

# COLD RIVER CURRENTS

July 2020

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

## Chapter Co-Chairs' Report

Greetings Cold River Chapter members!

We hope this finds all of you well. As we write this, we are reflecting on how much we miss our normal CRC activities. It has been several months since we have been able to share outings to many unique locations and enjoy our monthly potluck meetings with the interesting and diverse members of our chapter. As we move through the latest phase of the pandemic, social distancing and general precautions will be necessary as we return to CRC outings as outlined in the "Outings" section of this newsletter.

Since our last meeting, we have been working to keep current with ADK and our chapter needs. Our committees are working to collect CRC records and create guidance for outings, while the Ididaride, which we have supported for many years, has gone virtual!

Another transition is also in-progress. As most of you know, my term as Co-Chair is quickly drawing to a close. It has been a pleasure serving in this position, first as Co-Chair with Ellen, and then with current Co-Chair, Rose. I want to thank Ellen and Rose for doing so much and making this position an enjoyable one. I also wish to thank everyone on the Executive Committee for doing such a phenomenal job, and making our chapter great. One thing I have learned in this position is that there are many folks doing a lot for our members. I am grateful to everyone for everything they do.

In this newsletter you will find more information about the few changes in the Executive Committee, but I know, as always, the chapter is in great hands!

In the meantime, please look for information enclosed about our changes in the Annual Meeting and voting for our slate of officers. Also, although you have been isolating, perhaps you have been out on the trails exploring on your own. When this COVID crisis is over we will certainly be looking for more outings with new outings leaders.

Greg and Rose

### 2019-2020 CRC Executive Committee

Greg Schaefer, Rose Cooper (Chapter Co-Chairs)  
Judy Thomson, Gail Gabriels (Outings Co-Chairs)  
Ken Shea (Director)  
Harold Stackhouse (Alternate Director)  
Ellen Schaefer, Rich Salz (Members-at-large)  
Nancy Haggerty (Treasurer)  
Anne Bernat (Secretary)  
Ellen Collins (Membership Chair)  
Linda Hales (Newsletter Chair)

# Chapter News

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## Director's Report--July 2020

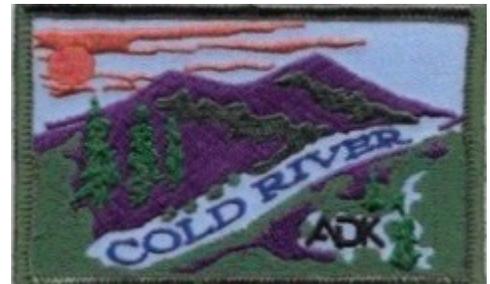
Ken Shea



1. A Bylaws Working Group has been assembled to draft proposed revisions to the ADK Bylaws per the long term Strategic Plan for ADK.
2. ADK LOJ will open at 25% capacity ( private rooms only) starting with NY phase 4.
3. Campgrounds are currently at 50% capacity.
4. HPIC is open 7 days/week for basic information and curbside rentals as well as limited retail items. Public restrooms are open along with parking lots and the parking booth.
5. JBL remains closed except for information and limited retail items. Lean-tos and cabins are available for rental.
6. ADK launched a one-year free membership for frontline workers, which has been enormously successful.
7. Onondaga ADK Chapter has postponed the 2020 ADK Fall Outing in Old Forge, NY.

**In an effort to share the information that would have been presented at the annual meeting, this section of the newsletter presents the Executive Committee Reports:**

**Secretary: Anne Bernat**



In addition to recording the proceedings of our executive committee, I've been working on collecting past minutes in order to create a digital record of our past and future. I hope over the next year, together with ADK HQ, we can come up with a simple digital repository for our chapter records.

**Membership: Ellen Collins**

Looking at membership numbers over the past 12 months, we see that in May 2020 (502 total members, 283 households, 22 affiliates) we were very similar to what we were in May 2019 (498 total members, 287 households, 27 affiliates). In January we had a high of 545 members, 310 households, and 28 affiliates. Although the pandemic has had an unfavorable effect on our membership for various reasons, including an increase in lapsed renewals, over the last 12 months we have gained 41 new members and 8 new affiliates, which is fantastic growth for our chapter. If you have any questions about the status of your membership, you are welcome to call ADK at 1-800-395-8080 or call or email me at 518-352-7717 [jrc@frontiernet.net](mailto:jrc@frontiernet.net). We hope you will keep your membership current and encourage family and friends to join our Cold River Chapter of ADK.

