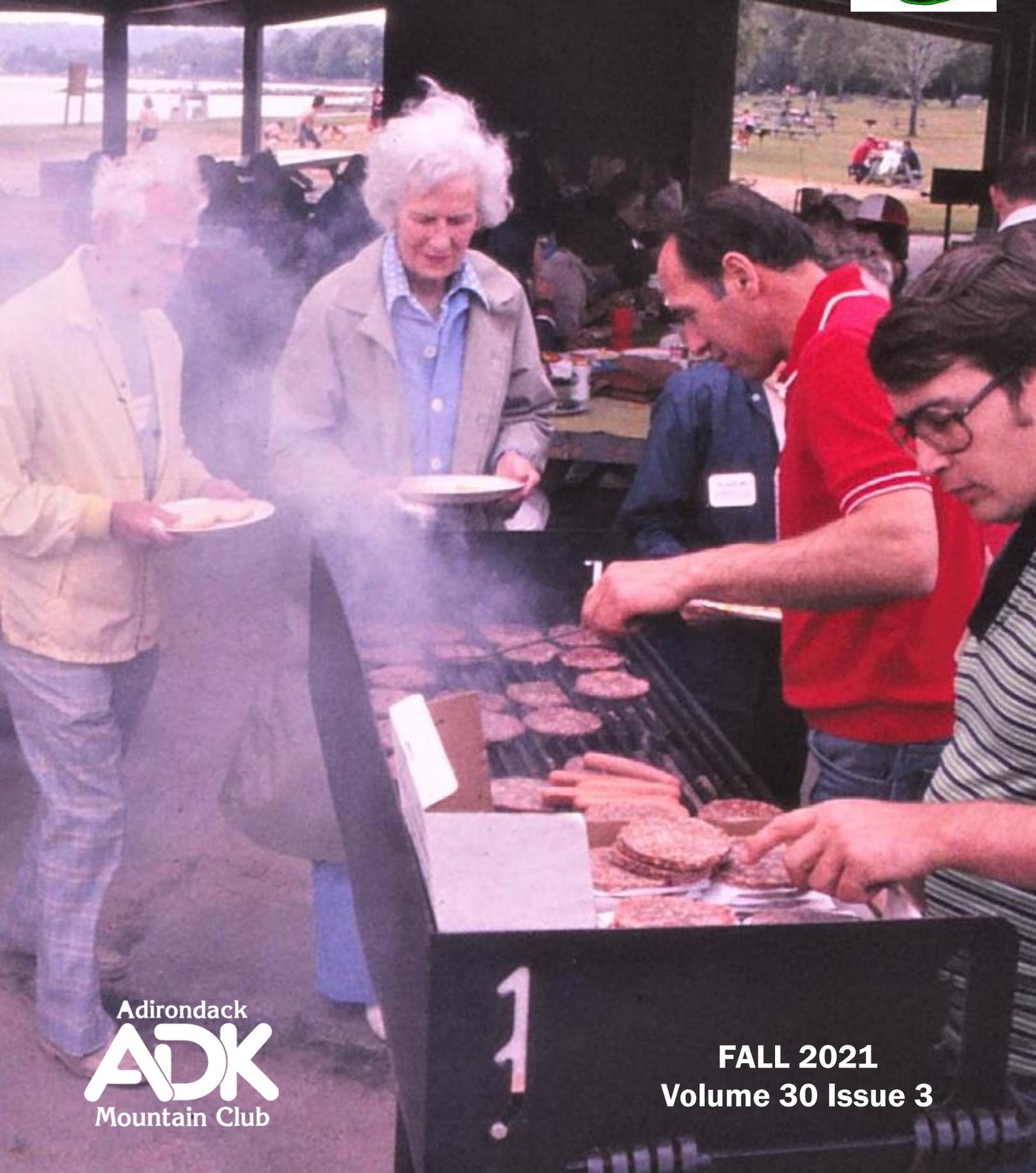


Black River Currents

A PUBLICATION OF THE BLACK RIVER CHAPTER
ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB



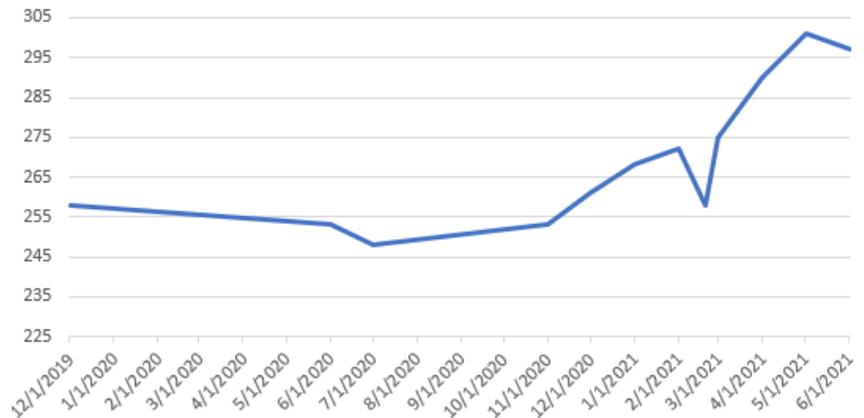
Adirondack
ADK
Mountain Club

FALL 2021
Volume 30 Issue 3

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Chapter Membership



About Us

The Black River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club is composed of members primarily in Jefferson and Lewis Counties. The region includes Eastern Lake Ontario shoreline, the Northern portion of Tug Hill, the Black River Valley, and the Western edge of the Adirondack Mountains.

