

## TRAILMARKER

Newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club - Iroquois Chapter

Established in 1972

May/June, 2021



Paul Sirtoli climbing Algonquin.  
Photo credit: Ed Kobos

## Chairman's Corner

As many of you are aware, the Adirondack Mt. Club has partially re-organized. In addition to a Board of Directors (BOD), there will be an Advisory Board (AB) comprised of chapter trustees. A member of the AB will have a seat on the BOD. Each chapter is allowed to have one trustee, with an alternate. I am pleased to report that our former Vice Chairman, Glenn Larish, has agreed to represent our chapter. An alternate trustee is needed should Glenn be unable to attend a meeting. Four meetings are scheduled throughout the year. Given the current Covid situation, meetings will be held via zoom.

Should you have an interest to become involved with chapter affairs, please consider volunteering as an alternate trustee.

On behalf of the Iroquois Chapter family, I would like to take the opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to Tom Blackstone who has been our chapter director for the past few years. I forget the time frame, but Tom also served as a chapter chairperson. So, Tom, thank YOU for your dedicated service. I still hope to see you at future meetings to glean your wisdom and insights.

## C<sub>hairman's</sub> C<sub>orner</sub> C<sub>ontinued:</sub>

I have recently been made aware (like this evening) that the land (400 acres) adjacent to the Sherrill Brook Park will be sold by Clintonview Farms, LLC for development. During the past many years, the owners have graciously allowed/permitted the public to hike and bike the property. The Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust (THTLT) is taking the lead to meet with the owners to discuss purchasing the land. Their goal, among many, is to acquire the property and plan a trail system. They are requesting financial and other support from local organizations and individuals with this endeavor. The funding goal is \$1,700,000. More information regarding this project will be presented in this issue of the Trailmarker.

Finally, the next chapter meeting is May 4. Our very own Mark Perrin will be the guest speaker regarding his excursion to Mt. Fuji. Due to the current covid environment, the June picnic will again be cancelled. I suspect also that we will continue to meet every other month, beginning in September. Certainly, I will keep you posted to developments via meetup/Trailmarker.

Have a great spring, and I will see you at the next meeting or perhaps on the trail. Stay active and healthy!

**Paul Sirtoli**  
Chapter Chairman

## May Program

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

7 P.M.

First Baptist Church, New Hartford, NY

### **Mark Perrin will share his experience Hiking Mt. Fuji.**

In July of 2018, while on a trip to Japan, Mark along with his wife, son, daughter-in-law, and two others hiked to the summit of Mt. Fuji. At 12,390 feet, Fuji is the highest and most famous mountain in Japan. Not only is Fuji much higher than our beloved Adirondacks, the accent up a dormant volcano is a completely different experience as compared to our local mountains. Mark will have plenty of pictures and will also share some of his other experiences while there.

# Hiking IN THE SNOW

## Whites Pond

Mt. Tom

March 7, 2021

In all aspects, the trek to this "neck of the woods" in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest with Ed Kobos and David Rockwood was blessed: brilliant sunshine, with a hint of spring warmth; crisp temperature, frozen and solid ice on the lake/pond, and a durable snowpack allowing for near effortless bushwhacking.

Whites Pond is accessed via a yellow marked trail from Limekiln Lake at its far shore, across from a small island, and near a large, meadow drainage. Note that you'll have to use a canoe or kayak to access the trailhead, which does have a small sign indicating the trail existence. By the way, this trail continues past Whites Pond to the Rock Dam Pond road in the Plains.

The pond appears quite large, but an expansive, deep snow pack can deceptively conceal low lying shorelines. A snow buried water channel snaked through the vast open area; a small island dominates the pond proper.

From the pond, we bushwhacked through open hardwoods to the twin summits of Mt. Tom, the highest point being 2,665 feet. Winter views in any direction were nominal. Seventh Lake Mt. was the most prominent feature facing north.

