



ANNUAL REPORT

2017

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YEAR IN REVIEW AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Year in Review and Looking to the Future

2017 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower continue to receive a continuous stream of donations from supporters. Every dollar goes towards furthering our mission. Thank you all for the support.

2017 OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

With no major restoration work done this year, our focus was on interpretation. Our continued collaboration with the Adirondack Watershed Institute of Paul Smith's College saw tower stewards educating the public a total of eight days throughout the summer. Volunteer stewards covered an additional three days.

LOOKING AHEAD

2018 will be an exciting year for the Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower! We are actively pursuing different avenues that will allow us to have a stronger stewardship presence on the summit. Our volunteer steward calendar will be available again for those inclined to spend a day or two as an interpreter.

In the restoration department, hopeful projects that will be completed in the upcoming year include: replacement of all 24-diagonal angle steel structural members and painting. We also hope to install panoramic interpretive panels above the cab windows.

2018 is an important year because it marks the Centennial for the tower. While there had been an observation station on St. Regis earlier, the steel tower was constructed in 1918. Plans to celebrate the fire tower's 100th birthday are in the works. Stay tuned for more details! We don't want to give away all the surprises yet, but we will say this: you won't want to miss the party!



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Stewardship Report

2017 was a tremendous year for stewardship on St. Regis Mountain. In partnership with the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI), the Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower were able to provide eleven days of coverage, eight days with AWI staff and three with volunteers. AWI stewards provided coverage on one or both weekend day(s) throughout all of July, and also on a few days in May, June, and August. Volunteer summit stewards provided an additional three days of coverage. Altogether, the summit stewards reached over 680 visitors.



Janelle sporting a FOSRMFT hat



Carly with Cali, her 4-legged co-steward

Summit stewarding is an important way to educate visitors about history, the environment, and the importance of conservation. Throughout the summer, the stewards interacted with hundreds of visitors and helped spread the word about conservation and preservation in the Adirondacks. Since the fire tower is no longer used as a tool in the forest fire prevention efforts, it is now a platform for out-of-doors education. The tower itself served as a museum and the stewards offered information regarding how the tower and observers played a part in the protection of the natural resources of the Adirondacks.

Below is a table summary of our stewardship numbers:

DATE	NUMBER OF VISITORS REACHED
Sunday, May 28, 2017	63
Saturday, June 24, 2017	80
Sunday, July 2, 2017	105
Sunday, July 9, 2017	52
Sunday, July 16, 2017	54
Saturday, July 22, 2017	81
Sunday, July 23, 2017	49
Saturday, July 30, 2017	62
Sunday, July 31, 2017	60
Friday, August 11, 2017	48
Friday, August 18, 2017	30
Total	684

STEWARDSHIP REPORT



A large part of the stewardship program success in 2017 was due to the new stewardship page on the FOSRMFT website. This tool allows volunteers to see a calendar with days available for stewardship. Once a volunteer picks a day, it is either then approved or denied by a FOSRMFT Board Member. After a day has been made official, Education Chair Janelle then contacts the volunteer to provide them with any information they may need to be a successful summit steward. This includes sharing

a summit steward guide book, created largely by Board Member Bob Marrone, with the help of volunteers, which has information on the tower, its history, and the surrounding landscape. In 2017, stewards reached **over 480 more** visitors than in 2016. This could not have been accomplished without the assistance of the AWI and volunteers.

In 2017, summit stewards continued to hand out summit cards, which are signed and dated by the stewards and allow hikers to keep an official record of their climb. The cards are especially popular with younger hikers, who are thrilled to be able to return with the certification.

To aid in summit stewardship, progress continues to be made on fabricating and installing interpretive panels inside the tower cab. 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, and other landmarks will be labeled on panels hung above the cab windows.

Here are some excerpts from the steward's summer reports:

I was the first to sign in, and the first on the top, at 9:08am, on a typical hazy August morning, with a forecast of a chance of thunderstorms after 3pm. I had 48 visitors, and three dogs. When I had no visitors I either read a book, or wandered the rocky parts of the summit, surveying my kingdom. Most of the visitors were happy to hear a little about the history of the tower, and how it has been saved and reopened. Some older hikers could remember going up the tower when it was still active, and talking to the observer.

-Graham H., August 11, 2017

Today was beautiful!!! I encountered and shared smiles with 105 humans (including a 17-month-old who was carried on the back of her SUPERMOM all the way)! ALSO 5 happy dogs! The summit is worth every muddy mile, the colorful expanding view and fresh cool wind at the end of a steady climb, a natural high of the experience is extended for those who take the extra steps to climb the tower....

-Carly H., July 2, 2017



Carly looks out from the tower cab

OUTREACH

Outreach

2017 was an excellent year for outreach for FOSRMFT. From different events to social media, FOSRMFT continues to find ways to reach a wider audience. Below is a summary:

EVENTS

Two events open the public were hosted by FOSRMFT this year.

- July 10, 2017, Friends Meeting
 - This meeting was held at Historic Saranac Lake in Saranac Lake, NY on Monday, July 10th at 7pm. Using PowerPoint, the Board Members of FOSRMFT gave an informational presentation about the history of the fire tower, the restoration process, stewardship, publicity, operations, and volunteer opportunities.
- July 23, 2017, Adirondack Fire Towers – History and Restoration
 - This presentation given by fire tower author and historian Marty Podskoch was held at the Paul Smith's College Visitor Interpretive Center in Paul Smiths, NY on Sunday, July 23rd at 2pm. Podskoch spoke on the history of Adirondack fire towers and their restoration.

NEWS ARTICLES

FOSRMFT and the tower restoration were featured in two news articles in 2017. The first was in March and was published in the Adirondack Explorer and Adirondack Almanack. FOSRMFT Co-Chair Doug Fitzgerald, along with reporter Mike Lynch, hiked (and skied) to the tower via the Lake Trail, or Teddy Roosevelt Trail. The article featured a detailed description of the snowy route as well as information about the tower restoration.

In July 2017, following FOSRMFT's open house meeting, the Adirondack Daily Enterprise published an article covering the topics of the meeting, for those who could not attend.

Copies of each article can be found on our website under the "News" tab.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Jumping from the in-person world to the digital one, FOSRMFT continues to work hard to promote their mission online.

On Facebook, posts are frequently seen by hundreds of people. This statistic is measured by the "Insights" tab on the organization's page. As of Dec. 31, 2017, 867 people "Like" FOSRMFT's Facebook page.

In September 2017, FOSRMFT launched an Instagram page to share pictures of St. Regis Mountain and the surrounding landscape. In just a few months, the page has gathered 206 followers (as of December 31, 2017).

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial Statements

2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE	
Grants	0
Membership Dues	0
Donations	2198
Events	0
Interest	0
Total Revenue	2198
EXPENSES	
Legal and Accounting Fees	25
Program Expense	125
Equipment	0
Supplies	0
Printing & Copying	14
IT	35
Postage & Delivery	62
Fundraising	791
Construction Costs	0
Total Expenses	1052
NET INCOME	1146

BALANCE SHEET AS OF 12/31/2017

Assets

Current assets:

Cash 4,614

Total assets \$4,614

Liabilities

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable -

Total current liabilities \$-

Long-term liabilities

Mortgage payable -

Total long-term liabilities -

Total liabilities \$-

CONTACT INFORMATION

FRIENDS OF ST. REGIS MOUNTAIN FIRE TOWER

Contact Information

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From left to right: Bob Marrone, Doug Fitzgerald, Scottie Adams, Janelle Hoh, David Petrelli, and Rich LaBombard. Photo provided by Justin Levine, Adirondack Daily Enterprise