# Chapter News

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## **Treasurer: Nancy Haggerty**

The CRC Chapter had a \$4,386.82 bank balance at the end of June. Additionally, CRC has a \$5,000 note receivable with headquarters. Our chapter is ahead of budget due to the cancellation of potlucks, cancellation of the camper program, and the postponement of the deposit for the holiday party.

This will be the 4th year and final term for me as Treasurer of the CRC. Below is a brief description of the duties required by the treasurer. Although the term will not start until September 2021, we are seeking candidates during the coming year to allow time for them to question Nancy Haggerty about the responsibilities and request information regarding the position.

### Treasurer General Duties

1. Maintain bank accounts for the chapter, including depositing all funds, writing checks based on vouchers approved by the Executive Committee, and reconciling bank statements monthly.
2. Develop the following year's annual budget in September for approval of the Executive Committee at the October Executive meeting. Include the approved budget in the October Newsletter for ratification by the general membership at the Holiday Party.
3. Prepare quarterly reports in excel for the Executive Committee for each of the 4 meetings per year. Templates are already prepared and historical data included.
4. Complete the Annual Chapter Reporting form which is due to the ADK main office in January of following year.

## **Outings: Gail Gabriels and Judy Thomson**

**We anticipate small group outings to begin in August following the ADK Coronavirus Guidelines. If you are interested in leading an outing please contact Gail Gabriels at [gailgabriels@gmail.com](mailto:gailgabriels@gmail.com).**

# Chapter News

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## Greg Schaefer

A huge **thank-you** goes to Greg for his leadership as Co-chair of the Cold River Chapter for the past two years. He has always been available to discuss issues and to listen to differing points of view. Especially during this difficult time of the COVID-19 virus and its impact on our chapter, he has maintained an empathetic outlook. Greg has generously shared his love, dedication and passion of his ADK "backyard" with our chapter. His lifelong experiences, from childhood skiing on his property to advocating for the future of the ADK, have been an inspiration to us all. We wish him the best as he pursues new interests, and we look forward to him continuing to be an active member of the Cold River Chapter.

~RoseCooper



## Ellen Schaefer

Ellen served as Co-chair with Greg (a package deal!) for one year, then as Member-at-large for one year. We thank her for her dedication and commitment for all she has done to help the Cold River Chapter. Her contributions at meetings and at various events have helped the CRC maintain its efforts to enhance and support the ADK community.

~Rose Cooper

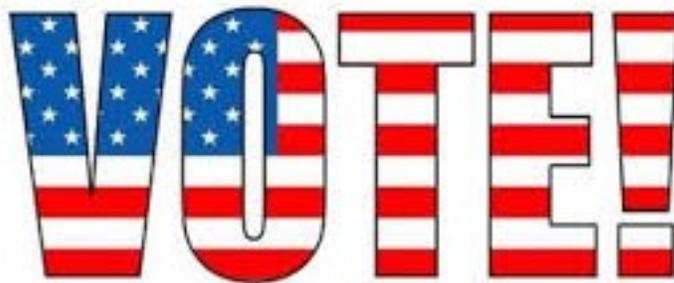
## Judy Thomson

Tremendous appreciation and heartfelt warmth goes out to Judy as she steps down as Outings Committee Co-chair. Judy became Outings Co-chair in September 2016 sharing the position with Greg Clark and, when he stepped down, Gail Gabriels.

Judy is the most professional, organized, helpful, and tactful person I have ever had the opportunity to work with. She never shows impatience, even when the Mail Chimp Monkey had me contacting her at all hours. She is always encouraging, quick to laugh and has an eye for details. Thankfully, she will continue serving as a member of the Outings Committee.

