

-Monthly- Hoboken Ski Club Group Hikes

Once a month moderate pace day hikes (3-5 hours in length) to different scenic areas of the greater NY/NJ during the skiing “off-season” (April thru November) with a stop (optional) at a restaurant/brewpub afterwards. Non-ski club member friends are welcome to join. Meet at trailhead at start time or carpool with others from Hoboken area in the A&P parking lot across from Willie McBride’s (in Hoboken) at 9 a.m. the day of the hike.

Hikes during the skiing off-season start Sept 26th!

For those in the ski club who are looking for additional ways to socialize and stay active with your ski buddies during the skiing off-season, I (the author of this story, Joe Niemec) have volunteered to organize a regular schedule of monthly hikes starting in late September of this year.

The hikes will usually be between 5 to 8 miles in length (3 to 5 hours time wise) and will cover the best and most scenic terrain and vistas that the greater NY/NJ area has to offer. We will cover a variety of both popular and not so well known treks in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania including the Delaware NRA, Harriman SP/Bear Mountain and Hudson Valley and points north.

As one might guess, hiking is a great way to keep your legs, your balance and your lungs in shape for the upcoming ski season. (I try to do at least one a week) Unlike many group activities, (including skiing) you can never have “too many people” on a hike. A group of even 40 or 50 is usually not a problem. In fact, a large group can be quite the moving party, as the group “atmosphere” seems to help to motivate everyone.☺

The tentative plan right now is to run them once monthly (usually near the end of the month) from April thru November. Ideally, we will pick hikes in locations that are suitable for the conditions of the time of year. For example, warmer months may include hikes with leaf cover, shade, lakes, streams and waterfalls or visits to swimming holes. In cooler months like November, we will try to choose hiking routes on open rock. (Open rock exposes you to direct sunlight as well as throwing off extra heat). November’s scheduled hike on Bearfort Ridge near Greenwood Lake has lots of open rock and can be quite comfortable in colder weather. Hiking after the leaves have fallen also can open views that are blocked by foliage during the summer months.

After the hikes whenever possible, there will be an optional local restaurant stop for food and drinks, which is always enjoyable after a day on the trail. Also, the price to attend these hikes is very reasonable. (Free ☺)

For more info on the September or other upcoming hikes, check the www.hobokenskiclub.com events schedule or contact Joe Niemec at jniemec@optonline.net or call (201) 452 3882

Also, if you wish to be on the Hoboken ski club “Hiking List” send a request to: jniemec@optonline.net



The inaugural hike for the "Hike a month" series (This will be the name until I think of something better...someone suggested "Monthly Mountain March" but it sounded a little too military. J) will be on Sunday, September 26th in the popular hiking Mecca of the NY area, Harriman State Park.

This central Harriman State park loop hike climbs to the summits of Green Pond and Island Pond Mountains, goes through the long and narrow "Lemon Squeezer" via the *original* section of the 2,100 mile (Maine to Georgia) Appalachian trail, and passes the historic Boston Mine.

Length and time: 7.5 miles that should take approx 4 ½ hours at a moderate pace. Some moderately strenuous climbs.

Meet: at A&P parking lot across from Willie McBrides in Hoboken by 9:30 a.m. to carpool with others to the Red Apple Rest on Route 17 in Southfields, NY by 10:45 am. Food and drinks available at Red Apple.

Or...simply meet at the Red Apple Restaurant on NY 17 north in Southfields, NY at 10:45 am.

We will be starting the hike from the "Elk Pen" parking lot in Harriman SP, 2 miles north of the Red Apple on Arden Valley road off of NY 17 north.

Bring: Hiking boots, lunch, snacks, plenty of water, your friends and their friends J (all welcome).

Directions to the Red Apple: Take NJ 17 north into NY to exit 15A on NY State Thruway (no toll) follow NY 17 north approx 10 miles. Red Apple is on the right

For information, call or E-mail Joe Niemec at (201) 452-3882 and jniemec@optonline.net

To be added to the Hoboken Ski Club hiking list, please send a request to jniemec@optonline.net