The club offers something for everyone, from active support for conservation to a variety of outdoor activities and social events. Outings include hiking, canoeing, cross country skiing, and other outdoor activities. We also have social events such as chapter picnics and dinners. You do not have to be a triathlete or drive long distances to enjoy many of our activities. Hikes range from short, easy walks to more difficult high peaks climbs. Many activities are local - not all require a long drive to the Adirondacks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, See us at <https://www.adk.org/adk-chapter/black-river-chapter/> or on Facebook at: Black River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club



Cover & Back Photo

Cover Photo provided by David Larrabee. His mom, Don Hoffman and _____ shown flipping burgers at a Chapter Picnic. Undated.
 Back photo is two hikers going to the summit of Mt Arab in October, 2019.

Membership

In the month of June our Chapter Membership is very close to 300 members. This includes new members and renewals which are very important to the chapter's continued growth and opportunity to educate, preserve and conserve our precious resources.

Total ADK club membership is 28,889. Of the total of 28 chapters, the Black River Chapter is now about as big as the Susquehanna chapter and we're now number 23 on the list. In the last summer issue, our chapter membership was reported as 258. See the growth in the chart above.

Our membership committee is anxious to bring new members on board. Please contact Marie Steinbeck at mjstbeck@aol.com for membership information.

June 2021			
Adult	71	Student	2
Family	47	Staff	0
Senior	43	Total Households	191
Senior Family	27	Spouses/Partners	76
Life	0	Total Voting	267
Life Family	2	Children	30
		Total Members	297

Next newsletter deadline November 1, 2021 Color copies only available by email

Chapter News & Information

Currently the Black River Chapter is working on a number of great projects.

- 1) This month we salute two outstanding Chapter members; Don Hoffman and Carl Boller.
- 2) Sadly we lost one of our long time members Verena Young. See her information in this issue
- 3) Our annual banquet meeting is scheduled for November 13th. A location and menu has been selected. Details within.
- 4) After some checking around we have found that our newsletter costs are in line with other print shops.
- 5) Ron Filhart is now our key member to the Adirondack Mountain Club-Advisory Council
- 6) A Nominating Committee has prepared a slate of officers for the upcoming year
- 7) Many are enjoying the Tupper Lake Triad program. The chapter has completed both the hiking and paddling Triad.
- 8) Our next challenge is the Saranac 6. Be sure to join us completing those hikes.
- 9) We continue to support the Tug Hill Land Trust on the Traverse Trail. Contact Cindy for additional details.
- 10) We now have scanned all the past chapter Newsletters since 1979. There are a few missing, see if you have any of them.
- 11) The past meeting minutes are next on the list. Both of these are word searchable and can assist in providing event details and ideas.

- 12) We continue to receive compliments on the energy our chapter is developing and drawing a lot of interest in new membership. It's your smiles and involvement that shows.
- 13) Consider a future event that we can offer or help you lead. Share your thoughts with any board member.

Many of our events are suitable for young adults. Some events are not suitable for younger children. Feel free to discuss this when calling to confirm your interests in any event.

If anyone is interested in joining the Black River Chapter of the ADK, feel free to have them join via the ADK.org website. There are a variety of different membership types and durations.

Join in, we could use an extra hand...

.....ADK/Black River Chapter Board

From the Editor

Boy is it a busy season. I didn't realize the summer schedule can be so full. Both chapter and family events have left few open spaces on the calendar.

At many places we visited, I didn't see any ADK Membership applications. So we need to spread the word and bring more people on board to help them with their adventures in the area.

And if anyone is interested in a leadership or committee role, do not hesitate to let anyone of us know. Marie Steinbeck is our Membership Chairperson. New Blood is a great thing. You can go online at adk.org or call 800-395-8080.

Membership Matters! Become an ADK Member and meet other like-minded people who share your passion for the outdoors. Be heard on vital clean air and water issues, and protect wild places and spaces throughout New York. Other benefits include discounts on ADK lodging, books, maps, logo gear, programs and parking.

Be a powerful voice. Make your voice heard through ADK (Adirondack Mountain Club). Membership in ADK gives you the power to protect wilderness and to keep public lands accessible in NYS. ADK is the only non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and advocating for NYS's wild lands and waters while also teaching people how to enjoy natural places responsibly.

Stay with Us. ADK's base camp for exciting adventures is in the heart of the Adiron-

dack High Peaks. Reserve a stay at one of our lodges, cabins, lean-tos, or campsites for an unforgettable experience, year-round

