

# COLD RIVER CURRENTS

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April, 2026 The Newsletter of the Cold River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

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## COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

By Bob Singley

If you really like winter, boy did we have a winter. Snow like we haven't seen in many seasons, high winds that created blizzard-like conditions on several occasions and cold temperatures approaching minus twenty below, without wind chill, made doing the things we love to do in the winter a real challenge. But despite all that the Outings Committee continued to offer choices for our members to get out and enjoy, and brave these conditions. A huge Thank You to Tom, Peggy, Walt and the committee for the work they do. Now let's see how they get us through mud and black fly season.

Going forward, we have some dates we would like you to put on your calendar.

The annual Cold River Chapter Picnic will be on August 15<sup>th</sup> at Minerva Lake in Olmstedville. The social hour will begin at 11:00 am with lunch to follow.

ADK's Fall Outing 2026 will be held September 18-20 at the Saranac Village Young Life Camp. Daytime activities include paddling, hiking, and biking with live music and dancing in the evenings. For additional information, go to ADK's website: [Fall Outing 2026 — Adirondack Mountain Club](#)

**The annual Cold River Chapter Holiday Party and Annual Meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Watch for additional details.**

**Hope to see you soon.**

Bob Singley, Chair [rtsing46@gmail.com](mailto:rtsing46@gmail.com)

Open, Vice Chair

Mary Redfield, Secretary

Ger Cox, Treasurer

Rose Cooper, ADK Advisory Council Trustee

Judy Dunn, Alternate ADK Advisory Council Trustee

Peggy Carrol, Outings Co-chair [ColdRiverADKChapter@adk.org](mailto:ColdRiverADKChapter@adk.org)

Walt Nelson, Outings Co-chair [ColdRiverADKChapter@adk.org](mailto:ColdRiverADKChapter@adk.org)

Susan Schuler, Membership Chair

Jim Waring, Newsletter Chair [adkrcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:adkrcnewsletter@gmail.com)

Marti Townley, Member-at-Large [mdksshea@aol.com](mailto:mdksshea@aol.com)

# Chapter News

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## **TRUSTEE'S REPORT**

**by Rosemary Cooper**

### **ADK News, Outings & Events**

CRC outings can be found on the Adk website at [Cold River | Adirondack Mountain Club](#)

#### **The Heart Lake Loj is open for April Reservations**

For the first time in a while, the Heart Lake Loj will be open in April:

- Perfect for a cozy staycation
- Ideal getaway with a warm fireplace and WiFi
- Great basecamp for exploring low-impact destinations like local museums and attractions in and around Lake Placid
- ADK members receive a 10% discount. Book online at: [Lodging & Camping](#)

#### **Genesee Valley Chapter Outdoor Expo on June 13<sup>th</sup> in Pittsford, NY**

The Genesee Valley Chapter will host its 27th Annual Outdoor Expo on Saturday, June 13, at Mendon Ponds Park in the Rochester area from 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM.

This free, family-friendly event celebrates the outdoors and typically features:

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| • 50–60 participating clubs and organizations | Approximately 1,000 attendees   |
| • Outdoor skills workshops                    | Guided hikes                    |
| • Children's crafts and petting zoo           | Paddling opportunities          |
| • Live music from local musicians             | Food and beverages for purchase |

The Expo focuses on outdoor recreation, recreating safely, and conservation. For more information: [Outdoor Expo – Adirondack Mountain Club – Genesee Valley Chapter](#)

#### **Cycle Outing – Registration Now Open for June 14-19<sup>th</sup>**

The 2026 Cycle Outing is live and already booking up. This year's focus is the newly completed Rail Trail extending from Lake Placid to Tupper Lake. The outing will be held June 14–19. Please help us promote this to your members, this is an exciting opportunity to experience this incredible corridor together.

For more information: [ADK Cycle Outing 2026 | Adirondack Mountain Club](#)

#### **Fall Outing this September 18-20<sup>th</sup> – Registration Now Open**

This year's Fall Outing will take place September 18–20 at the Saranac Village Young Life Camp on Upper Saranac Lake. The weekend is being hosted and organized by the strong leadership of the Northwoods Chapter—thank you to that team for taking this on. Registration will be going live soon, so please help spread the word once it does.

For more information: [Fall Outing 2026 — Adirondack Mountain Club](#)

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**ADK Winter Outing Weekend  
February 5–7, 2027, at  
Massawepie Scout Camp  
in Tupper Lake, NY  
Hosted by the Black River Chapter**



## Opportunities abound:

The Cold River Chapter is looking for a member to collaborate with ADK Black River Chapter which is hosting the 2027 ADK Winter Outing Weekend at Massawepie Scout Camp in Tupper Lake, the weekend of February 5-7, 2027.

This event will bring together members and leaders from ADK chapters across the region for a weekend of winter adventure, skills, and camaraderie. The camp's extensive trail network, frozen lakes, and quiet winter setting makes it an ideal venue for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, winter skills workshops, and shared community time. If you are interested in being part of the team to help plan the events for the weekend or to help lead an outing or activity, please contact Rich Ross at [blackriveradk@gmail.com](mailto:blackriveradk@gmail.com) and cc Walt Nelson and Peggy Carrol at [ColdRiverADKChapter@adk.org](mailto:ColdRiverADKChapter@adk.org)

They are looking for

- Someone from CRC to help plan events
- Trip leaders (snowshoe, ski, nature walks, winter skills)
- Support volunteers (registration, meal coordination, logistics)
- Presenters (winter safety, navigation, ecology, winter camping)
- Photographers and storytellers
- Chapter ambassadors to welcome participants

Our chapter's participation will help strengthen ADK collaboration, expand winter recreation opportunities, and create a welcoming space for both new and experienced members.