Rather than directly exit to the trail and Limekiln Lake, we detoured out of our way toward Fawn Lake Mt., about a mile distant to the north. There is a narrow watershed valley separating the two mountains, with a snow mobile trail bordering the drainage creek and its many beaver meadows. The snowmobile trail connects the Moose River Plains road with Limekiln Lake, and appeared under-utilized. Similar to a "pass" in the continental divide, this valley is certainly worth visiting during the winter as it is hemmed in by steep rocky slopes and or cliffs by the two mountains.

Our wandering loop of 8 miles took us just over 7 hours with 200 ft. elevation gain. Absent the whack to Mt. Tom, Whites Pond is a great destination to visit for an afternoon outing.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli

Photo credit to Ed Kobos.

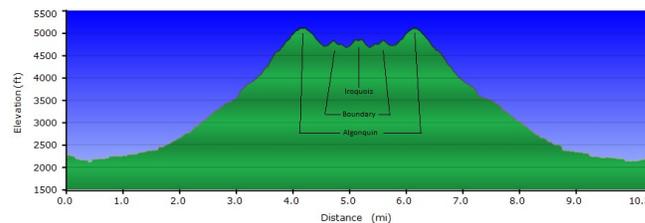
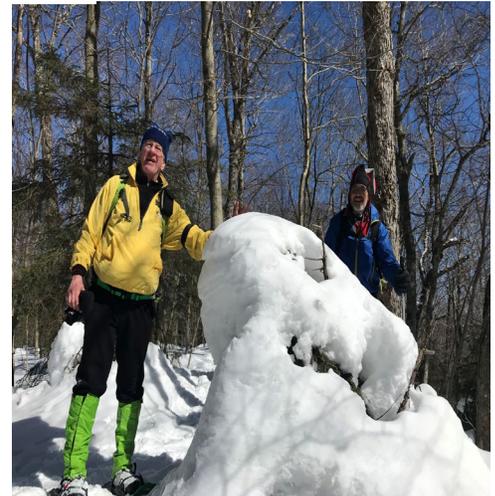
left corner, Whites Pond

Middle: Ed Kobos and Dave Rockwood on Whites Pond.

Right: Small beaver meadow.



Cliffs between the two summits of Mt. Tom  
Ed Kobos and Paul at summits; Ed and Dave Rockwood at a mt. top  
cliff.  
Photo credit, Dave Rockwood.



## Algonquin and Iroquois

March 17, 2021

Iroquois chapter members, Jim Lomanaco, Paul Sirtoli and I, along with 2 other outdoor enthusiasts (Steve Siegard and his wife, Leslie, from the Albany area), decided to get in one more quest for Winter Adirondack High Peak Summits. There were a three High Peaks in the mix; Algonquin, Iroquois and Wright. Everyone had their own goals of 1, 2 or all 3 peaks. As an added prize, some of us also thought about visiting Shepherds Tooth, south of the Iroquois Summit, if conditions were 'just right' and we felt that there was enough time to visit and still get out by dark. We left the Utica area at 5:30 AM on St. Patrick's Day, all dressed in green (not really). We arrived at the ADK Loj at 9 AM and were dressed and on the trail by 0930. The trail was in great shape as we embarked on our 10 to 12 mile RT hike/climb. The day promised to be SUPER, with temps rising from the high teens to high 30s, with calm winds. We started on the trail to Marcy Dam and after 1 mile in only ½ hour we stopped at the side trail to Algonquin, where Leslie left us for her trip to Avalanche Lake. The rest of us headed westerly where we snaked our way along the trail, until we reached MacIntyre Falls. After a short break, we started an uphill climb to the Wright Mt. trail intersection. At the "P" Rock (you must see the photo) it was decided that Jim and Steve would head to Wright as Paul & I continued toward Algonquin. Just ahead, on the left, there was a steep section with a narrow ledge type traverse. We all took our time at that point to be sure we stayed upright. As Paul and I passed the trail to Wright, Jim & Steve were returning from

