

COLD RIVER CURRENTS

July 2022

The Newsletter of the Cold River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Chapter Co-Chairs' Report

by Steve Mullins and Susan Atwell

Summer has arrived and the CRC is looking forward to its annual member picnic on August 13th from 12:00-4:00 PM at the Minerva Lake Pavilion – our first in-person Chapter-wide gathering of 2022. The event will be catered by Red Wagon BBQ. If you happen to be in the Brant Lake area this summer, Red Wagon BBQ has a red and white lunch wagon at the driveway of the Lazy Moose, and you can sample some of their handmade lunches. We are also pleased to have Michael Barrett as our guest speaker to update us on the latest ADK Club news.

The CRC has historically selected its Executive Committee (EC) officers during the annual August picnic, with officers assuming their roles on September 1st. However, this year we have made a change to this voting schedule. The CRC is the only Chapter within the Club to have its governing body's periods of service NOT running from January 1st to December 31st of each calendar year. During the June 13, 2022 CRC EC meeting, the EC unanimously voted to conform to the Club's calendar year term of service for the Committee members. The current Committee members have agreed to extend the officers' period of service for 2022 to December 31st, with the new slate of officers assuming their new roles on January 1, 2023. Rather than select the officers in August of this year, we will select the new officers at the annual holiday party, which is held in early to mid-December of each year. We will provide the new slate of officers in our October newsletter.

Through this CRC Newsletter, we have been regularly updating our members with information regarding the Annual Fall Outing and Centennial Celebration. As a reminder, the event will be held September 23-25, 2022, at Silver Bay YMCA Conference and Family Retreat Center in Silver Bay, Lake George. Musical entertainment will be provided by Dan Berggren and the Jamcrackers Friday evening. On Saturday evening, our guest speaker will be noted author and environmentalist Bill McKibben. The Silver Bay YMCA reserved rooms have sold out, but a handful have been returned to the available list. If you are still looking for lodging, you can contact the Y directly to check on availability. The Saturday evening BBQ is also currently sold out. See registration website for information about a wait list. You may still register for over 40 Fall Outing hiking and paddling activities at ADK.org. As of the end of June, we have 194 registered attendees, and many of the outings have already been filled to capacity. If you are planning to attend, please register and reserve your choices for outing events as soon as possible to avoid disappointment that your preferred outings are no longer available.

Other than our Annual Members Picnic in August, we have still not scheduled any potluck meetings as we continue to monitor the COVID infection rate. Potluck organizers have understandably been reluctant to volunteer and host these events with COVID remaining active in our local communities. With our August and September Chapter and Club outings already scheduled, it is doubtful that we can squeeze in another in-person Chapter gathering this calendar year. It is our sincere hope that we can resume these potluck gatherings in 2023. Many Chapter members have expressed their desire to reconnect with other Chapter members through these potluck gatherings – and we all miss the wide variety of wonderful dishes shared by the participants.

Best wishes to all of you for a healthy and enjoyable summer. We look forward to seeing you.

2022 CRC Executive Committee

Steve Mullins (Chapter Chair)

Susan Atwell (Co-Chair)

Rich Salz (ADK Advisory Council Trustee)

Rose Cooper (ADK Advisory Council Alternate Trustee)

Anne Bernat (Secretary)

John Rendinaro (Treasurer)

Tom Riley, Lynn Butterworth (Outings Co-Chairs)

Ellen Collins (Membership Chair)

Linda Hales (Newsletter Chair)

Maria Rinella, Rich Salz (Members-at-large)

Chapter News

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

by Rich Salz,
ADK Advisory Council Trustee



At the May 17th Advisory Council meeting, ADK President Tom Andrews reported on the following Club developments:

- In May the ADK Cascade Welcome Center opened on Route 73 between Keene and Lake Placid providing hiker information, books, t-shirts and bathrooms. Summers hours are Thursday through Monday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Stop by and say hello when you are in the area.
- ADK has applied for a \$300K grant to make upgrades to the Welcome Center's windows, roof and siding.
- The pending sale of the Lake George headquarters building off Northway Exit 21 to a local boat company has been delayed due to the purchaser's need to get an SBA loan. The Club is looking to buy or rent a property for a new headquarters in Queensbury near the outlets.
- Jim Schneider of the Glens Falls – Saratoga Chapter is working on an ADK oral history project called "ADK Voices." Jim and his group are building a website using proprietary software and are starting to record ADKer stories. They expect a formal launch in the late summer at the Cascade Welcome Center.



