

Published by the New York Chapter, Inc.
of the Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc.
Peter Stuyvesant Post Office Station
P. O. Box 2276, New York, NY 10009-9998
Camp Nawakwa on Lake Sebago, 845-351-4135
www.adkny.org



Chapter Chair's Message



Dear Nawakwans,
Spring has just sprung and camp activities will soon be upon us. Work weekend has been scheduled for Saturday May 14 with some additional work on Sunday, May 15. Whether you are a long time helper, rookie or applicant, we need 'all hands on deck' to ready the camp for the season. So don't be shy! Register with our hosts and let them know which meals you'll be staying for.

If you can't make the work weekend and would like to help, we plan on re-roofing one of the cabins the following weekend, May 21/22. If you've got some skills in this area, great! If not, we need laborers to wheel away old shingles to the dumpster, pick up nails, haul old plywood and so forth.

The Main Club has asked if we could donate a gift basket for the Black Fly Affair on Saturday, May 21. We are seeking a volunteer to *help raise funds* for the basket, and *MAYBE* attend the Affair (or not?). See Ingrid's message for details.

A 50-year member, Graham Bright of Vermont, has made a VERY munificent donation to the Chapter! We can't thank him enough for his generosity. Maybe we can interest other members to use Graham as a model?! Members can make donations at any time of the year, not just in the holiday season. Since receiving this donation, the Main Club in Lake George has agreed to accept TAX EXEMPT donations for our Chapter and then direct those donations back to us.

There is a lot more to talk about, so read on in the TM, web site, or come and spend time with friends at the camp. Happy hiking!

Ed O'Donnell, Chair.

We *Still* Want to Hear from You!

What does Nawakwa mean to you? What do you like best about being at camp? What further improvements would you like to see happen, and what would make you spend more time at one of the Hudson Valley's most desirable locations?

TAKE THE SURVEY! Click on this link or go to:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/63328MD>

It's fast, private and secure. Make your voice heard!!

2011 Locker Renewals and Locker Availability

Many Nawakwa members find it convenient to rent a locker at Camp to store such items as sleeping bag, tent, air mattress, toiletries, towels, spare shoes, change of clothing, hiking gear, camp chair, and other necessities of camp life. The lockers are fairly spacious, and at \$35 a year, they're probably the cheapest real estate you'll ever rent.

If you rented a locker in 2010, you will receive a locker renewal notice during the coming month with instructions for mailing your \$35 renewal fee.

If you don't have a locker currently but would like to enjoy the benefits of having one, you should notify Jerry Flower at membership@adkny.org or drop a note to ADKNY Membership, 802 W. 190th Street #1F, New York, NY 10040 with a check for \$35.

Welcome!

New Applicants

John Kozma January
Tim Reed March



Camp Nawakwa on Lake Sebago from Diamond Mountain on the first day of Spring, 2011

photo by Servetti

Hikes: April–May 2011

(visit www.adkny.org for updates)

Volunteers Wanted!

We are always seeking volunteers to lead hikes. Familiarity with trails and hiking experience is all that is required. If you are interested, please contact the Hikes Chairperson, Glen Nison, at gnisonbike@juno.com

April and May Hikes – please check schedules of various public transportation options as fares and schedules may have changed.

Saturday, April 2 • Stonetown's Other Half

Meet 9:30 AM at Stonetown Recreation Area ball fields parking off Mary Roth Drive in West Milford. From here we shuttle to Lake Riconda Drive to begin the hike with a challenging uphill on White Trail to Harrison Mountain. We descend south on Red Stonetown Circular Trail, possibly lunching at Tory Rocks or near Signal Rock, hiking through meadows back to the ball fields parking. Register with leader by 4/1. Rain cancels. TC map 115. Leader: Despina Metaxatos dmetaxatos@hotmail.com (pref) or 201-952 -4151 (NCA 9 PM)

Saturday, April 9 • Mt. Taurus

A long uphill, but rewarded with spectacular views of the Hudson Valley. Around 6 miles at a moderate pace. Call or preferably email me beforehand to make sure that the hike is on, and if you need or can offer a ride from NYC. Take the 9:51 MetroNorth Hudson Line train from GCT arriving in Cold Spring at 11:05. Or, take the 9:40 local at the Marble Hill station (one block from the 225th St. stop of the #1 subway) changing at Croton-Harmon for the express. Please sit in the 1st or 2nd open car of the train, and please use the restrooms on the train. Out around 4, but plan to hang around for a while afterwards for some refreshment at the Depot Cafe. Sorry, no children, no pets, no smoking. Qualifying.