## Algonquin and Iroquois (continued)

ahead of us. They had missed the trail. We knew that they were the fastest group, so we were not concerned. When we were still in the trees, we could see them climbing along the bare rocks toward the Wright Summit. I tried to get a picture, but little branches in the trees caused my camera to auto focus too short. Sorry guys! As we reached tree-line we saw Jim & Steve disappear behind the rocks. Paul & I started up the north slope of Algonquin. We had to pick our way around some big rocks, but luckily there was snow up to just short of the summit, where we removed our snowshoes and finished in our boots. At the summit we ran into the much greater than the 7 MPH winds forecast for the Lake Placid area. We found refuge behind the big rocks and ate lunch. Before we headed for Boundary, down the south slope of Algonquin, we took a quick look for Jim & Steve, but didn't see them. We met a few groups climbing up as we descended and they said that the cols were very soft, to stay on the trail and away from the spruce traps. We hiked about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way down in our boots, carrying our snowshoes, until we needed them. We hit the trail intersection, going down to Lake Colden. Someone added a confirmation mark, in the snow, so no one would get 'lost'. It was an arrow with the letters "IRQ", which removed all thoughts of "Which way do we go?". The snow was soft and we saw quite a few places where pe appeared to only be wearing boots (maybe with micro spikes). They were ruining the trail. Again, as we started to climb up to the rocky summit, we took off our snowshoes. On the other side of Boundary, as we descended to another col, where we had to use our Snow shoes, again. The wind was strong and the temp was in the mid 30's. We followed the large cairns until we ran out of snow. I headed for the bare rocks. Paul decided to take a shortcut, so he would not have to remove his snowshoes, too early. Paul found out that even wearing his snowshoes, the spruce traps stopped the



**Jim, Ed & Paul on the summit of Iroquois, with Mt. Colden and Mt. Marcy in the background.**  
Photo credit: Ed Kobos



**The "P" rock. After closer inspection, it was not a painted mark. Just the way the sun hit the rocks, at that time of day.**  
Photo credit: Ed Kobos

most seasoned trekker. Paul fell into a 4' deep trap. His shoes were held down by the by the branches and it took time and effort to get free. We finally made it to the summit, in just over an hour from Algonquin, for our 2<sup>nd</sup> high peak of the day. We looked over the south edge of the rocks toward Shepherds Tooth. The ground was covered with snow and the tops of the spruce traps (trees) were jutting out all over. We made the decision to skip the tooth, to avoid entrapment. The wind picked up a bit more and we had to find refuge, behind the big rocks on the SW side of the summit, where we ate lunch (again). A few minutes after that, Jim and

## Algonquin and Iroquois (continued)

Steve showed up. We all took a break then headed back to the IRQ summit for pictures. Steve, the quickest hiker, left early to return the ADK Loj where he would meet Leslie, for their drive home. Jim, Paul and I retraced our steps back to the Loj. Since I was the slowest (and had the keys to the car), we all stayed pretty close together on the 4-hour trip back. The trip down was harder than climbing up. Our feet got pushed into the toes of our boots, on the steep downhill sections of trail. We took short breaks on top of Algonquin and at strategic points along the trail. The snow was getting slushy, showing the effect of the above freezing temperatures. Back at the Loj parking lot, we changed and headed for home. Back at home, I reduced the data from my Garmin Fortrex. Overall, Paul and I traveled just under 10.5 RT miles on our journey, with a climb of just 120 feet short of a mile. Jim and Steve added about another mile and another 700' of climb, to/from the Wright Summit. We spent about 7 hours in the car and just over 9.5 hours on the trail.

Submitted by Ed Kobos

## Siamese Pond Wilderness

March 30-31, 2021

My next Adirondack Wilderness Camping Trip was in the Siamese Pond Wilderness Area. Aimee Pearce, (who flew in from Minnesota), and Julie Rubenstein, both joined me on this camping adventure on March 30 - 31, 2021. We lucked out with mild temperatures, abundant sunshine, and dry weather. We hiked from the Eleventh Mountain Parking area towards the East Branch of the Sacandaga River. We thought that we would encounter some challenging creek crossings and were not disappointed. For one particularly deep and swift creek that had its bridge washed up, we needed to cross in our crocks. We stayed at an older lean-to on the Sacandaga River and found enough dry wood to enjoy a campfire.

