



Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine Fall-Winter Newsletter 2017-2018

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



HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, FIRE TOWER!

Centennial Celebration Ripping Good Fun and Success!

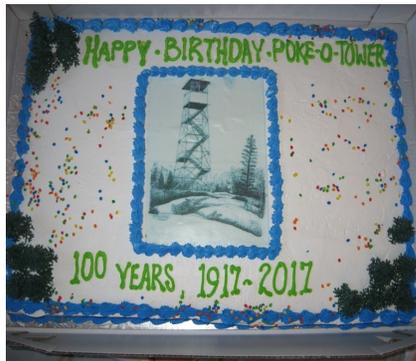
The weekend of July 28-30, 2017 saw the celebration of the Centennial (1917-2017) of the restored Poke-O-Moonshine fire tower, as well as the 20th Anniversary (1997-2017) of The Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine. Five events filled out the weekend celebrations.

On Friday evening at Adirondack Architectural Heritage, we hosted an exhibit and silent auction of Poke-O artwork, followed by a slide presentation on the history of Adirondack fire towers and of our on the mountain. 14 painters, photographers, and sculptors participated in the exhibit, and 40-50 people attended both events.

Late Sunday morning, well over a hundred friends of Poke-O hiked to the summit to tour the tower, enjoy the summit, and sing along with the Essex-based singers, The Wannabees. The tower was festooned with balloons and a birthday banner for all to sign. In mid-afternoon, hikers and a hundred or so others gathered at the campground for cake and speeches by several who have been involved in the history and restoration of the fire tower at Poke-O, and at other mountains.

In late afternoon, the crowd shifted to a party at Ausable Brewing Company, which featured its sodas and beers, headlined by "Poke-O Pilsener", a spruce beer brewed specially for the occasion. Food by Mace Chasm Farm, and music by local bands Alice's Fault, Ploughman's Lunch, and The Wannabees kept everyone energetic and excited. The art exhibit and silent auction continued, along with a 50-50 raffle and sales of commemorative beer bugs and Poke-O paraphernalia. About 250 party-goers attended and stayed on until the end of the music at around 8pm.

A wonderful time was had by all, we raised over \$4000, and now the fire tower enters its second century in happiness and health..Long live Poke-O-Moonshine!



Nancie Battaglia

Clockwise from top left: Miranda Bell, our 19th Tower Steward, carbo-loading for another hike up the mountain; the Centennial Birthday Cake; the crowd at the tower Sing-Along; Lieutenant Ranger Gary Friedrich speaking at the campground gathering; some of the crowd at the campground (we lack photos from the Ausable Brewing Co party - please send any!)

VISIT THE POKE-O ONLINE STORE

Help Support The Ranger Trail Campaign With Holiday Gifts



T Shirts, Centennial Decals, 3 Styles of Caps, and Coffee-Tea Mugs

Visit www.pokeomoonshine.org and go to the “Poke-O Store” tab to place your order. There are several colors available for the hats and shirts. The coffee mugs are replacing the clear glass beer mugs. There are a few beer mugs, which have both Friends and Ausable Brewing Company logos still available for \$10 each at Ausable Brewing at 765 Mace Chasm Road, Keeseville.

MANY THANKS!

- Thom Loreman**, for setting up and managing the Poke-O online store (see above)
- Speedy Arnold**, for designing the Centennial T shirt
- Gerry Morrow and Shelley Davis**, for all their help from the Town of Chesterfield
- Ausable Brewing Company**, for creating “Poke-O Pilsener” as a fundraiser for us
- Mace Chasm Farm**, for installing a benefit Poke-O sales counter at its butcher shop
- Jodi Vella**, for replacing the sign-in canister in the leanto
- All the artists, musicians, buyers, and anonymous donors** at the Centennial Adirondack Trail Improvement Society, for its annual loan of tools for our trail work days
- Sharp Swan**, for the fire tower flag pole and the historic centennial newsletter, “Poqui-Moosie”
- Colin Loher**, for organizing and sharing donations from a Poke-O climbing festival

RECENT DONORS

The following individuals, organizations, and companies have made generous donations to the *Friends* since October, 2016. Thanks to all of you!! If you have not recently made a donation, please do so now. In slightly more than two years, we have raised almost \$220,000 in gifts and pledges toward our five-year, \$250,000 goal.

