



Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine

Fall-Winter Newsletter 2016-2017

c/o AARCH 1745 Main Street,
Keeseville, NY 12944 (518) 834-9328
friendsofpoko@gmail.com www.pokeomoonshine.org



SUM(M)IT UP FOR POKE-O!!!!!!

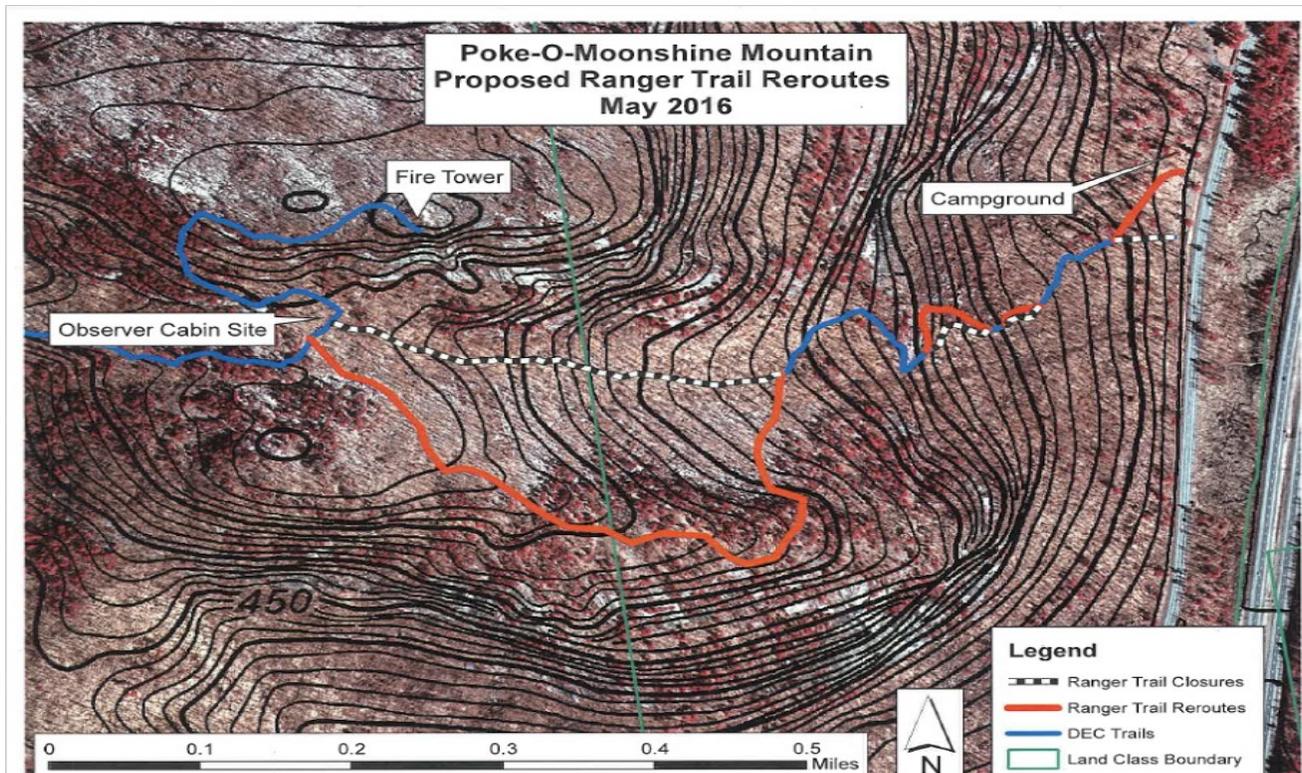
FINAL PERMIT APPROVED; TWO RE-ROUTES COMPLETE; FUNDS CLOSING IN ON GOAL; TRAIL WORK, FUNDRAISING CONTINUES

“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 and working 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 so many botanical, geological, and historic features which we plan to protect and have detailed for hikers in our interpretive flyer. Last year, under our and DEC’s guidance, the ADK Trails Program and Tahawus Trails LLC began work on the project to rebuild some eroded trail sections and relocate others. This year, work goes on above and below the cliff, with a re-route past a very badly eroded trail section. So far, they’ve built 185 solid and striking rock steps and 8 large rock water drainage bars. In just under four years, we have received over \$195,000 in individual and organizational donations and pledges, and are funding the trail work in annual increments. We can now happily estimate an upper cost of \$250,000, a savings of \$100,000 from the original estimate, and we have set a goal of raising the remaining \$55,000 by the end of 2017, the centennial of the fire tower. In addition to you, our solid supporters, we are approaching businesses and foundations. Any funds received over and above the final project cost will go into a trail repair fund trail. The project’s finish line is in sight! See the DEC map below for the approved route’s details.

We celebrate the fire tower’s 100th anniversary in 2017. Successful completion of this honor 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 open from late June to late August, and please

SUMMIT UP FOR POKE-O!!!





Kyle and the Observers Trail Kiosk

17th Tower Steward Excels!!

Kyle Pendell, a Junior Environmental Studies Major at SUNY Potsdam, did a wonderful job for us this past summer as Poke-O's 17th Tower Steward.