Leader: Bob Susser 212 666-4371; rsusser@aol.com.

Sunday, April 10 • Rockland Lake To Haverstraw

Meet 9:30 AM at Landing Hill Road parking off Rockland Lake Road at Rockland Lake State Park. We hike north on Long Path to White Trail, lunch before heading back south on the bike path. Register with leader by 4/9. Rain cancels. TC map 110.PM) Leader: Despina Metaxatos dmetaxatos@hotmail.com (pref) or 201 952 4151 (NCA 9 PM)

Saturday, April 16 • Fahnestock

Various trails through woods and high-level meadows with alpine-like vistas. Around 8 miles at a moderate pace. Out around 5. Call or preferably email me beforehand to make sure that the hike is on and if you need or can offer a ride from NYC. Take the 9:51 MetroNorth Hudson Line train from GCT arriving in Cold Spring at 11:05. Or, take the 9:40 local at the Marble Hill station (one block from the 225th St. stop of the #1 subway) changing at Croton-Harmon for the express. Please sit in the 1st or 2nd open car of the train, and please use the restrooms on the train. Out around 5, but plan to hang around for a while afterwards for some refreshment at the Depot Cafe. Sorry, no children, no pets, no smoking. Qualifying.

Leader: Bob Susser 212 666-4371; rsusser@aol.com.

Sunday, April 17 • Annual Palm Sunday Hike to St. John's Church in the Wilderness

The New York Chapter's annual Palm Sunday hike to St. John's Church has been a tradition since the 1930's. The 6-7 mile hike will be mostly on trails with ups and downs at a moderate pace, so good hiking boots should be worn. Bring lunch (hopefully a nice warm lunch break near Breakneck Pond), water, snacks, extra clothing including rain gear (the weather in mid -April can be cold and wet) and a sense of adventure. This is not a stroll, it is a hike and will be qualifying. The actual hike will start at the camp road near Seven Lakes Drive at about 10am, but the cars (except for one or two) will be left at the Church earlier.

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER WITH GLEN NISON (718-625-2182 or gnisonbike@juno.com) by Thursday night, April 14.

Please leave your name, number of people in your car and your phone number and whether you need directions to the church (it's off of Lake Welch Drive). Unless Glen gets back to you plan on getting to the church by 9:30am on Sunday morning. All the drivers will meet at the church and only one or two cars will return (with the drivers of all the other cars) to the camp road where those one or two cars will be left. If the weather is warm enough all passengers should be dropped off at the entrance to the Camp Nawakwa Road and the car and driver should continue to the church to meet the other cars there. Either the leader or a designee will organize the "stuffing of the one or two cars" and drive back to the Camp Nawakwa road.

The hike ends at the church and the drivers of the cars left at the ADK camp road will get a ride back to get their car either before the service if time allows or after the barn reception ends. The half-hour service starts at 3PM and is followed by a nice buffet at the barn across the road from the Church. Everything usually wraps up by about 5 or so depending on the weather. Many different hiking clubs meet for this event. Leader may be at camp on Saturday night. Heavy rain may cancel or shorten the hike -we go in snow! Glen will try to arrange a pick up at the Sloatsburg Bus stop (8:30am Shortline Bus from Port Authority arriving in Sloatsburg at 9:12am) but can't guarantee that it will work out since it depends on other drivers. Why not spend the weekend at Nawakwa if there is a caretaker or host (check out website or Trail Marker before the hike) Check out the church's website at www.stjohnsinthewilderness.org for history and to locate on google map. It's on Johnstontown Road and Lake Welch Parkway (or Route 106) depending on which way you are coming in.

