



# Foot - Loose!

Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK), published quarterly – January, April, July, October

Volume 20, Number 1

January 2008

## My Love Affair with the Adirondacks

by Johanna Koenig

My first visit to the Adirondacks was in the 1930s. I traveled with an uncle to his family summer house on Mirror Lake. I saw the waterfall from the highway that drains the Giant's Washbowl. I have never forgotten that sight!

I didn't return to those mountains for many years. As a youth my plentiful hiking and camping experiences were mostly in the Bear Mountain and Harriman State Parks. My return to the Adirondacks was triggered by an article in the *New York State Conservationist* about the mountains and Johns Brook Lodge (JBL).

A couple of years after reading the article, as we made plans for a family trip to Montreal, I thought that we could make a stop in Keene Valley, hike in to JBL, climb Mt. Marcy, and be on our way the next day. Well, we did get to the lodge for an overnight stay and walked up as far as Bushnell Falls. In those days Madeleine and Ernie LaPine, who lived in Keene Valley, made the reservations at the lodge. Madeleine gave me an ADK brochure and I immediately joined the club. I soon found myself on the JBL committee.

At that time ADK had no office or full-time staff. The Executive Secretary was Faye Loope, a retired YMCA secretary who lived with his wife in a small home in Gabriels. All activities were directed and carried out by volunteers. Both lodges had paid employees hired by the Chair of each lodge's committee. The Chair was literally responsible for all supplies and needed repairs, as well.

I know this because I became Chair of the JBL committee after Peggy O'Brien retired from holding that job for a long time. Peggy had a summer home on the road to the Garden. She supervised the operation from there. During my first year as Chair, we discovered that we were in violation of the NYS labor laws. We had been paying our hut personnel \$100 plus room and board for the season. Anyone who has stayed there knows what a difficult and hard job these young folks do. They cleaned and cooked; they carried 50-pound (or more) packs of fresh food up five miles from the Valley

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Grocery; they were hosts; they were the source of trail information; more than once they were emergency rescue crews while the “guests” took over the running of the lodge. Can you imagine doing that? Well, among the young people I hired and who did this job so well and with such joy were some local folks. Steve Burrington, Pam Peters, Bill Jr. and Peter Swain, and Claudia who later married Peter Swain. This was just the beginning of complications: we came under the watchful eye of the NYS Health Department, and transporting supplies including bottled gas by snowmobile and sledge up the other side of the brook became more difficult due to lack of snow and lack of sufficient ice coverage on the brook. But, to this day, JBL continues its function.

Meanwhile, we started the Susquehanna Chapter. I hiked in the mountains, mostly in the Johns Brook valley, sometimes alone, sometimes with a companion, sometimes leading a group. For several years I brought my high school Outing Club students there to climb Mt. Marcy over Memorial Day weekend. This was after they had participated in training that included a day hike to a high peak in the Catskills and an overnight backpack from the high school to the caboose on Gifford Hill Road and return the next day. We had some chapter outings to JBL. One work weekend I remember Bill Swain and one of his sons working on their stomachs to support the foundation of Winter Camp. One year during a rainy week in May, I was the cook for the Matthews Brothers, house movers who volunteered to move Grace Camp back from the edge of the brook to a knoll where it stands today.

For several years while my youngest son, Paul, was in high school, he and our dog, Guy, would backpack for a week in the Johns Brook valley and climb some of the peaks of the Great Range. We might meet one or two people during the week. Sometimes I would think that the wind in the trees or the gurgling of the brook were human voices.

I never became a 46er. I just seemed to climb the same mountains over and over again. Now, I can close my eyes and walk those trails again listening to the murmur of the brook, seeing the rocks and trees along the way, enjoy the view from the top of Gothics or Haystack. Many times have a group of us reached the top of Big Slide or Upper Wolfjaw to be completely covered in clouds. Then can I recite to my companions what they WOULD see, if it were clear.

Finally, come with me. I will take you with me on one of my favorite short walks. It’s only a half mile each way from the junction of the Johns Brook trail and the Big Slide trail. We turn up the Big Slide trail and walk along the Slide Mt. brook until we must cross it. Usually it is easy. There are lots of rocks. We will jump it two more times and then we come out of the woods to an upward-sloping flat rock. We are surrounded by a beautiful rock garden, a mixture of mosses and lichens with bluets in season. It is beautiful in all kinds of weather and in every season. We walk up the rock face until we come to the place where the trail enters the woods. Turn around. There it is: the incredible view of the Great Range across the valley — Upper Wolfjaw and Lower Wolfjaw, Armstrong, Gothics. We can’t quite see Saddleback or Basin from here. Let’s sit here for a while, look around, absorb the quiet, and enjoy the ever-changing beauty and solitude.