If you're interested in helping, contact **Rich Ross** at [blackriveradk@gmail.com](mailto:blackriveradk@gmail.com) and cc to Walt and Peggy at [ColdRiverADKChapter@adk.org](mailto:ColdRiverADKChapter@adk.org)

Many thanks, in advance, for getting involved and supporting our ADK Chapters.

# Chapter News

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## **Where in the World are There Amazing Hiking Trails and Birding Expeditions? Newfoundland**

**Article and Photos by Rich and Miok Salz**

After hearing enthusiastic reports about Newfoundland from fellow CRC members as a shore bird and hiking mecca, my wife, Miok, and I along with two friends decided to make the trip last July. It was a stress-free drive from Chestertown to Montreal, and a short two-and one-half hour flight to St. John's on the northeastern coast of the Avalon Peninsula. Given the long driving distances between regions, we decided to limit our trip to the eastern coastal section and the Bonavista Peninsula, saving the rest of the province for a future visit.

The capital, St. John's, is like a smaller version of Portland, Maine, with a working port and an historic district with many restaurants and music venues. For an introduction to the natural and cultural history of Newfoundland, we spent a few hours in The Rooms Museum, built in 2005 and designed to reflect the traditional fishing rooms where fish were processed and nets and gear were stored. It also has a café and art gallery. St. John's also has a network of hiking trails with spectacular views of the city, bay and cliffs. We were surprised at the amount of up and down elevation during our five-mile walk up to Signal Hill on the North Head trail. Even more unexpected was the 80-degree temperature in a region where the average daytime high is 68 degrees.



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The next day we headed about 20 miles south for some hiking on the Beach Path trail followed by a puffin-viewing boat tour in Witless Bay Ecological Reserve. During the morning trek, it was 85 degrees and extremely windy, and we wondered whether the tour would be canceled due to the rough water. As we boarded the double-decker boat, we saw that the tour operator was not deterred by the wind conditions, which were probably not unusual. After the vessel reached open water, we had to hold on tight to the seat rail as the boat rolled,



pitched, and heaved in the waves. Fortunately, the waters finally calmed when we reached Gull Island, home to thousands of Atlantic puffins (a.k.a. sea parrots), who were there to breed after spending the year at sea. The baby pufflings are born in underground burrows, where they are fed by their parents for about six weeks before leaving for the open ocean. We also saw common murrelets and kittiwakes.



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Continuing our journey, we headed northwest to Port Rexton on the Bonavista Peninsula. On the plane from Montreal we had met some birders from Texas who were attending a conference there. After hearing reports of a Steller's sea eagle sighted not far from Port Rexton, they decided on the spur of the moment to drop everything and travel to Newfoundland. The Steller's sea eagle is the world's largest eagle and normally is found only off the coasts of Russia, Japan and Korea, so this was an extremely rare sighting. Although our schedule was tight, Miok couldn't resist taking a detour to the hamlet of North River where the Steller's eagle was trying to evict a bald eagle from a nest perched on a cliff above a small lake. Upon arriving in North River, we found a group of birders with binoculars and scopes scanning the skies for the Steller's eagle. We spent several hours watching with them (and returned a few days later on our way back to St. John's), but, to our disappointment, we never saw the elusive raptor.

One of the main attractions in Port Rexton is the Skerwink trail, a 5.3 km coastal loop considered one of the most scenic treks in North America. We had booked a bed and breakfast near the trail where Judi Dench had stayed while filming *The Shipping News*. It was a cool, clear morning when we started on the Skerwink, which had some steep and rocky sections. Parts of the path came perilously close to the edge of a cliff. From the highest point on the trail, we were able to see a whale breaching several times in the ocean below.



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The next day, in nearby Elliston, we had lunch at the Puffin Café (it's illegal to eat or hunt puffins), and at the seaside town park we ogled the sea parrots up close.



In the evening, we went to the Rising Tide Theatre for dinner (baked cod au gratin) followed by a musical, comedic and dramatic production that was outstanding. During dinner, we had a chance to get to know our tablemates, who were all from either Newfoundland or Ontario. After the show, we rushed to find the local ice cream shop, but were unable to get there before closing time.

Our final destination was back on the Avalon Peninsula at Cape St. Mary's Ecological Reserve, the coastal breeding grounds of the northern gannet and many other seabirds. On Bird Rock we saw, through the rain and fog, hundreds of northern gannets, each mother sitting with a baby guga covered in white downy feathers. The cacophony of the chirping seabirds was overwhelming, as was the smell of fresh guano.

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Before our trip, we were concerned about the reception we would receive from Newfoundlanders given the recently strained relations between the U.S. and Canada over tariffs and national sovereignty. After arriving we quickly discovered that, without exception, the local people we met were warm and welcoming, and couldn't do enough to offer their assistance when we needed help. We now understand the reputation Newfoundlanders earned when they opened their homes to thousands of stranded airline passengers after 9/11.