Sunday, April 24 • Ridgewood Circular

Join us for an easy hike up to the ridge and enjoy a nice view. We'll pass three lovely ponds and walk through the formal gardens of Skyland Manor House. Qualifying and joint with AMC. About 5 miles at an easy pace with some ups and downs. Take the 8:45am Shortline Bus from Port Authority arriving in Suffern, NY arriving at 9:38. Meet in the parking lot opposite of bus ticket office near jct of rts 59 and 202 in business district.

Leader: Renate Jaerschky 845-368-1749

(Hikes, continued)

Sunday, May 1 • Lake Welch

A delightful getaway in an area not often explored. We'll be guests of the SBM, LP, and Beech trails. Around 8 miles at a moderate pace. No need to register, but you must call or preferably email me beforehand to make sure that the hike is on, and if you need or can offer a ride from NYC. Take the 9:14 Jersey Transit train from Penn Sta., changing at Secaucus for the 9:31 Port Jervis train to Sloatsburg, arriving at 10:12. (Fare: RT \$15.50/Srs.\$10) Or, take the 9:10 ShortLine bus from PABT arriving in Sloatsburg at 10:07. (Fare: RT \$25.90/Srs.\$12.90). Out in time for the 4:28 train back to Penn Sta. Sorry, but no children, no pets, no smoking. Qualifying and joint with AMC. Leader: Bob Susser 212 666-4371; rsusser@aol.com.

Sunday, May 8 • Rockefeller State Park Preserve

Bring your mother on this leisurely stroll of around 6 miles along some of the shady carriage paths and intimate wooded lanes with panoramic vistas which characterize this beautiful preserve. (Please note: this is not a "hike" and is obviously not designed for those looking for aerobic exercise.) Take the 10:20 MetroNorth Hudson Line train from Grand Central, arriving in Philipse Manor at 11:12. (RT fare: \$14.50/Srs.\$9.50) This train may also be boarded 10:40 at the Marble Hill station, one block from the 225th St. stop on the #1 subway RT fare: \$7/Srs.\$3.50. Please sit in the first or second car of the train. No need to register, but you must call or preferably email me beforehand to make sure that the hike is on, and if you need or can offer a ride from NYC. Sorry, but no children, no pets, no smoking. Qualifying and joint with AMC. Leader: Bob Susser 212-666-4371; rsusser@aol.com

Sunday, May 8 • Sterling Forest Circular

Join us for an easy hike around lovely Sterling Lake. We will also explore the new "Iron Mining History Trail" and the former town of "Lakeville". About 5 miles with ups and downs at a moderate pace. Joint with AMC and qualifying. Transportation: 8:45am CoachUSA/Shortline bus arriving in Suffern at 9:38. Meet in parking lot opposite bus ticket office near junction of routes 59 and 202 in business district. Leader: Renate Jaerschky 845-368-1749

Sunday, May 15 • Relaxed stroll along northern Central Park "tree trail"

described in the book "New York City Trees" by Ned Barnard. Both tree experts (whose assistance will be much appreciated) and complete beginners are cordially welcome. Note the "window shopper" pace, so if you are in a hurry or expect to get a lot of exercise, this walk is not for you. Meet at 10:30am at the NW corner of 84th Street and 5th Avenue. Walk ends around 3:00pm so bring lunch. Email or call me to confirm that walk will take place. Not qualifying and joint with AMC. Leader: Bob Susser 212-666-4371; rsusser@aol.com

Saturday, May 21 • Hudson Highlands

Moderate 7-mile hike traversing Manitou Point Preserve, Manioga and other trails. Train riders take the 8:47am Hudson Line train, last car, from Grand Central Station (stops at 125th Street, does not stop at Marble Hill) to

Manitou Station, arriving at 9:49am. Leader will be on the train. Drivers drive north from the Bear Mountain Bridge on 9D, turn left (west) in about a mile on to Manitou Road and in 3/4 mile park just before the rail tracks near the small station where the train arrives. All train and car hikers please call leader. Qualifying. Leader: John Lipsett 212-867-8280 work 212-864-6109 home

