



Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine ***Fall-Winter 2015-2016 Newsletter***

c/o AARCH 1745 Main Street,
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SUM(M)IT UP FOR POKE-O!!!!!!

TRAIL PROJECT EXPANDED, WORK BEGINS, FUNDS GROW

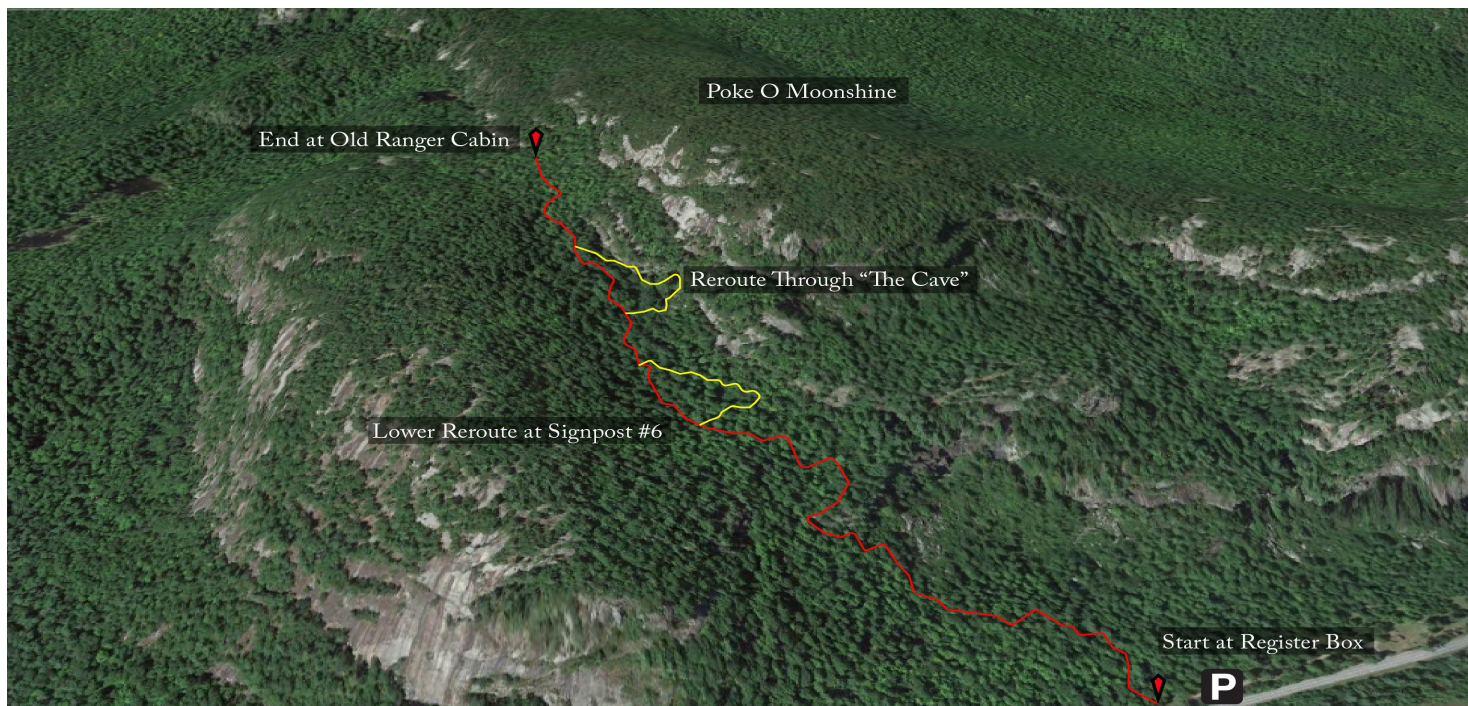
“Sum(m)it up for Poke-O”, the campaign to save the Ranger Trail is going better than we ever imagined possible! Community, hiking club, and foundation support has been astoundingly strong. Because DEC does not have the funds to cover the project, we have been fundraising to rehab the trail. We are committed to keeping the trail open, as a challenging, well-designed, sustainable, and fascinating pathway to the summit.