**Slate of Officers Selected**

The annual election of Susquehanna Chapter officers will take place during our Annual Meeting, Wednesday, January 16, 2008, at Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut St., Oneonta. Our 6pm pot luck dinner will be followed at 7pm by our annual business meeting. We urge you to please attend the January meeting, making sure that you stay for the business part of the meeting.

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for elected chapter office:

Erika Heinegg	Chair
Lucille Wiggin	Vice-Chair
Joe Hart	Secretary
Linda Seifried	Director

Aleda Koehn's term as Director for our Chapter will end on December 31, 2008. A new Director must be elected at our January 2008 meeting in order to participate in a board orientation meeting in late 2008.

Nominations from the floor are welcome. If you, or a member you know, are interested in any of the above positions, we welcome your involvement. Please call a member of the Nominating Committee with any questions or comments. Thank you.

*Rita Salo, 432-3656  
Currie and Virginia Marr, 432-5434*

**The Susquehanna Chapter Needs Your Bylaws Vote**

Beginning on page 6 is the full text of an extensively revised set of chapter bylaws. After a number of years of intermittent but painstaking and dedicated work, an ad hoc committee consisting of Jo Koenig, Norma Lee Havens and Bill Swain, and later including Aleda Koehn and Nina Hart, presented a comprehensive draft to the Executive Committee. After further consideration and revision, the bylaws as included in this newsletter are presented to the chapter members to vote on at our annual meeting.

On behalf of the bylaws and executive committees, I urge all of you to come to the January meeting in order to vote on the revised bylaws. Please bring this newsletter to the meeting.

*Danny Birnbaum*

**30 Years of the Susquehanna Chapter!**

Our 30th anniversary celebration was a big success, with lots of familiar as well as new faces, many of our long time members, lots of wonderful food, lots of good memories.

Kudos to our founding mothers and fathers who have birthed and nourished us all these years. Special thanks to the organizers, the go-fers, the food providers, the program presenters, the setter-uppers, the disher-outers, the cleaner-uppers, the official photographer, the music provider, the flower providers and arrangers, and anyone else who helped with this special evening. We appreciate you all.

*Jean and Joe Seroka*

**Membership News**

There are 10 new memberships to report since our last newsletter. Please add these new members to your list.

*Rita Salo, Membership Chair*

**September 2007**

James Carraba, PO Box 36, Laurens, NY 13796 (607)433-2818

Charles Endress, 369 Braun Road, Laurens, NY 13796 (607)432-3241

Kimberly & James Potts & family, 14 Leatherstocking St., Cooperstown, NY 13326

Jeanine Scinta, 4989 County Highway 1, Andes, NY 13731 (845)376-4731

**October 2007**

David & Molly Lenowitz & family, 1105 Allerton Rd., West Chester, PA 19382 (610)918-3037

Bob Moshier, PO Box 1524, Richfield Springs, NY 13439 (315)212-4755

**November 2007**

Paul Brechbiel, 120 Martel Circle, Dillsburg, PA, 16019 (717)432-4253

Edward Carkuff, 298 Bell Road, New Berlin, NY 13411 (607)847-8958

Dave McKeever, 301 High Drive, Hershey, PA 17033 (717)533-3057

Joanne Sharkey & Gregory Mending, 198 Wilbur Hill Road, Unadilla, NY 13849 (607)783-2640

**Annual Loj Winter Weekend February 1-3**

Twenty Susquehanna members are looking forward to spending the first weekend in February in the North Country. Although all our reserved places at the Adirondack Loj have been taken, it is possible that there may be space or a cancellation from another group. If you think you want to join us please call the Loj directly at (518) 523-3441 to see if anything is available. For more information please call me at 432-8870 or send an email to akoehn40@hotmail.com.