Sunday, May 22 • Relaxed stroll along southern Central Park "tree trail"

described in the book "New York City Trees" by Ned Barnard. Both tree experts (whose assistance will be much appreciated) and complete beginners are cordially welcome. Note the "window shopper" pace, so if you are in a hurry or expect to get a lot of exercise this walk is not for you. Meet at 10:30am at the NE corner of 85th Street and CPW. End around 3:00pm, so bring lunch. Email or call to confirm that walk will take place. Not qualifying and joint with AMC. Leader: Bob Susser 212-666-4371; rsusser@aol.com.

Saturday, May 28 • Bronx Botanical Garden

Roses, tulip trees, forest walk and optional visit to conservatory. (Please note: this approximately 4-mile walk is not a "hike" but simply a garden visit, and is obviously not designed for those eager to get aerobic exercise.) Take the 10:23 Harlem Line train from Grand Central, arriving at the "Botanical Garden" Station at 10:42. Fare OW \$3.75 with "City Ticket." Alternatively, take the 4 or D subway to "Bedford Park Blvd." and then the #26 bus east to the Mosholu Gate entrance -- or, the 2 subway to "Allerton Ave." and then the #26 bus west to the entrance. Meet just inside the Mosholu Gate at 10:45. Admission to the Garden is free on Saturdays until noon. Conservatory admission: \$10/Srs.\$9. If driving, park in the lot by the station (\$10) or on a nearby street. No coordination of rides. Visit will end by 3, but you're free to leave earlier or stay later. No need to register, but you must call or preferably email me beforehand to make sure that the visit is on. Bring lunch and beverage, or buy it in the cafeteria. Sorry, but no pets; no smoking. Not qualifying and joint with AMC. Leader: Bob Susser 212-666-4371; rsusser@aol.com

(visit www.adkny.org for hike updates)



photo by Servetti
April-May 2011

Hosted Weekends: May 2011

To host a weekend or midweek, contact Host Chair:

Janet Sibarium (212) 254 0738

Email: jansib@mindspring.com

May 7 – 8 • Mother's Day Weekend

Hike and/or enjoy the sun! Festive Spring dinner with lamb and Spring veggies. Co-Hosts: Jerry and Susanne Flower 212 – 923-5473 or e-mail: jerry.flower@verizon.net

May 14 – 15 • Spruce Up: Spring Clean Up Weekend

(Rain Alternative Weekend, May 21 and 22) Workers, volunteers, unite! Share in the labor, fun, and good food of a weekend hosted by Maryann and Michael Poris. Lunch on Saturday will be provided for work crew. A hearty menu for carnivores and vegetarians awaits. Call or e-mail Maryann by 9 on Thursday night (May 12th) to indicate if you are staying only for the work lunch on Saturday, just for Saturday night's dinner, or for the weekend.

Co-Hosts: Maryann and Michael Poris (973-731-7117 or maporis@aol.com)

May 21-22 • Spring Fling

Celebrate the spring with Alex Wilkie and Emily Tourin Crowell. The meals will be simple but tasty. To enjoy the warmer weather, we'll try to spend less time in the kitchen and more time on the trails.

Co-Hosts: Alex Wilkie (Registrar) and Emily Tourin Crowell E-mail registration preferred: afwilkie@verizon.net or call 856-727-0267. Please reserve by 10 p.m. on Thursday night, May 19.

May 28 – May 29 Memorial Weekend (1st half)

(Saturday dinner – Sunday breakfast and hiker's lunch) Join us for the unofficial opening of summer. Enjoy camp's pleasures: hike, swim, kayak, or relax and soak in the sun by the dock. Savor tasty healthy BBQ which will satisfy omnivores and vegetarians with seasonal veggies and fruits for all. Guaranteed easy preparation/clean up. When registering, please indicate if you want chicken or vegetarian dinner.

Please register by Thursday 4 p.m. (We'd like to get a head start on the shopping before the holiday weekend!)