View from Hurricane Mountain photo by John Rendinaro

Chapter News

Cold River Chapter History



Have you ever wondered where our Cold River patch came from? Years ago, a design contest was held to create the CRC patch. This brief article is in celebration of a beautiful person who cared about our chapter and who won the contest for both the chapter patch and the paddle patch—Howie Linke.



Howard Linke was an industrial arts teacher for over 30 years at Arlington High School located outside Poughkeepsie, NY. Howie hiked, camped, fished and hunted in the Adirondacks, Catskills, and Dutchess County, NY. He was an unassuming, talented and likable person. While teaching back in the 70's, Howie created and taught a class on energy conservation. He tried to instill in his students the importance of caring and protecting our environment. In this regard, Howie was a pioneer and ahead of his time. He loved all facets of nature and shared this love with all his friends and would even visit his wife's first grade class for "show and tell" with many interesting objects and artifacts he found in the woods.



Howard built his summer home in Rhode Island and his home here in North River, NY. Both homes were energy efficient and blended in with the surroundings. Small is beautiful. He also designed and built some of his own furniture. There seemed to be nothing he couldn't do. Howard passed on in 2018 at the age of 79. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte, and his two children, Lisa and Jeff.

~Laura and Dick Klinski



left to right: Laura Klinski, Anya Bickford, Jan McCann, Howard Linke (deceased), Ellen Ohnmacht (deceased), Ellen Collins in front

Where in the World?

Trail Angels

by Barbara Kearns

Trail Angels are supporters of north or south thru-hikers traveling the 2,100 miles of the Appalachian Mountain ridges between Georgia and Maine. Water and other re-supplies are occasionally found alongside a trail, or there may be veteran hikers waiting at the end or beginning of the day inviting thru-hikers to sit down and enjoy a beverage, fruit or even a meal.

Section hikers also need their Trail Angels for supplies as well as transportation to trail entries and exits. Six months before departure our five-member team plotted Appalachian trail and topographical maps to establish distance, elevation change, seasonal weather and the time to travel between available trailheads. This time we would walk South to North starting at Apple Orchard in Central Virginia until we met up at Rockfish, our Shenandoah sectional terminal a couple years ago. This time we decided to have a rather centrally located Air B&B base camp at the Wintergreen Ski Resort.

The plan was then turned over to our private travel organizer, supporter and Trail Angel M.D. Driver (aka Ken Shea). He deeply studied the trail maps before we left and the nine days during the hike. Sometimes Ken started on the trail with us but would then return to check our take-out trail situation, or he might just carry his folding chair to a lean-to and wait for us at the end, or sit along the trail handing out little chocolate bars and bananas. The day we questioned our hike due to the thunder and lightning forecast, M.D. Driver wisely suggested we hike North to South and miss the storm time.

Spring beauty surrounded us in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and because we are day hikers, we do not hesitate to take time to listen to a bird or admire and photograph the flora to record in our journals that evening. Hillsides were covered with pink trillium and trails were lined with Spring Beauties, Fire Pinks, Crested Dwarf Iris, Spider Wort, May Apple, Rhododendron and Laurel. We admired Tulip Poplars, Dogwood and the unique Empress trees (pictured here). A rattlesnake received our most exciting trail attention. A veteran Army medic carrying a four foot log in tribute to Wounded Warriors was a most memorable thru-hiker. He had climbed the 115 North East High Peaks over 4,000 feet and was then walking the Appalachian Trail soliciting contributions with a QR code on the log.



Where in the World?

Our team's second Trail Angel, Chris Gabriels, (trail name under discussion) drove 20 hours to pick up and return four of our team while M.D. Driver and his wife (Shay Shay) headed further south. Last summer, Chris also drove us to climb Mt. Katahdin. In the past we have hiked with full packs to camp, taken a shuttle, accepted a lift from a local resident to our trail destination and experimented with daily posting a vehicle at trail's end. Often we even started our day as early as 4:30, so we didn't have the leisure of thoroughly enjoying the history, beauty and appreciation of the Appalachian Trail, as we did this time.

