



Schenectady Wintersports Club

Northern New York Paddlers

Mohawk Valley Hiking Club

Newsletters

JUNE 2023

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Tell Your Story Walking

by John Bidell

My 96 year-old mom grew up in Brooklyn in the 20's and 30's. She has a number of great expressions, and one of them is the above title. Ellen and I will be vacating our current board positions June 1st. The club and house are in great shape due to the efforts of the board, and Ellen in particular.

Ellen took on the treasurer position 5 years ago until we found Don. She found our reservation system, modified it for our use, and then supported it. She also was part of the effort to get the Warren Miller movie back as our primary fundraiser. Oh, and she cleaned the clubhouse almost as many times as Karen and Bill.

If you are one on the members who called, texted or e-mailed Ellen because you could not get your reservation to work, or you just want to thank her, she would gladly accept an email with a gift card to Empire Wine and Liquor. (I suspect her day drinking will taper off with a lack of reservation inquiries!)

So this is the plan. The ex-president normally would bump the previous ex-president on the board. Dorie Valenti has and continues to be a great contributor to the club, even from Colorado. She will stay in the ex-president

spot, and I will move to John Rack's spot as the representative of the Mohawk Valley hikers. When a candidate comes forward, they can have that seat on the board.

The reservation system works well, and the FAQ will enable people to make a reservation if they follow directions, or contact Bill Kornumpf. Bill is the founding father and has more information and knowledge than any club member.

We will probably schedule elections for board members in the near future. Other than the reservation position, most issues can be addressed at your leisure and should not increase your pinot grigio consumption.

The club has a great history and it has been fun keeping the ball rolling. New board members will contribute to our future as an outdoor club. We are more than just a ski club, and the observation has been made that the skiers dominate the decisions being made for the club. We paddle, hike, and bike. All of these activities are available and get out and enjoy them!

How you fixed for spit? (my mom's saying when answering a request for something that is obviously not available).

John
johnbidell@yahoo.com

News from the Clubhouse

By Ellen Bidell

Limited Nightly Stays Available for Summer

We have nine weeks booked for exclusive stays during the summer, but there are nights available for individual stays. The open days include the following time frames:

June 1 to June 25

July 2 to July 5

July 19 to July 22

August 7 to 11

Visit swcweb.org to make your reservations for these time frames.

So Long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye

By Ellen Bidell

After five years on the Board and as Reservations Chair, I will be stepping down from both roles. After implementing the new reservation system for bookings at the SWC Clubhouse, keeping the lights on through Covid by starting the weekly rentals, making the house more inviting and comfortable for families, I feel that my accomplishments are all checked off. No one has stepped forward to take my place yet, but I am instituting some changes to empower people to handle their own reservations more. The full details will be in an article before the ski season, but basically they include the following:

- Everyone can cancel/change their own reservations
- All of the frequent stayers will have their own code that never expires
- No one should ever book for a nonmember. Have them join before you book a reservation.

- Everyone will have to figure things out on their own at the house

Of course, we are hoping that several people will come forward to take on the responsibilities of Reservations Chair.

Reservations Chairperson Retires after 5 Years

Submitted by Bill Kornrumpf

Ellen Bidell is retiring from Reservations as of June 1 after 5 years of overseeing a massive overhaul and the operation of our reservation system. We all want to thank her for all the hours, emails, and late-night phone calls she put in getting the new system up and running. The system is now functioning with much less hand holding and can be used by most members to both make and change reservations without any intervention by Ellen. Thank you Ellen!!

There are still some who need some coaching on using the system, but it is now running well. We are looking for somebody who wants to contribute to the enjoyment of the clubhouse by our members. All the work can be done from your home computer, cell phone or even when you are vacationing like I am now.

If all goes well, we will have a good outline of the responsibilities and policies with respect to Clubhouse reservations for anybody to follow.

Send me an email (wkornrum@nycap.rr.com) or call me on 518-209-3244 and I will fill you in with any additional information you may need.

Spring Work Weekend Report

by Bill Kornrumpf

Our spring work weekend was so well attended we ran out of rooms and had to double up. Ellen & John Bidell, Neal Hansen, Steve Dudka, Barbara Tomko, Bill Wasilauski, Bill Romania, Lat Schmidt, Jim Foley, Cyd Geiger, Walt Kangas, Tom Christensen, Earl Lahna, Barry Cain, Greg Shields, and Bill Kornrumpf all joined forces to do some important work at the clubhouse.

The tasks ranged from purchasing and installing two new electric ranges in the kitchen to replacing a leaking sump pump drainpipe in the basement that was spraying water all over. In between those jobs, paint was scraped, the front was cleaned up after the winter road spray with a pressure washer, wood restacked in the shed, rooms and windows cleaned, roof leaking diagnosis, storm window raised and most of the to-do list completed.