Co-Hosts: Janet Sibarium (Registrar) and Lisa North 212 – 254-0738 or e-mail: jansib@mindspring.com

Volunteer needed to host 2nd half Memorial Weekend (Sunday dinner – Monday hiker's lunch)



A gift on the trail

photo by Servetti

The Trail Marker



After lunch on Diamond Mountain

photo by Steve Zubarik



Happy Hikers on the first day of Spring, 2011

photo by Servetti

**CAMPING WITHOUT A CAR!
NO GEAR, NO PROBLEM!**



We are Malouf's Mountain Campground,
a hike in, hike out camping resort on
Fishkill Ridge in Beacon, NY.
Check us out at www.maloufsmountain.com
or call **845-831-6767**.

Help Raise Funds for Black Fly Affair!

Dear Nawakwans,

Here's a chance to let your creative fund-raising (and gift-giving) talents shine! The main club has asked each ADK chapter to donate a "basket" to auction off at its annual Black Fly Affair "Hikers Ball," to be held on Saturday, May 21, 2011, in Queensbury, NY (near Lake George). The baskets typically contain items from the chapter area, such as locally grown foodstuffs or handicrafts, or more generic items such as hiking gear or gift certificates toward outdoor adventures. (The items need not be presented in an actual basket, but they can be.) The money raised from the auction goes to promote the Adirondack Mountain Club's mission of conservation, advocacy, environmental education, and responsible recreation in New York.

The ADK-NY Chapter Board is seeking an energetic individual to head up a fund-raising effort to put together a basket from our chapter. (The main club has suggested to us that a "New York Getaway Package," with tickets to a show and a weekend stay at a hotel would make for an awesome basket.) The Board proposes to match the funds raised for the basket with chapter funds (up to a certain dollar amount). The person who takes the helm on raising funds will get to decide what goes into the basket (the fun part!) and will also be responsible for making arrangements to obtain whatever gift is decided upon.

Is this the challenge you've been waiting for? Do you have connections to the hospitality industry that might allow us to stretch our dollars further on a New York City weekend package? Do you simply want to donate some money toward this effort? If any of these is true, please contact ADK-NY Board Chapter Chair Ed O'Donnell by e-mail, eodonn2236@aol.com, or phone, 718-777-6338.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Strauch, Director



Trail Maintenance Update

by Trails Chair William Burns

The Trail Maintainers will have a Trail Maintainers Meeting on April 16, 2011 at Nawakwa to discuss maintenance of trails for the coming season. We will also go out together on a work project. Meet at Nawakwa at 10 A.M.

On March 19, 2011 Carol & Bill Burns attended the ground breaking ceremony for the new headquarters of the NY/NJ TC which will be the renovation of the Darlington School House in Mahwah, New Jersey. The school house opened in 1891 and the last class was in 1943.

Below are two photos from the December 4, 2010 project on one of the sections of the AT that the New York Chapter of the ADK maintains. Jack Papirio, the maintainer, reported that the bridge over the inlet to Little Dam Lake had collapsed. On December 4, 2010 the NY/NJ Trail Conference assembled a work crew to take out the bridge and replace it with stepping stones.



Dear Trail Maintainers,

Saturday, April 16 Trail Maintainers Meeting and Hike at Camp Nawakwa ADK trail maintainers and any other interested parties are invited to attend an informational meeting on trail maintenance, to be held at 10 AM in the main lodge at Camp Nawakwa. Experienced trail maintainers will be on hand to answer questions, and the possibility of organized group work outings will be discussed. We'll follow the meeting with a hike and trail work project in the area. Bring a bag lunch and hiking gear. Registration is not required, but you are welcome to contact the leaders ahead of time with any questions. Co-leaders: Steve Zubarik, szubarik@optonline.net, 845-786-3247 Bill Burns, wjburnsjr@msn.com, 718-816-1933

There Goes the Neighborhood

by Conservation Chair Peter Varley

An invasion of a nonnative species occurs when a species moves into a new area and disrupts the functioning of that area. One of the most far-reaching invasions occurred millions of years ago as humans began to move around. More recently, and on a smaller scale, feral pigs have invaded forested areas, mustang horses overgraze Nevada, Canada geese don't migrate, and sparrows outnumber juncos and finches at feeders. Dutch Elm Disease has nearly eradicated elm trees and chestnut blight has done the same for the once ubiquitous chestnut tree.

