The trail led steadily upwards with some wet places over rock, but at the summit we were rewarded with great views south to the Sacandaga River and lake and then westward and north towards Gore Mountain. It was great to spend time with fellow CRCers!

~Anne Bernat



*Hadley Mountain*

## **October 18: Hardwoods Trail at Gore Hike**

### **Leader: Rose Cooper**

Eighteen hikers started on the Northwoods Interpretative Trail at Gore, then split into two groups. Half of the hikers chose to take the shorter trail back to the base lodge, while Greg Schaefer kindly agreed to take the other half to the remnants of his dad's old rope tow. The group was quite impressed with Greg's history of Gore Mountain.

~Rose Cooper



# Outings Reports

---

## **October 18: Hanging Spear Falls Hike Leader: Rob Haggerty**

Our group of six defied CRC averages with three female and three male hikers. Although we expected cold, the morning snow was a pleasant wintery surprise, even if it further confused an already wet and rocky Calamity Brook Trail. At the impressive 75 ft. falls, we tried without real success to make out a spear or even just a spearhead in the flow of water or the shape of the rocks. Perhaps Tony Goodwin is correct: an English writer changed the name from East River Falls for romantic reader appeal. Quiz: What hike leader would whip out his camera while poised, each foot on a different rock in the middle of the Opalescent River, to capture a shot of Iroquois and Shepherd's Tooth just because I wanted the memory?

~Jan McCann



*Hanging Spears Falls*

## **October 19: Mt. Van Hoevenberg Hike Leader: Noelle McCrum**

Noelle McCrum led a group of five over mud, ice and snow up the new trail of Mt. Van Hoevenberg. We stopped to chat with a group of dedicated trail workers breaking up rocks and digging up dirt to cover the new trail, which was quite impressive.

~Rose Cooper



*Mt. Hoevenberg*

## **October 20: Lake Durant to Stephens Pond-Northville-Placid Trail Steward Trip Leader: Roy Keats**

~Roy Keats

Three stalwart souls carried saws, loppers and hoes into Stephens Pond from Lake Durant. The day went from a little cloudy at the start with the potential for on/off showers to a beautiful blue sky day at the Pond, much to our relief. We cleared out quite a lot of blowdowns, cleared some drainages, and did some side-cutting to widen the trail a little for skiing. We had to leave two big logs untouched. Hopefully DEC will send someone to take them out before the snow.

~Roy Keats



*Lake Durant to Stephens Pond Trailwork*

# Outings Reports

## October 25: John Pond-Clear Pond Loop Hike

**Leader: Tom Riley**

It seems all six of us were feeling the chill on this damp mid-thirties day. Maybe we just needed more time to acclimate to or remember how to layer for colder weather. Despite the chill we enjoyed the gentle terrain, the soft leafy feel underfoot, and the beauty and quiet of the ponds.

Best of all was the good conversation of like-minded hikers on the trail.

As promised, we had a lunch/snack stop at the John Pond lean-to and arrived back at our cars in three hours! Thanks, Tom. ~Jan McCann



John Pond



## October 25: Baxter Mountain Hike

**Leader: Sue Sliva**

A short but beautiful hike up Baxter Mt. on a clear fall day. We had 6 hikers who enjoyed beautiful views at the summit followed by a delicious lunch at Baxter Mountain Tavern. ~Sue Sliva



## November 8: Kelly Adirondack Center and Vischer Ferry Preserve Hike

**Leader: Greg Schaefer**

Twelve CRC members joined the Schaefers for a **Hike and History Tour** on November 8. We started on the Whipple Truss Bridge in the Vischer Ferry Preserve in Clifton Park where Eric Hamilton, a friend of the Schaefers and Executive Director of the Mohawk Towpath Byway, led a two mile jaunt along the towpath, showing the highlights of the old Erie Canal, its 1842 expansion, and eventual replacement by the 1918 Barge Canal. A highlight was the old Lock 19 which we explored.

