



chepontuc — "Hard place to cross," Iroquois reference to Glens Falls

Chepontuc Footnotes

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GLENS FALLS-SARATOGA CHAPTER OF THE ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB

PROGRAM



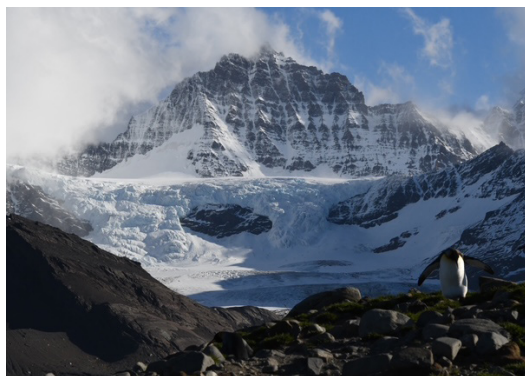
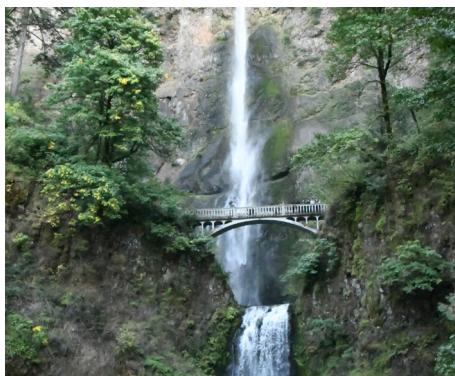
Timber Rattlesnakes: How They Live and What They Do

**Guest speaker: William S. Brown, PhD | Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 7pm |
Community Room, Crandall Public Library**



Bill will summarize the basic biology of Timber Rattlesnakes and focus on some of the research questions that are useful for evaluating its conservation status. He will frame this perspective toward outdoor enthusiasts and naturalists who may encounter a rattlesnake in the wild. In New York, Timber Rattlesnakes are distributed in two dozen counties. Many populations were extirpated or depleted throughout the state over the past two centuries. The species was listed as "threatened" in 1983 and has been fully protected by New York State law for the past 40 years. Please join our friends from the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society for a joint program at Crandall Public Library.





Three Great Cruises: Antarctica, the Baltic and the Pacific Northwest

Presentation by John Schneider | Wednesday, January 21, 2025 | Crandall Public Library

In 2023, I went on three cruises. Each one was totally different from the others. My first one was my third trip to my favorite place in the natural world – Antarctica's South Georgia Island. The island has some of the world's largest king penguin colonies. Three landings stand out: estimates of 23,000, 75,000 and 125,000 penguins in one location. We went ashore at least twice each day and viewed penguins, fur seals and elephant seals, as well as many seabirds. This trip was not complete until we drank a toast at the grave of Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton.

My second cruise was on the Baltic Sea where we visited areas of Denmark, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Sweden. We explored parts of Europe I had not visited before. Unfortunately, illness required us to cut this trip short, but fortunately, this occurred toward the end of the cruise.

We ended our cruise year with a river cruise down the Snake and Columbia rivers in Idaho, Washington and Oregon. Many super floods, some of the largest in the world, occurred in this part of our country creating what are called channeled scablands. Also, one of the country's most beautiful waterfall is on the Columbia River.

Come and enjoy pictures of thousands of toasting the "Boss," penguins, fur seal pups and really heavy elephant seals of South Georgia and the Falkland islands; interesting aspects of the Baltic; and the beautiful scenery of our Pacific Northwest.



The Glens Falls – Saratoga Chapter of ADK and supporting sponsors are thrilled to host

The Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour

Friday-Sunday, January 30 - February 1, 2026

Shows: Friday 7pm; Saturday 2 and 7pm; Sunday 4pm

Charles R. Wood Theater, Glens Falls NY

\$25/evening • *New films screened each show!*

FOR TICKETS	PRESALE INFO	FOR FILM INFO
Tickets go on sale Dec. 12 at noon. Scan the QR code or call 518-480-4878. 	Chapter members and past attendees will receive a presale code by email for early access on Dec. 9th at noon. Presale limited to 200 tickets/show.	adk-gfs.org facebook.com/ADKGFs instagram: @adkglensfallssaratoga email: banff@adk-gfs.org
JOIN US EARLY — enjoy the Mountain Art Show, Common Roots drinks, snacks, raffle, and door prizes!		

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



Summer Camp 2026: Adventure, Education, & Fun!

Do you know a child, grandchild, neighbor or friend that might be interested? Let them know! Can you imagine being able to go to camp in the Adirondacks for free? What a great opportunity!

The Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club pays the \$350 fee for the selected youths (ages 11 to 17) to spend a week at either of the DEC's environmental camps, Camp Colby near Saranac Lake or Pack Forest just above Warrensburg.

For those in the older range who prefer a more rugged experience, which includes five days out in the woods with hands-on experience learning the ins and outs of trail maintenance, ADK offers its own ADK Teen Trail program.