For more information, see the following links:

[Witless Bay Ecological Reserve - Environment, Conservation and Climate Change](#)

[6 Scenic Hiking Trails Steps from Your Hotel in St. John's ★ Destination St. John's](#)

[Cape St. Mary's Ecological Reserve - Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada](#)

[Hiking The Beautiful Skerwink Trail on the Bonavista Peninsula –](#)

***Thank you Rich and Miok for sharing your Newfoundland experience. If you have an adventure to share, submissions are being accepted at [adkcrcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:adkcrcnewsletter@gmail.com)***

## Eleven Reasons Why Hikers Make Good Friends

Author unknown

**1. They know how to handle discomfort.**

Rain, mud, steep climbs, unexpected delays – hikers don't panic when things get inconvenient. They adjust. That mindset carries into real life.

**2. They value experiences over appearances.**

They care more about sunrise views than luxury settings. Simple moments mean something to them.

**3. They understand patience.**

You can't rush a mountain. Hikers learn pacing, timing, and steady progress.

**4. They respect preparation.**

Before every climb, there's planning, weather checks, route study, proper gear. That sense of responsibility shows up in relationships too.

**5. They don't quit easily.**

When the trail gets tough, they don't automatically turn back. Commitment matters to them.

**6. They appreciate silence.**

Not every moment needs noise. They're comfortable walking beside you without constant distraction.

**7. They stay physically active.**

Energy and stamina matters. A hiker won't complain about long walks or outdoor adventures.

**8. They know how to support someone uphill.**

Offering a hand on steep sections. Slowing down when needed. Encouraging without pressure. They understand partnership in motion.

**9. They value simplicity.**

Give them a good view, basic food, and meaningful company and they're happy.

**10. They've faced fear before.**

Narrow ridges. Sudden weather changes. Tough ascents. They've learned to stay calm under pressure.

**11. They grow through challenges.**

Hikers don't expect life to be flat and easy. They expect climbs and they embrace them.

*Editor's Note: This article was originally posted on social media with the title, 11 Reasons Why You Should Date a Hiker. If you know the original author, please let me know by emailing me at [adkrcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:adkrcnewsletter@gmail.com)*

# Chapter News

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## Important Update for all Outings Leaders:

With new leadership at ADK, one priority has been an assessment of the Club's insurance coverage, specifically liability insurance that impacts Cold River Chapter outings. In order for Cold River Chapter outings to be covered under ADK's general liability policy all proposed outings will be submitted to the ADK webpage on our chapter's unique calendar page. While the Outings Committee will have the responsibility for putting together the outings schedule for each month, once the month's calendar is confirmed, outings leaders will have the option to input their information directly into the chapter's calendar on the ADK website.

To find CRC's calendar on the ADK website,

- (1) go to ADK.ORG;
- (2) click on GET INVOLVED;
- (3) go to CHAPTERS;
- (4) click on COLD RIVER;
- (5) click on CALENDAR.

To submit an outing, click on the link to the CALENDAR SUBMISSION FORM and enter the required information (has an \* asterisk). The only significant additional piece of information is the location of the nearest emergency medical facility. When submitting or updating an outing event, please inform Peggy Carrol and Walt Nelson, Co-Chairs of the Outings Committee at [ColdRiverADKChapter@adk.org](mailto:ColdRiverADKChapter@adk.org), as they will continue to be responsible for the Outings Calendar on the ADK site and distributing the Outings list by email. ADK will verify that leaders are certified and that outings are consistent with the trip classification system. If you are not accustomed to looking at Cold River activities on the ADK website, check it out: [Cold River | Adirondack Mountain Club](#)





## ADK Ratings for Hikes

### HIKE LEADER RATINGS

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

NOTE: Trip Ratings in some cases will not fit precisely into the multiple criteria shown above (e.g., where elevation gain compared to miles or time indicate different levels). In such cases the leader or chapter outings chair may use discretion in assigning a rating. Elevation gain and other data are understood to be estimates. Winter hikes may also imply greater preparedness and safety considerations (not accounted for solely by estimated duration) and should be classified accordingly.

# Outings Reports

## January 8: Spectacle Pond Snowshoe, Pharaoh Wilderness Leader: Ger Cox



*Spectacle Pond Photo Credit: Jim W*

On this sunny morning, a large and enthusiastic group met to enjoy the first ADK CRC hike of 2026. We settled upon snowshoes, which turned out to be a good choice for this relatively brief but scenic hike to Spectacle Pond, where we enjoyed the views and conversations with fellow hikers. At the hike's conclusion, several people chose to add a brief hike to Gull Pond.



