



On the Western Slope

Chapter Chair

Greetings,



I hope that everybody is safe and well. 2020 has been a game changer for us all and I am looking forward to 2021, although I believe we will still be wearing masks and practicing social distance.

AMC will be holding its first 100% virtual Annual Summit on January 23, 2021. It is a great opportunity to learn about what's happening in the AMC organization. Please register for this event at [AMC Annual Summit](#); we hope to "see" you there.

Good news! In January 2021, we will be getting a new chapter web page and Cliff Prewencki will be joining the Executive Committee as our Conservation Chair. Thank you, Cliff, for volunteering to lead our local conservation efforts.

Check out our activity listing for a variety of outings during the winter, including a rescheduled to February 13th hike/snowshoe at the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar. I hope to see everybody out enjoying Mother Nature.

I want to thank every member of the AMC Mohawk-Hudson Chapter for your support during this difficult year.

Happy New Year, folks!

Kevin Cox

Chapter Election Results

Congratulations to our 2021 chapter officers, elected at the November 12th annual chapter meeting:

Kevin Cox, Chapter Chair

David Esmond, Treasurer

Martha Waldman, Secretary

Thank you for taking on the chapter leadership roles during these challenging times. Here's to more outdoors in 2021!

AMC Annual Summit

January 23, 2021

AMC's 145th Annual Summit will be its first 100% virtual Summit; it will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (non-meetings from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.); cost is \$20.

Whether you are a lifelong member or a newcomer curious about all AMC has to offer, we hope you will join us! Volunteers and Staff will offer online workshops and presentations highlighting conservation, outdoor skills and stories, and wilderness medicine. To spend a few interesting hours with AMC from the comfort of your home, check out the workshop/presentation offerings and register [here](#).



Dates to note:

Jan 11, 2021 EComm Zoom Meeting, 6:45 p.m.

Jan 23 – [Virtual Annual AMC Summit](#)

Mar 8 EComm Zoom Meeting, 6:45 p.m.

Save the date:

May 10 EComm Zoom Meeting, 6:45 p.m.

AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter Executive Committee:

Kevin Cox, Chapter Chair, Outings Chair

518-279-4839 mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com

Vice Chair, open – Please contact Kevin Cox if interested in this position.

David Esmond, Treasurer

david.esmond1@gmail.com

Martha Waldman, Chapter Secretary

518-869-5109 martha829r@aol.com

Cliff Prewencki, Conservation Chair

cprewencki@aol.com

Charlie Arsenault, AMC Central Regional Director

ceaqq@gmail.com

Justin Bailey, AMC Regional Program Manager

jbailey@outdoors.org

Christine Boucher, Newsletter Editor

518-322-0296; csimson@hotmail.com

Mohawk Hudson Chapter Website:

<http://www.amcmohawkhudson.org>

“Like Us” on Facebook



Ctrl + click the “facebook” image at left to view the Mohawk Hudson AMC chapter Facebook group page.



Once there, click the “Like” image (shown at left) to “like” our page: if you have a Facebook account, log in; else, you’ll have to set one up to “like” our page. We’ve got 245 “likes” on Facebook.

Chapter Outings

January / February / March 2021

Listings below are as of the January 3rd newsletter distribution date. Leaders may post e-mail updates for their trips (published in the newsletter or not) via the AMC calendar of events which is available via the [chapter website](#). Leaders may also post updates via the chapter Yahoo group. Please join our [Yahoo group](#) (it’s free!) to see the updates and connect to others.

All activities require advance registration: Please contact the Leader for information about hike difficulty, meeting time and place, carpooling, and hike updates due to weather or trail conditions. If you leave a message, please include a phone number where you can be reached in case hike plans must be changed.

January 2021

Mon 1/11 Mohawk-Hudson Chapter Zoom E-Comm Meeting (Meetings) In this meeting we will be discussing the future of Mohawk-Hudson. It will include attracting more members. The meeting is open to the public. Please feel free to attend. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com.

Wed 1/13 Dickinson Hill Fire Tower Grafton Lakes SP Easy (Snowshoeing) We will be starting at the Parking Lot off Long Pond Boat Launch . Follow the Fire Tower Trail up to the summit. Hopefully, it will be a clear day. Distance is 3 miles and the ascent is 400 feet. Bring winter gear. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com.

Sat 1/16 Black Mountain Loop from Pike Brook Road Moderate (Snowshoeing) We will be following the red markers up to the summit near the fire tower. From there, follow the trail to Black Mountain Pond trail to Lapland Pond and follow back to the trail head. Distance is 6.5 miles and an ascent of 1046 feet. Bring your winter gear. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com.

Sat 1/23 AMC Annual Summit First 100% virtual Summit featuring online workshops and presentations highlighting conservation, outdoor skills and stories, and wilderness medicine. [Register here](#).

February 2021

Sat 2/6 Slide Mountain Loop Moderate (Snowshoeing)

Plan to start from the Slide Mountain trail head. Follow the yellow markers to the Curtis-Ormsbee trail about .7 miles from the summit. Continue on the summit.

Hopefully, we will have a clear day. From the summit, we will follow the trail straight down to the parking lot. The distance is 6.7 miles and an ascent 1706 feet. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.)

mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com.

