

BINGHAMTON CHAPTER OF THE ADK  
Minutes for March 9, 2010

The General Meeting was called to order at 7 PM with Chair Gary Vanderbles presiding. The minutes were read and approved. New members Valerie Boulton and Adam Lutz introduced themselves.

**Chair –**

Gary Vanderbles announced that the Frost Valley YMCA, located in the Catskills, offers use of their facility to interested parties. He passed around a brochure that mentioned cross-country skiing, hiking, and fly-fishing as just a few of the activities. There are also lodging facilities available. Contact them at [www.FrostValley.org](http://www.FrostValley.org).

Gary mentioned that he had just completed the book, The Adirondack Reader, and recommended it to anyone who has not read it. It includes 400 years of Adirondack history. Mentioned also was an article in the Adirondack Explorer concerning a portion of the area's scenic railroad being turned into a bikeway.

**Vice Chair –**

Donna Cole said that progress continued on the Chapter's basket contribution to the Black Fly Affair.

**Treasurer –**

Mark Epstein reported that the Chapter's net worth is \$1,198.87. A copy of Mark's report is attached to a hard copy of the minutes.

**Director –**

Erik Gregory explained the purpose of the Black Fly Affair and the baskets donated by the Chapters. He also mentioned that the Director's meeting March 6 was a wrap-up of the financial reports for 2009. Gary Vanderbles asked Erik if the Chapter can be a 501C. Are we tax exempt? Erik will ask Headquarters about this.

**Outings Chair –**

John Lynch reported that both the Slide Mt. and Whitney Point activities had to be cancelled due to poor weather conditions. But Gary reported that on March 7 a group went for a 6 mile snowshoe/cross-country ski trip at Kennedy Forest.

John reminded us of the Earth Day celebrations (April 22) to take place at Vestal High School & MacArthur Elementary School. Our Chapter will be participating at one place or the other – John will put out more information as the event gets closer.

**Programs Chair –**

Pat Connors reported that the Apalachin Trail through-hiker presentation had to be postponed due to a schedule conflict. Ken Jackson will give a presentation on hiking a portion of the AT. Our next meeting will be a planning meeting.

**Conservation Chair –**

Howie Thompson reported that there is a new log book at the Tirrell Pond lean-to. He also suggested that members contact their local representatives to express their opinions concerning the closure of some of our area parks and recreation facilities due to budget cuts.

**Membership & Communications Chair –**

The web site is up and running! A big "Thank You" to Terri Gracin and Ken Jackson for all their hard work! Terri suggested that submitted picture files have the name and date of the trip for easier reference.

**New Business –**

Don O'Brien mentioned that members might want to look at Wild Times a publication put out by Adirondack Explorer. Don says it's a great reference for hiking and paddling trips.

**Ongoing Business –**

Neil Woodward had offered to speak to our Chapter members and the local public concerning the ADK's position on natural gas drilling. After some consideration, the Chapter has declined the offer due to safety issues and lack of participation.

Following the General Meeting, Ken Jackson gave us a picture tour of his hike along portions of the Apalachin Trail, and Pat Connors showed us pictures of his hike with John Lynch to the top of Black Top Mtn. in the Catskills.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday April 13 at Gander Mountain on Harry L. Drive in Johnson City. The General Meeting will begin at 7:00.

Submitted By:  
Elaine Gregory, Secretary