Personal Trail Angels, we thank you.



2022 AT hikers: Gail Gabriels,
Jeanne Tommell, Marti Townley,
Bobbie Kearns, Susan Atwell



Blue Ridge



Outings Reports

A special thanks to those who led each activity, as well as Lynn Butterworth, Tom Riley, 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

April 7: Rainbow Falls Loop Hike, Keene Leader: Sara Mullins

We hiked the East River Trail which takes you through a lovely forest along a river bank. After crossing the dam to the Lower Ausable Lake and a brief lunch, we walked up the dramatic gorge to see the incredible 150 ft. Rainbow Falls. You have this other-worldly feeling gazing at this phenomena. We then hiked the West River Trail to the also spectacular Beaver Meadow Falls. We lucked out with a beautiful sunny spring day for this 9-mile round trip hike with 9 happy hikers! ~Marti Townley



Rainbow Falls

April 15: Black Mountain, Lake George Leader: Marti Townley

Marti and Ken led a pack of 7 up Black Mountain on the eastern shore of Lake George. We went up the trail on the west side of the mountain and descended down the east side, past several ponds to the trailhead for a total of 7 miles and a 1460 ft. ascension. At the top there were spectacular views of northern Lake George. As

we descended the southeast side, we were greeted with spectacular views of southern Lake George and Gore Mountain to the West. On the hike we saw a yellow bellied sap sucker, grouse scat and learned about puberty checks. A most enlightening day! Thank you Marti and Ken for a lovely hike! ~Anne Bernat



Black Mountain



April 28: Potash Mountain Hike, Lake Luzerne Leader: Rich Salz

The wind was not as blustery as everyone was expecting, but even with less wind, it was a cold start to this hike. Additionally, we were concerned about the blowdown following the late season snowstorm, but Steve Mackey, the trail's builder, had already cleared the trail of all of the most serious tree damage. The trail was easy to follow and meticulously maintained. Thoughtfully placed stone stairs were located throughout, and the switchbacks made for a more gradual climb. The temperature warmed up quickly, and the nine hikers enjoyed the beautiful sunshine and light breezes. It was a chatty, fun group; everyone enjoyed one another's company.

~Lynn Butterworth

Outings Reports



Potash Mountain

May 5: Bradley's Lookout and the Pinnacle Hike, Bolton **Leaders: Richard and Karen Wang**

Five of us ADK folks, from an assortment of ADK Chapters, took advantage of a beautiful spring day to explore the new trail to Bradley Lookout and the partially rerouted trail to the Pinnacle in Bolton Landing. We took our time on the wide, user-friendly trails and thoroughly enjoyed both views of Lake George as well as views through the still leafless trees of Cat, Thomas and Crane Mountains. We found some unusual wildflowers along the way and were impressed with all the work that has been done to make these two connected trails so easy to navigate.
~Karen Wang



Pinnacle

May 5: Rooster Comb and Snow Mountain Loop Hike, Keene Valley **Leader: Sara Mullins**

On a beautiful spring morning, Sara Mullins led our crew of eight hikers up to Rooster Comb with a stop at Valley View Ledge along the way. The leaves were not out on the trees yet, and we had clear views all the way up. We stopped for lunch at the top which offered a stunning view of snow-capped Mt. Marcy and great views of Giant Mountain and the rest of the valley. After lunch we headed over to Snow Mountain Lookout to soak up some sun before making our way down. We hiked 6.8 miles with almost 2,000 feet of elevation.
~John Rendinaro



Rooster Comb

May 6: Jabe Pond Fishing, Bolton **Leader: Jeffrey Schanzer**

Jeff closely monitored the status of the gate to Jabe Pond and set our paddling and fishing day for May 6th. We arrived under mostly cloudy skies and gentle breezes shortly after the state stocking truck drove away, leaving us a test of restraint near the launch bay. While preparing to launch, we met Scott who had been fishing for a while before our arrival and had a beautiful brook trout on a stringer. Earlier in the day, he had been fishing the deep area of the lake and noticed with great interest as a loon popped up about 15 feet from his boat then dove and swam right under his canoe. He soon realized the loon was after his dad's first fresh trout dinner in years and he reeled in the stringer to discover some scrapes

Outings Reports

and a missing bit from a tail fin. Minnow-lures, spinners, and dry flies did their job on the fresh additions to the pond, as well as some of the local residents. Loons, a fly-over by a bald eagle, and some greater yellowlegs visited us as we paddled and fished this beautiful gem of a pond.