See our website for the camp applications (adk-gfs.org) under menu\Chapter Info links\Education. Send completed applications to Kim Brown.

Email: education@adk-gfs.org

End of Year Gratitude



Many thanks to Anne Paolano for organizing our 2025 Annual Dinner. It was nice having it in a different location this year (Lake George, Holiday Inn). Annual dinner is always a special time for folks to get together with old friends and also a great opportunity to hopefully make some new ones. Organizing the dinner is always a lot of work, but Anne makes it happen successfully every year. We are lucky to have her and grateful for all

her help with this and the monthly programs that she facilitates for our members.

Many thanks to Pat Desbiens, Nominating Committee Chair. Pat's experience has made this annual process very smooth and we thank her!!

Also thank you to the new and returning Executive Committee, Chairs and Committee Members. I want to extend a special welcome to our new webmaster Jonathon Volks. Our current webmaster George Sammons is in process of transitioning into retirement after many years of tireless service to our chapter. Thank you George!!

— Kim Brown

Ideas for Our Next Newsletter?

Things You'd Like to See?

Please email newsletter@adk-gfs.org.

New Members

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

We welcome the following new members during August and September 2025 into the Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of ADK. Thank you for becoming an ADK member and choosing our chapter. ADK has a new computer platform for memberships. If you have any concerns about your membership please contact Liz Rovers: membership@adk-gfs.org.

Regards, Liz Rovers
Membership Chair, Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of ADK

Nancy Ann and Richard Dye Belisle Family
Mrs. David Pawlick
Daniel Ethan Miller
Mike Nadzan
Kathleen McGowin
Peter Charles Lowe
Pamela Jones
Chris Tarkowski
Natalli Amato
Leanne Donelan
Gail Burke
Michael Kats
Alicia Morell
Jeremy Hurteau
Liz Devlin
Maureen Guthrie
Donna Maureen Lavery
Tim Mullen
Karen Hickcox
Tom Graves

Update from ADK's New Executive Director, Cortney Worrall

Dear Chapters and Chapter Leadership,

I am writing to say hello to each chapter and to thank you. Thank you for being a part of what makes ADK great, for your support, your involvement, and for the many volunteer hours you have put into your chapters and ADK. Thank you also for your patience in hearing from me as ADK's new Executive Director. I am entering my sixth month at ADK and it's been gratifying and challenging. I am writing to update you on a few things and look forward to keeping in touch more often.

Many of you have reached out to ADK staff and me about questions centered on the Cascade Welcome Center and its future. After months of discussion, ADK has made the difficult decision to sell the Center and work to concentrate our staff time, energy, and focus on our operations at Heart Lake, Johns Brook Lodge, and our many programs. We will concentrate fully on our own work and influence including outdoor leadership training, education, hospitality, trails, and stewardship for the Adirondacks and New York's wild lands.

As much as we wanted Cascade to succeed under ADK, the reality was that it stretched us too far. As you can imagine, deciding to step back was incredibly hard. It's not just the public who are disappointed, but our staff who had poured hard work, sweat, and passion into the facility for a very long time. We are proud we are leaving the property and facility vastly improved. We believe this is the right choice—one that allows us to refocus and move forward in a stronger, more intentional way.

I also want to acknowledge the input we have received regarding our email highlighting the tremendous need to reach out to federal representatives. It's baked into ADK's programs and focus that the Adirondacks and Catskills, and NYS State public lands should be, and are, the primary focus of our advocacy. And yet, I would love to give you some background here about our advocacy to put our recent messages in context.

ADK co-leads the major effort to ensure there is \$10 million earmarked each year in the NYS Budget's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to fund stewardship and preservation in high-use areas in the Adirondacks and Catskills. This funds our work and the work of our partners. As we face the rolling back of funding and protections for public lands and environmental programs across the nation due to federal cuts, we and our partners are very concerned about the potential impacts to New York. Federal actions can have a direct impact on state budgets and conservation priorities. Any pressure and impact from you to our federal representatives will have a positive ripple effect, which is why taking a few short minutes to reach out to your representatives through our action page will go a long way.

Click on [Take Action Now! | Adirondack Mountain Club](#), to see where you can send letters to federal representatives and encourage state legislators who need to be thanked for their leadership and urged to continue making environmental funding a priority.

Lastly, I look forward to meeting more chapters and I extend many thanks to those who have reached out. I have very much enjoyed the time at meetings and events, so please keep reaching out.

Please look forward to skiing opportunities at Heart Lake this winter which we are working on. We are eager to bring us back to the organization's early skiing roots found at Heart Lake.

We will be sending more regular updates to chapter leadership, so stay tuned for more information from me and our staff in the coming weeks and months. Thank you for all that you do and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Cortney

UPCOMING FIRE TOWER TRAIL CLOSURES DUE TO HUNTING SEASON:

Some fire tower trails are closed during hunting season. The dates below are inclusive. Due to easements with the landowners, the closure dates listed below may be different from the dates listed on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) website.

Stillwater Mountain: October 14 through December 20, 2025. Stillwater Mountain hunting season is always the second Tuesday of October through December 20.