*Gull Pond Photo Credit: Peggy C*

~ Sara Mullins

## January 8: Cross Country Ski at Fern Park in Inlet Leader: Marti Townley

Fern Park is a wonderful free area with groomed trails through the woods. We were lucky in many ways. We had Jeanne Tommell to guide us on these wonderful trails with trees laden with snow. Our skis glided well in the comfortable warm temperatures. And we had a warm shelter to enjoy our lunch with chatter and laughs with ski friends. ~ Marti Townley



*Fern Park cross country ski Photo Credit: Marti T*

# Outings Reports

## January 15: Crown Point State Historic Site Snowshoe, Crown Point, NY Leader: Tom Meyering



Photo Credit: Forrest J

Tom Meyering, once again, lead a hike around the property of the Crown Point State Historic Site and the ruins of Fort St. Frederick, built by the French in 1734, later occupied by the British in 1759, the largest fort they would build in North America. While several of us had done the hike nearly a year ago to the day, we were not disappointed in learning new information, as Tom is diligently continuing the research on this fascinating fort and grounds. We donned spikes, and listened,

intrigued by all that had happened, including the historical figures associated with the Fort including Philip Skene from Whitehall and Benedict Arnold. As we walked on a path by the lake, we even spotted 2 bald eagles perched by their nests. We would walk and stop and Tom would ask, "So what do you think this was?" and he would fill us in. We got an up-close look at Champlain Memorial Lighthouse, with its sculpture of Samuel de Champlain and a plaque by Auguste Rodin. We stopped near one of the triangulation sites laid out by Verplanck Colvin as he was mapping the Adirondacks. Tom's knowledge and curiosity, leading to ongoing research, gave us a glimpse into what it means to be an historian. Chilly and a bit windy, Tom offered us coffee, tea, and hot chocolate, while we ate our lunch and warmed up in the visitor's center and even were treated to a short video presentation rounding out the information with great discussion and comradery among the CRC members.

~ Kathy Herold



Tom giving a tour of the Crown Point Historic Site Photo Credit: Peggy C

## January 15: Polaris Bridge X-Country Ski Leader: Gail Gabriels



Six of us drove to Goodnow Flow in Newcomb on a snowy January morning to the trailhead. As we arrived, the snow tapered off, providing a perfect inch of fresh powder to ski on. The route followed an old road in the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area to the Hudson

River. Starting off, we were happy to see that others had preceded us through the soft snow, but they turned right after a mile, and so we broke tracks the remaining two miles down to the bridge. Along the way we had some lovely descents through the beautiful forest. The Hudson River, partially covered in ice, provided a backdrop for our lunch, and then we climbed the hills on the way back. A highlight of our day was the obligatory stop for snow angels in a trailside clearing, led by Gail! All agreed it was a wonderful day's ski. ~ Matt Schwab



Embracing the snow with snow angels Photo Credit: Matt S

# Outings Reports

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## January 22: Lost Pond Snowshoe, Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Leader: Tracey Donaldson

While the forecast was warning frigid temperatures on the way, we enjoyed 30 degree temperatures and some blue sky with the sun peeking out, doing its magic on the beautiful forest. Tracey led a group of eight into a winter wonderland. Hiking in spikes in a loop around Lost Pond, we enjoyed the company as we chatted, stopping for lunch at one of the campsites as Tracey shared some freshly baked cookies. Another wonderful Thursday afternoon enjoyed by all. ~Kathy Herold



*Lost Pond winter wonderland Photo Credit: Tracey D*

## January 29: Cunningham Trails Snowshoe, Chestertown Leader: Meredith Todd



*Snowshoeing the Cunningham Trails on a sunny, chilly day Photo Credit: Pam B*

On January 29th, eleven heavily bundled CRC members, including leader Meredith Todd, met near the Town of Chester dog park and enjoyed a couple of hours exploring some of the Cunningham trails. Despite the chilly 10 degree temperature, the sun was shining and the powdery snow made for perfect conditions in the woods. After a brief ascent at the start of the outing, the trails were mostly level, and we tracked along the Cunningham Circle trail, the Middle Trail, the Chester Creek Trail, and the Power Line trail, passing by the site of the tannery that once existed along the Chester Creek. ~ Pam Burns

# Outings Reports

## February 5: Wolf Pond Snowshoe, North Hudson Leader: Rich Salz



*The winter wonderland of Wolf Pond Photo Credit: Rich S*

Enchanting. Magical. Today's snowshoe into Wolf Pond could not have been any better. The temperature was around 20 degrees, with no wind; the skies were azure blue. The snow was fluffy soft on the ground, but had created gorgeous snow sculptures on the rocks and trees all over the forest. Winter beauty was all around. The trail had been broken the first half of the way in, and we took turns breaking trail the rest of the way to the lean-to. Of course, on the way out, we tromped that much faster due to the packed down snow on the trail. Six of us were lucky enough to join Rich and Miok on this walk through an enchanted, snow-covered forest. ~ Lynn Butterworth

## February 12: Halfway Brook Trail Backcountry Ski Leader: Matt Schwab

SO MUCH SNOW! There was already a foot of recent snow on top of the couple of feet North River already had, but to top this outing off, we got three to six inches of fresh powder in the twenty-four hours prior to this cross country ski adventure. Matt Schwab organized vehicle and people drop-offs, so that we could do a through-ski from Barton Mines Road to Old Farm Road. We started at the Raymond Brook trailhead and made our way across part of the Siamese Pone Wilderness to the Old Farm trailhead. This ski had mostly small, rolling hills with a few gradual uphill. The one, long downhill was so easy and enjoyable, it felt like alpine skiing on cross county skis. Matt took us off trail at one point, to view the Vly, a scenic overlook that allowed us to see the back side of Gore Mountain. We easily spotted the fire tower on top of Gore because the clouds had parted and the sun was shining. We were seven very lucky skiers who got to enjoy four, beautiful, sunny miles of "freshies." ~ Lynn Butterworth