~Gail Gabriels





### **Proposed Slate of Officers for 2020-2021 and Official Ballot**

Traditionally, voting for the new officers for the upcoming year is done at our annual meeting by a voice vote. Given the unusual circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are unable to meet together and vote, so we are asking you to please cast your e-vote for either **approval** or **disapproval** of the proposed Slate of Officers by **completing the Google survey below**:

Co-chairs: Rose Cooper & Steve Mullins

Secretary: Anne Bernat

Treasurer: Nancy Haggerty

Director: Ken Shea,

Alternate Director: Harold Stackhouse

Membership: Ellen Collins

Outings: Gail Gabriels & Tom Riley

Newsletter: Linda Hales

Members-at-large: Rich Salz & Maria Rinella

**Please use this link to vote.**

Voting must be completed by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!

## Yellowstone in Winter

By Lynn Butterworth



While on a CRC cross-country ski outing in 2019, Elaine Schwartz made the wonderful recommendation to visit Yellowstone National Park in the winter. She touted its beauty, the lack of crowds, and the cross-country skiing opportunities. The eight other participants that day, Laurie and Greg Clark, Judy and Steve Thomson, Rich and Miok Salz, and John Rendinaro and I, readily agreed to the adventure, and in February 2020, six of us made the trip. Sadly, Rich and Miok Salz had to cancel at the last minute due to a back injury Rich incurred.



It is not possible to convey the true grandeur of Yellowstone through descriptions or photos; the park is magnificently beautiful in so many ways. The thermal features are fascinating, and the mountain scenery is extraordinary. We saw a lot of wildlife: buffalo, elk, bald eagles, red fox, swans and otters.

We flew in from Bozeman, MT, and traveled directly to Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, located in Yellowstone National Park, WY. One highlight was to have a soak in the Boiling River. Laurie, Judy, John and I braved the cold temperatures outside to soak in the thermal hot spring-fed river. We had to find perfectly blended water from the hot spring mixing with the cold, river water; otherwise, the water was either too hot or too cold.

After a few days of exploring with hikes and a cross-country ski, we took a snow coach further into the park to the Old Faithful

# Where in the World?

Lodge. The only vehicles allowed into the park in winter are snowmobiles and snow coaches. Conveniently, the coaches move slowly and stop periodically to facilitate scenery and wildlife viewing.

The weather was warm, and we could have used a bit more snow, but we were still able to enjoy cross-country ski adventures. One, the Lone Start Geysers Trail, was a groomed trail that was next to a stream for most of the trip and ended at a very large geyser that erupted, on schedule, upon our arrival. We watched this geyser



spew for at least 30 minutes. Another great ski was to Tower Falls. We practically had the trail to ourselves, and it offered spectacular views of mountains and valleys. Although we could hear the water rushing, the falls were mostly ice-covered--a beautiful, blue-iced sight.



*Lone Star Geysers*

Following our week in Yellowstone, the six of us traveled on for a week of alpine skiing in Big Sky, MT. It is a very large resort with plenty of skiing for all abilities. Taking the Lone Peak Tram to the top is not for the faint of heart. It travels up a vertical mountain face to access extremely steep ski slopes. We merely took the ride to the top--that was thrilling enough--we did not ski down.



*Big Sky*

We arrived back to Albany on March 6, and in the two weeks that we were away, the world had changed. At the time, we did not realize by how much. We were so happy and blessed to have been able to squeeze in this trip right before the Covid-19 lockdown.

Thank you, Elaine, for igniting the spark that got this trip going, and thank Rich and Miok for all of your encouragement and help in planning and booking this trip. You two were the impetus for getting the rest of the group scheduled, and we were all so sorry you were unable to join us.



# Where in the World?

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## Tour Mid-East Desert Countries ...With Winter Sports