The second leg of the tour was the Kelly Adirondack Center, former home of Greg's uncle and noted environmentalist Paul Schaefer. The KAC is now a research facility and part of Union college. Greg and Margie (KAC Director), shared multiple stories about Paul, the house, and Paul's lifetime of work for the 'Dacks. One of the highlights here was the huge plaster relief map of the Adirondacks created by scores of volunteer friends of Paul. The Center is open to the public and has programs throughout the year. We

# Outings Reports

---

ended the tour with a wonderful lunch and comradery in Burnt Hills. All in all, a great day.  
~Greg Schaefer



*Kelly Adirondack Center*

## **November 8: Northville-Placid Trail Hike—Benson to Godfrey Road Leader: Roy Keats**

After a quick shuttle to drop two cars off at the Godfrey Road trailhead, eight adventurers set out on the Northville-Placid trail from Benson Road to Godfrey Road. The trail began by winding its way around Woods Lake through pines and open hardwoods. There were many brook and stream crossings that were flowing from the rains. Some were crossed with log bridges, others were rock-hopped or leaped. The trail was leaf-covered and soft underfoot. The leaders had to carefully search out trail markers at various spots along the trail to make sure we stayed on our route. A welcomed lunch was eaten around the Abner Brook bridge with a Halloween treat from Roy afterwards. We were warmed up after lunch by some small elevation gain while we looked down on West Stony Creek, with the bridge that crossed this as our landmark back to the Godfrey trailhead. Signs at the junction to the next section whetted my appetite...perhaps in the spring. It was a great day and nice to meet members of the Schenectady chapter of ADK.

~Gail Gabriels



*West Stony Creek*

## **November 15: Prospect Mountain Hike Leader: Jan McCann**

We had Prospect Mountain and its new-fallen snow to ourselves on this cold day. It just felt good to be outside with friends for a short pre-potluck spike as we meandered to the top for beautiful views of Lake George and the Vermont mountains beyond. It is said that on a very clear day one can also see the High Peaks, New Hampshire's Whites and all the way to the Laurentians in Canada. The vaguely marked path we followed loosely followed that in a trail description written by Jim Goodwin. It was fun to have a special (young) hiker along who happens to be an ADK employee. Nice to meet you Megan!

~Jan McCann



*Prospect Mountain*

# Outings Reports

---

## **November 29: Pine Orchard Hike** **Leaders: Rob and Nancy Haggerty**

Rob & Nancy Haggerty led 10 CRC members on this 4 mile roundtrip trek to the Pine Orchard in the Wilcox Lake Wild Forest Area near Wells. It was a perfect day for an outing. The temperature was mild and the snow was fairly deep requiring us to don our snowshoes. The terrain was relatively flat and our only big challenge was a beaver dam crossing. We ate our lunch together at the Pine Orchard and then went at our own pace on the way back. At one point I stopped for about five minutes on a snow-covered bridge to drink in the sights and sounds of this winter wonderland. If you are looking for a nice walk in the woods, check out the Pine Orchard.  
~Kathy Koebrich



*Pine Orchard*

## **November 29: Santanoni Great Camp Ski** **Leader: Gail Gabriels**

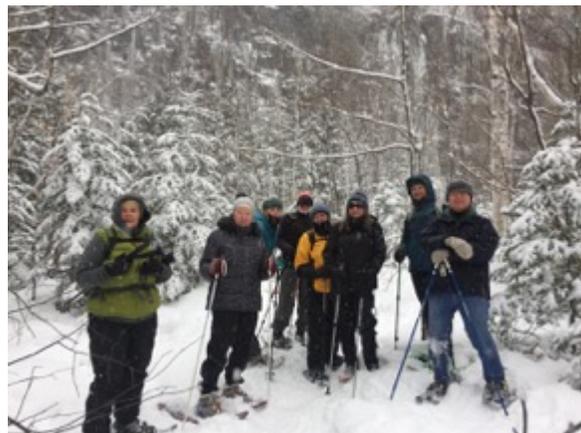
While conditions left us pondering how difficult the scheduled snowshoe of steep Round Mt. would be, we found it difficult to resist the opportunity to ski to Santanoni Great Camp with new snow on the ground. So we had a change of plans and picked up a few more CRCers for our ski. Since the trail was already tracked out we simply enjoyed being in the beautiful snow-laden woods. We ate our much-anticipated lunches huddled around a picnic table sheltered from the cold winds coming off the lake. Three chivalrous fellows left prematurely so we could take over their table, the only other option being another

