

TRAILMARKER

Newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club – Iroquois Chapter

Established in 1972

March/April, 2024



Avalanche Lake and Mt Colden in the background, overlooking the lake

Photo credit: Tom Smith

Chairman's Corner

As I pen this chairman corner, the temperature outside is 45 degrees with rain in the forecast. Indeed, it is a topsy turvy winter.

And for Weizel Cabin weekend at Heart Lake in early January, it was no different. Rain at the lower elevation, light snow at higher elevation, with a mid-afternoon snow blizzard Sunday.

One constant however, was the phenomenal camaraderie among the participants, plentiful and wonderful food, and pleasant competition playing pitch. Despite the weekend whacky weather, various groups managed to hike Mt. Jo, visit Avalanche Lake, walk around Heart Lake, climb Mt. Van Hovenburg, or stroll through the village of Lake Placid. For those members who wish to be part of the action in 2025, Weizel cabin weekend is scheduled for January 17 and 18. Place it on your calendar. The cabin is heated with hot showers, flush toilets, and accommodates 16 individuals in four bunkrooms.

Chairman's Corner Continued

Back at home, our chapter is in need of a program director. Essentially, your role would entail finding individuals to present programs at chapter meetings as well as advertising monthly meetings in local newspapers. Please see me for further details.

Along that line, Jim Schreve will be our presenter for the March meeting. He will speak about the night sky, planets and constellations.

April is the annual open house for the public where several members will present displays on hiking, camping, first aid, and other topics relative to outdoor activity. I welcome members to join us either as a visitor, or better yet, to consider sponsoring a table about your favorite outdoor activity. Just let me know so that I can plan accordingly for tables and space.

Enjoy the balance of our tepid winter season, and I'll see you at the next meeting, or perhaps on the trail.

Paul Sirtoli
Chapter Chairman



Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, March 4, 2024 @ 7 p.m.
First Baptist Church
New Hartford, NY

Our speaker for the evening will be Jim Schreve who will talk on the night sky.

*Displays,
Demonstrations*



*on all things
outdoors!!!
Come see the displays
Learn something new!*

Hop on a trail, Climb a mountain, join the fun!!

See the latest planned trips below 

The Lake George 12 Challenge

March 9, 2024

Come join me as I work on the Lake George 12 for winter credit. As the name suggests, twelve mountains in the Lake George area make up the challenge. At this time, I have hiked five of them during the winter months. I am very flexible on which ones I do on the dates indicated above, and welcome input from those that might be interested in joining me. The seven I have left are Erebus, Buck, Sleeping Beauty, Thomas, Fifth Peak, French Point, and First Peak. If this sounds tempting to you, drop me an email or send me a text message and I will coordinate the details among those that are interested. Happy Hiking!

Mark Perrin mnperrin63@gmail.com or 315-725- 4725

WestKill Mountain Winter Mountaineering Hike

March 24, 2024

At 3880 feet, West Kill Mountain ranks sixth in order of height of the Catskill 3500ers. Reportedly offers good views. We will most likely start at the Diamond Notch Trail northern trailhead. Route is 3.1 with a 1730 foot elevation gain each way. Expect it to take at least 5-6 hours. It is spring so dress in layers, no cotton. Temps can vary wildly from trail head to summit. Bring your own snacks and water. Trip date is subject to change depending on membership interest and weather conditions. If interested contact me and we will discuss trip details further. Rating: A+

Contact: William Luppino 360-0359 or Bootsmuddy@hotmail.com

Balsam Lake Mountain, Catskills

March 23, 2024

Alder Lake route: scenic views along the trail and a lean-to. Fire tower. Summit views.

Round trip distance 13.4 miles

Elevation gain 1520 feet

Difficulty moderate-strenuous

For more information contact Doug Tinkler, DT46X40@Yahoo.com

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

We Could Use Your Help!

Iroquois Chapter Trail Clearing

April 27, 2024

Ha-Deh-Ron-Dah Wilderness

For more information contact Doug Tinkler,

DT46X40@Yahoo.com

Iroquois Chapter Adopt-A-Highway

May 4, 2024

There are 8-10 regular helpers. Join us this Saturday morning and enjoy the comradery and satisfaction of helping take care of our environment.