All this work was fueled by great meals by Earl Lahna on Friday and Saturday evenings. Some say the meals are reward enough, but all also receive vouchers for helping keep the Clubhouse functioning. Many had time to get in a bike ride, hike or some pub visiting in the afternoons.

We want to thank all the volunteers and remind all our members that the clubhouse is only as good as the members can make it. Come to the next work party and see how the building works and what maintenance is required to keep it running.



Steve flipping pancakes



Steve, Neil and John unwrapping the new electric range



John making firewood out of fallen tree limbs



Lat touching up the Fireplace Room

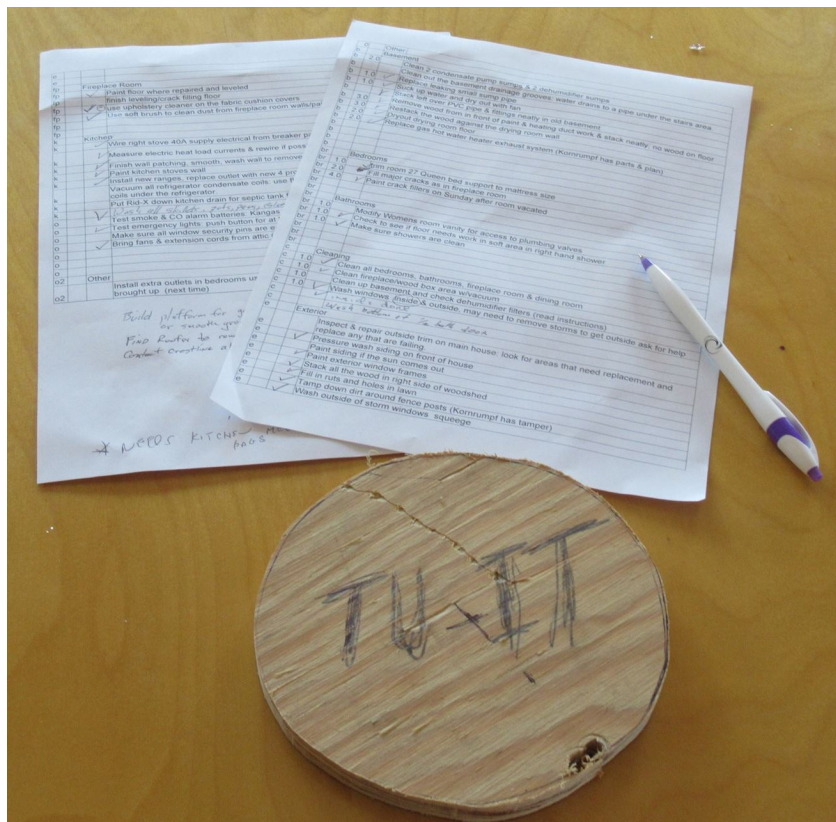


Bill cleaning the upper windows



John, Ellen and Walt relaxing after a good day's work

All pictures thanks to Tom Christensen.



The Work Weekend Crew received the Round TU IT Reward for completing their tasks.

Ski Trip to Telluride January 20-27, 2024

By Rick Cobello

One of the unfortunate casualties of ski conglomerates is they want to show the money to shareholders. This has resulted in earlier and earlier commitments to the mountains for upcoming trips. Some of our trips are planned almost 2 years ahead!

Air travel planning is becoming more complicated as supply and demand is difficult to predict as airlines continue to run on reduced flights

We know this does not work for everyone but this is where we are at to get the best pricing for resorts and air travel.

Our Telluride trip has some aggressive dates for securing the hotel at the Telluride Ski Resort, staying in the old town.

The Camel's Garden is really the last hotel for large groups in the village. We chose not to stay at the upper village to to about 1000 ft increase in altitude.

<https://camelsgarden.com/>

If you are planning on traveling with us...sooner is better than later.

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to experience the beauty and excitement of Telluride.

Any questions, email rick@cobello.com or cal 518 337 6188



SWC Web News from the Webmaster

By Brenda Streed

Hope everyone had a great Memorial Day kickoff to the summer season!

Friendly reminders for Members about using the website...when you open the website, you have to sign on to see and use Members only stuff! If you don't login, you won't be able to make a Reservation, or sign up for any Members-only event, or see a listing of your fellow Members.

Some other website news...Members can now request Gift memberships and pay for them online or by check. To see how this works, go to the main menu under Membership and Benefits > Gift Memberships. (If you don't see the page, remember you aren't logged into the website as a Member)! The page explains the process, and there also is a link to a step-by-step guide with pictures.