picnic table laden with over two feet of snow.  
Great day! ~Jan McCann

## **December 6: Hike Cobble Lookout** **Leader: Maria Rinella**

Nine individuals enjoyed a snowshoe through beautiful woods on this 2.64 round trip journey. It was snowing pretty heavily during our trip up the Northway but by the time we reached our destination, the snow had stopped to intermittent flurries. A short way into the woods, Maria pointed out to our left a beautiful rock formation covered in frozen ice. A perfect picture opportunity! We then continued our journey encountering minor elevations. Maria was worried that we would not have a view at the top due to the weather. However, the gods were with us. When we reached the summit the sun broke out and we were able to see a partial view of Whiteface Mountain. This would be a hike to take in the fall as well. Views are wonderful for such a short ascent. After the snowshoe, we all headed to a wonderful new restaurant in Jay--the Adirondack Coffee Café. The food was great and the service was wonderful. You can also buy their own home roasted coffee on site which everyone said was great. A must-food-stop whenever you are in the area. Thanks to Vinnie, the stats for this snowshoe are as follows:

Distance- 2.64 miles      Ascent – 206 feet. Elevation – 2532 feet. Calories burnt- 1062.  
~Ann Coberg



*Cobble Lookout*

# Outings Reports

## December 6: Murphy Lake (Wilcox Lake Wild Forest)

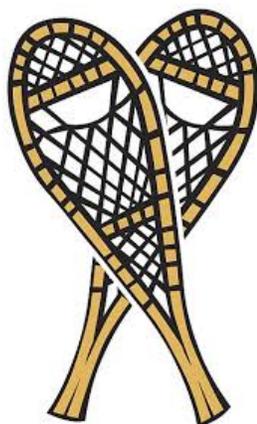
**Leaders: Rob & Nancy Haggerty**

Rob's outings take you all over the Adirondacks. The adventure today brought five explorers and Rob to the Wilcox Lake Wild Forest area. We were headed to Murphy Lake on spikes but brought snowshoes just in case. The trail wound through hardwoods and pines with streams running throughout. Some of the pines were massive. There was much bantering along the way and before we knew it we reached Murphy Lake. It was ice covered with views of Cranberry Mountain and surrounded by hills. It is a gem tucked away in the middle of nowhere. We followed beaver cuttings around the lake to the lean-to for lunch. The sun peeked out as we headed back, and the temperatures were easy. A fun day to Murphy Lake/Pond. Do you know the difference? We do.

~Gail Gabriels



*Murphy Lake*

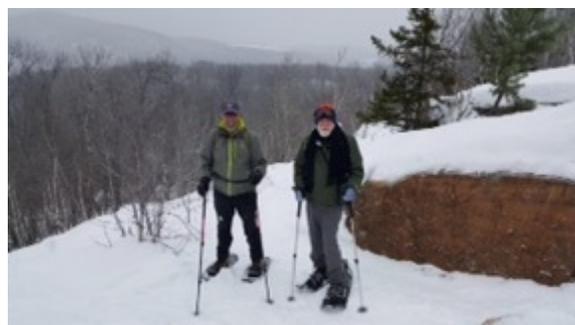


## December 13: Snowshoe/micro-spike trip on Hooper Mine Loop at Garnet Hill

**Leader: Greg Schaefer**

On December 13, the trio of Brendon Hanley, Tom Reilly, and Greg Schaefer, set out on Pre-Holiday Party trip around the Hooper Mine loop at Garnet Hill Lodge. After first checking out the views of Ruby Mt at the old pit, we looked for the dated rock from the last day of mining, but it was buried in snow not to be found. We moved on breaking trail in new snow, swinging past William Blake Pond and then back to the ski shop. A nice outing on a beautiful winter day.

~Greg Schaefer



*Hooper Mine*

# Outings Reports

## December 20: Ski near Blue Mountain Lake Leader: Andy Coney

Skiing with Andy is always an adventure! It starts with coffee and cookies at the fire house. Then a fun loop on some crusty snow on the Stephens Pond Trail to a bushwhack known only by the locals. We then had a lovely lunch at his cabin overlooking the lake. The sun was calling us so we threw on our skis and glided around the lake as Andy pointed all its interesting features. The most interesting was a Colvin bolt placed in the late 1800's which was used to survey the Adirondack Mts. "The trip was not as advertised" but we all enjoyed the deviation. (7 skiers in all.)  
~Marti Townley



Lake Andrew



Near Blue Mountain

## December 27: Ski to Lake Andrews Leader: Marti Townley

With limited daylight, the twelve of us got an early start. The bright sun helped the temperatures warm to the low 20s as we skied an old road in a few inches of new powder, often following a brook. Along the way were glimpses of Santanoni Peak and Mt. Adams. As promised, the last .6 mile section was more challenging, mainly because there was not enough snow coverage in the stream bed we followed. At pristine Lake Andrew we skied to the opposite side and enjoyed lunch in the sun with a view of Santanoni and Mt. Andrew. And to add to our already great day, the highly anticipated return trip was full of powdery soft and long downhills.  
~Jan McCann

If you would like to lead an outing or have an idea for an outing, please contact either Gail Gabriels ([gailgabriels@gmail.com](mailto:gailgabriels@gmail.com)) or Judy Thomson ([judythomson1230@gmail.com](mailto:judythomson1230@gmail.com)).