This is the original route up the mountain, with an abundance of botanical, geological, and historic features which we have detailed for hikers in our interpretive flyer and plan to protect. On August 10, the Adirondack Mountain Club Trails Program and Tahawus Trails LLC began work on the project to rebuild the eroded trail sections and relocate others that are severely degraded. A May 2015 review of the project by all parties, determined that the original 2013 work plan and funding goal were inadequate. We now estimate a cost of \$350,000 and have set a goal of raising the remaining \$178,000 by 2017, the centennial of the fire tower. In just over two years, we have received \$172,588 in individual and organizational donations and pledges, and have begun to fund the trail work in annual increments. The project is underway!

The fire tower will be 100 years old in 2017. Successful completion of this honors the Observers and Rangers who loved Poke-O-Moonshine and its tower, as sites for protecting the Adirondack landscape and educating the public. We are working hard to carry on this tradition, and the Ranger Trail is the gateway to our entire mission. Come on up the mountain any time, see the trail work, come visit the fire tower when it's regularly open from late June to late August, and please

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STATE-OF-THE-ART TRAIL PLAN AND CURRENT ROCK WORK





MORE DETAILS OF RANGER TRAIL PROJECT

By the time you read this, the first six weeks of trail work on the Ranger Trail will have been completed. The quality of the work by ADK and Tahawus Trails is outstanding: durable, well laid-out, and beautiful to look at. Feedback from hikers is equally positive. We are off to a superb start in rehabbing the Ranger Trail. Enormous thanks to the two trail crews and to you, our incredibly loyal supporters!

As we have tripled the size of the project, we have necessarily expanded our fundraising efforts. Our funds in hand or pledged have grown from \$67,000 last Spring to over \$172,000 now. We could not have confidently expanded the project without your hugely enthusiastic and generous support.

In July, we applied to the New York State Office of Parks for a matching grant of \$180,000. This amount would meet our overall project goals, we cannot count on receiving it. The completion for those limited funds is stiff. We are pursuing other grants as well.

So, in the fundraising effort to build 1300 rock steps and water bars to re-create the entire Ranger Trail as a model of sustainable design, we will leave no stone unturned! THANK YOU!

For two current media reports on the project, from Adirondack Life and North Country Public Radio, go to these two links:

<http://www.adirondacklifemag.com/blogs/2015/09/17/the-poky-way-up-poke-o-moonshine-mountain/>

AND

<http://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/28344/20150513/popular-adirondack-trail-will-get-a-makeover-soon>

On the Left - part of a 39-step rock staircase that was completed by the ADK Professional Trail Crew and Tahawus

RECENT DONORS

The following individuals, organizations, and companies have made generous donations to the *Friends* since May, 2015. Thanks to all of you!! If you have not recently made a donation, please do so now. In slightly more than two years, of our five-year \$350,000 goal, we have raised over \$172,000 in gifts and pledges. We can keep on educating hikers and restoring the Ranger Trail only with your help. **THANK YOU!**

Trailheaders—up to \$49

Mrs. John Appelbergh
Lynn & Robert Livingston
Bettyann Dixon
Deborah Brown
Laurie Rankin
Shawn Galbraith
Erin Hall
Debbie Briggs
Essex Day Donors
Plattsburgh Farmers Market
Donors

Cliff Climbers— \$50-\$99

Walter Morse - in memory of
Roberta Bell

The Mountaineer
David Carroll
Rite Banks
William Gratz
Keeseville Fire Department
Audrey & Chris Hyson
Ruth Kufahl
Jane & Remi Weiman
Charles Robinson
Audrey Nagel
Tracy Orkin

Overlookers— \$100-\$499

Sarah Disney
North Country Camps
Judy and Pete Gucker
Ken Adams Ellen Somers
Lincoln Kilbourne
Allen Caswell
David & Margie Reuther
Peter Paine Jr.
Douglas Smith
Leanna & Richard DeNeale
Harry & Marie Tobiassen
Hurricane Chapter, ADK
Kathleen McHenry
Keene Valley Chapter, ADK

Rangers—\$500-\$999

William Janeway
Camp Pok-O-MacCready

Summit Stewards—\$1000 and up

Anonymous
Jeffrey Altman
Lawson Allen

YOUR HELP IS VERY MUCH NEEDED!

MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT THE RANGER TRAIL PROJECT

You have read about our various year-'round efforts . We need your help on our Steering Committee (see meeting details below), with a work day on the mountain, a donation, purchase of a patch, sticker, and/or a signed Carl Heilman poster. The *Friends* currently has over \$172,000 on hand and we have set a goal of raising \$178,000 more before 2017. Only with your help, can we continue our efforts to restore more of this wonderful mountain trail and to educate its hikers about Poke-O's natural and cultural history. See the giving levels below. Please make, as generously as you can, a tax-deductible donation to **The Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine**, and mail to us, c/o AARCH 1745 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944. **MANY THANKS!!**



Please choose as generous a donation level as possible!

Trailheaders—up to \$49 Cliff Climbers— \$50-\$99
Overlookers— \$100-\$499 Rangers—\$500-\$999
Summit Stewards—\$1000 and up

Please send _____ patches (3", \$6 each) and _____ Carl Heilman Poke-O-Moonshine posters(14" x 39", \$20)

_____ Sum(m)it Up stickers; _____ Loco 4 Poke-O stickers (11" and 5", \$4 each)

Enclosed is a one-time gift of \$ _____

Enclosed is my first payment of an annual pledge to be made between now and 2017 \$ _____

I am able to help with trail maintenance. Please contact me _____
 Name _____

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____



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PHOTOGRAPH BY CARL HEILMAN II

Poke-o-Moonshine

PHOTOGRAPH BY CARL HEILMAN II



FALL and WINTER ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24: Summit and Trail Cleanup. Meet at the Campground at 9AM. We'll bring down the fire tower's interpretive panels and clean up the summit and trails.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23: Mammal Tracking with Elizabeth Lee. Meet at 9:30 AM at the Observers' trailhead. (1 mi. south of the Campground on Rte. 9). Be ready to spend 3-4 hours in the cold, following and identifying mammal tracks in the snow. In cooperation with CATS: champlainareatrails.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6: Back Country Ski Exploration. Meet at the Observers' trailhead at 9:30 to explore roads west of Poke-O. This will be a ski trip for those with at least intermediate skills to manage steep, narrow terrain. Arduous, 3-4 hours. In cooperation with CATS: champlainareatrails.com.

FOR WORK PROJECTS: Bring a pack with your usual clothing and work gloves, liquids, lunch, raingear, etc. Call David Thomas-Train, 518-576-4592, or Tom Hayhurst, 518-562-9989 for details.

FOR SKI AND SNOWSHOE TRIPS: Dress in non-cotton layers and bring extra clothing, food, hot and cold liquids. It is a must that you be proficient with your equipment and the designated mode of travel! Call David Thomas-Train, 518-576-4592, for details.

The *Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine* is dedicated to the preservation of Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain and its fire tower, improving and maintaining its trails, and to interpreting the natural and cultural history of the mountain. The *Friends* is a partnership between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Adirondack Architectural Heritage, the Town of Chesterfield, several Adirondack Mountain Club chapters, and hundreds of people who enjoy this special place. The *Friends* operates under the auspices of the Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH), the non-profit, historic preservation organization for the Adirondack Park. For more information about the *Friends* contact us at 1745 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944 or at (518) 834-9328. Send tax-deductible donations to *The Friends* at the same address. **Please recycle this newsletter.**

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c/o AARCH
1745 Main Street,
Keeseville, NY 12944

Steering Committee

Anne Bailey
Jim Bailey
Sarah Disney
Mark Dubrey
Doug Furman
Pete Gucker
Nancy Hayhurst
Tom Hayhurst
Lori Jarvis
Chad Kilbourne
Sharp Swan
David Thomas-Train
Lynn Valenti

Please contact us with any questions about the Campaign to Save the Ranger Trail!