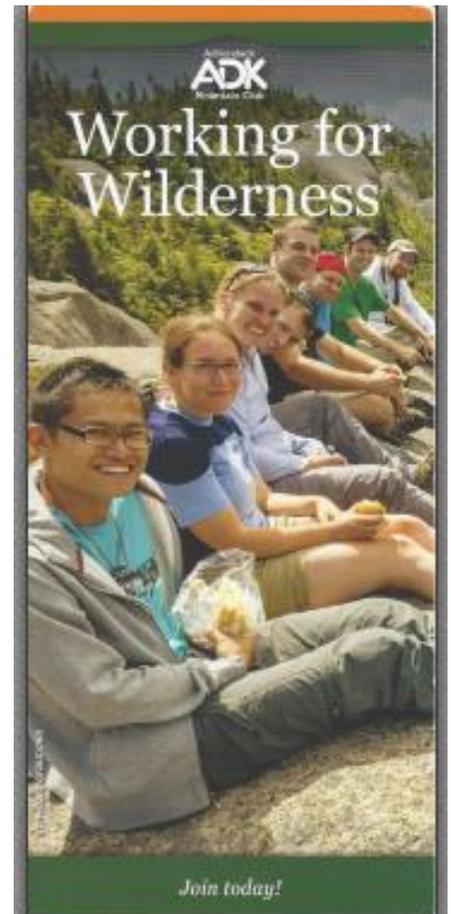
Play in New York State. Enjoy a hike, paddle across a lake, or ski and snowshoe through the woods. Socialize and play games with friends. See another country on an ADK eco-adventure trip, visit a state park, or climb a mountain in the Adirondacks or Catskills. Almost every day of the year, ADK offers ways to have fun through its many outings and activities.

Explore and Discover. Go further on a guided hike. Bring your skills to the next level through workshops. Delve into beginner backpacking or landscape photography. Plan your own trips with ADK's guidebooks and maps or participate in an outing with other members. ADK's outdoor skill classes, educational courses and natural history programs open new worlds and exciting adventures for you.

Protect Natural Places. Members work together with ADK to protect and give back to the land and waterways. You'll find us in the backcountry maintaining trails and on the highest summits talking to hikers about NY's rare alpine environment. We're speaking up, leading outings, teaching and sharing our skills and modeling what we've learned. We are practicing Leave No Trace outdoor ethics wherever and whenever we explore.

Join ADK and help ensure NY's wild lands

and waters will always be protected.



Spotlight: Black River Chapter & Don Hoffman

Don was one of the original, now Charter Member, who was instrumental in getting the Black River Chapter formed and sanctioned under the Adirondack Mountain Club. He was highly active in the chapter, as were many of the early members, holding many posts, initiating membership drives, Director, serving on the nominating committee, helping with trail development, finding speakers and leading many trips to the tops of the High Peaks. He prepared many tips for winter day hiking

In 2004 he moved to Hendersonville, NC after over 26 years of service to this chapter. Today at 81, there have been many attempts to contact him. For now its best to get a feeling of his passion and character as he wrote in the Spring 2004 Newsletter.

View From HERE... Spring 2004

It seems a little strange to me that I'm sitting in my home, located in the western North Carolina mountains, but thinking about the Adirondacks. It's been almost three years since I've been on a High Peak, but I still crave to be back on any one of my favorites. There is certainly a specialness about these mountains. We all know that there are taller and more famous mountains in New Hampshire. The state of Maine has Mt. Katahdin and the formidable Knife's edge trail. Down here in North Carolina there are 39 peaks of 6,000 feet at more! Yet in my mind, all of these areas come up a little short of the Adirondacks. Why? Simply put, it is the total immensity of the WILDERNESS that makes the Adirondack Mountains extra special.

During my years of involvement with the Black River Chapter there was nothing that gave me more satisfaction than leading trips in the High Peaks. Quite a few members learned first hand the excitement and awe of climbing a major peak. After a long and tiring battle, what a thrill it is to finally break free of the forested trail and excitedly climb the final leg to a rocky summit. The reward is looking out over miles and miles of natural beauty. And it is most satisfying!

Back in the 1920's, the three original 46ers, Bob and George Marshall and their guide, Herb Clark, decided they would rate the views from these peaks. Part of the criteria they used was the extent of- or lack of- injury to the wilderness panorama they beheld. The more civilization and the more marred the environment, the lower the score. Considering how things were viewed back then, these were pretty smart guys.

On the majority of the Adirondacks major peaks you an still enjoy

outstanding vistas free from all but a few distant encroachments. It is much harder for me to get that treasured wilderness view here in North Carolina. We do have state forest areas and federal lands that occupy most of the higher mountains. But they are smaller in size, and outside of their boundaries, houses have been built and are being built every day on mountainsides and mountaintops. As an example, the Blue Ridge Parkway is a marvel to travel (but you can't be in a hurry). For the most part it contours the upper sides of the spine of the Appalachian Mountain ridge for almost 500 miles. A short distance from where I live, you can drive along it at 6,047 feet, its highest point. It is delightful. A few miles further on, and still at a high elevation, you can look up and see homes built on the mountainside less than a thousand feet from the parkway! Terrible, regrettable, but down here a great many people hate anything that might be called "land use". I do not see anything changing this view Point.

Those of us that treasure the Adirondack Mountains are already experiencing something similar, but to a lesser degree. One of my continuing ties to the North Country is the bi monthly newspaper called the Adirondack Explorer, published in Saranac Lake. The January/February 2004 issue contains a well-written article debating the issue of unregulated "upland" development in the Adirondack Park. I would like to believe that the APA, with public support and pressure, will come up with new and tougher regulations. Wilderness is shrinking all around us, and in most places it's already too late to curtail the visual blight of houses and developments popping up on remote mountain tops, slopes and ridges. The A.D.K. is already a key opponent in the battles against those

that wish to invade the wild lands and waters with snowmobiles, off-road vehicles, jet skis, and the like. I hope that they will enter this fray also. We don't want to lose any more of the last great wilderness in the east. On a personal note it is great to know that the chapter is alive and well! I hear from my friend and fellow cofounder of the chapter, Dave Larrabee.

