

Aug 7, 2016

Dear Tower Supporter

The restoration is progressing!

To summarize last years accomplishments:

- Determination that Bicknell's thrush does not breed on the summit of St. Regis, study performed by ornithologist Brian McAllister, allowing us freedom to perform work whenever we need to.
- Delivery of building materials to the summit by State Place helicopter with DEC personnel.
- Railings, stairs, safety fencing and the floor of the cab were replaced by the Friends and the Student Conservation Association (SCA).

Another major highlight of 2015 was a series of anonymous donations which allowed us to contract with David Vana of DAVANA, LLC, a company that specializes in fire tower restoration, to fabricate the parts and replace the old roof which was badly deteriorated.

Early in 2016, a logo/patch design contest was held. The winner, Jackie Sullivan Passetti, was chosen by the executive committee. She is a teacher/artist from Manlius, NY. Jackie climbed St. Regis for the first time this May (2016) and was inspired to create a lovely



logo/patch. We thank all the contributors for their time and effort. All the entries submitted can be seen on our website. In addition to the patch, we intend to use the logo for other promotional items. The patch will be used as a thank you gift for anyone donating five dollars or more to The Friends Of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower. Contribute more than \$5 and we'll include a logo decal. See

our website (<http://www.friendsofstregis.org/donate/>). The Friends organization is now incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization. Our thanks and gratitude to [Adirondack Architectural Heritage](#) (AARCH) for supporting our cause while attaining our tax free status.



The roof and other parts were airlifted to the summit on July 21, 2016 with assistance from a New York State Police helicopter and personnel out of Albany, DEC rangers, Kevin Burns and Tom Edmunds, Asst Ranger, Greg Bowler, DEC volunteers Sebastian Seubert and Hunter Hintenlang and Friends, David Petrelli and Rich

LaBombard. Debris from the summer of 2015 was removed at the same time.



The old roof was removed on July 26th by David Vana, his assistant, Sean Connin and Friends volunteer, Rich LaBombard. The new roof was installed on July 29th by David Vana, Sean Connin and Jeff Couture of DAVANA, LLC assisted by Friends Rich LaBombard, Jack Burke and AWI Summit Steward Elisa McIntosh. Window frames, hatch fencing and railings will be installed by the Friends group later this month. After an inspection by the state engineer and final approval from the DEC, the tower should be officially open!

Future plans include replacing the cross braces, painting the tower, replacing the cab ceiling, cosmetic repair of base footings, adjusting the stair base and signage.

The Aquatic Watershed Institute (AWI) of Paul Smith's College is providing a summit steward who is scheduled to be on the mountain every Friday during the summer season. If anyone is interested in helping out with this project, being a volunteer steward, donating, or joining the Friends group, all are welcomed. You can get more information on our website (<http://www.friendsofstregis.org/>).

A big thank you to all the volunteers and donors that have made the restoration a reality.

From the Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower Executive Committee.