

Adirondack Mountain Club-Ramapo

The Ramapough

www.hudsonhikers.org



Winter 2007

The View From The Summit

Happy the Harriman hikers who take to the trail
Health in mind and body shall be theirs without fail
Away from Reeves Meadow hubbub up Rockland's Seven Hills
And Old Red to Ramapo Torne with serpent lair and scramble spills
Pass by a Bear who must be Russian and a Pulpit without a priest
Pine Meadow Lake's the spot for summer dip with luncheon feast
Peer at Diamond's Sebago views and careen down Cascade of Slid
Plod Blue Disc to a Den where bad Claudius Smith once hid
Yet ahead greet Tom Jones to Stahahe of High Peak renown
Yonder cross Island Pond in winter if in Boston Mine you don't drown

Next if you meet Times Square throngs you're no old geezer
Not if you've just stretched your limbs AT Lemon Squeezer
Enough of Skannatati, over LP and SBM continue your trip
Eat not the Irish Potato and ascend precipitous Pingyp
West Mountain ridgeline lies ahead as you begin to limp
Welcome are hallowed Hudson scenes once you top the Timp

You can take a detour up Dunderberg's Escalator
You'll dally in Doodletown's ghost village sooner or later
End of journey awaits once you've tramped to Perkins Tower
Elation at divine grandeur though you've used up muscle-power
Always when spirits flag the forest footpaths beckon
At all times and in all seasons the best healer, I do reckon
Remember me now kindly as I end my Presidential spell
Ramapo members all I bid thee Happy Trails and farewell!

Reiner my successor will henceforth fill this space
Regards, too, Suzan Gordon as VP in his place
Among my term's accomplishments is this Newsletter
Articles grown in size and scope, and quality's better
Mohonk Day was a grand success in its second year
Mixing can't-beat combo of Gunks recreation and gastronomic cheer

Also Hudsonhikers.org revamp bringing website up-to-date
Aaron Schoenberg's excursions remain treats to contemplate
Proud we should be of all in hike leader and trail overseer bands
Preservation continue to press for Ramapo watershed lands
Oh so many things over 35 years to commemorate
Only get out on the hiking trail to truly celebrate!

Chris Connolly, President

Special Long Distance Outings

LONG TRAIL VT. I

Wed., May 23 - Wed., May 30, 2007

This is the start of a six year project to day hike the Long Trail of Vermont from the Canadian border to Massachusetts southbound. This particular trip will cover over 50 miles from Canada to Johnson, VT. The hiking will be strenuous and we will go at a steady pace. The hiking will include several serious climbs, blow downs to traverse from the previous winter's storms and dealing with snow cover over 3,000 feet of elevation. Our accommodations will be fully furnished apartments with complete modern kitchens in Montgomery Center, VT. Contact for detailed itinerary and deadline to register: March 31. L Aaron Schoenberg: (preferred), askus3@optonline.net or 845-986-8645.

NH Appalachian Trail II/White Mountain Trip XVIII

Tues., June 19 - Wed. June 27, 2007

This trip will follow the Appalachian Trail from US 2 east of Gorham to US 302 at Crawford Notch. This is a continuation of my annual trip to hike the Appalachian Trail southbound. We shall hike thru the Presidential Range of the White Mountains, NH including 15 - 4,000 footers. Two days we will be hiking above tree line where the weather can vary remarkably from hour to hour. The hiking will be very strenuous and we will go at a steady pace. Our accommodations will be a motel or hostel in Gorham for the first three nights and then we will stay at AMC huts and facilities. Contact for the detailed itinerary and deadline to register: May 12. L Aaron Schoenberg: (preferred) askus3@optonline.net 845-986-8645.

Conservation Corner

NEWS ON THE TRAILS

Minnewaska State Park has officially reopened the Mud Pond trail segment in the Awosting Reserve linking the park to privately-owned Verkeerder Kill Falls and to Sam's Point further south. The segment had been closed by the Awosting Reserve's former landowner prior to New York State's acquisition of the Reserve in March. Also, on September 15, New York State took title to 3800 acres in Sam's Point Preserve that the Open Space Institute had purchased in 1997. This land is now part of Minnewaska State Park, although The Nature Conservancy will continue to manage it.

There is no trail access to Kaaterskill Falls in the Catskills until further notice because of trail wash-out and a danger of more slides in the Falls gorge area. Also, Route 23A between Haines Fall and Palenville remains closed as repair work continues on the roadway section, near the Kaaterskill Falls trailhead, which collapsed after heavy rains in June.

