



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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YEAR IN REVIEW AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Year in Review and Looking to the Future

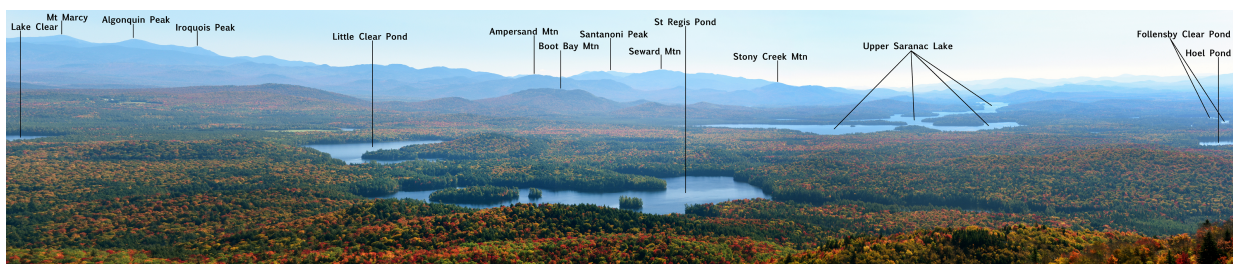
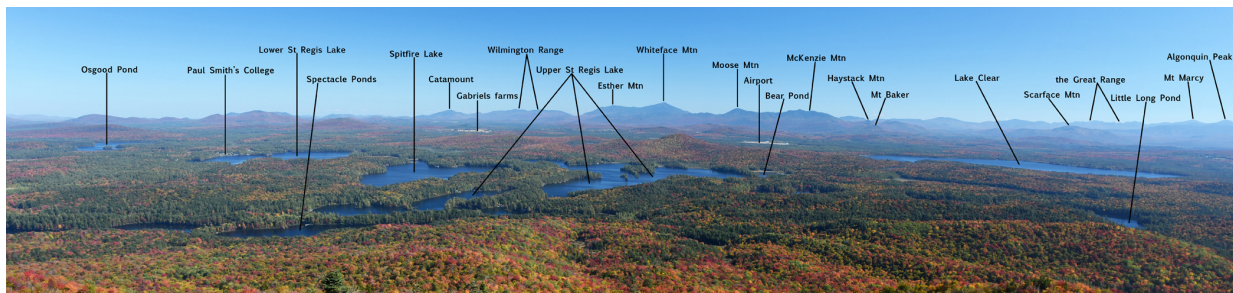
2021 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Friends continue to receive a steady stream of donations from supporters. Every dollar goes towards furthering our mission Thank you all for the support.

2021 OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

This year's major projects were fabricating & installing the labeled panoramic panels in the cab, and painting the tower.

The two photos used in the panels were taken by local photographer Mark Kurtz. They show the east and south views as seen from the cab. The mountains and water bodies in the pictures are labeled so visitors can easily identify what they are seeing. The panels were fabricated by board member Jack and volunteer Jay. On September 2 board members Jack, Doug and Rich along with Jay paddled across the Upper St Regis Lake to the lake trailhead, carried the panels to the summit (taking turns!), and installed them onto the ceiling using brackets fabricated by friend Earl.



YEAR IN REVIEW AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



Throughout the summer, board members Rich, Doug, and Bob, and volunteer Tom worked on the tower painting project. Thus far the majority of the stringers and railings have been painted. This has proven to be a very involved process. The fencing needs to be removed, therefore painting the stringers is cumbersome and slow; we are painting all surfaces of the railings. Then the fencing needs to be put back with galvanized wire. After 8 days of painting throughout the summer, there is hopefully only one day left to finish the stringer/railing portion of the project.

LOOKING AHEAD

2022 should be another rewarding year for the Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower! Next year we will paint the legs, horizontal cross braces and possibly re-paint the inside and outside of the cab. The diagonal braces were new in May 2019 and still look good. Painting the braces and legs will involve laying planks across the horizontal braces so the painter – with a safety harness

YEAR IN REVIEW AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

on – can access the legs away from the landings. All the way to the top! We will also look at “if and when” the roof will require painting. The panels currently installed will be assessed for how well they survived the winter weather and any necessary modifications will be made. It may also be possible to get permission from the NYS DEC to install the western and northern panoramic panels in the future.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Stewardship Report

2021 was another 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 more than 35 days of coverage, between AWI staff and volunteers. Our summit steward for 2021 was Ethan Johnson, a Paul Smith's student. He was an excellent and enthusiastic ambassador for the mountain and the tower.

