



ANNUAL REPORT

2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

Statement from the Co-Chairs	1
Restoration Highlights	2
Stewardship Report	4
Financial Statement	5
Contact Information	6
Organization Information	6

STATEMENT FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Statement from the Co-Chairs

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower receive a continuous stream of donations from supporters, usually modest, but occasionally substantial. This year we were fortunate to receive several anonymous donations that funded the roof replacement.

OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

This year was a successful collaboration between the Friends, the New State Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York State Police and the tower reconstruction firm, Davana, LLC that resulted in the replacement of the dilapidated roof, window supports and cab painting. Additional collaboration with the Adirondack Watershed Institute of Paul Smith's College saw tower stewards educating the public one day a week during the Summer and Fall seasons.

LOOKING AHEAD

Future plans include replacement of all 24-diagonal angle steel structural members, footer repair, painting, interpretative panels and expansion of both the paid and volunteer tower steward programs.

W. Douglas Fitzgerald, Co-chair

David Petrelli, Co-chair

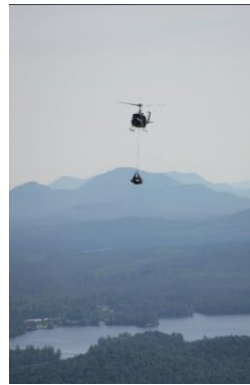
12/31/2016

RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

Restoration Highlights

2016 was a very exciting year for tower restoration!

A series of anonymous donations allowed the Friends to contract with David Vana of Davana, LLC in Bloomingdale, NY to remove the old roof, fabricate new parts and assemble them on the tower. This was a huge project which involves working 40 feet up on top of the tower. On July 21, 2016, a NYS Police helicopter flew from Albany with pilots Pat Hogan and Scott Oseback and Crew Chiefs Steve Jacobs and Rob Jahn. The ground crew consisted of DEC personnel Steve Guglielmi, Jeff Balerno and Kevin Burns and Friends Bob Marrone and Scottie Adams. Roof parts, hatch railings and window frame parts were loaded into a sling. The load was airlifted from Saranac Inn Maintenance Center to the summit of St. Regis Mountain approximately 4 miles away. Ranger Kevin Burns, in the chopper and Ranger Tom Edmunds on the summit, unloaded the parts with help from other DEC personnel and volunteers (Greg Bowler, Sebastian Seubert, Hunter Hintenlang) and Friends (David Petrelli and Rich LaBombard).



Materials Delivery/Waste Removal



On July 26, 2016, the old roof was removed by David Vana, his assistant Sean Connin, and FOSRMFT member Rich LaBombard. First, the new roof panels and bundles of tools which were airlifted were unwrapped. Dave and Sean then proceeded to loosen bolts and use a power grinder – often while hanging out the cab window – to remove the old roof panels. These were then carefully lowered to the ground. The old wooden window frames and other miscellaneous parts were removed in preparation for installing the new roof panels.

On July 29, 2016, David Vana and his crew of Sean Connin and Jeff Couture, along with FOSRMFT members Jack Burke and Rich LaBombard, worked in beautiful weather to install the new roof. Jack and Rich prepared the panels on the ground. Together with Dave and crew, the panels were hoisted to the cab, and CAREFULLY lifted into place. Then the process of securing the panels to the cab frame and to the other panels was then executed. The roof was capped (again carefully with Dave standing outside the cab!!!) and VOILA – we have a new roof! A huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers, DEC, NYS Police, and Davana LLC.



RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

On September 1, 2016, windows and railings were installed in the cab... and the tower was officially opened!

Before and After



The before picture shows the tower on July 12, 2015



The after picture shows the tower on September 15, 2016

On August 27, September 15, and September 29, 2016 volunteers painted the cab, inside and out, some of the tower frame, and mounting brackets.

On September 29, 2016, the work continued. All debris except the heavy steel roof panels was removed from the summit. Missing nuts and bolts for the wall panels were installed and other hardware used for the window frames and hatch rail that was not correct was replaced. Measurements were taken to possible placement of interpretative panels inside the cab. At the end of the day, remaining paint was brought down off the mountain for warm storage over the winter.



Photo courtesy of Mark Kurtz Photography. Taken 10/6/2016

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Stewardship Report

2016 marked the second year of an increased stewardship presence on the mountain. In partnership with the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI), the Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower were able to provide seven days of coverage. On Fridays in the months of June, July, and August, one steward educated visitors on the summit and on the trail. Summit stewarding is an important way to educate visitors about history, the environment, and the importance of conservation. Since the fire tower is no longer used as a tool in forest fire prevention efforts, it is now a platform for out-of-doors education.

Below is a table summary of our stewardship numbers:

DATE	NUMBER OF VISITORS REACHED
June 17, 2016	12
June 24, 2016	15
July 8, 2016	41
July 15, 2016	25
July 22, 2016	27
July 29, 2016	33
August 5, 2016	17
Total	170

Part of restoring and opening the tower meant developing an educational and interpretive program that promotes the historic and cultural values of the St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower, the NYS Fire Tower Network, and the Adirondack Forest Preserve. To begin this process, the Friends created summit cards for stewards to hand out on the summit. This project was started in 2015. In 2016, summit cards were signed and dated by the steward, allowing hikers to keep an official record of their ascent. The summit cards were popular with younger hikers, who were thrilled to be able to return off the mountain with a card acknowledging their climb.

To aid in summit stewardship, a project to fabricate and install interpretive panels inside the tower cab was started. This project is being done with the assistance of Mark Kurtz Photography, who is producing the pictures. Once this project is complete, the surrounding mountains, lakes, ponds, and other landmarks will be labeled on panels hung above the cab windows. On October 6, 2016, Mark Kurtz was joined by Friends Scottie Adams, Dr. Ed Hixon, and Rich LaBombard to hike the mountain and take pictures for the panels.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial Statements

2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE	
Grants	0
Membership Dues	0
Donations	9231
Events	0
Interest	0
Total Revenue	9231
EXPENSES	
Legal and Accounting Fees	730
Program Expense	159
Equipment	0
Supplies	183
Printing & Copying	0
IT	105
Postage & Delivery	50
Fundraising	1131
Construction Costs	6805
Total Expenses	9163
NET INCOME	68

BALANCE SHEET 12/31/2016

Assets

Current assets:

Cash 3465

Total assets \$3465

Liabilities

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable -

Total current liabilities \$-

Long-term liabilities

Mortgage payable -

Total long-term liabilities -

Total liabilities \$-

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Information



Executive Board Members: Doug Fitzgerald, Bob Marrone, Scottie Adams and David Petrelli

Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower

Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower

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