The Forest View Trail pedestrian bridge over Palisades Interstate Parkway in New Jersey - which connects Route 9W near the Alpine Boy Scout camp with the Long Path and Shore Trail - will be closed over the winter months for repairs. Hikers can use the State Line Lookout parking lot (which from now on will allow all-day parking instead of the previous two-hour limit)

to access the Forest View Trail via the Long Path.

The Sterling Forest land developer has agreed to sell the remaining land in the park to New York State and the "doughnut hole" in Sterling Forest has been closed. Sterling Forest LLC, owners of the last major piece of private, undeveloped land in the nearly 20,000-acre state park, sold that 571-acre tract to New York for \$13.5 million, a major victory for environmentalists who fought plans to develop the property. The plans to develop that pocket of land within a vast stretch of the parkland have long inflamed the environmentalists who labored to preserve Sterling Forest from a large development scheme.

The big building plans fell by the wayside when the State bought most of Sterling Forest a few years ago. But what remained after several land sales was the 571-acre tract off Route 84, referred to by activists as a "doughnut hole" they helped to preserve. And now that has become a reality and an achievement to many organizations that opposed the development on that land.

The Lovett power plant in Stony Point, which had "earned" a reputation as one of New York's dirtiest oil and coal-burning facilities, will be phasing out operations in 2007 and closing in 2008.

Members In The News

PETE HECKLER HIGHLY HONORED



Chapter member Pete Heckler received the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's highest honor, the Raymond H. Torrey Award, at the organization's October 21 annual meeting. The Torrey

Award is given for exceptional service to the hiking community, and for significant and lasting contributions to hiking trails and lands. Pete is only the seventh person to be so honored in the history of the Trail Conference; the last Torrey Award recipient, in 2004, was also a Chapter member, Neil Zimmerman.

Pete garnered the award for his exemplary leadership in building up the Trail Conference as a truly region-wide trails organization, and for spearheading the development and growth of the hiking trail system in the West Hudson area. As stated by NY-NJ Trail Conference's Trails Direc-

tor Larry Wheelock in his nomination of Pete for the Torrey Award, "Pete's ability to take on difficult tasks without hesitation has brought the Trail Conference from a NYC centered organization to a regionally centered organization and this has resulted in a larger vision and greater influence within the region as a whole." The Trail Conference is fortunate that, even though Pete has stepped down from his long-time position as West Hudson Trail Chair, he will be serving as Trails Council Chair for the upcoming year. The Ramapo Chapter is very proud to congratulate Pete for the recognition he has so deservedly earned.

Pete Heckler was not the only Chapter member to make news during the Trail Conference's annual meeting on October 21 at Croton Point in Westchester County. Outgoing Chapter President Chris Connolly was one of five candidates elected to a full 3-year term on the Board of Directors. In addition, out of 25 Delegates-at-Large elected to represent the Trail Conference's individual members for the upcoming year, six hail from our Chapter - Suzan Gordon, John Jurasek, Margo Moss, Anna Parker, Pete Tilgner, and Richard Zinn.

IN MEMORIAM - Marty Last



Marty left us on September 16 just shy of 80 years young, but all who knew him will have Lasting memories of his sunny disposition and infectious sense of humor (don't worry, he would have enjoyed the bad pun). While no

trail novice (he found time to ski during his WWII Army service in Italy), Marty was a late-blooming hiker, first pounding the footpaths with the Wednesday Group in 1995. He never looked back from there, and became a devoted hiker and loyal Chapter member. His love for the trails made him a natural choice to serve as Trails Chair beginning in 2002, and he personally maintained the Long Path section in Harriman passing by the Stockbridge Shelter.

But what we most liked about Marty was that he was just plain good fun to be around with. Small wonder he was such a successful (and honest, to boot!) car salesman during the 1990s with Ramsey Acura, where many future colleagues first got to know him. Whether inside Executive Committee meetings or outside leading hikes (my favorite was his "Breakneck or Bust"), Marty genuinely enjoyed meeting new acquaintances and needling old ones. Befitting a Bronx High School of Science graduate, he could carry on back-and-forth banter on any topic, and he usually had the Last witty word.

The affection and esteem we all held for Marty were shown by the presence of 25 ADKers at his Monday morning funeral service. The Ramapo Chapter extends its condolences to Marty's family - including daughters Karen and Janet and four grandsons - and to his constant trail companion, June Slade. We'll treasure Marty's sharp intellect and warm and winning manner. He was a classy guy.

Submitted by Chris Connolly

The Joys of Hiking Presentations

To encourage other people who live in the Hudson Valley area to come out and hike and to help recruit new ADK members, Peter Reiner and Chris Connolly, will be doing a series of presentations in 2007 at public libraries in the area. The one hour presentation, called "The Joys of Hiking" will cover such topics as the various state parklands, hiking equipment, hike ratings, map and trail reading and the health benefits of hiking. If you're near one of these libraries, come to the presentation, hear some tips and watch the slides of the many trail areas in New York and New Jersey.