Closer to home and camp, who can deny the beauty of a meadow of loosestrife in bloom, but fail to consider the many life forms denied habitat by the plant? Or are there those who on a hot summer's day enjoyed the cool shade of a tree-lined street only to now lament the loss of those trees due to an infestation of Asian Long Horned Beetles? And what could be more elegant than Fragrmites, those tall sugarcane-like plants with their feathery tassels swaying in the breeze? But what happened to the cattails that used to grow there?

Some invaders were introduced as by-products of commerce, as in the case of the Long Horned Beetle. Others were introduced as landscape plants, or as pets and escaped to thrive in the wild. Invaders can do well because host areas lack sufficient defenses against them.

Sometimes simple measures can limit the spread of an invader. "Rock Snot"[didymium] is a plant that forms a brown mat which covers the bottom of a stream or pond, smothering life forms beneath it. Control is possible if boots and boats used in contaminated water are thoroughly dried before being used in clean waters. Emerald Ash Borers are pests that tunnel into trees and cause serious injuries. The damaged tree is cut up for firewood and the infested wood, borers inside, may be moved to an uninfested site. So far, both pests have not been found in Harriman Park, but they are not far away.

To assist in identifying and controlling invaders, the NYS Invasive Species Council has recommended that plants and animals be evaluated according to their potential to disrupt commerce and to what degree their introduction might have social costs. The least disrupting plants and animals could be freely traded and possessed. More problematic species would require a permit to be used in commerce. The potentially most disruptive species would be banned.

As the world becomes smaller, opportunities for species invasions increase. Common sense and vigilance are needed.

How many invasives can you think of on a local, regional, and national level?



Profile of Graham Bright, 50-year Member

by Janet Sibarium

"I remember one spelunking (caving) trip for Nawakwans," says Graham Bright, a NY Chapter ADK keyholder since 1961. "After climbing down a ladder through a hole in the ground, we had to use a small boat to cross some water, then squeeze through a narrow tunnel to reach an underground chamber."

As an active member, Graham chaired the Outings Committee. He organized annual New Years' trips to the ADK Loj where they skied at Whiteface Mountain. Other diverse outings included cycling trips around the Princeton NJ area, white river canoeing on the Delaware River, and the spelunking trip outside Albany.

While a Manhattan resident, Camp Nawakwa was Graham's retreat from the city. Hikes around the Harriman Park--and even the chores at camp--were a welcome diversion. He has vivid memories of fellow members at the close of weekends "sitting on the front porch reading the New York Times," in no rush to go home.

Graham and his wife have been residents of Vermont for many years now, but keep up with chapter news by reading the Trail Marker on line. Their two daughters enjoyed Nawakwa as youngsters; and Kristy, who is now a member of ADK at large, is an avid hiker in the high peaks region.

Graham Bright says he will always have fond memories of Camp Nawakwa.

OUTINGS

Grace Camp Expedition – January 17-21, 2011

by Hiking Chair Glen Nison

Rich Decoursey, John Hilley (a good friend of mine) and I headed into Grace Camp in the High Peaks area of the Adirondacks during midweek in January. As of a few days before we were due to head in there was no snow to be found (the description was the trails had "ice and green") but luck came along in the guise of a 15-inch dumping of snow that hadn't been forecast. And to add icing to the cake, the day before we drove up there was another 5+ inches. We spent Sunday night at Pat and Cricket Quinn's Mountain Meadow, a wonderful B and B in Keene Valley. So at the last minute we decided to go with a sled that we would load with our heaviest items.

We were quite lucky to have this path of white which allowed us to sled in some 30-40 pounds of delicious, fresh food which otherwise would have added many unwelcome pounds to our 50-pound packs full of winter clothing and gear. Once we were in our propane - heated cabin, a 3-½ mile trip from the parking lot, we couldn't walk over to the local store to buy something we forgot . We shared the sledding by having a puller and a "brakeman" for the downhill – this worked really well.