# Philanthropic Endeavors and Potluck Reviews

---

## Generous Donations

This fall and winter CRC members generously donated over 2,500 personal care products to the Adirondack Community Outreach Center in North Creek. Under the direction of Noelle McCrum, three carloads of personal care products such as toothpaste, hand lotion, shampoo and toilet paper were delivered. These products were then given to individuals and families who are experiencing difficult circumstances in their lives.

In December at the CRC annual Holiday Dinner Party \$500.00 was raised through a raffle. Again, the chapter members stepped up to donate baskets, and local businesses provided gift certificates for the raffle. The Helpers Fund was thrilled to receive our generous donation.

CRC members can hike, ski, and paddle the ADK Park, and they can also look out for their ADK neighbors who are in need of help!



## Thanks to our potluck hosts:

**October 18--** Our potluck at Gore was hosted by Karen Wang, Sue Keats and Ann Bernat, with 60 members attending. Emily Statton gave a presentation on the changes at Gore. The Tannery Pub is being expanded with A/C. They have new and more efficient snow-making equipment. Gore has the largest solar array of any ski facility in the U.S., and received an award for the most sustainable ski area in the U.S. They are also trying to increase their summer activities based

at the Ski Bowl.

**November 15--** The potluck was held at the McCrum's home in Chestertown and hosted by the McCrums, Coopers and the Slivas. We enjoyed a pre-thanksgiving meal with all the fixings!

**December 13—**The Annual Holiday Party was held at Garnet Hill Resort with 98 members participating.

## Upcoming:

**January 17:** Potluck and meeting at The Tannery Pond Center in North Creek ; hosted by: Maria and Vinnie Rinella. At 3:00 the annual CRC Video will be shown.

**February 14:** Adirondack Interpretive Center; hosted by Elaine Schwartz and Barbara Kearns

**March 21:** Sporty's; hosted by Ann and John Coberg

Potluck social hour usually begins at 4 PM, chapter meeting at 5 PM, followed by dinner at 5:15 PM. Please contact Rose Cooper (rosecooper2@gmail.com) or Maria Rinella (rinellium@frontiernet.net) with suggestions or to volunteer for upcoming potlucks A warm welcome to our new Cold River Chapter members and affiliates. We look forward to seeing you on weekly outings and at our monthly meetings and potlucks.

# CRC Connections

---

Encourage your youth to enjoy outdoor recreation and to preserve our environment, and also encourage family and friends to become members of ADK. Current members, in order to continue your support of ADK and to participate in our Cold River Chapter activities please remember to keep your membership current.

Membership Chair, Ellen C. Collins

**As of December 2018:**

Total Households: 284

Total Members: 486

Total Affiliates: 28

<b>New Members:</b>	<b>New Affiliates:</b>
Higher Place Realty, Newcomb NY T. Lynn Butterworth and John Rendinaro, Diamond Point NY Paul Haber, Thousand Island Park NY Geoffrey and Pamela Miller, Baldwin MD Rose Inman, Cold Spring NY Mary Irene Lee, Minerva NY Harold Wolf, Richmond NY Robin Caprara, Watertown NY Theresa and Paul Kubera, Schnecksville PA Nancy Titcomb, Brookfield CT Rene Stephenson, Pottersville NY	none

Our CRC web address is: <https://www.adk.org/adk-chapter/cold-river/>

Stay in touch: Greg Schaefer and Rose Cooper, our co-chairs, may be reached at [greg.schaefer@frontier.com](mailto:greg.schaefer@frontier.com) or 518-251-5451 and [rosecooper2@gmail.com](mailto:rosecooper2@gmail.com) or 914-844-3078.

ADK Cold River Chapter January 2019 Newsletter Linda Hales (Editor) <a href="mailto:l_hales@hotmail.com">l_hales@hotmail.com</a> 518-681-1117
---