A quick note about Forums on the website...Forums are a Members-only benefit to help us stay connected as groups with diverse interests. These are messaging boards for Downhill Skiing, Cross Country skiing, cycling, hiking, golfing, paddlesports etc., and you can enroll yourself to get updates to one or more of these boards. (You have control over how frequent the updates etc.). It is a great way to connect with other members who are interested in your activities, so please check them out.

Finally, here is the link to our How-To web page, which has more info on logins, forums and gift memberships: <https://swcweb.org/sys/website/?pageId=18205>

A Little Bit of SWC History: The Mohawk Valley Hiking Club

by Bill Schaefer

Everyone knows that SWC is one of the oldest sporting clubs in the country at 91 years old. Did you know the SWC was a spinoff of another even older club?

The Schenectady County Fish and Game Club had a Winter Carnival in Central Park in 1927. This included snowshoe races, ski jumping, and a cross country ski race. The event was well attended. After conferring with friends, Dr. Vincent Schaefer decided there would be enough interest to form a club to have regular outdoor outings. In 1928, he formed the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club(MVHC). The first outing was a winter hike in the Rotterdam Hills on January 6 1929. The club quickly expanded to 50+ members.

Most hikes were to the Rotterdam Hills as they were easily accessible from Schenectady. (There were several locations in this area that became regular ski areas of SWC.) As the 1932 Olympics approached, the club planned a 10 day winter trip to camp on Hart Lake and watch the Olympic games. No one had warm enough sleeping bags for such a trip, so Dr Irving Langmuir designed what is now the modern 3# down sleeping bag. The club members met to sew them together. The trip was considered successful and great fun.

Upon return from Lake Placid, the club posted a petition to see if there was enough interest in a club dedicated to Winter Sports. The petition had 149 signatures.

MHVC hosted a meeting of the interested parties on November 30, 1932 with 8 organizations to discuss the petition and again on December 21 which was attended by several hundred people from 18 organizations. That night, the Schenectady Wintersports Club was formed.

Within a week, arrangements were made with two railroads, the Boston & Maine and the Delaware and Hudson for snow trains to operate during 1933. It was a snowless winter. During the summer of 1933, the club worked with North Creek organizations to widen logging roads for ski trails and make arrangements for uphill transportation to the Barton Mines on Gore Mtn. The first Snowtrain went to North Creek on March 4th, 1934. Ride Up, Slide Down was born.

The Mohawk Valley Hiking Club has a permanent Board position in the SWC. Everyone is welcome to enjoy their "off season" activities such as hikes and bike rides.



The Northern New York Paddlers

The President's Column

By Ed Greiner

May Wrap Up

May is the month in which canoe racing really heats up. Our first race of the year was "Round the Mountain run by the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. This 10.5 mile race starts in Lower Saranac Lake and weaves its way through the Saranac River and into Oseetah Lake and Lake Flower, ending at the beach in Saranac Lake village. Several of our Paddlers participated.

Dave Wiltey took first place in the Touring Kayak class. New member and racing novice Beverly Blinn-Knapp placed third in the Solo Recreational class. Chad Staubach and Bob McCormick each placed first in their respective age group in the Men's C1 Stock. Kim and I were the only ones foolish enough to paddle a pro-boat that day. We finished first in the C2 mixed open class.

The weather was sunny and very windy. The wind was in the northwest at 15+ miles per hour. That meant paddlers were sideways to the two foot high wave the whole way on Upper Saranac. We got some respite in the river but once we hit Oseetah lake, we were back into it. This time it was mostly head on.

The big event of the month of May is always the General Clinton Regatta. Starting on Friday, May 26 is the Generation Gap race. Roger Henry and Mike Schlimmer placed second in that event.

On Saturday, Dave Wiltey took first place in the Open Kayak Sprint. Later that day was the Mixed Stock Aluminum Grand Prix Relay. The Washington Canoe Club Took first, second and fourth places while the NECKRA Team 1 took

third. NNYP's Tin Lizzies came in ninth place. The weather was hot and sunny and the water very low. We scouted the course on the previous Sunday, but the water had level dropped eight inches in the ensuing week making our knowledge of the river dubious, at best. Our team consisted of Linda and Bob Cooley, Blanche Town and myself, Cathy and Bruce Lee, Kim Greiner and Bob McCormick and Lindsey and Greg Stevens.

While we were on the water that day, Alec Davis and Roger Henry were being inducted into the General Clinton Hall of Fame. They have been and continue to be an inspiration to paddlers, not only within NNYP but throughout the Northeast U.S.,

Sunday May 28 was the 70 mile endurance race. I'm glad I didn't race that one, with the low water and hot, sunny weather. I've done that and it's not fun.