Grace Camp is a wonderful facility owned and operated by ADK. The camp is across the river from John's Brook Lodge which is closed this time of year, but the two winter camps, Grace and Peggy O' Brien, both "bring in your own food and gear" are in full operation. Not a 4-star (actually I'm not sure how Zagat's would rate this place) it's a wonderful haven after being out in the frigid weather for up to 8 hours a day – we opened the combination lock and were immediately in a 60-degree environment (we could adjust the temperature for comfort). The cabin is a six-person affair but since we were only three we had tons of room to spread out. We also passed by Camp Peggy O' Brien which sleeps twelve and stopped to chat with our neighbors who turned out to my New York City firemen. John happens to be a battalion chief with the Fire Dept., what a coincidence.

The cabin brings winter enthusiasts much closer to the large peaks such as Marcy, Haystack, the Great Range Trail and lots of valley beauty as well especially when everything is coated in a thick blanket of white fluffy snow. During this midweek trip we tried to warm up by climbing the simple peaks of Yard and Slide but they turned out to be the toughest of the week as once the packed trail disappeared it was exhausting work to break trail. After only covering two miles in four hours we decided courage was the better part of valor and turned back – not many miles but a physically exhausting day. On Wednesday we had another very demanding day but we were able to reach the summit of Saddleback Mt. but with an uninspiring view and snow falling we didn't linger there long. Our last day was the only day of bright blue skies and while I was a little under the weather both John and Rich reached the summit of Marcy. Coincidentally it was four of the firemen that we met at Peggy O that broke most of the trail to Marcy. If not for them we would have not made it to the summit as happened the last two times we attempted it in previous years ... so thanks to the NYFD for coming to our rescue! I was planning on turning back well before the summit approach but the promise of some beautiful photographic endeavors got me to the ½ mile from the summit signpost and I was happy to get lots of photos of the wonderful scenery.

Thanks to John's wife Barbara we dined on four deliciously satisfying dinners including "dirty" rice and beans with chunks of chicken breast, and tortellini with pesto sauce. Every breakfast would have made a Nawakwan proud.. steel cut oatmeal with walnuts, real syrup and butter, eggs with cheese (lots of cheese on our last day there so we didn't have to carry it out) and either sausage or ham. We also had happy hours each afternoon after our daily chore of fetching water from the brook and either filtering it or boiling it. We took turns cleaning the dishes and we were usually asleep by 8:30 or 9PM and up at 6am. Our last day, Friday, was a relaxing one basically packing and doing a final clean up of the cabin for the next visitors. The sled trip out was almost downhill so the "brakeman" on the sled did more work than the lead man most of the time. We got to our car and had an easy drive home. A great trip it was!



photos by Glen Nison

Presidents' Birthday Weekend at the Adirondack Loj by Hiking Chair Glen Nison

The group that was at the Loj this year was a lucky one indeed. After a very warm Friday where temps reached into the 50s with some early rain turning the trails into a mushy consistency things turned out incredibly well. Friday evening the temps plummeted to near zero, which could have meant extremely icy conditions for hiking and no skiing, but something was watching out for us as we had over 6 inches of new snow to cover the entire landscape. The snowshoeing and the skiing were wonderful. We had the entire Loj so we enjoyed excellent dining, a courteous and wonderful Loj staff and lots of laughs and regaling of our adventures of the day. The various outings led us up the summits of Street and Nye, Algonquin and Wright's Peak as well as to the stunning (and very windy) Avalanche Lake, a perennial favorite. ADK members present were myself, Herman Barrocales, Ingrid Strauch, Everod Carter, Lisa Fernandez, Rich Decoursey, Renee Levine and Alex Wilkie.

Editor's note: To see more great photos from Glen please go to the Photos page at www.adkny.org or click here: <http://adkny.org/photos/photos.php>



7 photo by Glen Nison



Photos by Glen Nison