We never saw anyone else in the woods, and thoroughly enjoyed the gorgeous and peaceful early spring woods.

Submitted by Wendy Sanders

First picture on the left: Taken by Aimee Pearce; Julie Rubenstein crossing creek and Wendy Sanders preparing to cross the creek



Second Picture: Taken by Julie Rubenstein; Aimee Pearce crossing a creek



Third Picture: Taken by Julie Rubenstein; Wendy Sanders in lean-to and Aimee Pearce working on campfire

Fourth Picture: Taken by Julie Rubenstein; Sacandaga River

## Silver Lake Wilderness Area

April 7-8, 2021

My next Adirondack Wilderness Camping Trip was in the Silver Lake Wilderness Area, where I stayed at the Hamilton Lake Stream lean to. I couldn't pass up this opportunity to camp out during the 60-degree weather, and with the abundant sunshine, lack of bugs, and an open retired schedule, I headed out on this solo adventure mid-week on April 7 - 8, 2021. The trail was in great shape with a few lingering patches of snow, no mud, very few wet sections, and reasonable creek crossings. I enjoyed my time by lounging in the sunshine near the Hamilton Lake Stream, reading a book, working on my endless "to do" lists, and eating chocolate. Even though I imagined I heard people's voices all night, I did not see another real person during the entire trip.

**Submitted by Wendy Sanders**



*Thank You*

to the following members who helped with the Route 12 road clean up on April 20, 2021:

Doug Tinkler, organizer

Paul Sirtoli   Ed Kobos   Jim Lomonaco   David Jones

David Kuhn   Brian Roemon   Nancy Jaquish

## *Thank You*

The following participants need to be recognized for trail work to Middle Branch Lake:

Doug Tinkler, Organizer

Carl Anderson Amy DeVries

Bob Hutchins Nancy Jaquish

Michael Marsh, Forest Ranger

Paul Sirtoli



# save the Dates!!! Upcoming Trips

## **Big Shanty Mt. and Eleventh Mt. Cliff**

May 8, 2021

The plan is to hike the Siamese Pond trail for roughly 3 miles, then bushwhack one mile along the shoulder to the summit of Big Shanty Mt. Upon our return on the trail, we will scoot up the side of Eleventh Mountain to its scenic cliff. Total hiking distance, 9-10 miles. This will be a joint trip with the Tramp and Trail Club, so their hiking covid protocol will be followed. Rating: A

Please call Paul Sirtoli at 315-737-8353 or [alexstoli@outlook.com](mailto:alexstoli@outlook.com) for time and meeting details.

Please do not register via meetup.

## **South Bay to Cicero Swamp bike ride**

May 16, 2021

Take a break from black fly season by joining me for a leisurely road bike tour from South Bay to the Cicero Swamp Management area via route 31. The goal is to visit Hall and Long Islands at the west end of the swamp. We will return to South Bay rather indirectly via back country roads. I estimate the total distance to be approximately 40-45 miles. Bring your lunch and plenty of water. Poor weather will postpone this trip to a future date.

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

## **Siamese Ponds Trailwork**

June 4, 2021

Starting from the Route 8 trailhead, we'll hike into the lean-to on the East Branch of the Sacandaga and beyond to the ponds. We'll brush out the trail near Diamond Brook and clear out water bars. Nothing is going to be difficult or physically demanding, but this is a work trip.