Swede Mountain: September 11 through December 15, 2025

Spruce Mountain: October 25 through December 7, 2025

Fire Tower Challenge 2.0 is up and running. Please go to: <https://members.adk.org/members/members/get-involved/adk-fire-tower-challenge.aspx> to submit your completion form and payment online. If you have any questions please contact the Fire Tower Challenge committee at firetower@adk-gfs.org.



ADK FIRE TOWER CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the most recent finishers of the Adirondack Mountain Club Fire Tower Challenge:

Michael Marzullo
Shirley White
Steven Mix
Allison Galuska
Lori Houghtaling
Chantal Gervais
Jason Steeger
Stacy Steeger
James Steeger
Julia Steeger
Nicholas Burdick
Robin Rondash
Dane Nickel, MD
Benjamin Mastaits

Jennifer Heeren
Eric Treacy
Elizabeth Barrese
Zachery Rush
Matthew Nuesell
Donna McCabe
Philip McCabe
Erica Miranda
Izzy Miranda
Ruby Miranda
Karen Nichols
JC Szalla
Christopher Lecksell
Sara Stebbins

Frankie Berrier
LeAndra Lair
Frederick Kopff
Tina Williams
Nathan Keataley
Jefferey Loukas
Joelle Loukas
Eric Larsen
Sarah Larsen
Alison Geremia
Jim Donnelly
Ann Simpson
Kelly Arnold
LouAnn MacDougal

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

PYRAMID PEAK AND MAYBE GOTHICS **Hike**

Sat, Nov 1, 2025, 7:00 am, Rating: A+
Jeff Mans - 518-265-4135,
adkhighlander@aol.com

To celebrate the seasonal end of the AMR/DEC parking reservation system and public access to the AMR easement, we'll climb Pyramid Peak and linger for a while to enjoy the views before de-

ciding whether to climb Gothics to hog more views. Bonuses: Lower Ausable Lake and Rainbow Falls. Trail is very steep in sections and open at places. Distance to Pyramid is about 12+ miles round trip with 3,550 feet of elevation gain. Pyramid stands at 4515 feet. Meet up at Schroon Lake Tops parking lot at 7:00 am, or at AMR parking lot at 7:30 am. Rain date November 2nd.

ADK Saratoga-Glens Falls Chapter Committee Officers and Chairs

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Chapter Chair Kim Brown
908-305-8357 | chapterchair@adk-gfs.org

First Vice Chair Laura Fiske
vicechair@adk-gfs.org

2nd Vice Chair Jess Krause
vicechair@adk-gfs.org

Secretary John Caffry
518-798-0624 | secretary@adk-gfs.org

Treasurer Steve Mackey
518-793-6484 | treasurer@adk-gfs.org

Past Chapter Chair Brian Coville
518-350-4117 | pastchair@adk-gfs.org

Trustee Maureen Coutant
Alternate Trustee Liz Rovers
trustee@adk-gfs.org

Members at Large Thomas Khairallah
Jeff Mans
Kathi Noble

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation Paul Dietershagen
401-529-5034 | conservation@adk-gfs.org

Education Vacant
908-305-8357 | education@adk-gfs.org

Hospitality Gretchen Steen
518-638-6139 | hospitality@adk-gfs.org

Membership Liz Rovers
membership@adk-gfs.org

Newsletter Editor Vacant
newsletter@adk-gfs.org

Outings Wayne Richter
518-893-7895 | outings@adk-gfs.org

Programs Anne Paolano
518-798-3055 | programs@adk-gfs.org

Trails Tom Ellis
518-638-6139 | trails@adk-gfs.org
Co-Chair Jim Schneider

Website George Sammons
518-832-7437 | webmaster@adk-gfs.org

Young Members Vacant
ymg@adk-gfs.org

Fire Tower Tim Noble
518-668-3046 | firetower@adk-gfs.org

Annual Dinner Anne Paolano
518-798-3055 | annualdinner@adk-gfs.org

Publicity Vacant
publicity@adk-gfs.org

Banff Film Festival Mo Coutant
banff@adk-gfs.org

Get social
Instagram: @adkglensfallssaratoga
Facebook: facebook.com/adkgfs or
facebook.com/SaratogaYMG

Learn more: adk-gfs.org

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

SOUTHERN ADIRONDACKS / LAKE GEORGE REGION Hike

Sat, Nov 1, 2025, time TBD, Rating: B
Kim Brown - 908-305-8357,
kim137@me.com

Geared for those new to hiking and those coming back to the outdoors! Pace will be slow to moderate with distance between 4-8 miles. Hikes will be primarily in the Lake George/ Southern Adirondack Region. Let me know if you want to be on my email list and I'll share what we are doing and where to meet. This is a dog friendly hike. All dogs must be on leash the entire time and hike leader notified you are bringing your furry friend.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wed, Nov 5, 2025, 7:00 pm, Rating: NR
Kim Brown - 908-305-8357,
kim137@me.com

The meeting will be a virtual meeting via Zoom. All chapter members are welcome at the meeting. Please email chapterchair@adk-gfs.org for the Zoom information if you would like to attend. The Zoom link will also be provided to the Executive Committee in the meeting agenda.