By Elaine Schwartz

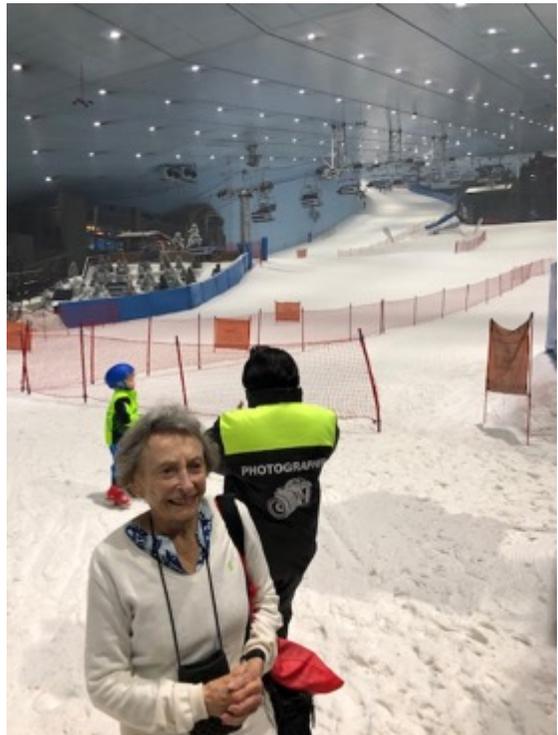
No, it is not a conundrum. You actually do not have to sacrifice your winter sports to tour desert mid-east countries. In January 2020 my friend and I toured the mid-east countries of Oman, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates and enjoyed observing the winter sports. In the Sultanate of Oman, sandboarding is popular on the dunes of Wahiba Sands. The sandboards are a facsimile to snowboards. A jeep whisks the boarder to the top of the dunes and then he or she gracefully traverses them. However, only the camels and oryx are present to applaud the performance. Oops! A fall... but the sand cushions it, unlike the hard-packed or icy slopes of our east coast ski area.

Next stopover was the United Arab Emirates and, in multiple ways, the “over the top” city of Dubai. The Mall of the Emirates consists of 630 stores, of all levels of expense from Uniqlo to Cartier, and over 100 restaurants from fast-food to gourmet, encompassing all ethnicities. Besides shopping and eating, you can downhill ski or snowboard. A billboard provides the options – ski, snowboard, interact with King and Gentoo Penguins, or be an onlooker for \$62. To ski or snowboard you visit the kiosks to select your outfit, helmet, boots, poles, skis or snowboard and head for the slopes. A chair lift whisks you up the mountain of artificial snow. No matter what level you are at, professional instructors can build up your skills and confidence. Mishaps are monitored by the ski patrol.

Not to be outdone, across town is the Dubai Mall with 1200 shops, 120 restaurants and cafes, a waterfall, an underwater aquarium, and ice skating with the same provision for rental of equipment and instruction.

Besides winter sports, we were awed by the sights and culture of Oman, Qatar and United Arab Emirates and, as independent travelers, the hospitality of the people of the world’s wealthiest nations. It was a region of contrasts where wooden dhows nestled next to mega-yachts and gargantuan malls competed with vast, traditional souks. Dazzling Islamic arts and architecture, modern opera houses, historic forts and mosques, a cattle market, uniquely-designed museums, timeless natural beauty of the desert and landscape, vertical audacity of sci-fi skyscrapers all contributed to our exciting adventure.

Next time you fill your car with gas you will know what your dollars have funded.



# Outings Reports

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**It's hard to believe that we haven't been able to have one ADK sponsored outing this quarter! Hopefully, the next issue will be filled with outing reports!**

## **Adapted from: ADK Chapter Outdoor Recreation Guidelines: Coronavirus**

### **General Guidelines:**

- You are still encouraged to recreate close to home.
- Chapters are strongly encouraged to avoid wilderness areas and trails that are classified as "high use", particularly on weekends. This includes areas like the High Peaks Wilderness and Pharaoh Lake and specific trails, like Pilots Knob in Lake George, OK Slip Falls in Indian Lake, and so forth. Social distancing may not be possible in these areas.

### **Outing Safety Guidelines:**

- Participants and trip leaders should have PPE with them at all times. This includes face masks and hand sanitizer/soap.
- Face masks must be worn when within six feet of others. The following situations all represent places where social distancing may be impossible, and a face mask will be necessary:

- A busy trailhead/parking area
- Public restrooms at trailheads
- When passing others on the trail
- At a destination (summit, pond, etc.)
- When stopping at rest areas, gas stations, etc.