We can keep on educating hikers and restoring the Ranger Trail only with your help. THANK YOU!

Trailheaders—up to \$49

Mary Ellen Cleveland
 Michael Shaw
 Mrs. John Appelbergh
 Catherine Schultz
 Tom Singer
 Jean-Philippe Nault
 Larry Roberts
 Jon Gautier
 Andrew Stern

Cliff Climbers— \$50-\$99

Gretchen & Walter Goller
 David Carroll Daniel Goltzman
 Bob McGee Lois & Ron Wilson
 William Gratz Elizabeth Lee
 Margaret Gruetzmacher
 Audrey Hyson Barbara Juh
 Ada & Alan Hutchins
 Mark Joslow Ronald Strand
 Diane Hennessey Aaron Graves
 Dan Plumley

Overlookers— \$100-\$499

Judy & Pete Gucker
 Sharp Swan Ken Adams
 Jack Swan Link Kilbourne
 David & Margie Reuther
 Katherine Preston
 James Tynan Edwin Truman
 Harry & Marie Tobiassen
 Kathleen & Terry Barrett
 Jack Gordon Lloyd Lowy
 Daniel Fernholz Robert Zaret
 Hurricane and Keene Valley ADK
 Ausable Brewing Company

Rangers—\$500-\$999

Nancy & Tom Hayhurst

Summit Stewards—\$1000 and up

Patagonia
 Peter Paine
 Jeffrey Altman Algonquin Chapter, ADK

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SUPPORT THE RANGER TRAIL PROJECT!

You have read about our work on the mountain. We need your help on our Steering Committee, 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 \$220,000 on hand, and our "Sum(mit Up For Poke-O)" goal of \$30,000 is so close! 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!
IF YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN, PLEASE DO SO NOW!**

**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 can help on a committee or trails. Please contact me _____
Name _____

NAME _____ ADDRESS/EMAIL _____



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



PHOTOGRAPH BY CARL HEILMAN II

Poke-o-Moonshine
PHOTOGRAPH BY CARL HEILMAN II

PHOTOGRAPH BY CARL HEILMAN II



FALL AND WINTER ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21: Summit and Trails Cleanup. Meet at 9 AM at the Ranger Trail campground trailhead. We'll do some trail sign repairs after the summer, clean up the summit, and remove the interpretive panels for the winter.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10: Ski Exploration. Meet at the Observers' Trail; parking area at 9:30 to track and explore roads west of Poke-O. This will be a ski trip for those with at least intermediate skills to manage steep, narrow terrain. Challenging, 4+ plus hours. In cooperation with Champlain Area Trails (CATS): champlainareatrails.com.

FOR SNOWSHOE-SKI TRIPS: Dress in non-cotton layers, with a wind proof layer on top, with hat and gloves / mittens, sunglasses or goggles. Bring plenty of high energy food / snacks and plenty of warm and cold liquids. Call Chris Maron at 518-962-4640 or David Thomas-Train at 518-576-4592 for details, last-minute changes, etc. **FOR WORK PROJECTS:** Bring a pack with your usual gear and work gloves, liquids, lunch, raingear, etc. Call David Thomas-Train at 518-576-4592, or Tom Hayhurst at 518-562-9989 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
David Thomas-Train
Lynn Valenti

SUMMIT UP

FUNDS AT \$220,000, THE TOP IS IN SIGHT - IF YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN, PLEASE DO SO!

“Sum(m)it up for Poke-O”, the campaign to save the Ranger Trail is in its final push. Because DEC does not have the funds to cover the project, we have been fundraising and working to rehab the trail. We have committed to keeping the trail open, as a challenging, well-designed, sustainable, and fascinating interpretive pathway to the summit..

This is the original route up the mountain, with so many botanical, geological, and historic features which we protect and detail for hikers in our interpretive flyer. This year, under our and DEC’s guidance, the ADK Trails Program and Tahawus Trails LLC completed their third year of work on the project, with two major re-routes past eroded trail sections on the upper and lower mountain.. So far, ADK and Tahawus have built 340 solid and beautiful rock steps, 10 large rock water drainage structures, two stream crossings, and over a half mile of trail re-routes

In just under four years, we have received over \$220,000 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. 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! **Below: a 2017 staircase just completed, overview of the project, a 2016 staircase re-vegetated.**