His continuing efforts are legendary. My former next-door neighbors and close friends, Gordy and Sally Ludwig (charter members) have moved to Hendersonville, and that after just 2 visits! Finally, many thanks to all of my chapter hiking friends. We had many great climbs together and friendships that I will always cherish.

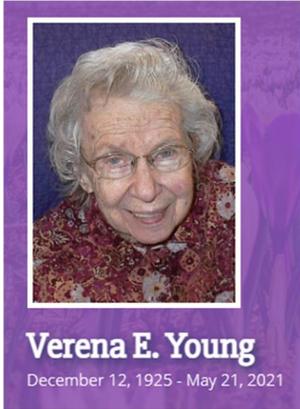
Don worked with many of the original members and is still living today. We thank Don and many others for pulling this all together to make the Black River Chapter what it is today.



Members in the Spotlight: Black River Chapter

By Submitted by funeral home
Published: May. 25, 2021 at 3:49 PM EDT

WATERTOWN, N.Y. (WWNY) - **Verena (Rena) E. Young** passed away peacefully at Carthage Area Hospital in the early morning hours of Friday, May, 21, 2021 after a prolonged and valiant struggle to recover from a serious stroke. She was born December 12, 1925, the only daughter in a family of seven to Fred and Ethel Smiley in Cochrane, Ont. Canada. She was educated in the Canadian Public Schools and after deciding on a career in business she enrolled and graduated from Shaw Business School and then attended the University of Toronto, working towards her CPA.



While working in Toronto and enjoying tennis, photography, horse-back riding, birding and skiing in the Laurentian Mountains, she met her future husband John E. G. Young who had been recruited in England by Avro Canada to work on the Arrow fighter plane. They were married in October of 1959. The Arrow program was cancelled by the Canadian government and John was subsequently recruited by New York Air Brake requiring the couple to move to Watertown, New York where they fell in love with the Adirondacks and enjoyed the activities of hiking, skiing, photography and birding.

Verena became a full-time homemaker and dedicated her time to raising their only son, Thomas, as well as pursue her passion for

photography. Later in life she was active with the ADK/Black River Chapter - serving as treasurer, the Watertown Golf Club, the North Country Artist Guild, North Country Bird Club and the Jefferson County Garden Club.



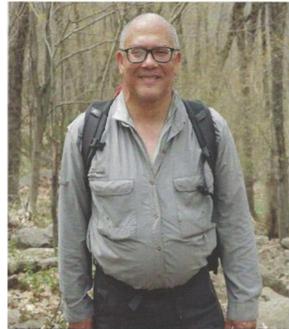
Verena was predeceased by her parents, her six brothers and her husband. She is survived by her son, Thomas, and his wife, Denise, two granddaughters and three great-grandchildren as well as several nieces and great-nephews. There will be no calling hours. Funeral arrangements are with Reed and Benoit Funeral Home with a burial service being held in Brookside Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Donations can be made in Verena's name to the ADK/Black River Chapter-Treasurer, 17408 Star School House Road, Dexter, NY 13634 or Trinity Episcopal Church, 227 Sherman Street, Watertown, NY 13601.

John and Verena were strong contributors to the Black River Chapter over the years. She was shown on the cover of the Spring Newsletter at a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Inman Gulf trail with her husband John. Their participation and contributions to the Black River Chapter are greatly appreciated.

Carl Boler At home in the Adirondacks

HE WORKED in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, and other hot spots around the world. But to Carl Boler, the Adirondacks feels like home. Whenever he returns from a long tour overseas or even a short trip out of state, Boler is eager to get back to the mountains and lakes he loves. His first Adirondack adventure was a kayak outing in the late 1990s with friends he met in a photography class. "They happened to be ADK members and I didn't even know what an ADK was," he says, laughing a bit. When he was in town, he continued to go on trips with the group, but did not officially join ADK because he traveled extensively for his work as an engineer on helicopter siting systems for a defense contractor, sometimes being gone for a year or more.



In 2017, Boler landed a job that allowed him to put down roots in Watertown, New York, near the Army's Fort Drum, and stay in the States for longer stretches. He is now a major donor to ADK and a member of the Black River Chapter, whose members hail primarily from Jefferson and Lewis Counties.

"If I'm going to participate in these activities, I should join," he says, adding that he wants to help an organization that's working to get people outside right in

his backyard. "I became a major donor because I felt that was what

I wanted to do."

Marie Steinbeck, co-chair of the Black River Chapter, and a long-time friend, says Boler is a great asset to the chapter. He helps new hikers get started, can fix almost anything, and never hesitates to lend a tool or a hand. And he seems to know people everywhere.

"Carl knows people all over the Adirondacks, and is a member of a variety of active groups," she says. "Whenever we go on a ski or hike together, we meet people who greet Carl with enthusiasm and friendship." Boler explores the Adirondacks on foot, boat, and even motorcycle. And he loves to see young people experience the out-of-doors.

"The more people we get out when they're young to learn about the woods, the plants, wildlife, the more they'll realize the value when they grow older and they'll take their own kids," he says. Supporting ADK supports that mission, he says. "Saving our environment, and the Adirondacks especially, for many generations to come is very important to me." Boler, determinedly not a peak-bagger, is chipping away at ADK's Fire Tower Challenge. He did his first, Cathedral Rock in Wanakena, with ADK member Linda Burns in November 2019. He's taking his time, looking at it more as a way to visit different places in the park.

