

December 2025 ADK/CRC Outings

December 4: Rabbit Pond Loop, Town of Johnsbury

Leader: Brendan Hanley

ADK Rating: Leader Level 1, C (Easy)

Duration: 3.5 hours **Limit:** 10

Description: This is a 5-mile (appx) loop spike or snowshoe hike beginning and ending at Ski Bowl Park in North Creek. We'll proceed up portions of the Park's red and yellow trails and then cut over to the Pipeline ski trail (part of Gore). After a very brief climb on the Pipeline, we'll exit onto the upper section of the Long Trail and follow that up towards the summit of the Hudson Chair. Just below the summit we'll break off onto an unmapped, blazed trail leading down to an intersection with the Rabbit Pond trail. We'll then head down to Rabbit Pond, where we can stop for lunch or snacks before continuing down the Rabbit Pond trail until the Ski Bowl Connector is reached. The Connector trail will bring us back to the Ski Bowl. Although I estimate 850 feet of elevation will be gained, the bulk of the climb will be on trails designed for mountain bike use, with numerous switchbacks minimizing the steepness of the ascent at any given point.

Meeting Place/Time: Meet at 10:00 AM at the parking area near Joe Minder Lodge in Ski Bowl Park.

Contact: Brendan Hanley bjhanley53@gmail.com or call (518)251-2142. Should cancellation be necessary, an email will be sent out to participants by 7AM.

December 11: Cold River Chapter Holiday Dinner Party

Host: Noelle McCrum

Location: Garnet Hill Lodge

Contact for further information: Noelle McCrum nkinderteach@hotmail.com

December 11: Balm of Gilead Mountain Hike

Leader: Tom Riley

ADK Rating: Leader Level: C, Easy

Duration: 3 hours **Limit:** 10

Description: Balm of Gilead Mountain features an open rock ledge that offers spectacular views of the southern end of Thirteenth Lake and the surrounding mountains. This 2443 foot mountain is in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness of the central Adirondacks. This 2.8 mile round trip hike has 437 feet of elevation gain.

Meeting Time/Place: Noon at the parking area. The trailhead is located off NY 28 just north of North River. Turn onto Thirteenth Lake Road and after 3.3 miles veer left at the junction of Beach Road, staying on Thirteenth Lake Road. In another 0.8 miles veer right onto Old Farm Road. The road will become a seasonal dirt road and follow it till you reach the end of Old Farm Road. There is a large parking area at the end of the drivable road. If there is snow, the road is not plowed and an alternate hike may be arranged at that time.

Contact: Tom Riley at thomaseriley@hotmail.com or 315-727-5254. If cancellation is necessary, an email will be sent by 7:30 am on the day of the outing.

December 11: Garnet Hill X-Country Ski, North River

Leaders: Shannon Andersen and Marti Townley

ADK Rating: All Levels

Duration: 3 Hours

Description: Cross Country Ski Before the Holiday Party. Kick off the holiday fun with a ski at Garnet Hill Lodge, home to over 50KM of beautiful cross-country ski trails. This outing is open to all levels, and rentals are available on-site for anyone who needs them. When you sign up, please let me know: if you will need rentals or if you have your own skis and your preferred ski level. We'll be offering two options: Beginner / Warm-Up Ski: Ease into the season with a relaxed-paced group led by me. Intermediate / Advanced Ski: For those looking for a more challenging route, Marti Townley has graciously volunteered to lead. Join us for a great time on the trails before heading to the Holiday Party!

Meeting Time/Place: We will meet at the Garnet Hill Lodge Outdoor Center and be ready to ski by 1PM.

Contact: Shannon Andersen at theandersenson3385@yahoo.com or 914-490-9534. If cancellation is necessary, an email will be sent by 7 AM the day of the outing.

December 18: Snowshoe or hike to Big Pond, Town of Schroon

Leader: Meredith Todd

ADK Rating: Leader Level 1, C (Easy)

Duration: up to 2.5 hours if hiking, 3.5 hours if snowshoeing. Limit: 15

Description: We will travel 1.6 miles each way to a nice campsite with a view on the north shore of the pond. The first mile is rather flat other than a short dip to cross the outlet, followed by some some minor ups and downs.

Meeting Time/Place: 10 am at the trailhead on Hoffman Rd or 9:35 at the Black Bear in Pottersville. Hoffman Rd turns to the west off US RT 9 just south of downtown Schroon Lake. The trailhead is 2.1 miles on the right.

Contact: Meredith Todd at meredith36ny@yahoo.com or 518-494-8088. If cancellation is necessary, an email will be sent by 8 AM the day of the outing.

Tuesday, December 30: Mt. Van Hoevenberg X – C Ski, Lake Placid

****If there is no snow, this outing will be replaced with a moderately rated hike.**

Leader: Lynn Butterworth

ADK Rating: Leader Level 1, C (Easy) Skiing for all abilities!

Duration: 3 - 5 hours Limit: 15

Description: LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW! The Mt Van Hoevenberg Olympic Ski Center boasts 55+ kilometers of beautiful, groomed trails, offering easy to expert skiing conditions. We will break into groups based on ability. If you are brand new to skiing, Mt. Van Ho offers rental equipment with a lesson for \$65. We can all meet for a lunch break in the lodge at noon before heading back out for an afternoon of more skiing. Bring your own lunch, or you can purchase lunch at the lodge. A one-day adult ski pass is \$32, ages 65 – 69 \$28, or ages 70+ \$24.

Meeting Time / Place: 10:00 AM at Mt Van Hoevenberg ski center, upstairs
31 Van Hoevenberg Way, Lake Placid, NY 12946

Contact: Lynn and John at rendiandbutter@gmail.com or 518-240-6162. If cancellation is necessary, an email will be sent by 7:30 AM the day of the outing.