

Newsletter - Vol 16 - Issue Three – Fall 06

Shelter Island Biking Trip (Sep 23) by Bell Yee

Usually we watch the weather forecast closely before an AO event; we didn't do that for this biking trip. We wished the rainy forecast indicated only a passing shower, and yet it turned out to be accurate, and it was then too late to cancel the event. Incredibly, of the 34 people registered, 18 showed up. During the nearly two-hour drive out to Greenport, the rain was already on and off. Yet when you have traveled that far, a bit of wet weather wasn't going to stop us. We took the ferry to the island with the threatening-looking sky overhead.

After we started out from Piccozzi's Bike Shop, it started to drizzle. Damn It. Then it started coming down steady; we pedaled on. The front wheel spun water, and some got thrown up into our faces. That's not very pleasant, but I guess we were die-hards by now. When we reached our usual lunch spot at the end of the road on Ram Island, the rain still maintained its strength. So standing in the rain with our bikes we chomped down on our sandwiches and made the best of it. There was talk about giving up at this time; somehow the idea vaporized. As we headed towards our next destination--the Tuck Shop for our usual ice cream stop--miraculously the rain slowed down to a drizzle and we could see clear skies ahead.

That sight energized us and we forged on ahead as the road started to dry up. We made it to the ice cream shop in dry weather. Then we headed to the usual photo-op at Kissing Rock and then back to Piccozzi's. Two members fell far behind and got lost. With our navigation tips over cell phone, we guided them back to the bike shop.

A piece of advice for "newbies": at the end of the day, we usually go out for dinner nearby before heading home. So if you plan to skip dinner and go back to the city directly, it would be wise to communicate that with your carpool driver in advance.

Minnewaska Autumn Foliage Outing (Oct 21) by Kenny Eng

It was a sunny, and yet cool and windy day. Still, 48 people came to Asian Outdoors annual fall foliage hike at Minnewaska State Park. The high winds from the day before caused some leaves to fall, but the view was nonetheless spectacular. As we hiked the 7 ½ miles along the Awosting Carriageway trail, we observed Rainbow Falls, panoramic views of the valley and had a good view of Lake Awosting at lunch. Amazing that we found a spot to take a group picture with over 40 people. Our last stop, Awosting Falls, was ½ mile down the road. It was worth the walk because the waterfall was at full strength, thanks to the heavy rain a couple of days ago. Everyone was taking pictures of this powerful waterfall, and of course huddled together one more time for a group picture.

I would like to thank Gordon for being the sweeper on the hike and doing a good job. I also want to thank all the drivers who offered carpool rides. Without them, we would not have had such a big turnout.

For those who missed this hike, see you next year.

Minnewaska Autumn Foliage Outing (Oct 21) by Armando Jimenez

Instead of hiking, a few AO members rode our mountain bikes and had a blast. We were able to cover about three times the distance the hikers did and got some great photos. As Minnewaska is a large park with 2 mountain lakes, the only way to discover most of the park in one day is mounting a bike. We met other hiking groups along the way and had pleasant conversation with them. The day was gorgeous, though it was a little windy. With the right gear, the fall weather is great for trail riding or hiking.

Up and Coming Events

Sun – Nov 19th – Orienteering @ Holmdel Park
Sat - Dec 2nd – Hike @ Croton Aqueduct
Sat – Dec 9th – Ballroom 101 @ Flushing
Sat – Dec 16th – Xmas Party @ East Buffet
Sat - Jan 6th – Winter Trails /Snowshoeing
Fri/Mon – Jan 19th-22nd – Extended Ski Weekend @ Sunday River ME
Sat/Sun – Jan 27th/28th – Mini XC Ski Weekend @ Lapland Lake
Fri/Sun – Feb 9th/11th – Ski Weekend @ Killington VT