Sat 2/13 Five Rivers Environmental Education Center

North Loop Trail Easy (Snowshoeing) This loop is relatively flat. The distance is 2.2 miles with an ascent of 68 feet. This hike is being held instead of our chapter's annual winter meeting, due to COVID 19. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.)

mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com.

Wed 2/17 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.

Sat 2/27 Table & Peekamoose Mtns Strenuous

(Snowshoeing) We will be starting from Denning and following the blue markers to the summits of Table and Peekamoose Mountains. Return the same way. The distance is 10 miles and an ascent of 2860 feet. Views along the way will be great if it's clear. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com.

March 2021

Wed 3/3 Snowshoe/Cross-Country Ski, Schenectady County Forest, Easy (Skiing - Cross-Country (Nordic) | Snowshoeing)

This is an easy snowshoe or cross-country ski -- mostly level but a couple of short slopes. Will be going to be on skis and Nancy on snowshoes! This is not a commercial ski area, so no fee and the trails are not groomed but probably already tracked by others. We will meet at the parking lot at 10 a.m. Bring water and a way to carry your jacket if you should get too warm. Afterwards we will go to our nearby house for hot soup and bread. Directions from I-90: (about 40 minutes total from Schodack): Take I-90 west to exit

25-A, which is I-88. Take I-88 west to exit 24 (Duanesburg). Turn left at the end of the exit ramp, then right on to route 20. Take route 20 through the center of Duanesburg to a right turn on to Duanesburg Churches Road (church on corner). Follow that 2.5 miles to a right on to Lake Road. Go 0.7 mile to a parking lot on your left, with a DEC sign saying Schenectady County Forest. Leader: Nancy Crowther 518-698-0531 nancy@crowther.org.

Sat 3/6 Cascade and Porter Mountains Vigorous (Snowshoeing)

We will start from Rt 73 trailhead. Follow the trail to Cascade. Then, hike down the summit and head to Porter. The views will be great from both mountains, hopefully. The distance is 6.2 miles and ascent of 1960 feet. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com.

Wed 3/10 Shaver Pond Loop Easy (Snowshoeing)

We will start from the Grafton Lakes State Park Beach parking lot. Follow the red markers around Shaver Pond. The trail is relatively flat. The distance is about 2.3 miles and an ascent of 200 feet. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com.

Sat 3/20 Whiteface and Esther Mountains – Strenuous (Snowshoeing)

We will start from the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center trailhead. Follow the trail up to old T-bar trail up to Marble Mountain. Then, we will get on the Whiteface trail to the summit of Whiteface. We could get to see the skiers as they get off the ski lift. Then, follow the trail back and go up Esther Mountain. The distance is 10 miles. The ascent is 3818 feet. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com.

Activity Ratings System

In the Appalachian Mountain Club's ratings system, activities are rated using a scale of six levels: Accessible, Relaxed, Easy, Moderate, Vigorous, and Strenuous. Consult the participant information or activity posting for details including the intended group pace and equipment requirements.

Refer to <https://www.outdoors.org/outdoor-activities/difficulty-ratings> for general descriptions, rating tables by specific type of activity (e.g., based on miles, speed, elevation gain), and much more info.

Volunteer Opportunities in 2021

If you are interested in any of the following volunteer opportunities, please contact Chapter Chair, Kevin Cox, 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com for more information.

Chapter Vice Chair – We are seeking an energetic person to work alongside the Chapter Chair and the executive committee to create strategies for attracting new members and developing volunteers for key chapter committees.

Membership Chair – Our chapter is looking for an enthusiastic, welcoming member with good communications skills to volunteer as Membership Chair. The position's focus is on initiating social events to bring together new and existing members.

Communications Chair – This person is a creative and enthusiastic member of their chapter with good communications skills. They are well-organized and capable of managing multiple tasks at once. The Chair may work as an individual or recruit a volunteer team to break up the various responsibilities into different roles.

Chair is responsible for managing all aspects of the chapter's digital and printed communications both internally among volunteers as well as externally to members and potential members. The Chair works closely with AMC staff to ensure all chapter communications are following current guidelines and best practices.

Trails Committee Chair – The Mohawk Hudson chapter volunteers with several local land conservancies to plan and lead trail maintenance activities primarily to control vegetation and update trail markers to keep trails passable for the hiking public. Chair duties include:

- Leading trail maintenance outings and scheduling them in AMC's Activities database.
- Cultivating/maintaining a list of current trail maintenance volunteers.
- Overseeing maintenance of Long Path sections 33 and 34 in John Boyd Thacher State Park.

Nominating Committee Volunteers – This three-person committee identifies candidates for the chapter's four leadership positions and fills vacancies that may arise during the year.



2019: Wolf Creek Falls Preserve

Conservation Action

Go to www.outdoors.org/conservation to review AMC's conservation initiatives and reports about regional and local conservation accomplishments.

Visit AMC's Conservation Action Network Center to learn the latest about AMC priority issues and speak up for the outdoors – Sign up to [take action](#) by contacting your State and Federal representatives.



December 2020: Owen D. Young Nature Trail, Van Hornesville, NY

Not getting email messages from AMC Mohawk Hudson? For help, call AMC Membership (Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.) at: **1-800-372-1758**.