*Aleda Koehn*

## Trip Reports

**Relay State Forest Hike November 6, 2007** Nine people enjoyed hot squash soup in a warm house while a snow shower was going on outside. This, I hope, made up for a poor choice of a trail to walk on. *Frances Darrah*

**West Branch Preserve of The Nature Conservancy, Sunday, November 18, 2007** This hike staggered but didn't fall. Originally scheduled for Saturday, it was moved to the rain date, Sunday, on the expectation of better weather, which entailed much shuffling of plans. Rita Salo gave it as her opinion that announcing a rain date for a hike is itself a risky action. When the weather gods sense indecision on our part, they are encouraged to foment mischief and so they did. Ten hikers survived the jolt and we climbed both trails on an overcast but dry day. There was plenty of water going down the falls and the BIG white oak stands out dramatically with the leaves down. We only saw one deer track but the snow cover was light and we probably missed some. We were glad to see some white oak saplings that had grown beyond deer browse level and escaped. *Nina and Joe Hart*

**December 4 hike planned on Crumhorn Mt.** was unexpectedly altered due to icy weather predictions which closed many area schools. Nonetheless, five hardy souls walked on the valley section of Riddell State Park and enjoyed lunch nearby. *Lucille Wiggin*

**We were back on the Finger Lakes Trail on October 30th for a good hike.** Twenty people showed up, including some folks new to our group whom we were happy to meet. Apparently, there is lots of work being done on portions of the Finger Lakes Trail and we were strongly advised by Linda Seifried and Ed Sidote to check on conditions before attempting the hike. John and I did a trial walk and found the trail in good condition. I think it had been altered a bit, but it was well marked and easy to follow. We started at Beals Pond Road and walked three miles to Getter Hill Road in Masonville. Some of us stopped at the Masonville Country Store at the intersection of Routes 8 and 206 after Linda Seifried told us how nice and charming it is. It is and was all that Linda said. *Rita & John Salo*

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## I Canoe, Can Oe?

At this time of the year you may be doing what I do. Sitting and looking at gardening catalogs and planning next year's garden, I find myself thinking, planning and looking forward to all the wonderful warm weather activities come spring. One of the most fun days for me comes on Memorial Day weekend. It is the day of the General Clinton Annual Canoe Relay Race on our namesake, the beautiful Susquehanna River.

The excitement that fills the Oneonta area that weekend is contagious. Hundreds of canoeists from all over the country, and farther, descend on Cooperstown and Oneonta. Last year John and I were walking on Winnie Hill Road near our house when two trucks full of Canadian Indians from Alberta stopped us to ask for directions to "One-inta." After some map reading together we realized they were looking for Oneonta and they were trying to get to a motel. We told them that there was a BIG canoe race on the river and there may be shortage of rooms. They said, "That's why we're here!" They had been on the road for four days getting here. We sent them happily on their way.

This article is an early attempt to raise a Susquehanna ADK team for the 2008 Relay Race. Please, some of you just think about joining in. We know there are lots of canoeists among you. We will need five teams, each consisting of one woman and one man. The race begins across from Southside Mall around noon on the Sunday of the weekend. The distance is divided into five parts: two shorter, one medium and two longer. There is a support team that helps with the canoe switch at the change points and with shuttling people to their cars.

After the race we have a picnic. For the last two years it has been at the Seroka's "Riverside Park," which is also a great place to spend the day watching the racers go by. You will not regret being involved in this exciting and fun day.

*Rita Salo*



## SUSQUEHANNA ADK CHAPTER WINTER 2008 SCHEDULE

### Outings and Meetings

#### **ALWAYS CALL LEADERS FOR DETAILS.**

All area codes are 607 unless otherwise noted.

#### **Riders should contribute a fair share toward gas.**

#### **It is the responsibility of each trip's leader to have all participants sign a release form.**

Tuesday leaders contact Barbara Means for forms; weekend leaders contact Ernie Mahlke.

1/5 Saturday Heide and Ernie Mahlke 432-2583 Snowshoe Bearpen Mt. in the Catskills. 8.5 miles round trip, 1600-foot elevation gain. Rated B. Bad weather or bad driving conditions will move the hike to Sunday.

Mid-January, date to be determined David Hildreth 746-3015 X-C ski outing in the Delhi area. Call for date and time or watch for Moira's announcements coming to your e-mail address.

Late January, date to be determined Julie Smith 432-2173 X-C ski trip in the Oneonta area. Call for date and time or watch for Moira's announcements coming to your e-mail address.

