



## TRAILMARKER

Newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club – Iroquois Chapter

Established in 1972

March/April, 2025



**Photo courtesy of Nancy Janquish**

## Letter to Members

Greetings members. I hope you all are enjoying the winter snow and cold as much as I am.

This winter your chapter has had fun events (see Backtracks below) and has more fun outings and events planned on its calendar for the next several months. I hope you will join other members and non-members to enjoy the outdoors and the social time they offer.

We have ramped up our use of Facebook and Meetup as public media sites to advertise our outings and events. Check us out – on Facebook we are the group “Adirondack Mountain Club-Iroquois Chapter” and are found on Meetup under the same name. Both of these public and outward facing sites offer us a flexible means to instantly share our chapter with you and the public. We are excited that Meetup has gained us new members and outing participants.

Over the past couple of years your Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) has guided all chapters to have certified outing leaders. This is a great advancement for your club where leaders have participated in some or all of leadership, First Aid, Map and Compass, and Leave No Trace courses. It positions ADK to be at the top of the list with other prominent clubs that advocate responsible use of the outdoors. Each of our chapter leaders has their own outdoor interests which is evident in the nature of the outings they pick to lead and all have compassion and enthusiasm for leading ADK outings. We certainly have a solid group of leaders. Thank you: Bill Lupino, Heather Lester, Erin Ulrich, Nancy Jaquish and Mark Perin for volunteering to lead outings. Check out our calendar below as it is at the moment or better yet engage with us by joining our Facebook group and Meetup site.

## Letter to Members continued.....

On March 4, 2025 at 6pm your chapter leaders are gathering at the New Hartford Public Library in the Sammon Room to have an open discussion about plans for the chapter. Right now, we have a really good foundation that aligns with our club mission including trail stewardship, lean-to stewardship and outings. We would like to talk about other ideas. All members are invited and encouraged to attend and share their ideas.

**Doug Tinker**  
Chapter Chairman

### Next Iroquois Chapter meeting

March 4, 2025 at 6pm at the New Hartford Public Library in the Sammor Room.

**Program** – Bring your ideas to add to the calendar and/or for the future of the chapter. Everyone is invited.



See the latest planned trips below 

### Winter Octet Hiking Challenge

**March 1, 2025**

Come join me as I once again take on the Otsego Octet hiking challenge. The winter list is now out and I have set aside **March 1<sup>st</sup>** to head out on the trail. This year's winter challenge has several places that are different as compared to the summer and fall challenge. Listed below is a link to the official website. I am flexible, as to which hikes I complete, so if you have something in mind, please be sure to let me know. Stopping for lunch is always a possibility. Final arrangements will be made amongst those that are looking to go. If you are interested, drop me an email, or send me a text message.

<https://otsegooutdoors.org/our-challenge/>

Submitted by Mark Perrin [mnperrin63@gmail.com](mailto:mnperrin63@gmail.com) or 315-725-4725

### **Jackson Hill Ski**

March 8, 2025

Come join us for a Saturday morning of casual cross-country skiing. We'll ski a couple of hours on easy terrain. Of course, snow condition permitting.

**Nancy at 315-941-1828 or Doug at 315-271-4759**

### **Chapter Spring Trails Day**

April 26, 2025

Our Spring trail clearing is planned for the last Saturday in April. Our specific area will be determined as we get closer to April 26.

If interested or you have questions, contact **Doug at 315-271-4759**

### **SARS Speaker**

April 1, 2025

Guest Speaker will be Aimee Van Garrett who is an avid outdoor enthusiast who loves hiking, camping, kayaking, white water rafting, skiing, and mushing. She is a certified Outdoor Emergency Care instructor, certified First Aid and CPR instructor, certified Lifeguard instructor, certified Yoga teacher, a licensed hiking, camping and whitewater rafting guide and a mushing mentor. Aimee has a two-year degree in Outdoor Leadership, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management with a specialization in Emergency Management.

In addition to offering instruction and guiding services, Aimee volunteers for the New York State Federation of Search and Rescue teams with Boonville Search and Rescue as an Active Field Member and for the National Ski Patrol with Highland Forest Ski Patrol as Nordic Patroller.

### **Middle Settlement Lake Hike/Lean-to Check**

May 17, 2025

Join us for a walk to Middle Settlement Lake. If you haven't been there in a couple of years you will see how nature causes changes.

Adirondack Mountain Club organizes a lean-to stewardship program. As a chapter, we steward both the Middle Settlement Lake lean-to and the Middle Branch Lake lean-to. At the lean-to, we will perform the easy tasks needed to fulfill our role as stewards.