The schedule for "The Joys of Hiking" presentations in 2007 is as follows:

Thursday, March 8- Warwick Wisner Library-7:00 PM 2 Colonial Ave. , Warwick, NY

Tuesday, March 13- Englewood Library-7:30 PM 31 Engle Street, Englewood, NJ

Wednesday, March 21- Suffern Library- 7:30 PM 210Lafayette Ave-Route 59, Suffern, NY

Thursday, March 22 - New City Library-7:30 PM Squadron Blvd. & Main Street, New City, NY

Thursday, May 3 - Pearl River Library - 7:30 PM 80 Franklin Ave., Pearl River, NY

White Birch Award Recipients

Neil Woodworth, ADK's Executive Director, presented the ADK White Birch awards at the Ramapo Chapter's 35th anniversary dinner in New City in Rockland County on Thursday, December 7th.

The awardees from the Ramapo Chapter are:

Manny Silberberg, Pomona, NY

For over 15 years Manny has been the voice of ADK to the Ramapo Chapter. During that time span, Manny has diligently served as Chapter Director with a two-and-one-half year interlude (and then he was the alternate Director). Manny has not only ably represented our Chapter's interests, but has always communicated ADK's achievements and goals to our members with conviction. He has further demonstrated his commitment to trail preservation in the Ramapo region as a Harriman State Park trail supervisor.

H. Neil Zimmerman, New York, NY

Neil's outstanding record of leadership in the hiking community - most notably as former President of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference - has already earned him many awards over the years, but his service to the Ramapo Chapter also deserves recognition. While he has been a Chapter Director, it is his unsung labor for over the past decade as printer of the Chapter newsletter that merits particular praise. Neil not only produces the newsletter for the Chapter, but he donates all of his printing fees to outdoors charities. In addition, Neil's regular distribution of news clippings has kept Chapter members and many others up-to-date about conservation and hiking-related developments in the New York/New Jersey area.

Nick Viggiano, Blauvelt, NY

The Ramapo Chapter could not successfully function without a corps of dedicated hike leaders, and Nick has been the "Mr. Consistency" of those leaders for the past 22 years. Since first joining the Chapter in 1984, Nick has year-in and year-out led two hikes each season, eight hikes every year, quietly compiling a record of steady, reliable service. While his pace may have slowed, his enthusiasm for the outdoors, loyalty to ADK and appetite for conversation with fellow Chapter members remain undiminished.

Please join us in congratulating these three members for their receipt of the ADK White Birch Award.

RAMAPO CHAPTER DONATIONS

At its quarterly meeting in September, the Chapter's Executive Committee made \$650 in contributions to organizations supporting our goals of hiking trail development and open space preservation.

\$350 was donated to ADK and \$100 each to the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Ramapo Highlands Coalition and Scenic Hudson.

WELCOME NEW RAMAPO MEMBERS

Robert & Martha Boshart, West Milford, NJ
 Lucy Haner, Bardonia, NY
 Mary-Lou & Jerry Kossifos, New City, NY
 Juan Perez, Valley Cottage NY
 Mary Bianco, Thiells, NY
 Bill Machonis, Fishkill, NY
 Carolyn Winter, Piermont, NY

Good Books On Hiking

When the weather turns cold and nasty, some of us enjoy relaxing in a warm spot, reading a good book. Sometimes, the perfect book is one that deals with some aspect of hiking and new trails to explore with other hikers. The books are filled with maps, hiking trails and adventures to fill us with visions of how to enjoy being in the woods or exploring new trails. Here are some of the best (in my opinion) of the hiking books that you may want to read this winter. Enjoy the good reads.

Everyday Wisdom: 1001 Expert Tips for Hikers, Karen Berger; Offers expert tips and tricks for hikers and backpackers selected from one of the most interesting experienced backpackers.

The Basic Essentials of Backpacking, Harry Roberts, each book in the *Basic Essentials* series delivers practical, succinct information. These books are ideal for individuals who want to learn about how to begin backpacking and hiking over long distances inexpensively. It's easy to read, full of common sense advice and a take-time-to-smell-the-roses approach to the sport.

60 Hikes within 60 Miles: New York City: with northern New Jersey, southwestern Connecticut, and western Long Island, Christopher Brooks, The descriptions of each of the 60 hikes include a description, a detailed map of each,

elevation profile, and directions - usually by automobile and public transportation.

