

**Minutes of the January 8, 2014 Meeting of the Executive Committee  
of the Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of Adirondack Mountain Club,  
Inc., held at Queensbury, New York, at Carl R's Restaurant**

**Present:** Bill Bechtel, John Caffry, Maureen Coutant, Tom Ellis, Laura Fiske, Jill Gruben, Kerri Healy, Sarah King, Jonathan Lane, Steve Mackey, Linda Ranado, Wayne Richter, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, and Gretchen Steen. Also present: Kathi Noble, Tim Noble, Adam Rubinstein, and John Schneider. **Chapter Chair Laura Fiske** opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

**The minutes** of the December 4, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Linda Ranado, seconded by Laura Fiske. The date of the ADK Winterfest was corrected to be 1/11/14.

**Past Treasurer John Schneider** presented the December 2013 and year-end 2013 Treasurer's Reports. Income included one month of dues and \$1,050 for the Ragnar Relay. Laura noted that after buying calendars and mailing them to the Ragnar volunteers, the net was \$837. The Friends of the Kayaderosseras never cashed its \$50 check, so John re-entered that amount. The year-end balance was \$10,264, up almost \$3,000 over a year ago. The reports were approved unanimously on a motion by Gretchen Steen, seconded by Kerri Healy.

**YMG Chair and Director Jonathan Lane** led a discussion of how the Chapter can keep increasing the number of people going on Chapter outings. He said that he is still researching how to use **meetup.com**, that only a few outings actually fill up, and that the Club is trying to focus on attracting younger members. Outings Chair Wayne Richter said that when he discussed the use of meetup.com with the outings leaders he got a mixed reaction, and recommended making this optional for each leader. John Caffry suggested making it optional to start and then reevaluating it after 6 months. Wayne agreed with this idea and after further discussion Laura said that it would be done that way. It will be used only for already-approved outings and the participants must still call the leader in advance. A discussion of the technical details ensued.

**Bill Bechtel** reported on the **Club Board** meeting. A \$3.7 million budget was adopted, an increase of 6%. Membership has been steady for the last 3 years. The resolution on divesting from fossil fuel companies was defeated, but Laura said that the Club will instead form a working group to look at ways the Club can reduce its carbon footprint. The NPT is being relocated to actually start in Northville.

**Kerri Healy** reported for Jacki Bave on the proposed **2014 Chapter memberships and special donations**. She will look into why Friends of the Kayaderosseras did not cash its check and the Chapter will consider dropping this group, depending on what she finds out. She recommended that if it is dropped, the funds be added to the Friends of Pok-o-Moonshine donation, for its Ranger Trail project. The issue was tabled.

**Past Treasurer John Schneider** presented the **2014 budget**. Mo Coutant suggested adding the Ragnar Relay as a line item. The budget projects a \$3,565 deficit, but for the last two years the Chapter has finished about that amount ahead of budget, so it is likely to be a break-even year. It was agreed that the \$5 dues rebate for joining the Chapter at a special event will no longer be

offered. The budget includes a new \$1,000 item to support the new Fire Tower Challenge book and brochure. Most other lines are similar to 2013. On a motion by Mo, seconded by Wayne, the budget was unanimously approved. John departed the meeting to a hearty round of applause.

Laura gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**, beginning with a discussion of how to better search for people to fill offices and committee chairmanships. One option is to make more of the jobs non-voting roles so that the volunteers don't have to attend all of the Ex. Comm. meetings, yet their absence would not cause quorum problems. These positions would be more of a coordinator than a chair, similar to the Fire Tower Challenge coordinator. John Caffry said that this would require a by-laws change, which would have to commence in the spring. There was discussion of doing this for the Annual Dinner and Sarah King and Mo said that Ann Paolano had agreed to take such a position. Laura also said that the Chapter needed to have better information on what each job requires and to keep it updated, and that her goal for the year is to recruit more people.

**Linda Ranado, Education Chair**, reported that she had many applicants for camperships, but there was still money available for two more. **Gretchen Steen, Hospitality Chair**, reported that the Victorian Stroll went really well, although there were fewer people coming in to the Chapter's table than in past years because the warm weather kept people outdoors. **Vice Chair Kerri Healy** reported that she is working on recruiting more volunteers.

**YMG Chair Jonathan Lane** reported that the Facebook numbers are now 200+ for the Chapter and about 99 for the YMG, with some overlap. He sent out an e-mail to the Ex. Comm. about the project management tool. His goals for the year include making the website mobile-friendly, finding 3 new avenues for publicity and increasing affiliations with other groups and colleges.

**Newsletter Chair Jill Gruben** reported that the next deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup>. **Website Chair George Sammons** reported that he is researching making the website mobile-compatible. **Fire Tower Challenge Co-coordinator Tim Noble** reported that he is planning to write up a compendium of funny responses from the completers' letters for the newsletter.

**Mo Coutant** suggested that the best way to recruit volunteers is to do it on outings. **Program Chair Sarah King** reported that the January program will be a dean from ACC speaking on climate change. **Outings Chair Wayne Richter** reported that he was recently able to add a new last-minute, internet notice only outing (that was not previously listed in the newsletter). This is a new option and he is going to see how it works out. **Wilderness Chair Jim Schneider** reported that he submitted the annual Adopt-a-Wildland report to the Club. He also discussed the progress being made on the updated Fire Tower Challenge book and brochure.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Linda Ranado, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary

**Next meeting – February 5, 7:00, at the Wesley in Saratoga.**