The hike is about 3.5 miles one way. If you are interested in joining or have questions, please contact **Nancy at 315-941-1828 or Doug at 315-271-4759**

### **Spring Picnic**

June 3, 2025

More information to follow



## MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 <b>Otsego Octet Challenge</b>
2	3	4 <b>Open Forum Meeting</b>	5	6	7	8 <b>Jackson Hill Ski</b>
9 <b>Daylight Saving Time</b>	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 <b>St Patrick's Day</b>	18	19	20	21	22
	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 <b>SARS Speaker</b>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 <b>Easter</b>	21	22 <b>Earth Day</b>	23	24	25	26 <b>Spring Tails Day</b>
27	28	29	30			

## MAY

SUNDAY    MONDAY    TUESDAY    WEDNESDAY    THURSDAY    FRIDAY    SATURDAY

				1	2	3
4	5	6 <b>Open House</b>	7	8	9	10
11 <b>Mother's Day</b>	12	13	14	15	16	17 <b>Middle Settlement Lake/Lean-to check</b>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 <b>Memorial Day</b>	27	28	29	30	31

## JUNE

SUNDAY    MONDAY    TUESDAY    WEDNESDAY    THURSDAY    FRIDAY    SATURDAY

1	2	3 <b>Spring Picnic</b>	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 <b>Father's Day</b>	16 20	17	18	19 <b>Juneteenth</b>		21 <b>Balsam Lake Mountai</b>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## Bear Cans

Need a Bear can for your next outing? The Iroquois Chapter has a bear can that members can sign out for their adventures.

Remember that in the High Peaks Wilderness Area bear can are mandatory for 3 seasons out of the year and many people prefer to use them wherever and whenever they head into the backcountry.

**Contact Mark Perrin [mnperrin63@gmail.com](mailto:mnperrin63@gmail.com)**

## New Text Message System

Join the Adirondack Mountain Club, Iroquois Chapter text message alert system. Send a text message to the number 81010. The message should be @adkir, then follow the prompts.

## Wilderness First Responder

March 26-March 30 2025

## Wilderness First Aid -

May 10-May 11, 2025

For more information on these training courses and others check out the full descriptions at <https://adk.org/skills-workshops/>

# Back Tracks

### Hadley Mountain Hike

January 12, 2025

We had a wonderful hike to Hadley Mountain on Sunday, January 12th. Doug, Nancy, Deb, Mark, Cara, Tom, and Heather enjoyed a beautiful day with bluebird skies and very little wind. The trail was icy, requiring microspikes for traction. We saw gorgeous ice flowing on the rocks on the sides of the trail and had a fabulous view at the summit. Thank you all for a truly lovely day out in the woods!!

Submitted by Heather Lester



### Whetstone Gulf Snowshoe

Saturday January 28, 2025

Thursday before our outing I checked in with a friend who lives in Boonville and I was told there was 2 feet of snow at Whetstone Gulf. I thought Yippee it's real winter again!

## Whetstone Gulf Snowshoe (continued)

With moderate temperatures in the mid to high twenties and a predicted wind chill to the single digits we set off just after 9 am from the parking lot adjacent to the trailhead for the north rim trail. Snowshoeing was easy with a couple inches of new snow covering the already made snowshoe path which we followed north. Even though it was a mostly cloudy day with only moments of the sun trying to break through the clouds, we stopped for pictures and gazing as it was still beautiful viewing the snow laden trees and rock walls of the gorge. After about 2.5 miles of snowshoeing mostly uphill, at the top of the gorge the trail meets Alger Road. There snowmobiles buzzed past us using the snow-covered road as their path while we briefly used the shoulder as ours. The trail then makes a U-turn and bends south to follow the south rim trail along the gorge rim. The trail there was just as well broken out so we enjoyed our walk back too. I was surprised at the available gorge views, although sometimes limited by tree branches, making the return trip interesting. About three and one-half hours after our start, we caught a glimpse of the beach house and we knew we were minutes from the parking lot.

As planned, inside the heated beach house we shared chili, cornbread and chips to top off a fun day snowshoeing Whetstone Gulf. Thanks to Ralph, Wendy, Jon, Brian, Bob, Nancy, Marvin and Deb for making it a fun day.

**Submitted by Doug Tinkler**





## Otsego Octet Winter Challenge

On February 8th five other club members and/or spouses joined me as I kicked off my quest to complete the Otsego Octet Winter Challenge. We managed to hit up four locations while enjoying the company of like-minded individuals. Our travels that day took us to: Parslow Road Conservation Area, Texas School House State Forest, Arnold Lake State Forest, and the Clark Tower Trails. All together we snowshoed just under 5 miles! The day finished up with a stop at Ommegang Brewery for lunch on the way home.

Our next trip is scheduled for Saturday March 1st. If you are interested in joining us, drop me an email [mnperrin63@gmail.com](mailto:mnperrin63@gmail.com).

**Submitted by Mark Perrin**



## Good Luck Cliffs

February 15

One never knows what the trail conditions will be like an hour and a quarter from New Hartford and in the Adirondacks. At home we had rain and thrifty-seven degrees Thursday and more than one half a foot of snow Friday. For us it as a blessing when we saw a couple of inches of snow crusted by rain in the broken-out trail.