JAY RANGE Hike

Sat, Nov 8, 2025, 8:00 am, Rating: A-
Pete Fedorick - 661-425-1044,
pfedoric@gmail.com

Join me for one of the best ridge climbs in the Adirondacks, around 8 miles round trip and about 2,600 feet of elevation change. If the weather is nice, it will be some of the best views in the Adirondacks. Meetup for carpool will be at Warren County Municipal Center 6:45am, departing at 7am. Please email me or text me if you plan to attend.

SAWTEETH Hike

Sat, Nov 15, 2025, 7:30 am, Rating: A
Pete Fedorick - 661-425-1044,
pfedoric@gmail.com

Sawteeth from the Adirondack Mountain Reserve, taking the scenic route. Mileage on this one is around 13 miles with 3200 feet of elevation gain. Meetup for carpool will be at Warren County Municipal Center 6:15am, departing at 6:30am. Or AMR parking lot at 7:30am. Please email me or text me if you plan to attend.

SOUTHERN ADIRONDACKS / LAKE GEORGE REGION Hike

Sat, Nov 15, 2025, time TBD, Rating: B
Kim Brown - 908-305-8357,
kim137@me.com

Geared for those new to hiking and those

All are welcome!

UPCOMING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025, 7pm
- Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025, 7pm

Kim Brown: 908-305-8357,
kim137@me.com

These meetings will be virtual, via Zoom. All chapter members are welcome. Please email chapterchair@adk-gfs.org for the Zoom information if you would like to attend.

coming back to the outdoors! Pace will be slow to moderate with distance between 4-8 miles. Hikes will be primarily in the Lake George/ Southern Adirondack Region. Let me know if you want to be on my email list and I'll share what we are doing and where to meet. This is a dog friendly hike. All dogs must be on leash the entire time and hike leader notified you are bringing your furry friend.

COMMUNITY ROOM CRANDALL LIBRARY 251 GLENS STREET GLENS FALLS NY 12801 Program

Wed, Nov 19, 2025, 7:00 pm, Rating: NR
Anne Paolano - 518-744-6359,
programs@adk-gfs.org

William S Brown PhD Timber Rattlesnakes: How They Live and What They Do. Bill will summarize the basic biology of Timber Rattlesnakes and focus on some of the research questions that are useful for evaluating its conservation status. He will frame this perspective toward outdoor enthusiasts and naturalists who may encounter a rattlesnake in the wild. In New York, Timber Rattlesnakes are distributed in two dozen counties. Many populations were extirpated or depleted throughout the state over the past two centuries. The species was listed as "threatened" in 1983 and has been fully protected by New York State law for the past 40 years. Please join our friends from the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society for a joint program at Crandall Public Library.

NOONMARK AND ROUND MTN LOOP FROM AMR Hike

Sat, Nov 22, 2025, 8:00 am, Rating: A-
Pete Fedorick - 661-425-1044,

pfedoric@gmail.com

Noonmark and Round Mountain loop from Adirondack Mountain Reserve. We'll ascend Noonmark, then come down the back side and climb Round Mountain on the loop back, then go back down to the AMR parking lot for about 6 miles with 3000+ feet of elevation change. Meetup for carpool will be at Warren County Municipal Center 6:45am, departing at 7am. Or AMR parking lot at 8am. Please email me or text me if you plan to attend.

TURKEY TROT NO. 27 Hike

Thu, Nov 27, 2025, 8:00 am, Rating: C+
Rich Crammond - 518-584-2380

Let's work up that old holiday hunger once again this year. Approximately 4 miles of hiking on and off road and trail with little elevation change. Dress for cold and snow. Meet at the visitor parking lot off Route 32, Stillwater. See you there, hiker buds. Happy Thanksgiving from Rich.

SOUTHERN ADIRONDACKS / LAKE GEORGE REGION Hike/Snowshoe

Sat, Nov 29, 2025, time TBD, Rating: B
Kim Brown - 908-305-8357,
kim137@me.com

What's Up Saturday? Geared for those new to hiking and those coming back to the outdoors! Pace will be slow to moderate with distance between 4-8 miles. Hikes will be primarily in the Lake George/ Southern Adirondack Region. Let me know if you want to be on my email list and I'll share what we are doing and where to meet the Monday or Tuesday before the scheduled hike.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wed, Dec 3, 2025, 6:00 pm, Rating: NR
Kim Brown - 908-305-8357,
kim137@me.com

The Annual Pot Luck will be held at Saratoga Library which will then be followed by the Executive Committee Meeting. All chapter members are welcome. Please email chapterchair@adk-gfs.org if you would like to attend.