~ Sam Vona



Jabe Pond

May 12: South Inlet Paddle, Raquette Lake

Leader: Noelle McCrum

CRC started the paddling season with a delightful paddle on the South Inlet of Raquette Lake. Twelve paddlers participated. Since it was early spring there were no wildflowers; however, the group enjoyed talking and laughing with each other. At the end of the paddle everyone journeyed to Indian Lake to dine at the Indian Lake Tavern. ~Noelle McCrum



Raquette Lake

May 12: Puffer Pond Loop Hike, Indian Lake

Leader: Jan McCann

With the trees not yet leafed out, we enjoyed views of the terrain with its wetlands, ponds and streams on this scenic loop. Luckily a breeze kept the black flies at bay so damage was minimal, although they definitely knew we were there as we tried to ignore their presence. That same breeze was refreshing in the unusually warm weather. Although we didn't see a moose, someone spotted a salamander-like critter, and we enjoyed the birds, wildflowers (painted trillium among them) and chaga mushrooms on some birches along the way. It is always a plus to have nature buffs along! ~Jan McCann



Puffer Pond

Outings Reports

May 14: Indian Lake Paddle and Baldface Mountain Hike, Indian Lake **Leader: Sam Vona**

A small group launched from Lake Shore Drive in Indian Lake and paddled across a glassy-surfaced lake with reflections of cumulus clouds and brilliant blue sky. We crossed straight to the east side and followed the complex shoreline and islands south to Norman's Cover, where we landed and switched into boots. While we saw fresh boot tracks in spots, it was clear that we were some of the first to use the trail this spring. After a couple short breaks, we emerged on top with the breathtaking view of the little high peaks and approximately 10 miles of the length of Indian Lake. The surface was calm enough that we had good reflections of the west-side mountains on the water. The forest immediately beneath us was colored in the beautiful fresh spring greens. While never really severe throughout the outing, we were glad to have head nets to protect us from black flies while we enjoyed the views and took photographs. A quick walk out returned us to our boats, where we took our time returning to the launch point enjoying the beautiful day on the low traffic, calm lake. Our timing was exactly perfect as shortly after loading up boats, a pair of military cargo planes flew low northbound over the lake with a strong downpour hot on their tails.

~Sam Vona



Indian Lake

May 19: Anthony's Nose Preserve (Record Hill) Hike, Hague **Leader: Gail Gabriels**

On May 19th, Gail led the three of us through Anthony's Nose Preserve up Record Hill. It was a total of 2.2 miles with 700 feet of elevation. The trail was consistently, moderately steep for the last 2/3 of the way, with many varieties of wildflowers to distract us. At the top there was a rock outcropping that provided a lovely lunch spot and great views of south Lake George and Rogers Rock. The only negative aspect were the numerous nests of bag worms that were eating every leaf in sight. Thank you Gail for a highly recommended hike! ~Anne Bernat



Anthony's Nose



Columbine photo by Bob Eberhard

Outings Reports

May 21: Spring Bird Walk, Pack Forest, Warrensburg **Leader: Miok Salz**

Eight CRC folks interested in learning more about birding gathered early on what promised to be a hot and buggy day at Pack Forest just outside of Warrensburg. We were ably led by Miok Salz who has an incredible ability to identify a bird by listening to its song. We took our time walking the roads of Pack Forest and the Grandmother Tree trail, stopping often to listen for birds going about their business. Some of our most noteworthy sightings included a spotted sandpiper and a bald eagle being chased by a red winged blackbird, but learning more about listening to the birds around us was also very interesting. All in all we saw or heard 21 different birds in addition to viewing a lovely array of spring wildflowers. It was a great morning to be out in the woods observing nature! ~Karen Wang