On a hike to Hadley Mountain's fire tower this spring, he met and became instant friends with several groups of people, mostly from around the Capital Region. "We're all one family up there," he says. "No matter where I go, I always feel at home coming back to the Adirondacks

—Laura Rappaport, Director of Publications

Upcoming Chapter Outings 2021 August-September

August



The ADK/Black River Chapter continues to support and assist the Tug Hill for Tomorrow Program. There will be eight opportunities for you to get involved this summer via Workdays on Tug Hill with Cindy. 4 more opportunities to help.

#5 VOLUNTEER TRAIL WORKDAYS ON TUG HILL WITH CINDY

August 20th, Friday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Reservations Required. Would you like to be part of history? This summer and fall we have a number of trail work days planned to continue the work on the first ever 20-mile Traverse Trail, in the Heart of Tug Hill. It's a fun way to spend some time with family, friends, or co-workers, get outside, and get your hands dirty.

#6 VOLUNTEER TRAIL WORKDAYS ON TUG HILL WITH CINDY

August 28th, Saturday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Reservations Required. Would you like to be part of history? This summer and fall we have a number of trail work days planned to continue the work on the first ever 20-mile Traverse Trail, in the Heart of Tug Hill. It's a fun way to spend some time with family, friends, or co-workers, get outside, and get your hands dirty.



September

LAKE OF THE WOODS PADDLE WITH CINDY

September 1, Wed. 5:30pm. Join Watertown Kayakers to paddle Lake of the Woods in Theresa. We launch at 5:30pm. Don't forget your PFD. Paddle rating C. Contact Cindy at 315-405-2195 or cindykastewart@yahoo.com.

ST. REGIS MOUNTAIN WITH JESSE

September 4th, Sat. 9:00am. Join the BRC ADK as we begin to tackle our next adventure and patch "The Saranac" at the trailhead to St. Regis Mountain. From the DEC register, the footpath starts off very moderately over rolling hills. The gentle trail is inviting as you gain elevation steadily. Just over 2-miles from the register, you will cross over a bridge. This is where the climbing begins.

From here, the trail becomes steeper as you near the summit, but well-maintained stone steps and other features make the climbing a little friendlier. You will encounter the steepest sections in the last 0.3-miles before the summit, but nothing is too difficult and there are no challenging scrambles. In fact, through the trees, you may even get a sneak peek at the expansive views to come. Just below the summit, you'll emerge onto open rock and the restored fire tower will appear. Distance: 3.3 miles to the summit, Elevation: 2,874 feet, Ascent: 1,250 feet, Trail Rating "B". Contact Jesse at jirwin518@gmail.com

BLACK RIVER WATERTOWN PADDLE WITH CINDY

September 8, Wed. 5:30pm. Join Watertown Kayakers to paddle the Black River in Watertown. We launch at 5:30pm from Watertown City Rotary Fishing Access off of Route 3 after the bridge. Don't forget your PFD. Paddle rating C. Contact Cindy at 315-405-2195 or cindykastewart@yahoo.com.

CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

September 9th, Thurs. 7PM (ZOOM CALL). Contact Rich for ZOOM INFO at ross97@gmail.com or 267-218-0921.

#7 VOLUNTEER TRAIL WORKDAYS ON TUG HILL WITH CINDY

September 10th, Fri. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Reservations Required. Would you like to be part of history? This summer and fall we have a number of trail work days planned to continue the work on the first ever 20-mile Traverse Trail, in the Heart of Tug Hill. It's a fun way to spend some time with family, friends, or co-workers, get outside, and get your hands dirty. Contact Cindy at 315-405-2195 or cindykastewart@yahoo.com.



WHEATSTONE GULF HIKE

September 11th, Sat 10:00 am Whetstone Gulf State Park is built in and around a three-mile-long gorge cut into the eastern edge of the Tug Hill Plateau. The gorge is one of the most spectacular scenic vistas east of the Rocky Mountains. There are 5 trails to consider, none more than 2.7 miles. Contact Cindy or Marie at: cindykastewart@yahoo.com or mjstbeck@aol.com for details.

POTATO HILL FARM HIKE/BIKE WITH VICKI

September 12, Sun. 10am. Come out and enjoy a family friendly outing at Potato Hill Farm on Sunday, September 12, 2021, from 10 am to 1 pm. We will meet at the main parking area on Potato Hill Road at 10 am. Make sure to pack a lunch, water, bug spray and sun-screen. There are roughly five miles of beautifully groomed trails to enjoy for hiking and bike riding. Bicycles can be borrowed at the

If you are interested in any event, **CALL AND CONFIRM**, as the COVID-19 is affecting schedules.

Upcoming Chapter Outings 2021 September-October

location if so desired. Hike rating C. Please contact Vicki at 315-767-3350 via text message for more information and/or directions. We look forward to seeing you there!

RED LAKE PADDLE WITH CINDY

September 15, Wed. 5:30pm Join Watertown Kayakers to paddle Red Lake in Theresa. We launch at 5:30pm. Don't forget your PFD. Paddle rating C. Contact Cindy at 315-405-2195 or cindykaystewart@yahoo.com.

#8 VOLUNTEER TRAIL WORKDAYS ON TUG HILL WITH CINDY

September 18th, Sat. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Reservations Required. Would you like to be part of history? This summer and fall we have a number of trail work days planned to continue the work on the first ever 20-mile Traverse Trail, in the Heart of Tug Hill. It's a fun way to spend some time with family, friends, or co-workers, get outside, and get your hands dirty. Contact Cindy at 315-405-2195 or cindykaystewart@yahoo.com.