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 for 2021:

Month	Days Present	Number of Visitors Reached
May 2021	2	136
June 2021	10	388
July 2021	14	687
August 2021	7	309
September 2021	1	72
October 2021	1	65
Total	35	1657

In 2021, 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.

Year	Days	Number of Visitors Reached	Visitors Reached/Day
2016	7	170	24
2017	11	684	62
2018	29	1129	39
2019	15	866	58
2020	0	0	0
2021	34	1642	47

OUTREACH

Outreach

Trail reports: Summit stewards and work crews continue to give periodic reports on trail conditions which are posted on our Facebook page and on the website.

EVENTS

Annual Lighting of the Tower: September 4, 2021

This was St Regis Mountain Tower's fifth lighting and the 8th annual lighting state wide. The day was filled with activities on the trail, on the summit and tower during the daytime, at many locations with views of the tower in the evening - most especially the Lake Clear Lodge and the Paul Smith's VIC - and of course on the tower for the lighting!

The lighting of the towers event started in the Catskills and has spread to other towers around New York. In their heyday, fire towers and their observers kept watchful eyes over the land, spotting fires in early detection efforts. The lights from this event serve as a reminder for those who looked up and saw a glowing tower, and of the people and towers who looked over communities for the better part of the 1900s.



During the day, board members Doug and Jack joined Paul Smith's College VIC director Scott van Laer to lead a hike to the St. Regis Mt. tower. Steward Ethan met the group on the summit to share his knowledge and experiences being the steward all summer. It was a wonderful day to be on the mountain. After the guided hike, the VIC held a gathering for folks to see the lighting from the Center's deck.

Board members Bob and Rich hiked up early with the intention of doing some painting before lighting the tower. Friend Mark Boyce and another new friend - Jay Berkman who traveled from Canton - stayed with us throughout the lighting. The photo shown is his work.

Meanwhile, board members Nancy, Scottie and Ed and many others gathered at the Lake Clear Lodge. They enjoyed a fine meal and stories of St. Regis Mt by Ernest. Ed gave a talk about the history of the tower. Then they all went down to the beach to see the tower lit up.

OUTREACH



The Lake Clear Lodge and Retreat has hosted the Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower "Lighting the Tower" dinner party for the last four years. As a thank you, board member Bob presents a beautiful picture of the lit-up tower to Ernest and Kathy Hohmeyer, proprietors of the Lake Clear Lodge and Retreat.

NEWS ARTICLES

Copies of newspaper articles and pictures can be found on our website under the "News" tab.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Board members continued to update the FOSRMFT website and Facebook page in 2021.

The website provides continually updated restoration progress, as well as daily steward reports, photos of hikers, news articles featuring the tower and a multitude of educational resources.

The Facebook page publishes much of the same information as the website as well as providing a platform to reach more people on a regular basis. Our social media presence makes it easy for hikers to send in photos to be featured on the page. The page gained 126 followers in 2021, with a total of 1673 by the end of the year.

In September 2017, FOSRMFT launched an Instagram page to share pictures of St. Regis Mountain and the surrounding landscape. The page has gathered 350 followers to date.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial Statements

2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE	
Grants	0
Membership Dues	0
Donations	2629
Events	0
Interest	0
Total Revenue	2629
EXPENSES	
Legal and Accounting Fees	199
Program Expense	700
Equipment	0
Supplies	23
Printing & Copying	43
IT	35
Postage & Delivery	112
Fundraising	760
Construction Costs	858
Total Expenses	2730
NET INCOME	-51

BALANCE SHEET AS OF 12/31/2021

Assets

Checking/Saving:

Adirondack Bank \$3131

Total assets \$3131

Liabilities and Equity

Equity:

Retained Earnings \$10,101

Unrestricted Net Assets -\$6,918

Net Income -\$51

Total Equity \$3131

Total liabilities \$0

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors

Doug Fitzgerald - Co-chair

David Petrelli – Co-chair

Nancy LaBombard - Treasurer

Richard LaBombard- Operations

Janelle Hoh – Education 1/21- 5/21

Bob Brand - Education 6/21- 12/21

Scottie Adams

Jack Burke

Dr. Ed Hixson

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Information

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