WILTON WILDLIFE PARK Hike

Sat, Dec 6, 2025, 9:00 am, Rating: C+
Rich Crammond - 518-584-2380

We will meet at the main parking lot across the road from the flag pole, off Scout Road. Dress for cold weather and rain. Around three miles of hiking with little elevation change. Bring microspikes in case of ice (Eeks!). Merry Christmas

to all. It may be a good idea to wear some orange while deer hunting season is still open in other areas.

SOUTHERN ADIRONDACKS / LAKE GEORGE REGION Hike/Snowshoe

Sat, Dec 13, 2025, time TBD, Rating: B
Kim Brown - 908-305-8357,
kim137@me.com

What's Up Saturday? Geared for those new to hiking and those coming back to the outdoors! Pace will be slow to moderate with distance between 4-8 miles. Hikes will be primarily in the Lake George/ Southern Adirondack Region. Let me know if you want to be on my email list and I'll share what we are doing and where to meet the monday or tuesday before the scheduled hike.

SANTANONIS Hike

Sat, Jan 10, 2026, 5:00 am, Rating: A+
Wayne Richter - 518-893-7895,
wrighter@nycap.rr.com

The Santanonis in winter: No mud, but we'll hope for plenty of snow. We'll go up the Bradley Pond herd path to tag Panther, then head down to and back up from Couchsachraga. Next, we'll follow the ridge to Santanonis. If we find the Express trail, we'll take it down. If not, we will backtrack on the ridge to take the Bradley Pond herd path down. Expect a long day with a finish well after dark. And who

knows, maybe we'll meet a pine martin or two. Meeting will be at the Northway Exit 18 park and ride at the north end of Media Drive.

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR Program

Fri, Jan 30, 2026, 7:00 pm, Rating: NR
Mo Coutant - 518-708-0096,
banff@adk-gfs.org

Save the date - come to 1 or all 4 shows! This year we added a 4th show since the tickets sell out so quickly. But they will still go fast, so get your tickets in mid-December before they sell out! Different films each showing. See film line-ups on our site when they become available in mid-December. Doors open an hour before the show, get there 1/2 hour before for an early bird door prize. Email or call Mo for more information. **Note: There's a local hockey game at 7- so get there early to find parking! Come to GF for dinner or drinks and stay for the show!**

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR Program

Sat, Jan 31, 2026, 2:00pm and 7:00 pm,
Rating: NR, Mo Coutant - 518-708-0096,
banff@adk-gfs.org

Save the date - come to 1 or all 4 shows! This year we added a 4th show since the tickets sell out so quickly. They'll still go quickly especially for this show, so get

your tickets in mid-December while you can! Different films each showing. See film line-ups on our site when they become available in mid-December. Doors open an hour before the show, get there 1/2 hour before for an early bird door prize. Email or call Mo for more information.

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR Program

Sun, Feb 1, 2026, 4:00pm, Rating: NR
Mo Coutant - 518-708-0096,
banff@adk-gfs.org

Note: new time for our Sunday show! This year the show is at 4pm!

Make your pre-Banff dinner reservations early! This year there are hockey games Friday and Saturday evenings and also Sunday afternoon. So, get to Glens Falls early to find parking!

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS CALENDAR

Date	Day	Type	Destination	Leader(s)	Rating
NOVEMBER 2025					
1	Sat	Hike	Pyramid Peak and maybe Gothics	Jeff Mans	A+
1	Sat	Hike	Southern Adirondacks / Lake George Region	Kim Brown	B
5	Wed	Meeting	Executive Committee Meeting	Kim Brown	NR
8	Sat	Hike	Jay Range	Pete Fedorick	A-
15	Sat	Hike	Sawteeth	Pete Fedorick	A
15	Sat	Hike	Southern Adirondacks / Lake George Region	Kim Brown	B
19	Wed	Program	Community Room Crandall Library 251 Glens Street Glens Falls NY 12801	Anne Paolano	NR
22	Sat	Hike	Noonmark and Round Mtn loop from AMR	Pete Fedorick	A-
27	Thu	Hike	Turkey Trot No. 27	Rich Crammond	C+
29	Sat	Hike/Snowshoe	Southern Adirondacks / Lake George Region	Kim Brown	B
DECEMBER 2025					
3	Wed	Meeting	Executive Committee Meeting	Kim Brown	NR
6	Sat	Hike	Wilton Wildlife Park	Rich Crammond	C+
13	Sat	Hike/Snowshoe	Southern Adirondacks/Lake George Region	Kim Brown	B
JANUARY 2026					
10	Sat	Hike	Santanonis	Wayne Richter	A+
30	Fri	Program	Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour (7PM)	Mo Coutant	NR
31	Sat	Program	Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour (2PM & 7PM)	Mo Coutant	NR
(Feb) 1	Sun	Program	Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour (4PM)	Mo Coutant	NR

HIKE RATINGS				
Rating	Effort Level	Elevation Gain (ft.)	Miles	Time (hrs.)
A+	Very Strenuous	4,000+	10+	10+
A	Strenuous	3,000+	5-10	8-10
B+	Moderately Strenuous	2,000+	5-10	6-8
B	Moderate	1,000+	8-10	5-7
C+	Fairly Easy	1,000+	5-8	4-6
C	Easy	Under 1,000	Under 5	Under 5