BLACK RIVER DEXTER PADDLE WITH CINDY

September 22nd, Wed. 5:30pm Join Watertown Kayakers to paddle from Dexter out to Black River Bay. We launch at 5:30pm from Village of Dexter boat launch. Don't forget your PFD. Ice cream at Lickety Split after paddle. Paddle rating C. Contact Cindy at 315-405-2195 or cindykaystewart@yahoo.com

ADK FALL OUTING WITH ONONDAGA CHAPTER & RICH

September 24-26, Weekend 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 and

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 the website to register today! <https://www.adk-on.org/fall-weekend/>

Guests and volunteers will need to arrange for their own accommodations. A list of motels is provided. Campsites will be available at Nicks Lake and Eighth Lake. Our outings will leave from the recreation center, meals will be catered at the recreation center and programs for Friday and Saturday night will also be held at the center.

Join the camaraderie of like-minded ADK friends and soak up the Fall ambiance of the Adirondacks. Event Headquarters: George T Hiltbrant Recreation Center, 201 North Street, Old Forge, NY 13420. Catered meals will be available for pre-purchase at registration. Or you can bring your own! Arrange your own accommodations as soon as possible.

BAKER WOODS CLEANUP WITH LINDA

September 25th Sat. 10 am. We have once again scheduled a clean-up day this fall for the Baker Woods Preserve in Natural Bridge. Matt Carney, caretaker, really appreciated our help in the spring! Tasks are yet to be determined. Bagels will be provided. Leader Linda Burns (516) 662-5020.

October

AMPERSAND MOUNTAIN WITH JESSE

October 2nd Sat. 9:00 am our journey continues to complete the Saranac 6 continues up the 5.4-mile round trip trail on Ampersand Mountain. From the parking area, carefully cross Route 3 to get to the trailhead. The path descends slightly to a brook crossing before



If you are interested in any event, **CALL AND CONFIRM**, as the COVID-19 is affecting schedules.

Upcoming Chapter Outings 2021 October-November

starting an easy hike that gently rolls up and down through a mature forest. At 0.8 mile there is a long boardwalk across a wet section; soon after that the trail begins a slow ascent, then it gets steeper as it approaches the location of the old fire observer's cabin, on the right at 1.7 miles rubble is all that remains of the building. Past the cabin site, the grade increases and eventually becomes very steep as it reaches a stone staircase, which was built to alleviate the heavy erosion caused by water runoff and heavy foot traffic. The trail remains rocky from this point on. Take note that footing can be slippery along this stretch, especially during wet weather.

The path reaches a ridge and levels out at 2.4 miles, and soon after that it enters a spectacular section with enormous, jumbled boulders the size of small houses. Take a few minutes to explore the narrow passageways here, then swing right to climb over open rock to the summit at 2.7 miles. Distance: 2.7 miles to the summit, Elevation: 3,353 feet, Elevation Gain: 1,775 feet, Trail Rating "B". Contact Jesse at jirwin518@gmail.com

JOHN YOUNG TRAIL & INMAN GLIDE WITH CLARA

October 3, Sun. 10am. Clara will lead a hike along the John Young Trail and possibly onto Inman Glide depending on the group request. We can spot cars if necessary. The fall colors will be beautiful. 10:00 - bring lunch. Hike rating C. Call Clara for meeting place - 315-778-7133.



OWLS HEAD MOUNTAIN WITH JESSE

October 30th, Sat. 9:00am join another hike in the fire tower challenges the trail up Owls Head is wide and rolling hills for most of its way, only turning steep within the last mile. 360-degree views greet you from the top and include views of Long Lake Village, Blue Mountain, Mt. Marcy, Racket Lake and more. The remains of the old observer's cabin are along the trail below the summit. Distance: 6.3 miles round trip, Elevation: 2,812 feet, Elevation Gain: 1,300 feet, Trail Rating "C" Contact Jesse at jirwin518@gmail.com

November

QUEER LAKE LOLLIPOP LOOP WITH RAY

November 6th, Sat. 10am. Ray Spahn will lead a hike into the Pigeon Lake Wilderness just north of Eagle Bay. This is a nice, quiet Flatlander's hike to a nice, little lake. We will hike in from the trailhead parking lot on the right side of Big Moose Road, about a mile or 2 from Eagle Bay. Those who wish can meet up with the fearless leader at the Fastrack gas station on the western edge of Old Forge at 9:40. We will launch from the trailhead around 10:00.

We will hike in to Queer Lake for lunch at the lean-to. After lunch we will take the long way back for a total of 11.4 miles. Rating for the hike is: A+ due to length. Text/call Ray @ 315-286-4507.

POOR'S ISLAND WALK WITH WENDY

November 7, Sun. 1 pm. Walk Poor's Island in the town of Black River. This island in the middle of the Black River has nice flat trails, fishing access along the shore, and good views of the river. There are ruins of an old mill scattered around the island. There is a picnic site and a porta-potty, and the trails are stroller and bicycle accessible. Leashed dogs are welcome. Your trip leader is a really slow walker so the walk should take about 45 minutes. Directions – from Watertown, take Route 3 to Black River. Turn left at the light (Stewarts on the corner) onto Main Street. Just before you go over the bridge over the Black River, turn right onto St. Regis St (marked Private Way, but it really is open to the public.) There is also a small brown Kamargo Recreation Area sign. You can park just before the bridge onto the island, or cross the bridge and park on the island. Contact is Wendy Newell, 315-782-3015.