1/8 Tuesday Erika Heinegg 746-6142 Ski/snowshoe Delhi Golf Course. Meet at 10am, Delhi Price Chopper parking lot.

1/15 Tuesday Rita Salo 432-3656 Ski/hike Basswood State Park.

1/16 Wednesday Susquehanna Chapter Annual Meeting Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut St., Oneonta 6pm potluck dinner followed by 7pm business meeting. Bylaws changes, election of officers, old and new business. See pages 3 and 6 of this newsletter for more information.

1/22 Tuesday Lucille Wiggin 432-1022 Ski/hike Crumhorn Mountain.

1/22 Tuesday Steve Herrmann 432-2157 Moonlight snowshoe hike. Moderate hike, hopefully on some snow. Meet at my house in West Oneonta. Plan to hike one and half to two hours. Dress in warm layers; bring snowshoes, poles, water bottle, headlamp. Rated C+.

1/29 Tuesday Aleda Koehn 432-8870 Gilbert Lake State Park.

2/1-2/3 Friday-Sunday Aleda Koehn 432-8870 Annual Chapter winter weekend at ADK Loj. See page 3 for details.

2/9 Saturday Heide and Ernie Mahlke 432-2583 Snowshoe or X-C ski Balsam Lake in the Catskills. 6.2 miles round trip, mostly gentle terrain with one steep pitch. Rated B.

2/12 Tuesday Norma Lee Havens 432-3154 Gilbert Lake State Park.

2/19 Tuesday Currie Marr 432-5434 Fortin Park, Oneonta.

2/20 Wednesday Monthly meeting Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut St., Oneonta 6pm potluck dinner followed by 7pm program. Scott and Doug Fielder will present "The Natural Wonders of Costa Rica."

2/20 Wednesday Steve Herrmann 432-2157 Moonlight snowshoe hike at Gilbert Lake State Park. Plan to hike one and half to two hours. Dress in warm layers; bring snowshoes, poles, water bottle, headlamp. Rated C+.

2/26 Tuesday Scott & Doug Fielder 638-5436 Local hike TBA.

3/4 Tuesday Rita Salo 432-3656 Oneonta area walk or ski.

3/8 Saturday Ernie and Heide Mahlke 432-2583 Snowshoe hike North Dome and Sherrill Mountain in the Catskills. About 8 miles, mostly bushwhack. Rated A. Bad weather or poor road conditions moves hike to Sunday.

3/8 Saturday Danny Birnbaum 746-7059 susquehannaadk@aol.com Deadline for Foot-Loose articles and reports.

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# SUSQUEHANNA ADK CHAPTER WINTER 2008 SCHEDULE

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3/11 Tuesday Monica Peters (315)858-0261 TBA.

3/18 Tuesday Pru Stelling 433-1272 Riddell State Park.

3/19 Wednesday Monthly meeting Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut St., Oneonta  
6pm potluck dinner followed by 7pm program. Martha Clarvoe of the Otsego County Conservation Association will present "Recycling and More."

3/21 Friday Steve Herrmann 432-2157 Moonlight snowshoe hike. Meet at my house in West Oneonta. See January 22 outing for details. Rated C+.

3/25 Tuesday Ruth Schaeffer 988-7036 Sheep Pen Road or Wilbur Davis Park.

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## SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER Adirondack Mountain Club PROPOSED BYLAWS

### Article I. Name

This organization shall be called the Susquehanna Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc., hereinafter "the Chapter."

### Article II. Organization

The Chapter shall be regulated by and subject to the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB, INC., hereinafter "the Club."

### Article III. Objectives

The objectives of the Chapter shall be to further wilderness and conservation values through recreation, advocacy, and education concerning the Adirondacks, the Catskills, and nearby state and other lands, specifically:

1. To advocate and to broaden popular support of Article XIV, Section 1, of the New York State Constitution, which provides that the "lands of the state constituting the Forest Preserve be forever kept as wild forest lands";
2. To recognize the importance of extensive tracts of well-managed private forest land in maintaining the historic character of the Adirondack and Catskill Parks and habitat in developed areas;
3. To support efforts to acquire additional public lands and conservation easements within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks in order to ensure preservation of and public access to ecologically or recreationally significant areas, consistent with the access provisions in the State Land Master Plans;
4. To organize and conduct outings and to encourage outdoor recreation in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks and environs in a manner which shall minimize the environmental impact on the wild forest character of the region;
5. To encourage public interest in, and knowledge and appreciation of, all natural, historic, economic, and human resources of the Adirondack and Catskill Parks and the relationships among them; and
6. To assist the State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Club in marking and maintenance of trails.