**The following letter was sent to Greg and Rose to bring awareness of a problem of vandalism on a trail. Mr. Potter asked that his letter be shared in our newsletter:**

*I wanted to make sure you were aware of an unfortunate problem.*

*We hiked up Coney Mountain this weekend (one of our favorite "go to" hikes when we have visitors!) and were dismayed by the obvious vandalism to the trail – many rocks had been dug up and thrown into nearby brush, leaving potential hazards for foot placement and leaving the trail pockmarked and uneven. During decades of hiking throughout the Adirondacks, I have never seen something like this.*

*We retrieved and replaced 20-30 rocks as we walked along, but there are many more to be restored. While there is no obvious answer for "why would someone do this?" there may be a way to add a communication in the Newsletter suggesting Cold River Chapter members stay alert to any information that may help identify someone who intentionally damages trails in our beautiful ADKs.*

*Thank you, also, for your ongoing good work supporting ADK and for the excellent communications you regularly offer to members.*

*Best regards,  
Steve Potter  
[Sapotter.1@gmail.com](mailto:Sapotter.1@gmail.com)  
904-673-9609*

# Announcements

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## Scholarship Update

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, all DEC camps have been cancelled this summer. Next year, every effort will be made to insure our scholarship recipient will be given an opportunity to attend the 2021 summer camp.

We thank Steve Thomson for his continued efforts to ensure children have the opportunity to attend a DEC camp with sponsorship from the CRC.

## Photo Contest Is Still Happening

The Mushroom Club is sponsoring the mushroom photo contest:

Open to all, everyone!

Your subject **MUST** be related to fungi. You may have up to 6 entries.

Categories:

- 1) Mushrooms in original setting- not altered in any way.
- 2) Mushrooms may be moved or altered
- 3) Artistic-- "outside the box"



Send your digital pictures to Vinnie Rinella: [rinellium@frontiernet.net](mailto:rinellium@frontiernet.net)  
518 251-4446

Let him know if you are willing to get your photos printed and mounted on foam for an exhibit?

**Deadline for submissions is October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

Our judges are Jan Palmer, Charlene Leary, and Pete Benoit.

## Charitable Donations Will Be Needed:

CRC will continue collecting personal care products for the Adirondack Outreach Center in North Creek when we resume having potlucks.

*Please set your items aside and have them ready to bring to our next gathering.* If you have a

question, please contact Noelle McCrum at [nkinderteach@hotmail.com](mailto:nkinderteach@hotmail.com).



## Announcements

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### **New Executive Council Officers will assume responsibilities September 1, 2020.**

### **Potlucks are temporarily postponed**



All potlucks through the end of the year are cancelled due to the restrictions on indoor gatherings. However, the Annual Picnic has been tentatively planned for September 24<sup>th</sup> and will be revisited as we near that date.

We are all certainly looking forward to being able to meet again for good food, great conversation and special friends.

### **Ididaride 2020**

The Ididaride this year will be a virtual event. So, instead of volunteering, how about riding? Get your friends and relatives to register by 8/28 for a ride with you, of your choice on any day before 9/7. You will receive an Ididaride t-shirt and will be supporting our parent organization. Upload your ride and pictures to ADK and be entered to win one of three \$100 gift certificates at the ADK store. Enjoy the ride!



### **Holiday Dinner**

**December 10, 2020**

The Holiday Dinner is tentative and will be confirmed at a later date.



## Membership News

Membership Chair, Ellen C. Collins

**As of May 2020:**

Total Households: 283

Total Members: 502

Total Affiliates: 22



George Carta Indian Lake, NY  
Andrew Day Durham, NH  
Annabel and Paul Day Schenectady, NY  
Les Dean Remsen, NY  
James and Tracy Fidd Warrensburg, NY  
Bill Murray PennYan, NY

Deborah Pollack and Malkiel Choseed  
Fayetteville, NY  
Arthur and Renee Shattuck Athol, NY  
Christine Silber and Martin Connor  
Brooklyn, NY

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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 [rosecoper2@gmail.com](mailto:rosecoper2@gmail.com) or 914-844-3078.

ADK Cold River Chapter  
April 2019 Newsletter  
Linda Hales (Editor)  
[l\\_hales@hotmail.com](mailto:l_hales@hotmail.com)  
518-681-1117