



On the Western Slope



Chapter Chair



Greetings Everyone,

We must admit that 2020 has been and will continue to be an unforgettable year. I hope that everyone is safe and healthy.

There are 9 outings occurring for the fall and early winter. Hopefully, chapter members will take the opportunity to participate in these outings. Also, we plan to have a snowshoe or hike at the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar, NY on January 2nd. This event is being held in lieu of the chapter's Winter Meeting. More details about this event will be announced.

Deborah Richards (Vice Chair) has moved out of the area, planning to settle down in Massachusetts or Rhode Island in 2021. It is a great loss to our chapter, but an excellent opportunity for another chapter. Deb has been quite helpful at our Executive Committee meetings with meaningful advice. I appreciate that she has filled in when I have not been available. Thank you, Deb!

For our Annual Chapter Meeting, we will hold a Zoom meeting on November 12th at 6 p.m. John Judge, AMC President and CEO, will be our speaker.

To our members, great thanks to you during this troubling time. We will be able to get through this together.

Be safe,

Kevin Cox

Chapter Annual Meeting – November 12

Save the date and join us for a virtual/online chapter meeting on November 12th at 6 p.m. Agenda:

- Welcome 6:00 PM
- Introduction of speaker and officers
- Speaker 6:10 PM
- Brief business meeting
- Election of officers

Volunteer leadership at the chapter level is very important to AMC's mission. Please consider nominating someone or even volunteering yourself to serve for one year on the Chapter Executive Committee. Contact our Volunteer Relations rep – Justin Bailey (Jbailey@outdoors.org) with your questions or for more information.

As of 10/4, nominees for 2021 chapter leadership positions are:

Chapter Chair	Kevin Cox
Vice Chair	<i>Open position</i>
Treasurer	David Esmond
Secretary	Martha Waldman

Our featured speaker will be John Judge, AMC's president and chief executive officer, advocate for connecting people with the outdoors, conservation stewardship and the outdoor economy. Since 2012, John has been the leader of AMC's sustainable growth, with the support of the AMC community of outdoor enthusiasts, program participants, conservation advocates, members, and volunteers. See ***Chapter Annual Meeting, Continued*** on page 2.



Dates to note:

Nov 9 EComm Zoom Meeting, 6:45 p.m.
Nov 12 MoHud Annual Chapter Virtual Meeting/Election, 6:00 p.m.; featured speaker: AMC's John Judge

Save these 2021 dates:

Jan 2 –Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, NY; snowshoe/hike
Jan 4, 2021 EComm Zoom Meeting, 6:45 p.m.
Jan 23 to 25 – Virtual Annual AMC Summit

AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter Executive Committee:

Kevin Cox, Chapter Chair, Outings Chair
518-279-4839 mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com

Deborah D. Richards, Vice Chair
518-281-3024 debdrichards@gmail.com

Martha Waldman, Treasurer
518-869-5109 martha829r@aol.com

Chapter Secretary, *vacancy*

Charlie Arsenault, AMC Central Regional Director
ceaqgg@gmail.com

Justin Bailey, AMC Regional Program Manager
jbailey@outdoors.org

David Esmond, Webmaster
david.esmond1@gmail.com

Christine Boucher, Newsletter Editor
518-322-0296; csimson@hotmail.com

Mohawk Hudson Chapter Website:
<http://www.amcmohawkhudson.org>



Giant Ledge Hike, Adirondacks

Chapter Annual Meeting, Continued

Keep an eye out for a chapter-wide email message before the November 12 date for any updates to the agenda and instructions for connecting to the virtual chapter meeting/officer election.

Chapter Outings

October / November / December 2020

Listings below are as of the October 5th newsletter distribution date. Leaders may post e-mail updates for trips (published or not in the newsletter) via the AMC calendar of events which is available via the [chapter website](#). Leaders may also post updates via the chapter Yahoo group; use the [Yahoo group](#) to see updates and connect to others.

All AMC activities require advance Online Registration:

1. Go to outdoors.org and click **Adventures**.
2. Search by **Volunteer Led Trips** or **By Activity** or **AMC Guided Adventures**.
3. For chapter **Volunteer Led Trips**, enter search criteria (e.g., Group/Chapter = Mohawk Hudson, N.Y.) and click the **Search** button to see the listings.
4. Click on the activity name to see details and/or scroll down and click the **Register Now** button and log in with your username and password (you must create an account) to view/complete the electronic waiver.

Note: In our postings, some leaders request that you also contact them for information about hike difficulty, meeting time and place, and updates due to weather or trail conditions. If you leave a message, please include your phone number in case hike plans must be changed.

October

Sat 10/10 Rip Van Winkle Bridge to Olana, Easy (Hiking) The hike will start at the Thomas Cole House Parking Lot and follow the 3-mile trail up to Olana State Park. Hopefully, the foliage will be out for us to enjoy the Hudson River Valley and the Catskills. The distance is 6 miles. The ascent is about 300 feet.
Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.)
mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com.

Wed 10/21 Schoharie Creek Preserve, Moderate (Hiking) We will hike the loop in the Schoharie Creek Preserve. It is a lovely, fairly short trail (1.3 miles) with views of waterfalls and of the Schoharie Creek. There are some steep sections. Afterwards we will go to the nearby Schoharie River Center and hike the short trail there and have lunch. Rain cancels due to the steepness. This is a Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy property; web page is: <http://mohawkhudson.org/our-preserves/schoharie-creek-preserve/> Several AMC members helped create the trail. Leader: Nancy Crowther 518-698-0531 nancy@crowther.org.