For more information contact Doug Tinkler,

DT46X40@Yahoo.com

LOOKING BACK

Stonebridge Cross-Country ski

January 21, 2024

The arctic temperature nor the frigid wind chill would deter nineteen hardy individuals from cross-country skiing or snowshoeing the golf links at the Stone Bridge Golf Course in New Hartford. Despite the dearth of snow, several inches of powder on a hard-packed surface was more than sufficient for ideal ski conditions. There was no groomed trail to follow, so our meandering route somewhat followed the perimeter of the course.

After several hours of skiing, several cold and tired members of the group visited Piggy Pat's for food and beverage, thus completing an otherwise wonderful winter event.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli

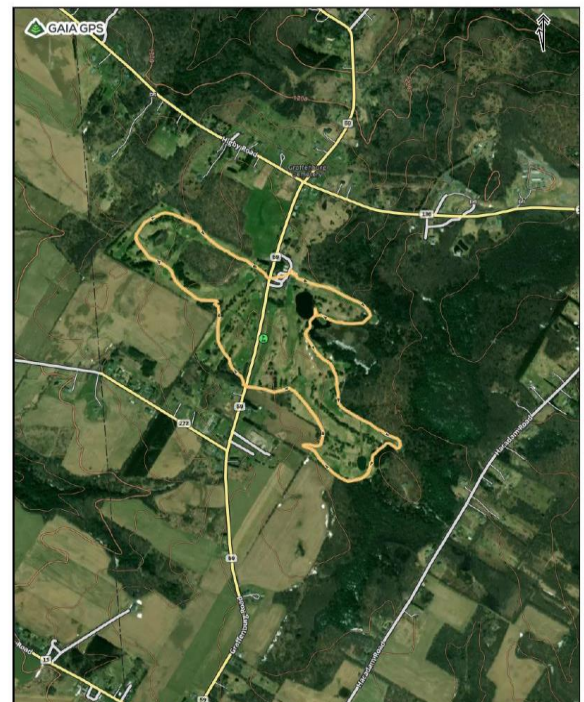




Photo credit: Jim Wasielewski

Whetstone Gulf Snowshoe

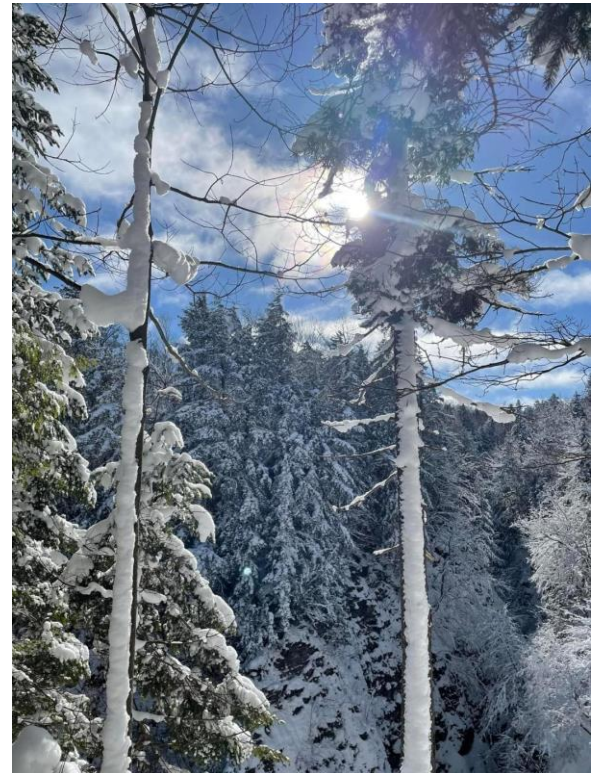
January 21, 2025

The weekend of Whetstone Gulf snowshoe was "real" winter with daytime temperatures in the low single digits and a couple of inches of fresh snow. With the predicted wind, a chill into minus temperatures was predicted.