*The scenic beauty of the Vly with Gore in the background Photo Credit: Matt S*

# Outings Reports

## February 12: Snowshoe Panther Mtn, Chestertown Leader: Meredith Todd



*The view from Panther Mountain with Gore in the distance Photo Credit: Peggy C*

Ten members snowshoed 1.2 miles up Panther Mountain in Chestertown. The trail had been broken other than a top 2" layer of fresh snow. The 663 feet of elevation gain was gradual. Although a warm temperature of 29 degrees and sunshine were lovely, it was a blustery day. The wind at the viewpoint ledge was almost as impressive as the view westward. ~ Meredith Todd

## February 13: Ski Bowl Park to Becks Tavern Snowshoe, Town of Johnsburg Leader: Brendan Hanley

On February 13th, Brendan Hanley led a group of 7 on a snow shoe expedition that began and ended at Becks Tavern in North Creek. The 3 mile route traversed part of the Schaefer Trail, and included some steep sections as well as a lovely stop along the Roaring Brook Gorge. Following the trip, the group enjoyed a delicious lunch at Becks.

~ Pam Burns



*Enjoying the Schaefer Trail in North Creek Photo Credit: Peggy C*

# Outings Reports

## February 19: Rich Lake & Peninsula Trail Loop with winter tree ID, Newcomb

**Leader: Miok Salz, Licensed NY State Guide**

A group of ten met at the AIC building in Newcomb for an enjoyable and enriching walk along the Rich Lake and Peninsula trail for a winter tree ID outing led by Miok, a licensed NY State Guide. It was a perfect day, warm and sunny, to brush up on our tree identification skills and enjoy each other's company. We were so fortunate to benefit from Miok's extensive knowledge of all the trees along the way. We learned how to distinguish different hardwood trees, such as Ash, Maple, Striped Maple, Birch and Ironwood, by examining the differences in bark and branch growth. We also took a closer look at some examples of local coniferous trees such as Hemlock, Balsam, Spruce and Cedar. We stopped to admire an impressive glacial erratic, views of Rich Lake and Goodnow Mountain, and on the return we were fascinated by hundreds of tiny, moving black spots in the snow, that were possibly snow fleas. We returned to the AIC, filled with newly acquired knowledge, and ready for our potluck! ~ Anne Waring



*Enjoying Miok's tree identification snowshoe Photo Credit: Rich S*

## February 19: Cross Country Ski to Newcomb Lake intersection at Santanoni Great Camp, Newcomb

**Leaders: Shannon Andersen and Peggy Carrol**



*Great Camp Santanoni Photo Credit: Shannon*

Nine friends set out on a ski to the Great Camp Santanoni under bluebird skies and mild temperatures in the upper 30s. The group split into two groups, with five skiers making it all the way to the camp and returning in time for the potluck lunch. Along the route, a snowmobile pulling a drag groomer helped improve trail conditions during the outing. The snow on the boulders and the dramatic shadows of the sun through the trees was breathtaking.

~ Shannon Andersen and Peggy Carrol



*Santanoni Ski Photo Credit: Matt*

# Outings Reports

## February 19: Potluck and program at the AIC, Newcomb



AIC in Newcomb Photo Credit: Anne W

Our first potluck of the year was hosted by Rose and Lance Cooper at the Adirondack Interpretive Center following Miok's tree identification snowshoe and Shannon and Peggy's ski at Great Camp Santanoni. Following a tasty lunch and good conversation, David Rosenbaum, a SUNY ESF research support specialist at the Adirondack Ecological

Center, shared his research on the Ecological Scorecard project with a powerpoint presentation. The Ecological Scorecard project is a long-term ecological monitoring program of sites managed for recreation in the Adirondack Park. David shared the ecological changes he's documented and the wildlife counts and densities of salamanders, ticks, and earthworms in areas studied, mostly in the central Adirondacks. He also shared some pictures of how foot traffic can negatively affect the ecology of an area. His findings will be shared with ADK management. ~ Rose Cooper and Jim Waring



Potluck Speaker at the AIC Photo Credit: Rose C

## February 25: Pine Ridge Snowshoe, Town of Johnsburg Leader: Brendan Hanley



Pine Ridge Snowshoe Photo Credit: Ed G

The initial portion of the trip was uneventful as the five of us proceeded along the "Big Loop" trail, which had been broken a couple of weeks earlier. But near the midway point of the loop we had to leave that trail, crossing a small stream, and immediately encountered the unbroken, deep snow conditions that would persist for much of the remainder of the trip. From then on we each channeled our own inner

"animal" and took short turns breaking trail all the way up to the summit of Pine Ridge. From that vantage point we were able to take in the view across Peaceful Valley to a portion of the ski trail system at Gore. Although cloudy conditions obscured any view of Gore's upper trails, the socked-in atmosphere across the valley had its own charm. After a well-earned rest, the notion of simply retracing our steps back to the trailhead was collectively rejected and, instead, we bushwhacked through the deep snow along the ridge line and descended at a point to the north of where we had made our ascent.