Sat 10/24 Blue Mountain – Moderate (Hiking) This mountain offers great views from the fire tower. The distance is 2 miles and the ascent is 1550 feet. 4 miles round trip. There is a steep section that starts at 0.9 mile and levels off at 1.5 mile to the summit. Hope for a clear day! Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com.

November

Sat 11/7 Berlin Mountain, Moderate (Hiking) This mountain has challenging spots from Petersburg Pass to the summit. The distance is 5.4 miles round trip and the ascent is 1302 feet. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com.

Wed 11/18 Plotter Kill Preserve hike, Moderate (Hiking) Come on a beautiful hike along a deep gorge with close views of three waterfalls, 60 feet high and 40 feet high. We will do a three-mile loop which takes in all three of the waterfalls. Bring lunch and water, and hiking poles if you use them. We will cancel if heavy rain or the trails are muddy. Here is a google map to get to the Plotter Kill parking lot for the trailhead: <https://goo.gl/maps/cYiUQJmXXmELGFH8>. Click "Directions" and type in your address. Please email the registrar as well as register for the hike. Date was chosen to be outside of deer hunting season. Leader: Will Crowther 518-698-0531 nancy@crowther.org. Co-Leader: Nancy Crowther.

Sat 11/21 Mount Greylock via Hopper Trail, Moderate (Hiking) We will start from the Hopper Road Trailhead. Following the trail to Sperry Road Campground to the AT to the summit. Bring micro-spikes in case of ice conditions. The distance is 8.2 miles. Ascent is 1310 feet. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com.

Sat 12/5 Giant Ledges and Panther, Moderate (Snowshoeing) This outing can be a snowshoe or hike depending on the trail conditions. Plan to start at the trail head on County Rt 47 and proceed up to the Giant Ledges. The views are great to behold. From there, we will proceed to Panther Mountain. The distance is 5.2 miles, round trip and the ascent is 1545 feet. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com.

Wed 12/16 Yankee Hill, Fort Hunter, NY, Easy (Hiking) This is a trail we recently discovered. It is an old flat tow path between the Mohawk River and the old Erie canal. We will meet at Yankee Hill near Schoharie Crossing, at the old Erie Canal store. We will walk due east for about 1.5 miles, then turn around. Please send me email when you register for the hike. Date was chosen to be after deer hunting season. Leader: Nancy Crowther 518-698-0531 nancy@crowther.org.

Sat 12/19 Goodnow Mountain, Moderate (Snowshoeing) This outing will be an opportunity to snowshoe in the Adirondacks. In addition, there is a fire tower where 23 high peaks can be seen. The distance is 3.8 miles and an ascent of 1040 feet. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com.

Virtual Annual Summit January 23, 2021 – Save the Date.

On January 23rd, the AMC will hold its first 100% virtual Annual Summit. Like other Annual Summits this will be a great opportunity to learn about AMC and outdoor topics. In addition to our Annual Business meeting where we vote in our Board of Directors, enjoy a day of high-quality, virtual learning opportunities, and connect with others who share your interests.

While this all-online event may be a new experience, we hope that the opportunity to connect virtually means that we reach an even greater number of people who will support AMC's mission, remove the barrier of travel, and provide the same high-quality workshops and presentations you've come to expect – all from the comfort of your own living room.

So, mark your calendars and get ready for Annual Summit 2021!



Ampersand Mountain, Adirondacks

Time to Climb for Views

Fall is a good time to visit a nearby fire tower. Tip: Pick a windless day. Two local favorites:

- [Dickinson Hill Fire Tower](#) – Drive to the service road gate or hike in from Grafton Lakes SP for views of the Taconic Range (NY/MA), Green Mountains (VT), Adirondacks and Helderbergs (NY).
- Beebe Hill Fire Tower, [Beebe Hill State Forest](#) – Easy hike to view the Berkshires and the Catskills.



Buck Mountain Trail, Lake George

What's On and What's Off?

For AMC lodging availability and closings through 2020, click: <https://www.outdoors.org/articles/newsroom/amc-preparations-for-covid-19>.

COVID-19 Guidelines for AMC Activities

AMC is in Phase 2 of its operations restart. Topics of change under the AMC COVID-19 guidelines still in effect bear repeating:

- Phase 1 – Guidelines for trail maintenance individuals and/or small groups of less than or equal to 4 people; effective June 15, 2020.
- Phase 2 – Guidelines for volunteer-led public events of less than or equal to 10 people; effective June 22; leader discretion to limit group.
- Phase 3 – A start date has not yet been set by AMC.
- Use AMC's online registration for activity sign-ups and acknowledge risk by accepting the required electronic waiver for COVID prior to participation. Try it! For instructions, see page 2.
- Volunteers and participants must be well for 14 days prior to the activity.
- Stay at home/skip the activity when you are sick with cough, fever or chills, muscle or body aches, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, new loss of taste/smell.
- Contact AMC leadership with positive COVID test results after participating in an activity to facilitate contact tracing.
- Discourage carpools.
- Follow state and local land management rules.
- Practice physical distancing (6-foot space between participants and avoid crowds).
- Wear a face covering when physical distancing is not possible.
- Learn to safely wear/remove face masks and gloves.
- Carry your own water, food/snacks, utensils, and hand sanitizer (with 60% or greater alcohol content) for your use during the activity.
- Wash and/or sanitize your hands.
- Update your first aid kit for COVID.
- Share and sanitize tools and gear.
- Plan activities with group needs and safety in mind, e.g., check on parking and restrooms, have a backup plan and encourage flexibility.
- Listen to the guidance of the activity leader.
- Handle non-compliance with COVID-19 rules during an activity.