CANOE/KAYAK RATINGS		
Rating	Miles	Portages
A*	12+	Long (1/2 mile+)
B	6-12	Short
C	Under 6	None
* includes overnight camping		

TRIP REVIEWS

Whiteface from Lake Placid

Sat, Aug 2, 2025, Wayne Richter and Anna Gomez Domenech

The weather gods served up what would have been a perfect hiking day, were it not marred by the human folly of wildfire smoke propelled by excessive fossil fuel burning and global climate change. We had a cool start that developed into temperatures in the 60s and 70s, mainly clear skies, low humidity, negligible biting insects, and a trail footway as dry as I've ever seen it. The hike began with an easy forest walk along an old woods road past quiet Connery Pond to Whiteface Landing on the shore of Lake Placid. We went out to the still badly tilted dock (will this ever be repaired?) to sit for a few minutes and contemplate the calm, beautiful lake. We had snack at the Whiteface Lean-to, including Long Island bagels and cream cheese (yum!) that Mike and Maryanne brought, then began the real ascent. The views toward the top are spectacular, but it soon became apparent that the wildfire smoke that had cleared out the day before had moved back in. We found the summit crowded with those who had driven up. After some visiting and photos, we moved to an open ledge below the summit and away from the crowds for a leisurely lunch and conversation. Lunch included delicious molasses cookies that Mike baked, direct from Vermont. Along the way back and at the lean-to, we chatted with a group on their first Adirondacks hike, whose infectious enthusiasm for the day was a joy to share. As the day was on the cool side and we had lingered considerably, we passed on the swim off the dock and walked directly out to finish our day. *Participants: Mike and Maryann Badagliacca, Mike Fuller, Anna Gomez Domenech (co-leader), Tom Hart, Wayne Richter, Erin Roberts, Stephen Root.*

Southern Adirondacks / Lake George Region

Sat, Aug 9, 2025, Kim Brown

It was both a weather and air quality watch to see if this date would hold. Air quality from Canadian wildfires was good enough to hike - in the moderate 50's range. I'm certainly needing to learn more about these air quality weather apps! Anyway, because of the anticipated heat and humidity, I decided to do two short but steeper hikes, and then finish the day with an option for a personal swim at nearby Ticonderoga Beach! The first hike was Cook Mountain Preserve - 3.5 miles round trip with 1,013 feet of elevation gain. We hiked up slowly while hydrating and delay-

ering. We went over to our first view looking north and rested a few minutes for snacks and pictures. Then we went to the Vermont/northern view on the other side and continued back down the trail. Much easier than the up! Back in the cars - most of the group continued on to Anthony's Preserve, about an 18 minute drive. Starting up at about noon, this hike was much warmer with less tree cover and more rocks radiating the heat. All of us took our time getting up to the three lookouts over Lake George and looking west to Rogers Slide. Each of us got some shade and enjoyed our well earned lunch after hiking the 0.9 miles up with 798 feet of elevation gain. The day's total was 5.3 miles round trip and 1,813 feet of elevation gain. Then most of us went over to Ticonderoga Beach for a quick cooling off and it felt great!!

Participants: Kim Brown, Alan C, Peter F, Alicia M, Sharon S, Laura F, Sophia F, Anne V, Marie N, Donna and Mitch Z.

Bear Slides Hike & Bike

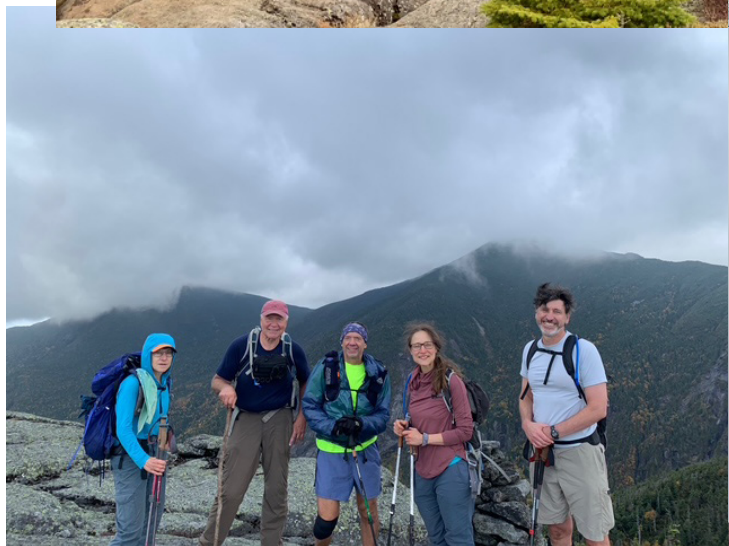
Sun, Aug 10, 2025, Steve Mackey

We had a turnout of five. It was a beautiful day, with no mud, and no bugs. The only real negative was that the last couple of miles along the Hudson was on a dirt road, and the bumps were pretty bad. There also was more traffic than normal because it was a good day to tube down the river, so there were lots of people doing that. When a car or bus went by, it was pretty dusty for a minute. The hike is fairly short and fairly easy. There are some picnic tables just below the slides, so that is where we had our lunch/snacks. Most of us elected to bike back the official "challenge route", so we had about five significant hills to climb. We lost all the tubing traffic, so it was nice and quiet, and dust free. It was a nice trip, and a good way to get two of the challenges on the same day. *Participants: Steve & Licia M., Peter F., Paul A., and Laura F.*