A Guide to Green New Jersey: Nature Walks in the Garden State, Lucy D. Rosenfeld, includes a description of every state and county park by throwing in a wide array of things to do that involve long walks, including butterfly zoos, vineyards, battlefields, arboretums and flower gardens as well as cemeteries.

Shawangunks Trail Companion: A Complete Guide to Hiking, Mountain Biking, Cross-Country Skiing, and More Only 90 Miles from New York City, Jeffrey Perls, This is a comprehensive handbook and guide, detailing how to get there and what to do on nearly every mile of trail. It is the first and only book to provide both a thorough description of the landform as well as a complete guide to its trails.

The Best of the Appalachian Trail: Day Hikes, Frank & Victoria Logue, This is the guide for folks who wish to hike along the Appalachian Trail, but have limited time available.

The Fastest Hike, Raymond Greenlaw, This true adventure story tells of an ordinary man from Savannah, Georgia, who dreamed up an extraordinary challenge and attempted to set a speed record for hiking the 2,659-mile Pacific Crest Trail---through the high and dangerous mountains of California, Oregon, and Washington. Submitted by Peter Reiner

The Summit Experience

You step out of your warm car on an early winter's day to begin a hike that will take you to the top of a mountain. You put on your pack, adjust your straps and set off with a friend to begin the long climb on the trail. In the beginning, the ascent is gradual and your warm breath creates a small white cloud. As you move upwards on the mountain trail, you start feeling warmer and the cold air is actually very refreshing. In fact, it helps to keep you cool as you move from rock to rock along the trail.

As the ascent grows steeper and the mountain top looks further away, you need more motivation to continue to seek the top. You look up and see a bright ray of sunshine reflecting off the latest snowfall that hits the top of the mountain and you know that's where you want to be. You are reaching for the Summit Experience.

The trail switches back and forth helping to ease the elevation gain, but as the distance you've traveled adds up, you feel the good strain and continue on. It's a bright morning, with the only sound coming from the wind whistling through the pine trees. The sunshine brings some warmth but the real heat

is mostly coming from your efforts, pumping your legs and pushing ahead with your hiking poles. You've reached about half way to the top and stop for a little look around - you've earned it. While the view is nice, you know it will be better once you reach the mountain peak which is only a few hundred feet away - you're nearly there. The rocks are steeper here and sometimes require a little rock scrambling but the trail is taking you higher and higher. The trees and brush become thinner and wider spaced as you near the summit. And finally, you take the last few steps and climb to the top of the mountain peak. As you stand on the peak, you realize you can see everything visible in a full circle. The bright sun shines on you as you turn to gaze in all directions. The summit gives you views that you can see nowhere else - looking out into valleys, distant mountains and lakes. All of Nature's wonders are revealed as you stand on the top. It's beautiful, breathtaking and wonderful to see. You've had the Summit Experience!

Submitted by Peter Reiner

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**NEXT CHAPTER MEETING, THURSDAY,
MARCH 15TH**

Please join us at our next meeting on Thursday, March 15th, 7:30 PM, at the Nanuet Public Library. Steve Stanne, Interpretive Specialist, will be presenting a program about the diverse Hudson River entitled "The Hudson River from the Adirondacks to the Atlantic". The Hudson River is the defining natural feature of a large portion of eastern New York, a productive ecosystem populated by abundant and diverse creatures, and a telling example of the benefits of the Clean Water Act and other environmental laws. Steve Stanne will present a slide lecture about the Hudson, focusing on the tidal estuary between Troy and the ocean, where one can find blue crabs in Albany and seahorses in Manhattan. Currently the interpretive specialist for NYS-DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program, Steve has more than 25 years of experience teaching about the river, starting out on the sloop Clearwater back in 1980.

We will have refreshments and questions following this interesting presentation. See you there!
Suzan Gordon, Programs Chair

**Ramapo '07 Appalachian Trail Conservancy
36th Biennial Conference**

BE PART OF THE SUMMER '07 BIG EVENT

Hike leaders are needed for this event at Ramapo College, Mahwah, NJ, July 13 - 20.

If you see yourself as a hike leader or substitute leader for hikes in New Jersey and New York's lower Hudson Valley, please provide the following information to the Hikes Committee **no later than June 1st.**

Your name, e mail address, Postal address, Phone #, Leader experience, any First Aid training - (yes/no), Club affiliations, Days available, Preferred hike areas (see below)
Other leaders you know (with their contact info.)

Area(s) of Choice:

Kitatinny, Wyanokie, Ramapo, Hudson Palisades, Hudson Highlands, Long Path, A.T. NJ, NY

E mail this information to:

Peter Tilgner/Suzan Gordon:

gordon.tilgner@verizon.net or

Peter Kohlberger: peter@acorncomputing.com

Thank you.

The Hikes Committee