Pack Forest bird walk

May 26: Hurricane Mountain Hike, Keene **Leaders: Lynn Butterworth and John Rendinaro**

We were so lucky! There had been a threat of rain all week, and then it cleared up for our Thursday hike. The weather was so hot the previous weekend, but it was a perfectly pleasant 70 degrees for our hike. We were worried about black flies eating us up, but it was breezy, so that kept them at bay. And the trail was in fantastic shape, clear and dry. Hurricane Mountain is one

of the best “not a High Peaks” hike, with about 2000’ of gradual elevation gain. There is a rock summit, which affords 360-degree views of the High Peaks, Whiteface Mountain, Lake Champlain, and the Green Mountains. It also has a fire tower, but the breeze we enjoyed that kept the black flies at bay was like a . . . hurricane . . . at the top of the tower, so only a few brave souls ventured up. It was a glorious day spent with a wonderful group of people. ~Lynn Butterworth



Hurricane Mountain

June 2: Goodnow Flow Road to Third Lake Walk, Newcomb **Leader: Barbara Kearns**

It was a lovely spring day with only a few bugs to disturb us on our 5.5-mile walk into the sight of the former Gooley Club. What a beautiful spot on a pristine Lake! We could feel the peacefulness that one must have felt in the 1950’s when the buildings existed. We enjoyed exploring the territory and the newly built lean-to. The state took over the land in 2012 so we could all enjoy it. Thank you Bobbie for sharing this spot with 12 of us. ~Marti Townley



Goodnow Flow

Outings Reports



Gooley Club, part of Goodnow hike

June 16: Long Trail Hike, North Creek Leader: Brendan Hanley

Five CRC folks met at the trailhead for the Schaefer Trail at the North Creek Ski Bowl right after a downpour. As we were noting that the system that had caused the rain was moving to our east, we heard thunder. Although this did not seem auspicious, we decided to trust the weather forecast and headed out with leader, Brendan Hanley, for an amazing loop trip which included the 2.5-mile Long Trail, parts of the Schaefer Trail, the Peaceful Valley Ski trail and other Ski Bowl trails. In addition to the beautifully maintained mountain bike trail, we were treated to some nice views from the top of two chairlifts and a fleeting glimpse of a large, unidentifiable furry animal that crossed our path ahead of our alert leader. It turned out to be a great day to be out in the woods with such a knowledgeable and considerate leader!

~Karen Wang



Long Trail

June 16: Pharaoh Mt Hike, Schroon Leader: Ken Shea

First, it rained a bit. Not a huge downpour, just an annoying drizzle. Then the humidity was like hiking through a swarm of mosquitoes . . . no . . . wait . . . it WAS a swarm of mosquitos we were hiking through! Six hearty souls suffered through a mosquito swatting, sweat drenching 10 miles up to the summit of Pharaoh Mountain. There was some slow going both up and down, as the rocks on the trail were slick, and we had to watch our footing so as not to slide. Nevertheless, we tried to keep the pace brisk to create a breeze to keep the bugs off us. We spotted a painted turtle and a pink lady slipper along the way. There were views on the way up of beaver lodges as well as a few ponds and waterfalls. We were happy to have these sightings on the way up, because the top of the mountain offered no view whatsoever; it was completely socked in by a cloud. Even with all of the bugs and humidity, and even without a view of Schroon Lake, we enjoyed one another's company and vowed to hike this trail again in the fall when conditions will be more enjoyable.

