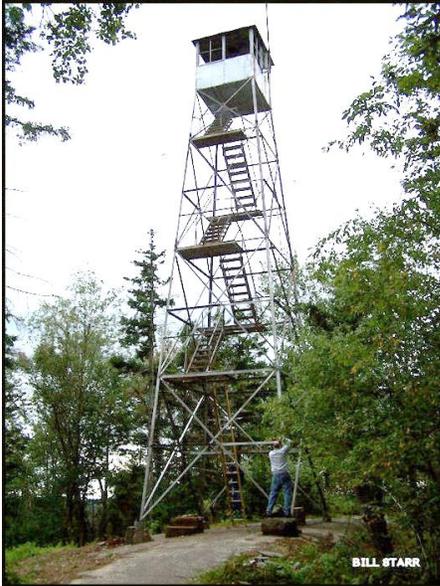


Fire Tower Challenge and

Rap-Shaw History

Weekend June 9-11, 2017



That's right members and guests two specials in one weekend, you pick, "one or both" to enrich your visit.

Join us for a fun and adventure filled "guided" weekend of exploring the restored Fire Towers in the vicinity of the Stillwater Reservoir in combination

with two lectures on the Rap-Shaw Club History presented by our honorary historians Ed and Merry Pitts.

Your guides are part of the *White Dog Adirondack Adventures* and includes eco-guides and a naturalist that will help us locate and travel safely in all-weather to view spectacular woodland vistas, wary birds and animals, and examples of native flora, some uncommon. Our goal is to hike the three Fire Tower trails over the weekend with the first being Stillwater Mountain (on our own) Friday afternoon. Our professional guides will meet us Saturday for the longer hikes. All hikes are between 2-4 miles round trip and range easy to moderate. It's your decision to hike one, two or all three of the mountains. Learn the history of these fabulous structures that are no longer manned or used for detecting fires and how they played an integral part in our New York State history.

Ed Pitts, our past president, has a full program significant to the early history of Rap-Shaw from the founding of the club up until 1916. And then the club history at Beaver Dam Pond from 1917 until 1939. Both lectures will be illustrated with maps and a large number of photographs, many of which are not contained in the club photo albums.

The adventure starts on Friday evening with a Happy Hour to "meet and greet" your fellow hikers, taste the cuisine of the region; local wines, cheeses and that ever popular Croghan bologna. Dinner will be a spring mix of local and farm products. A warm evening campfire follows at dusk to get us into the Adirondack/Stillwater spirit.

Saturday morning enjoy a hardy breakfast that will speed us along on the day's journey. We will depart for Blue Mountain or Bald Mountain (order to be determined) and meet at the Trail head to begin our guided tours. If you're not hiking with us then enjoy yourselves at the club, the history lecture and presentation will start mid-afternoon. The climbers that have had enough after the first hike may also return to the Club for lunch and some history.

Those continuing the climb will be having lunch at the trail head and then begin our second ascent of the day with our professional guide and naturalist enjoying 360-degree panoramic views of the surrounding Adirondack forests, lakes, mountains and valleys. If one hike is enough for you than return to the Club for lunch and an afternoon with Ed and Merry.

At the end of the afternoon we will return to the Rap-Shaw Club, for another of those famous "BYO" Happy Hours on the porch of Main Camp. Saturday night's dinner will be followed by a campfire for your pleasure. Sunday we are all invited in to listen to Ed's presentation on the club history at Beaver Dam Pond from 1917 until 1939 in the late morning.

Fee: The "Fire Tower Challenge/History" program fee

Combination – hike and lecture is \$65 in addition to the standard room and board fees. Children under 12 are \$35. (Happy Hour, guides, speaker)

History alone - \$35 in addition to the standard room and board fees. Walk-ins \$20 a day including speaker and lunch.

See the Rap-Shaw website for the 2017 Member and guest daily fees. Reservations should be made early with Jerry, as space is limited. Deadline to register is June 2nd. Additional questions call Chris Lighthipe 315-663-8312.

Fire Tower Challenge Mountains:

Stillwater Mountain - On July 2, 2016 the fire tower on Stillwater Mountain opened to the public after volunteers worked to refurbish the fire tower so it can be enjoyed by the public. A new hiking trail was constructed that is just under a mile to the tower. There is an elevation gain of about 530 feet for this hike. The fire tower has been added to the popular Adirondack Fire Tower Challenge.

Blue Mountain is one of the taller mountains in Hamilton County and one of the most popular affording outstanding views and a modest challenge to summit. The hiking varies from an easy start to an old access road, followed by an elevation gain to a very attractive stream, and then at 1.25 miles the climbing kicks in continuing to be steep as it passes over open rock slabs. The steep terrain will leave way for a gentle hike along the ridge to the fire tower on the summit. The best views are from the stairs on the tower itself; the cab of the fire tower is closed and locked, but there is an old observer's cabin just over the rise. Elevation 3760' Distance to the summit 2.0 miles, families with young children and out of shape hikers 2 hours to the summit.

Bald Mountain (Rondaxe Fire Tower) is a 1.7 mile out and back trail with an ascent of about 500 feet located near Old Forge that features beautiful wild flowers and is rated as moderate. Dogs are also able to use this trail but must be kept on leash. The start of the hike is a deceptively easy walk in the woods, but fairly soon you come to the steepest section where you climb a widely eroded trail up onto the top of the descending ridge. Soon after you begin to top out you come to the first of several intermediate viewpoints. After that the trail follows the spine of the ridge with a few minor ups and downs. The Rondaxe Fire Tower, located on the summit, has been restored so that you can climb up for the best views.