ADK/BLACK RIVER CHAPTER ANNUAL BANQUET/MEETING

Hello Everyone! This year we have decided that our annual "dinner" event become a brunch. Many of our members have expressed a desire to have the event earlier in the day rather than evening.

This year our Brunch will be **November 13th, Saturday at noon** at the Tug Hill Vineyard. The theme is "Women Hiking in the Adirondacks" and we have exciting speakers lined up for you. The menu will be a buffet and consist of rolls, salad, fruit, vegetable quiche, fruit stuffed French toast, hash browns, ravioli with a blush marinara sauce, and a chocolate mocha torte, coffee and tea. Bar will be available at attendees own expense. The brunch is \$21.00 for each attendee.

We will have a brief update of the year behind us and the one ahead of us. Chapter Board elections will also be included.

The Winery downstairs will be open for purchases as well as to walk the grounds which provide a wonderful valley view.

In this issue is a form to send your rsvp **by October 25th** and check to Doreen Hanson, 17408 Star Schoolhouse Road, Dexter, NY 13634

Reserve early we are limited to seating only 50 people.



Backtracks 2021

IRLC GRAND LAKE RESERVE HIKE-MAY 2.

It was an ideal day for a hike on the Indian River Lakes Conservancy trails. We were able to identify many spring flowers that were popping up everywhere! 5 participants including a descendant of the man who Sixberry Lake was named after. Afterwards we went to Jerry's camp on Millsite Lake for cheesecake- yum! Thanks to Cindy, Teri, Ray, Jerry & Rob.

MEET THE ADK FORTY SIXERS JUNE 3RD ZOOM CALL



46ER PRESIDENT LAURIE RANKIN AND DIRECTOR JOE RYAN WERE INVITED TO SPEAK VIA ZOOM TO THE BLACK RIVER CHAPTER OF THE ADK. IT WAS A VERY PRODUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND WE HOPE FOR MORE COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FUTURE.

Laurie and Joe

It was great to hear from you both as each of our groups share a mutual respect and admiration for the Adirondacks and outdoors. It probably wouldn't hurt to keep communicating as we help educate new people of the great principles of LNT, teach them to respect the great resources and help them to be safe so they can enjoy the region we all love.

Thank you so much for spending the time with us. It was very enjoyable, informative and interesting.

I'll be adding an article reflecting on our call in our fall newsletter.

See our Summer edition recently published at [ADK.org](https://www.adk.org) under the Black River Chapters page. Maybe we'll see one another at an event soon.

Sincerely

Rich Ross

ADK/Black River Chapter-Chairperson



SPRING BIRDING OUTINGS RAY SPAHN

Ray Spahn and 4 early-birds strolled 7.5 miles around Wehle State Park on a cloudy, cool morning. The group saw and heard many species of birds. We were granted great views of a yellow warbler, brown thrashers, and a white-throated sparrow among others. The lake was rough and kept the water birds far out to sea.

I led 3 birding outings to a total of 5 North Country locations in May. We birded at Wehle State Park, Chaumont Barrens, Donnybrook, Otter Creek and Crooked Creek preserves. A total number of 4 people joined me. Maggie and Cindy attended all three (with 7:30 AM start times), and Cindy earned the Perfect Attendance Award. Maggie earned the Good Attendance Award (she missed the Crooked Creek portion due to a Pickle Ball commitment).

We had great weather all three days. We saw and heard a large number and variety of birds at all the sites. Some highlights: scarlet tanager, Baltimore orioles, yellow warblers, prairie warblers, magnolia warbler, brown thrashers, and many others. Everyone had a good time and increased their birding skills.



CHAUMONT BARRENS WITH CINDY AND DOREEN

Two of our annual bicycling events were very well enjoyed this year and the weather for both was perfect. June's Chaumont Barrens bike/hike was filled with wildlife and flower identification. July's Artist on the Point bike/lunch was filled with beautiful Chaumont bay real views and local artist crafts, paintings and great food and conversations. This is our second year of not being able to do the Wolf Island bicycling to Kingston. Hopefully next year, our Black River Chapter can offer all three annual bicycling events.

GRASS LAKE PADDLE & ISLAND HIKE-JUNE 26

We paddled over to the Marc A F Baker Island to hike the island trail. Then paddled Grass Lake. Both the island and the lake are quiet places to explore. In the lake we see a loon family. On the island we hear the loon calls. Thanks to Cindy, Ray, Linda, Marie & John.



Backtracks 2021

JOHN YOUNG NATURE TRAIL HIKE WITH RICH-JUNE 27

Rich, Cindy and Clara found themselves enjoying a very cool location during the hot days while hiking on the John Young Nature Trail. Cindy had done the trail many times and Clara was reflecting on the days when the Black River Chapter was forging this trail. Many memories were unveiled through her recollections. This was Rich's second time on the trail only after doing the same hike a week before with Marie & John Steinbeck and Linda Burns. It never hurts to be prepared and doing this trail a number of times.



