

FFLA Newsletter – NY Chapter

Late August 2016

This second newsletter for August is going to focus entirely on 2 upcoming events. Our September newsletter will feature information from the conference for those who will not be able to attend. We'll go back to the regular schedule in October.

HISTORIC STILLWATER SURVEY MARKER TO BE RESET

The 1882 Stillwater Mt. Adirondack Survey marker that was stolen and then recovered in a lawn in New Jersey in 2013 is being replaced on September 12, 2016. Drilling and resetting the new marker is expected to be completed by 2:00. This historic event re-establishing Stillwater Mt. as Verplanck Colvin's Station 77, is a joint effort of DEC Lowville office, Real Property Division surveyors from Region Six and Herkimer, the Colvin Crew headquarters at the NYS Ranger School at Wanakena, and Friends of Stillwater Fire Tower. Pictured are the new replacement and the original marker, now kept at in the Colvin Crew museum at Wanakena.



NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

I hope all of you have registered for the conference to be held in Keene, NY on September 17th. All of the locations are noted on this google map link below.

It would be very helpful if everyone who is interested can register prior to September 11th in terms of planning – and you can save a dollar or two!

If you would like to have a space to sell fire tower merchandise for your group, please let me know so that we can plan accordingly.



We have a line up of speakers for Saturday the 17th as noted below:

- 8 – 8:30: Welcome and Introductions with FFLA Chairman Keith Argow (breakfast will be available during this time).
- 8:40 – 9:10: Friends of Hurricane Mountain
- 9:20 – 9:50: Friends of St. Regis
- 10:00 – 10:15: Break – refreshments
- 10:15 – 10:45: Tate Connor NYSDEC Forester
- 10:55 – 11: 25: Dave Vana of Davana LLC with Larry Gordon of Cornell Hill
- 11:35 – 12:05: Friends of Stillwater
- 12:15 – 12:45: David Thomas-Train of Friends of Poke O Moonshine and Fire Tower Educator
- 12:50: Wrap Up and Lunch

Fire Tower Trail Descriptions for the Northeastern Conference of the FFLA*

Friday, September 16th

Spruce Mountain – 2009' in elevation, 73' fire tower

Hike Description: 2.6 mile hike (round trip) The trail can be considered a moderate to difficult hike with 1000' elevation gain.

Driving Directions: The Spruce Mountain trailhead is at the end of Fire Tower Road in South Corinth. From downtown Saratoga Springs, travel north on Route 9N toward Corinth approximately seven miles. Turn left on Miner Road; then right on Fire Tower Road.

Cornell Hill – ~300' in elevation, 60' fire tower NHLR NY31

Hike Description: Short walk that is handicap accessible

Driving Directions: From the Adirondack Northway Exit 16 turn right on Ballard Road, right on Edie Road, and left on Scout Road. The tower is located at Camp Saratoga at 95 Scout Road. Larry Gordon will be on duty at the tower from 8 am to 4 pm.

Saturday, September 17th

Belfry – 1,820' in elevation, 47' fire tower

Hike Description: 0.6 miles (round trip) with a vertical gain of 120'.

Driving Directions: Get off I-87 (Northway) at Exit 30 and get onto Route 9 South. Take a left onto Tracy Road and follow for 7.6 miles. Take a left onto County Highway 70 for 1 mile. Parking will be on the right side of the road.

ADK History Center Museum in Elizabethtown + – 597' in elevation, 58' fire tower

Hike Description: Accessed from inside the museum only.

Driving Directions: 7590 Court Street, Elizabethtown, NY

In 1979 the Historical Society purchased two fire towers that the DEC had dismantled. The towers formerly stood on Kempshall and West Mountains in Hamilton County. The best parts of the two structures were combined to produce one that can be accessed from the museum's fire tower collection.
+ Open from 10am to 5pm with an admission price of \$5.00.

Poke O Moonshine – 2180' in elevation, 35' fire tower NHLR NY20

Hike Description: The steep 1.2 mile long (one way) Ranger Trail will gain 1280'. The newer, longer, and more gradual 2.3 (one way) mile Observers Trail follows the route of the old Fire Observer's access road to the lean-to and former cabin site below the summit. Most of the trail swings around the steeper ledges avoiding any seriously steep terrain.

Driving Directions: From the south, take Northway (Rt. I-87) exit 32 and drive north for approx. 9 miles to the old campground. From the North, take exit 33 (off I-87) and follow NY 9 three miles south.

Palmer Hill – 1146' in elevation, 60' fire tower

Hike Description: a jaunt of about an eighth of a mile.

Driving Directions: To visit Palmer Hill from Lake Placid, take Route 86 through Wilmington to Jay. Turn left at the Jay Green onto Route 9N, which runs along the East Branch of the Au Sable River into Au Sable Forks. Cross the Main Street bridge and continue straight through the caution light at the Stewart's Shops store. At the next corner, turn left toward Black Brook and Union Falls. Go past a cemetery on the left to a fork in the road, where you will bear right toward Palmer Hill and Harkness. After half a mile you will see the street sign for Tower Road, where you'll turn left. At 0.9 miles, Tower Road itself curves left — but to the right, you will see a metal gate. Park your car there. ***Note the tower itself is private property and cannot be climbed.

Sunday, September 18th

St. Regis – 2874' in elevation, 35' fire tower NHLR NY 13

Hike Description: The trail is a gradual 3.3 mile ascent to the summit. This moderate hike has an overall elevation gain of 1,260feet. It maintains a moderate grade until the last .3 where some steep sections are encountered, but nothing too difficult and no challenging scrambles

Driving Directions: In Paul Smith's NY, turn left from NYS Route 30 onto Keese Mills Road. Keese Mills Rd is approximately 100 feet North of the main entrance to Paul Smith's College. The College is located at the intersection of NYS Route 86 and NYS Route 30, in Paul Smiths, N.Y. The trailhead is 2 miles on the left in Keese Mills.

Stillwater – 2264' in elevation, 47' fire tower NHLR NY32

Hike Description: The trail is a 1 mile hike with an easy ascent of 560'.

Driving Directions: From State Route 28 in Eagle Bay 16 mi to trailhead on Big Moose Rd. It's unpaved for 8 mi from Big Moose (RR) Station to the trailhead parking area.

Monday, September 19th

Hurricane – 3678' in elevation, 35' fire tower NHLR NY26

Hike Description: Three trails lead to the summit, with the trailhead on Route 9N being the most popular option. Total hike is 5.2 miles round trip and is considered a moderate climb.

Driving Directions: The trailhead access is on the north side of Rt. 9N, 3.5 mi E of the jct. of Rt. 9N and Rt. 73 between Elizabethtown and Keene. Look for a small DEC sign marking the trailhead. Park along the road.

* Please note that these are suggested visits. Persons have agreed to lead hikes to each of these towers on the days noted. Details for exact starting times and trail head locations will be announced the week of the conference. You are welcome to join if you would like, but if you can let me know ahead of time, it will assist the hike leaders greatly. Alternatives in the area may include Arab, Azure, and Cathedral Rock fire towers.

Refer to the Google Map for distances and additional information:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1wDhsrLi2qHosX0Tirvopi5stLgY>

We have some informal plans shaping up for after the presentations and for both Friday and Saturday evening. Once registered, I'll get that information to you for consideration.

Don't forget to pick up a copy of the October issue of Adirondack Life Magazine that features fire towers: <http://www.adirondacklifemag.com/blogs/magazine/table-of-contents/>

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