### Article IV. Membership

1. Categories of Membership. Membership in the Chapter shall be categorized in accordance with Article IV, Sections 1 through 14, of the Adirondack Mountain Club Bylaws. All Chapter members, except Affiliate members, shall have full voting rights within the Chapter provided that they are 18 years of age or older. Affiliate members will receive the Chapter newsletter and all other notices.
2. Dues. Dues shall be paid to the Club offices. Dues of Affiliate members shall be set from time to time by the Chapter.
3. Expiration. A member who has not remitted his or her dues within four months following the expiration of membership shall be dropped from the Chapter's membership rolls.

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## **Article V. Officers and Committees**

1. Officers. The officers of the Chapter shall be: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director. The Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary shall be elected to two-year terms and shall serve no more than two consecutive terms in the same office. The Director shall be elected to a two-year term and shall serve no more than three consecutive terms. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Chair with approval by the Executive Committee and shall serve until the end of the Chair's term of office. There shall be no limit on the number of terms served by the Treasurer.
2. Standing Committees. The Standing Committees of the Chapter shall be: Outings, Conservation, Education, Trails, Membership, Newsletter, and Publicity. Chairs of the Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Chapter Chair and shall serve until the end of the Chair's term of office. There shall be no limit on the number of terms served by Chairs of Standing Committees.
3. Executive Committee. The business affairs of the Chapter shall be conducted by the Executive Committee, composed of the Officers, the Chairs of the Standing Committees, and the immediate past Chapter Chair. Members of the Executive Committee who fill more than one of the above roles shall have one vote on the Committee and shall count as one member of a quorum.

## **Article VI. Election of Officers**

1. Elections. The election and installation of officers shall take place at the Annual Meeting. Election shall be determined by a simple plurality of the voting members present.
2. Nominating Committee. A three-member Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Chapter Chair at least three months prior to the Annual Meeting and shall serve until the election. One member of the Executive Committee shall serve on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall select its own Chair.
3. Slate of Officers. When the terms of one or more elective officers are to expire at the next Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee shall draw up a slate of nominees. Nominees for the offices must be voting members of the Chapter. Notice of the slate shall be sent to all members in the issue of the newsletter preceding the election. Nominations may also be made from the floor.
4. Vacancies. In the event an elective office becomes vacant, the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next Annual Meeting, when the office will be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term according the procedures outlined above. An appointive term of office shall not count toward the two-term tenure provision.

## **Article VII. Duties of Officers and Chairs of Standing Committees**

1. Chapter Chair
  - a. Be the chief elected official and Chapter spokesperson.
  - b. Call and preside at Chapter and Executive Committee meetings.
  - c. Appoint Standing Committee Chairs and establish ad hoc committees as needed with approval of the Executive Committee.
  - d. Propose a budget for the next fiscal year for approval of the Executive Committee.
  - e. Encourage constructive working relationships between the Chapter and other organizations and the Club's leadership and staff.
  - f. Be responsible for the lead article in each issue of Foot-Loose.
  - g. Appoint a knowledgeable member to conduct an annual audit of the Chapter's finances.
  - h. Perform all other duties ordinarily associated with the office of Chair.
2. Vice-Chair
  - a. Be responsible for arranging for and introducing programs and presentations at Chapter meetings.
  - b. Perform the duties of the Chair in his or her absence.
  - c. Perform other duties ordinarily associated with the office of Vice-Chair.
3. Secretary
  - a. Keep the minutes of the Chapter and Executive Committee meetings, including topics discussed, decisions made and pending, and items that need following up.
  - b. Send the minutes of each Executive Committee meeting to Committee members well in advance of the next meeting.