PINCKNEY FOREST BACKTRACKS RAY-JULY 3RD

July 3rd was a wonderful hiking day: temperature-65, overcast, and NO BUGS. I and Sweeper Cindy led about 20 invisible people (it's hard to get an accurate headcount of that many invisibles) out on the trail. The forest was a huge, shimmering room of new, glistening (from recent rains) green. It was beautiful. After a short distance the Invisibles complained of not being able to see around or over me so Cindy and I switched duties. The group was perfect- very quiet. I love quiet groups in the woods. See group photo at right. Note: Ray & Cindy are not in the picture.



Things were going smoothly until we hit the first tiny creek crossing. I had not mentioned in the write-up that we would be crossing several tiny creeks. Unfortunately, a young boy had a pathological fear of moving water and couldn't cross the stream. His family, sadly, had to turn around. Later we came across the first of 3 winter warblers singing their amazing song. A family so enjoyed the song that they stayed at one of the concerts to record the song to use as bedtime music to fall to sleep with at night. There were many birds singing that morning, making the hike a very enjoyable journey. Later we came upon the rare Hermit thrush singing his ethereal woods song. One of the 2 remaining families was so overwhelmed they started jumping up and down. (I know this due to seeing the weeds in the trail being repeatedly crushed.) They decided to stay and continue listening to more verses of the thrush's song. Cindy, I, and the remaining Invisible family made it to the shortcut option. The Invisibles decided they had had

enough of me repeatedly bumping into them from behind. (They were very quiet, and it was very difficult to tell exactly where they were.) They chose to take the shortcut to their car. So in the end Cindy and I finished the hike alone. I'm fairly certain that all the invisibles made it out safely. If not, no one will ever know.

WRAPPING UP THE TUPPER LAKE TRIAD HIKE WITH RICH -JULY 10TH

Once again, we found a wonderful escape from the heat by hiking Goodman and Coney Mountains, just south of Tupper Lake. We started at the easiest which was Coney at 10AM. With about of mile of gravel road, and another 1/4 mile to the summit the views at the top were fantastic. Once we returned to the cars, had a brief bite to eat, we make a short trip to Goodman. This trail is a bit more difficult than Coney in that it was 100% trail and no gravel road. This was a relatively short hike to the summit with a 360 vista of the surrounding area. We enjoyed the break and wrapped the day of hiking up at 2:30, not including the stop at Stewarts for ice-cream. This trip is highly recommended for almost anyone on a great day. Having completed the First Day of Spring hike up Mt Arab, all 7 of us are eligible for the Tupper Lake Triad Hiking Patch



STONE VALLEY TRAIL HIKE WITH MARIE-AUGUST 1ST

Due to heavy rains our August 1 hike was changed to August 3. Marie, John and visiting family members enjoyed a lovely day hiking along Stone Valley Trail along the Raquette river. We enjoyed the 3 mile trail and also explored the pools of water.



Annual Banquet RSVP

Please cut off and send your rsvp by October 25th! Limited Capacity!

DATE: November 13th, 2021

TIME: Noon WHERE: Tug Hill Vineyard, 4051 Yancey Rd, Lowville, NY 13367

COST: \$21.00 Per person. This dinner is not a fund raiser. It is a time to join together socially to celebrate our love of our natural area. Everyone who attends will be entered into a raffle for various donated items. The price to attend is the actual price of the meal. The tax and tip will be covered by the chapter.

MENU: The menu will be a buffet and consist of rolls, salad, fruit, vegetable quiche, fruit stuffed French toast, hash browns, ravioli with a blush marinara sauce, and a chocolate mocha torte, coffee and tea. Bar will be available at attendees own expense.

PROGRAM: The theme is "Women Hiking in the Adirondacks" and we have exciting speakers lined up for you.

I WILL ATTEND: _____ (Name)

AND WILL BRING _____ (Number of) GUESTS

My phone number is _____

and email is: _____



I HAVE INCLUDED A CHECK FOR (\$21.00 Per Person) IN THE AMOUNT OF: _____

Make Check out to ADK/Black River Chapter.

CAPACITY LIMIT 50 people (get your RSVP in ASAP)

MAIL CHECK & THIS FORM TO: Doreen Hanson, 17408 Star Schoolhouse Road, Dexter, NY 13634

I'm interested in providing a donation of \$ ____ for door prizes

_____ CUT HERE _____ CUT HERE _____

Executive Committee

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ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB

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Upcoming Events

- Sep 1, Wed. Lake Of the Woods Paddle
- Sep 4, Sat. St. Regis Mtn with Jesse
- Sep 8, Wed. Black River Watertown Paddle
- Sep 9, Thu. Chapter Board Meeting-ZOOM Call
- Sep 10, Fri. Volunteer Trail Workdays on Tug Hill with Cindy
- Sep 11, Sat. Wheatstone Gulf Hike
- Sep 12, Sun. Potato Hill Farm with Vicki
- Sep 15, Wed. Red Lake Paddle
- Sep 18, Sat. Volunteer Trail Workdays on Tug Hill with Cindy
- Sep 22, Wed. Black River Dexter Paddle
- Sep 24-26. ADK Fall Outing with Onondaga Chapter
- Oct 2, Sat. Ampersand Mountain with Jesse
- Oct 3, Sun. John Young Trail & Inman Glide with Clara
- Oct 30, Sat. Owls Head Mountain with Jesse
- Nov 6, Sat. Queer Lake Lollipop Loop with Ray
- Nov 7, Sun. Poor's Island Walk with Wendy
- Nov 13, Sat. Annual Banquet