In the C4 unlimited Endurance race Patrick Madden, Ed Curley, Ben Schlimmer and Jake Crotser won it by 20 minutes. Gary McLain and Jim Amell placed fourth in the Men's Stock endurance while Will and Erik Whiting came in eighth. John Vermilyea, Kevin Berl, Rich Butts and Roger Henry took second Place in the C4 Stock Endurance class.

Chad Staubach won the Open C1-70 ABM Stock Endurance race. Pam and Briana Fitzgerald won the Women's Amateur Endurance race by an hour and five minutes over second place. In the Mixed Amateur Endurance class, Erica and John Collier finished in sixth place.

That should be all of the NNYP members who participated in the General Clinton Regatta. I apologize if I overlooked anyone. The print on the results pages is very small.

Don't forget the Towpath Regatta coming up on the 15th of June. Start and finish are at Gateway Landing Park on the SCCC ramp. Registration starts at 5:30 PM and the race starts at 6:00.

Monday Night Paddling/Biking - Take Two

By Kim Greiner

What a difference a week makes! Last week, the Mohawk River was so high and fast at Kiwanis Park, we chose not to paddle for safety reasons. Last week, only two other paddlers attended and no one else came for the bike ride. This week (5/8/23), ten other paddlers came. Unfortunately, no other cyclists attended, so Karen and Bill rode alone. Hopefully, the word will get out and more people will come to bike.

Ed and I provided some brief kayak and canoe paddling instruction to two new ladies, and then we all got on the water. Even though we had to walk out what seemed like half-way across the river because the water was so low, we were all able to board safely. The current was very strong and it was quite windy, but a good time was had by all, as these photos will show. Since we never leave anyone alone, one group turned around earlier, while the other group continued on for a bit and then returned. Thank you to Bob and Mike who paddled with the group who went farther. Thank you to everyone who unloaded, carried, and reloaded boats. As the old adage goes, "Many hands make light work."

After all the boats were put away, the group enjoyed some wonderful conversation, and snacks, of course. Camaraderie is one of the many benefits of participation with the SWC cyclists and paddlers. Please consider joining us at Kiwanis Park on Mondays at 6:00 pm. Bring your bike, watercraft, and safety

equipment. If you need a boat, call me at 518-421-2939.





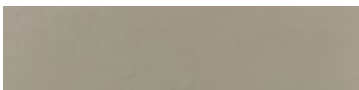
The Towpath Regatta

By Dorie Valenti

Join the fun this June 15th—the Towpath Regatta, Gateway Park, Schenectady. Canoes, Kayaks, SUPs, Pack Boats, Rowboats, Anything that Floats.

The race starts at Gateway Landing Park, Schenectady, NY (on the SCCC access road), goes upstream (west) around an island, and back. No vehicle shuttling is required. There is no entry fee. Check-in is from 5:30-6:15 pm and the first start is at 6:30. Any questions, contact Geoff Moore 518-331-2761 or geoffmoore030@gmail.com

You are guaranteed to go home with a vial of genuine Mohawk River Water.





Mohawk Valley Hiking Club

News from the MVHC

By Dorie Valenti

After years of hiking and leading hikes in the Mohawk Valley, John Rack resigned his post as President of the MVHC about a year ago - and who said golf is a good walk spoiled? Not in the Mohawk Valley it isn't, and our own John Bidell has taken it upon himself to prove once and for all that Mark Twain was wrong. As the newly elected President of the MVHC I have great confidence in John to show that golf is a good walk -- unless your playing Capital Hills and then its probably more like a hike.

Stay tuned for some good walks and some good hikes, many on the beautifully landscaped golf courses in and around the Mohawk Valley.

More information will be forthcoming.

Articles for the Newsletter

Do you have a story to tell? Have a favorite sport you want to write about? What about your favorite things to do in the Capital Region and Waterbury Center? The Newsletter comes out at the beginning of each month - articles are due mid-month. Send them to SWCChatter@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

See swcweb.org **EVENTS** for more details

5/1 NNYP Monday Night Paddling begins
and every Monday thereafter until September

5/1 SWC Monday Night Bike Rides begin
and every Monday thereafter until September

5/3 NNYP Wednesday Night Time Trials begin
and every Wednesday thereafter until September

6/15 NNYP Towpath Regatta

6/17 SWC Bike Group - Helderberg Trail

7/8 NNYP Electric City Regatta

7/9 NNYP Barge Chaser

7/15 SWC Bike Group - Ashuwillticook Trail

8/19 SWC Bike Group - Ashokan Trail

9/16 SWC Bike Group - Erie Canal Trail

12/7 thru 12/9 Early Season Ski Clinic at Stowe

01/20-27 2024 Telluride Ski Trip

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