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

## **Cayuta County Trail/Chimney Bluffs State Park**

June 26, 2021

I want to avoid getting bugged by black flies and mosquitoes in the Adirondacks, so join me for a two-fer day. We will bike the Cato-Fairhaven Trail (Cayuta County Trail). It is a raised bed trail with a gravel base suitable for mt. bikes and/or crossover bikes. One way distance is 14 miles, for which we can spot cars or go out and back. Following the bike ride, we will drive to Chimney Bluff State Park on Lake Ontario to swim, picnic, and walk the bluffs (any combination thereof). There is a state park fee, unless we ride the bikes into the park.

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

**For additional trip offerings, last minute additions and updates check out our Facebook Page or Meet-up page at <https://www.meetup.com/Iroquois-Chapter-of-the-Adirondack-Mountain-Club>**

## CHAPTER OUTINGS

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

Requesting suggestions for new outings that you would like to see added to the calendar. Let me know your ideas and we will put them in future Trailmarker newsletters and on the Meet-up site.

When submitting trips please use the following format:

- \*Trip length (miles)
  - \*Trip duration (hours)
  - \*Elevation to be climbed (feet)
  - \*Mention of any special equipment or other factors
  - \*Brief description of the level of difficulty to be expected during average conditions.
  - \*Brief description of the trip plan, including parking and possible hiking options.
  - \* Provide Trip Leader contact information.
- You can reply by email or if you have any questions call or text me at 315-360-0359.  
Bill

**ADK Iroquois Chapter Warmly Welcomes**

**The Following New Members**

**David McKendree \* Lorraine and Sean Eady \* Dennis Geist \* Rosemarie Swett**

**Elizabeth Devries \* Bryan Washburn \* Jonathan Pincus and Joon Shim \***

**Kevin Bering \* David Rockwood**

# 2021 ADK FALL WEEKEND IS ON!

## SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2021

Join us for this all-Chapter weekend filled with a diverse mix of activities and socializing! This year Onondaga Chapter is proud to be the host for this annual event.

We have three days of outings planned for you. Choose an outing each day from a [full list](#) of hiking, kayaking, biking, led by your own Onondaga Chapter leaders. For all you goal setters we have included the opportunity to complete the [Fulton Chain Trifecta](#) challenge. There are also some fire towers for those of you working on the [ADK Fire Tower Challenge](#). Or maybe you will choose to hike a section or two of the North Country Scenic Trail or explore Pigeon Lake Wilderness for which Onondaga Chapter is the unofficial caretaker.

On Friday night we think you will enjoy listening to Gary Lee, a local naturalist and retired Ranger, who will give an informative talk about the birds, plants, and animals of the ADK.



Saturday, be sure to save some of your energy to tap your foot or dance the night away while enjoying an eclectic mix of acoustic music from Annie and the Hedonists.

Both nights plan to arrive at event headquarters by 5PM to catch up with old friends and make some new friends!

Pre-Registration for this event is required, visit our [website](#) to register today!

### Agenda At A Glance Friday, September 24

Noon to 6:00 pm	Registration
Noon to 2:30 pm	Outings Depart
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Social Hour
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Gary Lee, Naturalist Presentation

### Saturday, September 25

7:30 am to 9:00 am	Breakfast and Make Your Own Lunch
8:00 am to 12:00 pm	Registration for late arrivals
8:00 am to 9:00 am	Outings Depart
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Social Hour
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Annie and the Hedonists Perform

### Sunday, September 26

7:30 am to 9:00 am	Breakfast and Make Your Own Lunch
8:30 am to 9:30 am	Outings Depart
10 am	Everyone Checked Out

### EVENT HEADQUARTERS

[GEORGE T HILTEBRANT](#) RECREATION  
CENTER  
201 North Street  
Old Forge, NY 13420

### MEALS

[Catered meals](#) will be available for pre-purchase at registration. Or you can bring your own!

### LODGING

Arrange your own accommodations as soon as possible. For your convenience, we have provided a [list of nearby lodging](#).

*All agenda items at least begin at event headquarters.*

## Sherrill Brook Community Forest Coalition

Here is a potential opportunity for preserving a large tract of primarily forested open space within the towns of New Hartford and Kirkland adjacent to Sherrill Brook Town Park. It extends west all the way to the Homewood subdivision in Clinton between Route 12B and Brimfield Road and has several access points.