In time, the Big Loop Trail was relocated and the group made its way back to the trailhead at the Hanley residence. I'd like to thank each member of our small group for their perseverance and good humor on this short but challenging, and hopefully rewarding, snowshoe adventure. ~ Brendan Hanley



Gore Mtn in distance Photo Credit: Brendan H

# Outings Reports

## February 26: XC Ski at Scaroon Manor, Pottersville, NY Leader: Tracey Donaldson



*Cross Country Ski at Scaroon Manor Photo Credit: Mary W*

A group of seven met at the Scaroon Manor camping area to xc ski on freshly fallen snow on previously skied trails, and some we made ourselves, bringing us to beautiful Schroon Lake. Deep soft snow encouraged us to brave some of the downhills. We skied throughout the grounds and were in awe of the amphitheater as it rose to greet us. Tracey shared that the 1957 movie, Marjorie Morningstar starring Gene Kelly and Natalie Wood was filmed on the grounds of Scaroon Manor. The sun came out and we basked in it, despite making our skis a bit sticky, and we headed to the parking area vowing to return soon while this season's snow remains enticing.

~ Kathy Herold



*Amphitheater Photo Credit: Kathy H*

## February 26: Mt. Van Hoevenberg, Lake Placid XC Ski Leader: Lynn Butterworth

This outing was supposed to be a backcountry ski into Second Pond. During the pre-ski, to check out the trail conditions, it was determined that the conditions were a bit too treacherous. There were multiple falls by almost everyone on the reconnaissance team, and one fall resulted in a broken thumb (only found out to be broken two weeks after the initial whack). So I decided to move the outing to the gentler, beautifully groomed trails of Mt Van Hoevenberg. The snow conditions could not have been nicer; a couple of inches of fresh powder the evening before made even the toughest groomed trails easily ski-able. In addition, the Biathlon World Cup competition was going on, so we had the opportunity to watch athletes from around the world ski and shoot their way around the course located just outside the lodge. Only a couple of people went out after lunch to ski some more mileage. Below is the only photo we have of the outing as we were all having so much fun. ~ Lynn Butterworth



*Cross Country Ski at Mt Van Ho Photo Credit: Lynn B*

# Outings Reports

## March 1: Backcountry Ski the historic Raymond Brook Trail, North River, NY

**Leader: Rich Tocher**

After consultation with the folks who signed up for the trip, we agreed to go a day earlier to take advantage of the weather. The weather was cold but we had a beautiful blue sky. After a quick check with our outings leader, Rich, to make sure we were prepared, we were on the trail by 10:30, finding some fresh snow on the trail and good powder to the sides. A stop at the historic 1930's ski patrol toboggan sled storage shed was a treat. Being the least experienced of the group, I found the powder very advantageous for keeping the speed down. Rich stopped often to allow us to keep together and get a rest. We made it to the bottom after about three hours, and only had about 30 minutes of skinning total. A wonderful time was had by all.



*Skiing the Raymond Brook Photo Credit: Rich T ~ Greg Thomas*



*CRC with the Raymond Brook Ski Patrol Shed Photo Credit: Rich T*

## March 4: Lapland Lake Cross Country Ski Area in Northville, NY

**Leaders: Marti Townley, Ken Shea, and Peggy Carol**

It was the first day of spring skiing and the conditions were great! The sky was blue, the trails groomed and fun for all levels of us seven skiers who accommodated a date change due to uncertain weather. While we started with temperatures in the 20's, by the end of our sunny day, we were in the 30's. The Lake Trail to Woods Lake, the Vasa and Sisu trails were beautiful and challenging enough to provide an adrenaline rush for our Nordic adventurers. The ski lodge provided a cozy and relaxing lunch break. Thanks to Ken Shea for leading us on our first spring skiing day. ~ Peggy Carol



*CRC at Lapland Lake Ski Resort Photo Credit: John R*

# Outings Reports

## March 10: Snowshoe around Pack Forest Lake, Pack Demonstration Forest, Chestertown, NY Leaders: Anne and Jim Waring

Due to the forecasted rain for both Wednesday and Thursday this 4.1 mile loop around Pack Forest Lake was rescheduled for Tuesday. The blue sky and warm temps made the hike nothing short of glorious. Donning snowshoes to tackle the changing conditions in early spring, nine of us handled both the ice and snow while chatting and catching up on winter's events. Meredith pointed out areas to put our boats in, a reminder that it we will be paddling before long. Jim and Anne shared some information about the Pack Forest Camp as we ate lunch at an outdoor picnic area, and Judy shared some delicious cinnamon donut bites from an eatery in Speculator. We headed to the parking lot after an enjoyable hike with CRC friends. ~ Kathy Herold



*Snowshoe around Pack Forest Lake Photo Credit: Jim W*

## March 19: Hike Severance Mountain, Schroon Lake Leader: Tracey Donaldson

The eight of us started out on a bright but cloudy morning, with temperatures hovering around the 28-30 degree mark. The two tunnels under the Northway were noisy as we crunched our way



*The view from Severance Mtn. Photo Credit: Ed G*

across the ice. Light flurries accompanied us as we began hiking up the foot of the hill. The trail had some areas of hard packed snow, but otherwise had reduced to a covering of ice - the use of microspikes was well-advised by Tracey. In some areas the ice and snow had thinned from meltwater underneath, resulting in occasional (and surprising!) postholing. The slow but steady climb first west then turning north across a small stream led us to the shoulder of the summit. This last section was steeper and narrower, leading to a clearing on top of the hill with views of Schroon Lake to the SE, with another clearing a short distance away with views of Paradox Lake to the E. We stopped for a brief lunch break, enjoying both the patchy blue skies and brisk winds blowing the snow flurries sideways.