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- c. Submit for publication in Foot-Loose motions passed by the Executive Committee.
  - d. Handle any correspondence needed by the Executive Committee.
  - e. Perform other duties ordinarily associated with the office of Secretary.
4. Treasurer
- a. Bank that portion of the annual membership dues granted the Chapter by the Club and such other monies as may be donated, granted, earned, or collected by the Chapter.
  - b. Manage the Chapter's finances and keep financial records of the Chapter.
  - c. Pay the Chapter's bills at the direction of the Executive Committee or the Chair.
  - d. Assist the Chair in preparing the annual budget.
  - e. Make periodic reports to the membership and the Executive Committee and an annual financial statement to the membership, the Executive Committee, and the Club. This statement shall be submitted for publication in Foot-Loose.
  - f. Make all financial records available for auditing by the internal auditor appointed by the Chair.
  - g. Perform other Chapter and Club duties ordinarily associated with the office of Treasurer.
5. Director
- a. Represent the Chapter at meetings of the Board of Directors of the Club. This representation shall include the solicitation, consideration, and communication of Chapter members' opinions on issues pending before the Board of Directors.
  - b. Report the proceedings of the Board of Directors at Chapter and Executive Committee meetings and in Foot-Loose.
  - c. With the approval of the Chapter Chair, designate and brief an alternate to attend, participate in, and vote at any Board of Directors meeting that the Director is unable to attend.
  - d. Perform other Chapter and Club duties ordinarily associated with the office of Director.
6. Chairs of Standing Committees. Chairs of Standing Committees shall be voting members of the Executive Committee and attend its meetings. They may recruit help needed to carry out the objectives of their positions and to further the Chapter's objectives.

#### **Article VIII. Chapter Fiscal Year**

For accounting purposes, the Chapter fiscal year shall be January 1 to December 31.

#### **Article IX. Meetings**

1. General Membership Meetings. At least one meeting of the general membership of the Chapter shall be held each year. One meeting, to be held in January, shall be designated the Annual Meeting. The business of the Annual Meeting shall include the reading of the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting, a financial report covering the previous fiscal year, the election of Officers and/or Director when due, voting on any proposed bylaws changes, and any other appropriate business. A quorum for the transaction of business at general membership meetings, including the Annual Meeting, shall consist of two officers, three other Executive Committee members, and 15 members not on the Executive Committee. A majority of the voting members present shall have the authority to act. If a quorum is not present at any meeting at which business (including elections) is to be transacted, such business will be postponed to the next meeting at which a quorum is present.
2. Executive Committee Meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Chapter Chair or at the request of three members of the Executive Committee. A majority of the Committee members shall constitute a quorum, but actions of the Executive Committee shall be taken only by a two-thirds majority of those present.
3. Conduct of Meetings. All meetings shall be open to the membership. Meetings may be conducted informally. In the event consensus may not be reached through discussion, the Chair shall conduct the meeting according to Robert's Rules of Order.

#### **Article X. Amendments**

1. These Bylaws shall be amended only by majority vote of the voting members present at a Chapter meeting provided a quorum is present and a written notice of the meeting and proposed amendment(s) has been submitted to all full members at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. Mail ballots may be used in lieu of a meeting, with a return of 20 percent of the ballots mailed constituting the equivalent of a quorum.
2. Any voting member or committee may propose to the membership amendments to these Bylaws, providing the above procedures are followed.



## Board of Directors Meeting Report for December 1, 2007

**President Curt Miller** opened the meeting with an overview of the past few months.

**Executive Director** Neil Woodworth reported that the NY-NJ Trail Conference has ended their 10-year advocacy partnership with ADK and deemed it best to allocate funds toward more local issues. The good news is that the Conservation Alliance awarded ADK a \$20,000 grant to support advocacy efforts to protect NYS hiking trails. The 2008 insurance renewal package has saved \$25,000. A trade-off, however, is that the new carrier would not agree to cover rock or ice climbing or canoe trips in Class IV or higher waters. The Board voted to accept a resolution stating that the club and chapters shall not sponsor excluded activities.

**Conservation:** Belleayre Ridge project has abandoned plans for the east side. ADK did NOT sign on to the agreement and therefore has the legal right to evaluate and comment on the amended proposal. New York voters approved the constitutional amendment allowing the town of Long Lake to get one acre of Forest Preserve land for development of wells to supply drinking water for Raquette Lake. In return, NYS will get 12 acres of wilderness which currently belongs to the town.

**Education:** Jen Kretser has resigned as Education Director and has accepted a position as Director of Programs for the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks in Tupper Lake. Jen and her contributions will be greatly missed by all of us.