The forecast didn't hinder eight ADKers from enjoying Whetstone's winter landscape. We caught some beautiful views of the gorge as we snowshoed along the rim with the sun shining through the snow laden trees. We hiked the north side to the point where the trail turns and follows the rim down the opposite and south side. Then knowing the views were few on the south side, we decided to return on the same trail for a second chance at the views and more pictures.

The day concluded with sharing of chili, cornbread, chips and cookies. Special thanks to Mindi for bringing the cornbread and cookies. And thanks to John, Mindi, Rob, Phyllis, Nancy, Deb and Marvin for the fun filled day.

Submitted by: Doug Tinkler



Stillwater Scenic Ledge/Cropsey Pond February 17, 2024

It was an ideal day to be exploring two destinations in the Pepperbox Wilderness, each separated by Bear Pond Jeep Road. Starting from the bridge spanning the Beaver River, the gravel road is a popular snowmobile trail leading to Raven Lake, and eventually to Bear Pond.

The Stillwater Scenic ledge is an easy bushwhack east from the road to an un-named hill, less than 2,000 ft in elevation.

The hill overlooks the reservoir. Cropsey Pond, west of the jeep road, is a challenging bushwhack through a dense forest.

The generally overcast sky was occasionally visited by the sun, allowing a clear line of sight of Stillwater Reservoir from the scenic ledge. Although we could not hear them, the racing snow-mobiles were mere specks on the vast sea of white ice. Stillwater Fire Tower dominated the southern landscape of the reservoir, while Peaked Mountain governed the western shoreline.

Back on the Bear Pond Road just before noon, we prepared for the second part of our two-destination hike, Cropsy Pond. Three members of the group had to depart for afternoon commitments, so now we were five.

Bushwhacking through six inches of fresh powder on a hard packed surface was the easiest part of the day. Facing and navigating over several steep cliff pitches was totally unexpected.

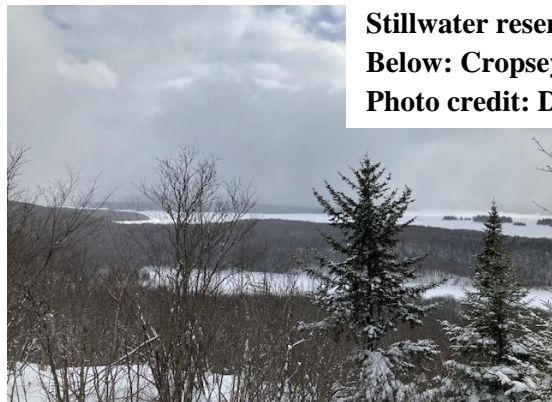
Overcoming these obstacles, we now faced an unforgiving thick forest of spruce and balsam fir thickets, with spruce traps to boot.

The relatively open vlais provided respite from tree branches that tore at clothing or poked the face and extremities.

Nonetheless, the silent, winter beauty of a beaver marsh and a remote pond is well worth the effort to get there. These areas during the summer would be nearly impenetrable, with the flying pestilence making the hiker wacky. I'll let a few of the accompanying photographs tell the rest of the story. Participating on different portions for this 6.5 mile, 6-hour adventure were Carl Anderson, Jeremy Alexander, Carolyn Eastman, David Kuhn, Kevin Perez, Bill Richards, Cynthia Snow, and this writer, Paul Sirtoli.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli

**Stillwater reservoir
Below: Cropsey pond
Photo credit: Dave Kuhn**



Before you venture out

**Remember there are bear canisters to be borrowed
from the chapter. Contact Ed Kobos @**

kk2b@aol.com

CHAPTER OUTINGS

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

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

*Trip length (miles)

*Trip duration (hours)

*Elevation to be climbed (feet)

*Mention of any special equipment or other factors

*Brief description of the level of difficulty to be expected during average conditions.

*Brief description of the trip plan, including parking and possible hiking options.

* Provide Trip Leader contact information.

You can reply by email or if you have any questions call or text me at 315-360-0359.

Bill

Iroquois Chapter Contact Information

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Programs – open