Northumberland Ride

Tue, Aug 12, 2025, Jen Ferriss

Although the heat index was high, four riders decided to join me on the ride through the countryside in the towns of Northumberland and Fort Edward. As we were approaching Clark Road hill, a fire truck pulled out in front of us. We didn't know what to expect along our route, but found the truck on West River Road blocking traffic. Phew, no accidents or fires! We were quickly



Photos from 9/26-28 outing to Elk Lake-Marcy Trail to Panther Gorge, Haystack, Marcy and Skylight. Courtesy of Jeff Manns.

overtaken by the riders of the Multi-sport Club who were participating in a speed trial (see how fast you can go). They were fast! Dinner was at Stewarts - ice cream, of course. *Participants: Pam, Jerry, Beth and John.*

Harrisburg Lake Bike

Fri, Aug 15, 2025, Steve Mackey

As I said in the write-up, it's about 5 miles of uphill at the beginning. The riders on ebikes made a good decision, both in purchasing an ebike, and then in bringing them for the ride. The traffic was greater than I remember, probably because it was a Friday evening, and the lodge was getting their new guests for the weekend. At one point, we took a break to regroup, and we happened to stop by a farm with Scottish Highland Cows. The owner came out and told us all about them, and we had to wait patiently, even though we wanted to get going. I'm guessing he doesn't get too many visitors, and we wanted to be kind and neighborly, so we stayed and listened. We got to the lake, and there was quite a bit of activity. At the canoe launch, the biting flies were bad, so we made it a quick visit. The ride back, as expected, took no time at all. For the last half, you are going so fast, you keep deciding whether to brake or not. For dinner, most of us went to the Stony Creek Inn. There was a ton of cars there, but the actual restau-

rant part was almost empty. The food was great, and they even had live music. There is a good chance I will lead this again next summer. *Participants: Steve and Licia M., Jim and Mo C., Laura F., and Bob S.*

Gateway 8 Challenge: Harrisburg Lake Paddle

Sun, Aug 17, 2025, Chandra Geremick

We met in Hadley, and our fun crew headed out with kayaks in tow. It was a 30 minute drive to Stoney Creek. Everything about this trip hinged on being adventurous. We found the parking lot and assembled. We had a great time exploring and taking in the beauty. It was a perfect summer day to enjoy the paddle. There were a few spots that were pretty dry, so we maneuvered around them. Looking forward to the next paddle! *Participants: Chandra G., Jen T., Michael R., Pete F., Laura F., Anthony S., Joe B.*

Long Lake Camp, Hike to Cold River and Miller's Falls [Boat/Camp/Hike]

Fri, Aug 22, 2025, Jeff Mans

The Adirondack version of The Endless Summer, this year's annual Long Lake/Cold River outing couldn't have been better. Sunny weather and summer swimming at a sandy beach on Long Lake across from Plumley Point, where we put on life preservers

while floating and bobbing in the lake. We camped the night at Plumley Point and had a nice campfire and restful sleep. Next morning, we made breakfast and hiked the Northville-Placid Trail over the two suspension bridges to the Cold River, and then on to the Seward Lean-to and Miller's Falls, where we swam in the deep and wide Olympic pool in front of the falls, with medals awarded to all. A few drops of light rain overnight, but the next morning on the hike out we avoided the forecasted rain, and enjoyed breaks in the cloud cover to reveal the sun and partly blue skies. Of course, a trip to Long Lake is not complete without a meal at the Adirondack Hotel, where we had a fine lunch before we drove off into the sunset with boat in tow. One of the trip highlights was the sighting of a very large dark brown Eastern Coyote nearby that rose up out of a formerly marshy field while we were lingering and musing what a great spot it would be for a moose, and quietly headed in the opposite direction to the edge of the woods on the other side. Next year, it will be "here coyote" instead of "here moose." Never a dull moment with great companions. *Leader: Jeff Mans. Participants: John Acacia and Jim Zwynenburg.* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwYS3co-9CLI&list=PLX66jEixZe1w4PIeE5Cfrfvf850h3sNIe&index=4>

Southern Adirondacks / Lake George Region

Sat, Aug 23, 2025, Kim Brown

Our trip today was to the Vanderwhacker Mountain Firetower. It was a very enjoyable day with nice weather, no rain, no smoke, mostly clear and not too much humidity. The first mile or so was pretty easy going with minimum up/down going by stream and marshy areas. We had very dry conditions with streams running slightly or not at all. Once we hit the old fire observer cabin, the up started. We took our time and eventually made it all the way up to enjoy the views from the firetower. We ate our well deserved lunch, took pictures and made our way leisurely back down to our cars. The trail was just under 6 miles with ~ 1,700 feet of elevation gain. It was especially fun since most of the participants had not visited the tower before. *Participants: hike leader Kim Brown, Kathleen M, Jim M, Sarah R, Linda F, Peter F, Sophia F, Anne V, Laura F, Margi L, Alicia M, Alan C, and Jim G.* Fun day!