This 450-acre property is privately owned and now for at risk of being sold for development. (listing [https://www.coldwellbankerprime.com/p/L3-Clintonview-Blvd-New-Hartford-NY-13413/dmgid\\_142736916](https://www.coldwellbankerprime.com/p/L3-Clintonview-Blvd-New-Hartford-NY-13413/dmgid_142736916)). Currently there is a purchase option for 50 acres of the property for a potential solar farm, leaving 400 acres available for purchase.

A small coalition has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and preserving this property as a permanent legacy gift from this generation to the community's children and future residents. The current coalition members are the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust (THTLT), a nationally accredited Land Trust Alliance member, and 501c organization [www.tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org](http://www.tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org); Kirkland Trails (KT), a group that is developing a trail system around Clinton [www.kirklandnytrails.org](http://www.kirklandnytrails.org); and the Adirondack Foothills Trail Alliance (AFTA), a local trail development group [www.adkfta.org](http://www.adkfta.org). The vision for this ambitious project is for residents, conservation and health-conscious organizations, and local governments to partner together to make the acquisition and permanently conserve the land. A current case statement for this project with more detail is attached.

Many residents and visitors use Sherrill Brook Park year-round for hiking, walking, running, bird watching, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, biking and other outdoor activities. The current park is limited in its woodland and the private land that is for sale would greatly enhance its recreational use while preserving its natural beauty. As you know we have seen a great deal of commercial development in New Hartford. It's time to offset this development and improve the town's infrastructure by permanently setting aside some of the town's remaining natural places for posterity. The expansion of Sherrill Brook Park and conservation of the forest land beyond would fit well with the town's master plan. The recent year has especially shown the need for more local outdoor spaces for the community.

If you have further thoughts on this project please feel free to contact Linda Garrett [lgarrett@tughilltomorrow.org](mailto:lgarrett@tughilltomorrow.org) or Stu Miller [stumill67@gmail.com](mailto:stumill67@gmail.com). We welcome any suggestions, contacts or resources to make the Sherrill Book Community Forest a reality.

Regards,  
Stuart

## Iroquois Chapter Contact Information

**Chairman – Paul Sirtoli** 315-737-8353  
[alexsirtoli@outlook.com](mailto:alexsirtoli@outlook.com)

**Vice Chair – Wendy Sanders** 315-292-3632  
[wintermama@hotmail.com](mailto:wintermama@hotmail.com)

**Secretary – Charlene Zebley** 315-942-5176  
[charz46r@gmail.com](mailto:charz46r@gmail.com)

**Treasurer – David White** 315-853-1070  
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**Membership – Ed Kobos**  
[kk2b@aol.com](mailto:kk2b@aol.com)

**Trustee – Glenn Larish** 315-778-6409  
[glennlarish@yahoo.com](mailto:glennlarish@yahoo.com)

**Stewardship (Lean-tos) – Norm Landis**  
[romelandis@peoplepc.com](mailto:romelandis@peoplepc.com)

**Stewardship (trails) – Doug Tinkler**  
**Adopt-a-highway – Doug Tinkler** 315-271-4759  
[Dt46x40@yahoo.com](mailto:Dt46x40@yahoo.com)

**Newsletter - Debbie Pasch** 315-749-4265  
[dpasch@roadrunner.com](mailto:dpasch@roadrunner.com)

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[wintermama@hotmail.com](mailto:wintermama@hotmail.com)

**Trips & Meet up Group –**  
**Bill Luppino** 315-360-0359  
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315-797-6962  
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**Programs – Dave Jones** 315-601-6019  
[davidjones0422@gmail.com](mailto:davidjones0422@gmail.com)

**SOCIAL DISTANCE**

**WEAR A MASK**

**STAY SAFE**  
**STAY HEALTHY**