**Membership and Development Director** Deb Zack announced that the direct mail initiative gain of 1126 new members plus 1655 members from other sources means that the membership is steadily growing. People responded to the “deal” for membership but now we need to retain these new or renewing members. Interestingly, of 16 different sources for signing on new members — for example: reference from a friend, Loj brochure, retail store — the greatest number are people who join on their own through the internet. For 2007 there were 841 memberships from the web site and 167 from the next highest source, which is the High Peaks Information Center. The Wilderness Affair did not do as well as expected, raising about \$47,000. This event is very labor intensive and there were not as many volunteers or baskets this year. According to those who were

there, however, “the event was wonderful and attendees had a great time.”

**North Country Facilities:** Both properties have done extremely well; lodging and food revenues show a surplus against budget. A hot drink station has been installed in the great room, new windows and trim in the dining room, and by now, Tom Andrews and his volunteers will have renovated the men’s bathroom in the Loj. Susquehanna folks going to the Loj in February will see all the improvements. JBL volunteers finished the gray water system this fall. This was an extensive undertaking finally completed, with special thanks going to Jim Covey.

**Budget 2008:** John Gilewicz gave an overview of ADK expenses and revenues for the past 10 years. Allowing for 29% inflation from 1997, our revenue is actually 2% less than in 1997. Cost cutting measures, however, have outstripped inflation and therefore we have had a surplus in revenue for the past four years. ADK spends 11% less today than nine years ago in spite of rising costs in all areas. John concluded that management has done just about everything right in cutting expenses and producing a balanced budget. Expenses cannot be cut much more without the loss of programs and infrastructure to support the club. Membership and contributions are two areas that show the greatest potential for growth in revenue. Management needs the tools to succeed and therefore positions must be filled. The budget is a three-year “capacity building” projection. The first two years show a deficit, but with increased investment in ADK, there should be an increase in revenue so as to emerge from deficit in the third year. The Board voted to approve the budget.

**Mary Lou Bailey**, longtime ADK member, died suddenly on November 13. Betty Lou served for many years on the Conservation Committee, and on her chapter’s board. For several years our Loj winter weekend and her Schenectady Chapter weekend coincided. I remember one snowy Saturday morning Betty Lou, ice axe in hand, was organizing her group for a climb up Phelps. She was an amazing lady!

*Aleda Koehn, Director*

P.S. For more on Betty Lou Bailey, pictures from the Wilderness Affair, and news about ADK, go to [adk.org](http://adk.org)

## **Foot-Loose!**

Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter ADK

[www.susqadk.org](http://www.susqadk.org)

c/o Rita Salo  
698 Winney Hill Road  
Oneonta, NY 13820

A subscription to this newsletter is included in membership in the Susquehanna Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. It is available to the public and to non-chapter members for \$5 per year. Contact Rita Salo at (607)432-3656 for more information. Portions of this newsletter are also available online; go to [www.susqadk.org](http://www.susqadk.org).

### **Susquehanna Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs**

<b>Chair:</b> Erika Heinegg 832-4204 <a href="mailto:ehinegg@delhi.net">ehinegg@delhi.net</a>	<b>Outings:</b> <b>Weekend:</b> Ernie Mahlke 432-2583 <a href="mailto:mahlkeed@yahoo.com">mahlkeed@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Publicity:</b> Moira Beach 433-2832 <a href="mailto:susqadk@yahoo.com">susqadk@yahoo.com</a>
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<b>Director:</b> Aleda Koehn 432-8870 <a href="mailto:akoehn40@hotmail.com">akoehn40@hotmail.com</a>	<b>Conservation:</b> Linda Seifried 265-3780 <a href="mailto:sseifried@mkl.com">sseifried@mkl.com</a>	
<b>Membership:</b> Rita Salo 432-3656		

Chapter meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at the Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta (except where noted). Members and the public are invited to our early evening potluck supper at 6pm (please bring a dish to pass, your own table service and mug or cup); programs begin at 7pm, followed by a short business meeting.

Adirondack Mountain Club annual membership dues are \$50 for individuals and \$60 for families (other membership levels are available, including seniors and students). Benefits of membership include:

- discounts on ADK workshops and programs
- Adirondack Magazine six times a year
- invitations to member only outings and extended trips
- discounts on ADK merchandise
- 20% discount on ADK trail guides, canoe guides, maps, books and calendars
- reduced rates at ADK facilities: lodges, leantos, cabins and campground
- membership in one of ADK's 27 chapters throughout the Northeast

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