It was mostly easy going as we followed the trail from route 10 to the first intersection which is a junction with a snowmobile trail. I don't typically see snowmobiles before late morning and we didn't Saturday at about nine o'clock. But we did use their trail which made the snowshoeing even easier. We coasted along until our turn off from that trail onto the Good Luck Cliffs trail. And there the effort increased as we climbed and the crusted snow loosened under our steps.

## Good Luck Cliffs (continued)

Thanks Bob, for taking the lead thru that section. We did stop several times to enjoy and photograph the snow dressed rock formations along the way up to the cliffs. The open cliff at the top was a little perilous with snow drifts but provided an awesome view southwest toward Spectacle Lake.

Somehow Mark got the idea that Spectacle should be in our plans today and together the three of us decided we would go check out that trail to see what effort it would take to get to the lake. I think it took all of ten minutes to descend to the snowmobile trail. We did try butt sliding but could not generate the speed to offset the snow as it built up under our bottoms.

Back to the snowmobile trail, we used it again to get to the Spectacle Lake trail. Along the way, the snowmobile trail crossed a drainage and we spotted Otter tracks. We saw both the foot prints and the slide marks where the body was used to glide to lower elevation. Something the Otter got right that we couldn't.

The Spectacle Lake trail was broken out with the crust like what we had hoped. We took turns leading on this trail and made our way to the lake in less than an hour. A wide-open view let us take in the winter lake. Mark also consulted his GPS map to locate Good Luck Mountain. We could see some of the mountain but the cliffs were not visible from where we stood on the lake shore.

## Good Luck Cliffs (continued)

We snacked a bit and started back knowing our trail out had been well packed by us. When we arrived back to the car it was about 1 pm and we covered about 6.5 miles in less than 4 1/2 hours. We all agreed it was a great winter day in the Adirondacks. Thanks Bob Kane and Mark Perrin for the fun day.

**Submitted by Doug Tinkler**

## Lean-to Stewardship

The Adopt-a-lean-to program has ADK members visiting lean-tos, checking on conditions with reports to the state Department of Environmental Conservation on damages/repairs needed, carrying out trash and making minor repairs.

During 2024, chapter members made two visits to Middle Settlement Lake and three to Middle Branch Lake, including reattaching the privy door with the help of an Iroquois ADK crew doing trail work.

During 2023, chapter members made three visits to the Middle Branch Lake lean-to and six to the Middle Settlement Lake lean-to.

Our thanks to volunteers Heather Swartz, Doug Tinkler, Nancy Jaquish, Carl Anderson and Paul Sirtoli. Also, thanks to Dave Jones who forwarded a photo of Middle Settlement Lake reduced to about half its former size after a beaver dam was washed out, taking out a bridge behind the lean-to. It was in the Ha-de-ron-dah Wilderness so under state regulations, only the beavers can rebuild the dam, as man-made construction is prohibited in wilderness areas.

Over the years, we've done more extensive work including:

- carrying in new shingles for the Middle Settlement lean-to roof along with a new privy.
- hauling in through snow (there wasn't any when we planned the trip) on two carts a new privy for the Middle Branch Lake lean-to (and then installing it the next day).

Members who visit either of these lean-tos are asked to contact Norm at [romelandis@peoplepc.com](mailto:romelandis@peoplepc.com) with their names, driving distance and time, hiking time, work time and what they did so we can include it in our reports. Thank you.

**Submitted by Norm Landis, stewardship (lean-tos)**



## CHAPTER OUTINGS

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

**For additional outing 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>**

## Iroquois Chapter Contact Information

**Chairman – Doug Tinkler 315-271-4759**  
[Dt46x40@yahoo.com](mailto:Dt46x40@yahoo.com)

**Vice Chair – open**

**Secretary – open**

**Treasurer – Mark Perrin 315 725 4725**  
[mperrin63@gmail.com](mailto:mperrin63@gmail.com)

**Membership –Ed Kobos [kk2b@aol.com](mailto:kk2b@aol.com)**

**Stewardship (Lean-tos) – Norm Landis**  
[romelandis@peoplepc.com](mailto:romelandis@peoplepc.com)

**Outings- open**

**Stewardship (trails) – Doug Tinkler 315-271-4759**  
[Dt46x40@yahoo.com](mailto:Dt46x40@yahoo.com)

**Newsletter - Debbie Pasch 315-749-4265**  
[debra.pasch@yahoo.com](mailto:debra.pasch@yahoo.com)

**Hospitality – Wendy Sanders 315-292-3632**  
[wintermama@hotmail.com](mailto:wintermama@hotmail.com)

**Meetup Group – Bill Luppino 315-360-0359**  
[wluppino@msn.com](mailto:wluppino@msn.com)