Hiking down the ice-covered trail was a bit more challenging. After a few episodes of microspike skating, most of us found alternate routes along the sides of the trail with safer footing.

My device recorded a total distance of 2.92 miles over 2 hr 15 min with an elevation gain of 759 ft. A good time was had by all. ~ Ed Gandorf

# Outings Reports

## March 19: Cross Country Ski at Tupper Lake Golf Course Leader: Shannon Andersen

Four friends set out for the Tupper Lake Golf Course, unsure of what kind of adventure the day would bring. With rain and unseasonably warm weather in the days prior, we didn't know if we'd be cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or hiking in micro spikes. So we did what any intrepid Adirondacker would do - we brought all of our gear with us. Upon arrival, we found a little bit of everything—patches of snow, ice, and uncovered ground—making for ever-changing conditions. Choosing safety, we opted for microspikes and embraced the outing as a 4-mile scouting mission. The experience left us all eager to return, and it's safe to say this spot is now on our list for another visit next year. ~ Shannon Andersen



*Tupper Lake Golf Course Photo Credit: Shannon A*

## March 26: Hike on the Oregon Trail, Johnsbury Leader: Shannon Andersen



*Stewart Creek on the Oregon Trail Photo Credit: Shannon A*

On Thursday, we set out to explore the Oregon Trail in Johnsbury, beginning at the familiar trailhead shared with Cod Pond. Instead of turning right, we continued straight ahead, following a quieter and less-traveled path. The highlight of the hike was the steady company of Stewart Creek, which was roaring with the spring snowmelt—its rushing waters were powerful reminder that the seasons are shifting.

With temperatures climbing into the upper 50s, we encountered a mix of trail conditions making for an early spring adventure.

We made our way to the bridge over Stewart Creek, where we paused to take in the view, enjoy the warm weather, listen to the rapids, and admire a beaver lodge. After taking it all in, we retraced our steps, enjoying the return journey along the roaring creek. ~ Shannon Andersen

# Outings Reports

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**March 26: Hike to Goose Pond, Pharaoh Lake Wilderness,  
Town of Schroon  
Leader: Meredith Todd**



*CRC at Goose Pond Photo Credit: Tracey D*

We were all watching the weather, and the weather kept changing, it seemed, by the hour. Luckily, we had the most accommodating outing leader. In order to get the hike into Goose Pond before the expected rain, Meredith decided that we should head out an hour earlier than previously scheduled, and with that call, we enjoyed blue and gray skies with no rain. Even though temperatures were supposed to get up to 60 degrees that day, the ground was still mostly frozen, so our group of twelve donned microspikes; they came in handy walking over large patches of ice. This was a lovely hike into what many in the group described as the prettiest pond in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness area. The trail meandered through beautiful, old growth forest and passed by a number of picturesque waterfalls. We took time off the trail to get better views of the falls, and we enjoyed views of Goose Pond from the large rocks along the pond's edge. We also took a little detour and did a little bit of bushwhacking to be able to view Alder Pond. This is a very popular hiking area during the summer season, but we had the trails to ourselves on this early spring morning. ~ Lynn Butterworth



***A special thank you to all those who led each activity, as well as Peggy Carrol, Walt Nelson, and the CRC Outings Committee.***

IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING THE OUTINGS EMAILS AND WANT TO, OR IF YOU WANT TO STOP THEM, PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AND REQUEST TO OUR CHAPTER AT [ColdRiverADKChapter@adk.org](mailto:ColdRiverADKChapter@adk.org)

# CRC Membership and Connections

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## Upcoming Potlucks:



### A Traditional Potluck

June 11, 2026

25 Bonnie Bell Farm Rd. Loon Lake, Chestertown

Hosts: Ken Shea and Marti Townley

Please bring a dish, appetizer, or dessert to share. We will have a grill if you would like to grill something for yourself. We hope to hold the potluck on our beach so there will be no electricity. (You will have access to our house if needed).

Please bring your own utensils, plates, and beverages. Also bring a chair and bathing suit. There is a port-a-potty.

Time: 4-5 pm social hour    5-5:30 pm meeting    5:30 pm dinner

**Contact: Marti Townley by June 8** to let her know what you will bring  
[mdksshea@aol.com](mailto:mdksshea@aol.com) 518-301-3712

Directions: Bonnie Bell Farm Rd. is off of Rt. 9 on the west side of Loon Lake. From exit 25 drive west on Rt 8/ Rt 9, turn right onto Rt. 9 at OP Fredericks and go about a mile and turn right at a gate for our beach. You can drive down. We will have a sign. From exit 26 drive south on Rt. 9. Bonnie Bell Farm Rd. will be about a mile on the right and the beach will be on the left. From North Creek drive East on Rt. 8, then left on to Rt. 9 at OP's.

If the weather is not cooperative, we will have the potluck at our house. To get to our house drive up Bonnie Bell Farm Rd. and take the second side road on the left after the barn. Bear right at the sign for 25. The first house you see is ours.