~Lynn Butterworth



Pharaoh Mountain



Outings Reports

June 24: Bald Peak Hike, Keene Leader: Gail Gabriels

We were rained out for the scheduled hike on our original date, but what a glorious day we had for the day after. It was picture perfect, not too hot, not too buggy. There was sunshine and views. We had 7 people meet in Pottersville at the Black Bear, and we carpooled to the trailhead to Bald Mountain, which is in New Russia. Our leader, Gail Gabriels, chose the 3.8-mile ascent trail, which starts climbing pretty steadily from the parking lot up to several gorgeous lookouts along the way. This is the same trail that people take to Rocky Ridge Peak and one of the 3 trails to Giant Mountain. There were a couple of spots where we used two hands to pull ourselves up on the rocks, but we were slow and steady, stopping to enjoy different overlooks along the way. The trail was pretty empty, and we relaxed on the rocky top eating lunch before the descent. We could see Lake Champlain, Lincoln Pond and Vermont on one side. The High Peaks, with Rocky Ridge Peak and Giant right in front of us, were on the other side. The elevation was a little over 3,000 feet and the views were spectacular. Descending we took an alternate trail down, which was less steep than the trail we climbed up. We enjoyed the shade of several stands of hemlock forests and only passed a few hikers along the way, throughout our journey up and down. One minor slip on the wet rocks with no serious injuries was the only mishap of the hike. Thank you, Gail, for taking us to this wonderful spot. It was a great day with great company.
~Tracey Donaldson



Bald Peak

June 30: Pitchoff Mountain Hike, Keene Leader: Marti Townley

On June 30th Marti and Ken lead six hikers up Pitchoff Mountain--welcome to two new hikers Rebecca and Judy! Before getting to the summit we were treated to the most outstanding views of the High Peaks at the standing rocks overlook; which is where our photo was taken. After this lookout we hiked the ridge up and down four more peaks before our final descent to a staged car. This was a 5.4-mile through-hike with 1,500 feet of elevation. The decent at the end was somewhat tricky, and we had to pick our way down some steeper sections, but this hike is a definite do over! Thank you, Marti and Ken!
~Anne Bernat



Pitchoff Mountain (overlook)



Ladyslipper photo by Bob Eberhard

Announcements

Annual Picnic

The CRC Annual picnic will be held on Saturday, August 13, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, at the Minerva Lake Pavilion. The picnic buffet will be catered by Red Wagon BBQ. We are pleased to have Michael Barrett as our guest speaker to update us on the latest ADK news. RSVP for catered buffet lunch to bradtatwell@aol.com. There will be a \$5 per person charge for the catered buffet (to be paid at the event). Please bring your own place settings and beverage. You may also bring an appetizer or dessert to share.



Don't miss the ADK Centennial Celebration and Fall Outing Sept. 23-25.



If you haven't been to any other Fall Outing, this is the one you shouldn't miss. The YMCA is on Lake George, with spectacular views of the lake and mountains, and has boats, tennis courts, hiking trails and a gym. There will be over 40 hiking and paddling outings, including a pontoon boat tour of Lake George for YMCA guests. As of press time, YMCA rooms and the Saturday catered barbecue dinner and dining room buffet dinner were sold out; however, the YMCA has agreed that anyone who has registered for the Fall Outing can attend – for free – the Friday night concert by Dan Berggren & Jamcrackers and the Saturday night presentation by Bill McKibben. For those who register for the Friday buffet dinner, your meal ticket will include a free day pass giving you access to all of Silver Bay's facilities, which is also available for \$15 without the meal. Space is limited, so please register early. Lodging is still available in nearby Bolton Landing, Ticonderoga and Hague. Please see <https://adk.org/event/centennial-fall-outing> website for registration.



Bill McKibben

Register now!



Jamcrackers

Membership News

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

Membership Chair, Ellen C. Collins

As of May 2022:

Total Households: 320

Total Members: 546

Total Affiliates: 25



Phil and Beth Fisher, North River, NY
Jennifer Russell and Will Fortin, Johnsburg
NY
William and Amy Van Gorp, Olmstedville,
NY
Ray Wolf, Buffalo, NY
Patrick and Robin Reed, Chestertown, NY
Deborah and Robert Oliver, Auburn, NY

C. Klossner, Old Forge, NY
Connie Freebern, Queensbury, NY
Sally Rockwood, Newcomb, NY
Brian Sweeney, Hopewell Junction, NY
Donald Kelly, Old Forge, NY
Deanna Jacobs, Oswegatchie, NY
Alice Burnham, Groveland, MA

Our CRC web address is: <https://www.adk.org/adk-chapter/cold-river/>

ADK Cold River Chapter
July 2022 Newsletter
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