Kyle worked from late June until late August, meeting and educating hikers about the human and natural history of the mountain, teaching them about low-impact use of the forest, and maintaining both the Ranger and Observers' Trails.

It was Kyle's initiative to install an informational display at the Observers' Trail kiosk, a project that had long been on our "to-do" list. The bulletin board now features a large map of the area, pointing out that "you are here" at Poke-O; it also showcases an interpretive flier about human and natural changes on the trail, including stone walls, cellar holes, beech trees and bears; selections from our Ranger Trail flier address the fire tower, rock climbing, the Ice Storm of 1998, and low-impact use of the forest. A small-scale map shows both trails.

Thank you, Kyle, for your energy, imagination, and hard work this summer!

FIRE TOWER'S CENTENNIAL!

The fire tower turns 100 next year. We are planning a hike and celebrations for the weekend of July 28, 2017. There will be events at the mountain and at Ausable Brewery, and a juried Poke-O Art Exhibit at the 1719 Block Gallery in Keeseville. The art show will open Friday July 28, and the hike and mountain celebration will be mid-day July 30 at the mountain, with a party after at Ausable Brewery. Details will follow in the next newsletter in late April. Save the dates!

THANKS AND MORE THANKS

We owe huge thanks to several ongoing supporters. Adirondack Architectural Heritage has housed us and provided our tax-exempt umbrella since the beginning. The Chesterfield Town Board and Supervisor Gerald Morrow and Clerk Shelley Davis have provided vital support for our Tower Steward payroll and Workers' Compensation. Brian Yourdon and Cindy Kuhn have hosted our Tower Stewards at their house in town. Joanne Kennedy has provided photos and videos for our fundraising efforts. Campers from Pok-O-MacCready and North Country camps have done trail work with us for years.

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 \$250,000 goal, we have raised over \$195,000 in gifts and pledges.

Trailheaders—up to \$49

Mary Ellen Cleveland
The Chapmans
Mrs. John Applebergh
Betty Ann Dixson
Bob & Lynn Livingston
Matt Evans Scott Turner
Audrey Nagel, in memory
of John Nagel
Nathan Parker Andrew Stern
Pat Chotkowski

Cliff Climbers— \$50-\$99

The Mountaineer
Douglas Smith
William Gratz
Jim & Terri Morse
Steven Patnode
Jack Freeman
Bonnie & Arnie Miller
Ann Scala Mark Aron
AJ Longware
Ada & Alan Hutchins

Overlookers— \$100-\$499

Camp Pok-O-Moonshine
Harry & Marie Tobiassen
Virginia Jackson
Carol & Jim Kobak
Margie & David Reuther
Peter Paine Jr.
Hurricane Chapter, ADK
David Thomas-Train
Bruce Madden
Sarah Disney

Rangers—\$500-\$999

Richard Longstreth

Summit Stewards—\$1000 and up

Cloudsplitter Foundation
The 46er Conservation Trust
Jeffrey Altman

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 \$195,000 on hand and we have set a goal of raising \$55,000 more through 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)

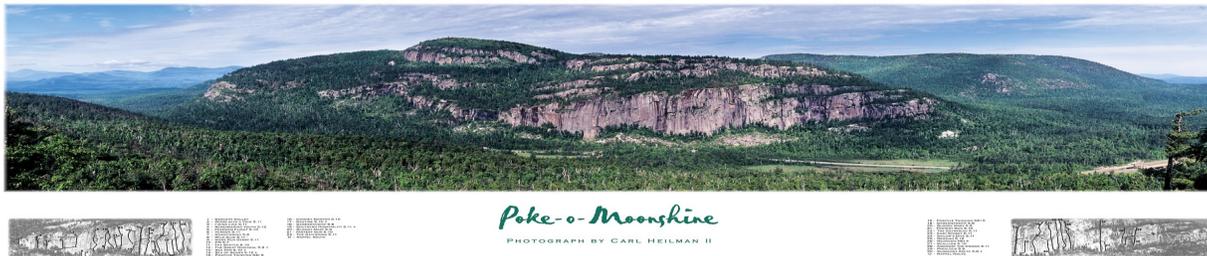
_____ Sum(m)it Up stickers; _____ Loco 4 Poke-O stickers (11" and 5", \$4 each)

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 _____



SUM(M)IT UP FOR POKE-O!!!



FALL and WINTER ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22: 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 21: 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: champlainaretrails.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4: 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: champlainaretrails.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.**

Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine
c/o AARCH
1745 Main Street,
Keeseville, NY 12944

Steering Committee

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

**Please con-
any ques-**

the Campaign To Save The Ranger Trail!

**tact us with
tions about**

Email us at friendsofpoko@gmail.com if you would like to receive the newsletter electronically.

We've recently done two publicity segments on Mountain Lakes PBS and North Country Public Radio. The links to these are: <http://mountainlake.org/programs/mountain-lake-journal> and <http://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/32617/20160926/second-round-of-trail-repairs-underway-on-poke-o-moonshine>



The Adirondack Mountain Club Trail Crew At Work On The Ranger Trail; photo - Zach Hirsch, NCPR

Both photos - Autumn 2016

Hikers Descending Rock Staircase At The Cliff Face Built By ADK and Tahawus Trails; photo - Kari Zurlo