## CRC Membership and Connections

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### Looking Ahead.....

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*We would love to have a May potluck and one in the fall at the Ski Bowl/Gore for the latest Gore news and updates.*

May – available

**June 11<sup>th</sup>** ~ A traditional potluck on Loon Lake hosted by Marti and Ken

**August 15<sup>th</sup>** ~ A picnic at Minerva Beach. Details in the works...

September ~ available

October ~ available

**November** ~ The McCrums have graciously offered to host.

**Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** ~ Annual Meeting/Holiday Luncheon at Garnet Hill Lodge from 11 am – 2 pm. We're hoping for a good turnout and to make it easier to drive to and from the lodge in the daylight.

If anyone is interested in hosting our wildly popular potlucks, please contact Rose Cooper - [rosecooper2@gmail.com](mailto:rosecooper2@gmail.com) or Maria Rinella - [rinellium125@gmail.com](mailto:rinellium125@gmail.com)



# CRC Membership and Connections

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## Membership News

Membership Chair, Susan Schuler

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
SEEING YOU ON OUTINGS.



*Greg & Rosie Thomas of Wayne, NJ*

*John Fobare of Ballston Spa, NY*

*Hilary and Forrest Jones of Chestertown, NY*

*Joe & Susan Freudenberg of Gladwynne, PA*

*Kate Hartley of North Creek, NY*

A reminder to all members to please keep your email current with ADK at [membership@adk.org](mailto:membership@adk.org) if you wish to continue to receive the Cold River Currents newsletter and updates and renewal notices from ADK.

As of March 15, 2026, Cold River Chapter consists of

405 active members including

269 Family Members

68 Adult/Individual Members

60 Senior Members

8 Family Life Members

Life Memberships are available from [ADK.org](http://ADK.org).

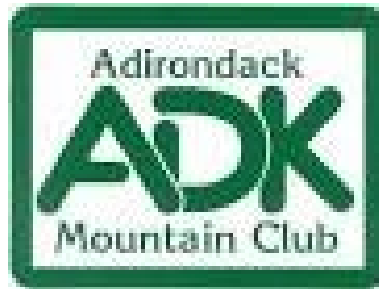
An Individual Life Membership is \$1,300;

Family (2+ people in the same household) is \$1,950.

# CRC Membership and Connections

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## 2026 ADK Outings & Events



### Genesee Valley Chapter Outdoor Expo on June 13<sup>th</sup> in Pittsford, NY

To find out more, go to: [Outdoor Expo – Adirondack Mountain Club – Genesee Valley Chapter](#)

### Cycle Outing – Registration Now Open for June 14-19<sup>th</sup>

For more information: [ADK Cycle Outing 2026 | Adirondack Mountain Club](#)

### Fall Outing this September 18-20<sup>th</sup> – Registration Now Open

For more information: [Fall Outing 2026 — Adirondack Mountain Club](#)

### From Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter: 25th Anniversary of the Fire Tower Challenge

2026 marks the 25th anniversary of the Adirondack Mountain Club's Fire Tower Challenge.

Adventure. Stewardship. Community

These three words embody the Fire Tower Challenge. Since 2001, thousands of people have been introduced to the Forest Preserve Parks—the Adirondack and Catskill Parks—through these historic summits. Along the way, they've built friendships, found inspiration in incredible views, and learned about protecting public lands for future generations.

### July is “Go Take a (Fire Tower) Hike” Month!

To celebrate this milestone—and to build awareness of the new Fire Tower Challenge 2.0—we invite chapter outings leaders to consider adding fire tower hikes to your July offerings. Fire tower hikes offer something for everyone: history, rewarding climbs, and unforgettable views. They are perfect for group outings of all abilities. If you participate:

- Share your photos: [firetower@adk-gfs.org](mailto:firetower@adk-gfs.org)
- Share your stories: ADK Voices (our oral history project) would love to record them at [adkvoices1@gmail.com](mailto:adkvoices1@gmail.com)
- For more information: [www.adk-gfs.org/firetower.challenge.php](http://www.adk-gfs.org/firetower.challenge.php)  
[ADK Fire Tower Challenge](#)

### ADK Winter Outing Weekend February 5–7, 2027

To be held at Massawepie Scout Camp, Tupper Lake, NY...more details to come.

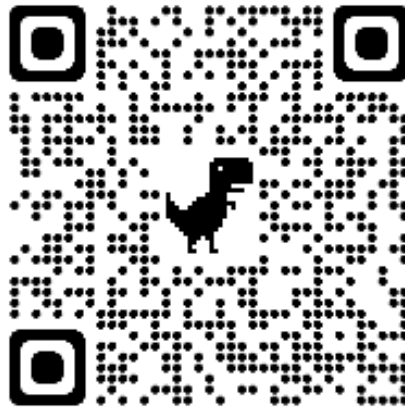


## Buck Mountain Trailhead Stewards



Join Us! Glens Falls-Saratoga ADK volunteers steward the Buck Mt. Pilot Knob Trailhead in the summer to promote safety, resource protection, and good hiker habits and practices. **We'd love to have you join us.** It's good work.

For more information – Scan here:



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Email: [\*\*trails@adk-gfs.org\*\*](mailto:trails@adk-gfs.org)