The tip of the tongue: a counter clock-wise approach

Sat, Sep 6, 2025, Jen Ferriss

I planned this hike to train for the Buck 50 ultra race in October and earlier that week, my plans had changed and I was running a race the following weekend, so I was less enthusiastic about hiking counterclockwise. Luckily, the group was amenable to hike the peaks first. With Anthony in the lead, we made great time to the Fifth Peak. The waterfall was dry, so we didn't dilly dally - actually the whole southern tip was dry; the only water was the lake. This was the first time I hiked during snake season and was only mildly freaked out in the grass and low lying swampy areas - if the others were concerned, they did not verbalize their eeks, like I did. The only snake we saw was a slow moving water snake in the blowdown. We also saw a young snapping turtle on the trail and some loons in the bay. Some more about the blowdown ... if you are familiar with the trail, your mind will not comprehend the devastation. Entire ridges are strewn with trees that were knocked over from the east. The amount of work that went in to clear the trail is monumental. I thank each and every one of you who took the time to make it safe - you know who you are! It was a wow-wee day with Anthony, Kimberly and Sophia.

Southern Adirondacks / Lake George Region

Sat, Sep 6, 2025, Kim Brown

The hike was to be Bartonville Mountain and then to Swede

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Firetower. Rain was forecast, but after 15 minutes starting up the trail, there were two thunder boomers close by. We made our way back to the cars to wait for a possible window of the storm passing, but on second look the window looked too narrow with not enough time, so the hike was officially aborted! Sorry for those who made the effort to get out for even the rainy forecast but the hike leader did not want to deal with thunderstorms!

Hike leader: Kim B. Participants: Jim G, Johnny C, Jeremy M, Alicia M, Cathy F, Sharon S, Chandra G, Pam J, Anthony B, Ann V, Paula T, Peter F, Jim M, Jen F, Ken H, Nancy F.

Southern Adirondacks / Lake George Region

Sat, Sep 13, 2025, Kim Brown

Over to Wakely Firetower, this hike and the weather were perfect! Forecast for 60-70s, cloudy with some sun and light winds. Most of the group had never been there, so that always makes it more fun and exciting. We made our way near the very dry stream for the approximately two miles pretty level section. Then we turned right for the steep, at times strenuous, approximate mile to the top. We had interesting "assists" on some slabs by way of two by fours for handrails. Especially helpful in winter, I'd guess. Anyway, we all made it to the top, and had a wonderful leisurely lunch of 40 minutes while some folks braved the 94 foot firetower. A picnic table and caretaker cabin completed the ambiance. On the way down, we stopped to see the helicopter cement pad that was put there in 1972 by DEC to help with bringing in supplies. A faster trip down, of course, with much less heavy breathing! Approximately 6 miles round trip with 1,627 feet of elevation gain. Thanks for a great day and thanks to the drivers! *Hike leader: Kim Brown. Participants: Greg J, Linda F, Kathy M, Pam J, Peggy C, Cathy G, Paula T, Alicia M, Lori M, Jon T and Ed G.*

Elk Lake-Marcy trail to Panther Gorge, Haystack, Marcy and Skylight [2 nights, 3 days]

Fri, Sep 26, 2025, Jeff Mans

A fine long weekend to camp and complete the Panther Gorge trifecta - the Haystack, Marcy and Skylight loop. Pleasantly mild temperatures, good views with autumn colors, and the animated energy of cloud movement below and above the summits kept the action rolling. Just spectacular views all around from the center of the Great Range, with Haystack resembling Machu Picchu of the Adirondacks, where we lingered for a while to eat lunch and hog some views. Upon Skylight now rests a stone carried up to the summit from Pont du Gard, France, to continue the long historic tradition established for Skylight over generations, and perhaps spur alien conspiracy theories about how golden beige Pont du Gard limestone made it to Skylight. There's something incredibly special about these summits that puts a smile on your face. A great group of companions for this three-day odyssey, including Jeff "Old Mountain" Mans (leader), Jim "the Wizard" Zwynenburg, Olivia Bernard, Margaret Casagrande, and George Nisbet. "Mountain Song" by Orson Phelps (last verse) My time it fast passing to view these grand mountains, And the grand scenes of Nature that about them I see, Of great boulder rocks and their sweet crystal fountains, Fresh from their Creator they have all come to me. And I must soon leave to unborn generations, Those scenes that so long have been dear to my sight, Who will hereafter view them with varied emotions, And volumes about them great Authors will write. Oh! the old feldspar mountains, with their sweet crystal fountains, The evergreen mountains we all love so well!



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