



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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YEAR IN REVIEW AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Year in Review and Looking to the Future

2022 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.

2022 OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

Painting the tower continued during the summer of 2022. Board members Bob, Tom and Rich worked 4 days finishing the railings, then moving to the legs and braces outside of the fencing. This required use of long handled rollers, belted on paint containers, walking on planks and of course a safety harness. The complete tower has now been painted!



On the last team hike for this season, board members Bob, Tom and Rich took measurements and started the brainstorming sessions to plan a new fence for the fire tower. Since this August hike, these three as the fence replacement committee along with Chair Doug have further developed plans and ideas for a new safety fence.

YEAR IN REVIEW AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

LOOKING AHEAD

2023 already has lots of projects underway.

The fence replacement team has met several times and a plan has been submitted to the DEC for approval. The new fencing will use a heavier gauge wire, and improved means of attaching the fence to the stair and landing rails. Transport of the materials may require NYS helicopter support.

Painting is substantially complete, it is a never-ending job, touchups and some areas the inside of the cab require additional attention.

The panoramic panels installed in 2021 have fared well thus far. There is a spot of moisture on one of the panels which is hardly noticeable. A plan for the western and northern panoramic panels – as well as possibly replacing the current eastern and southern views – is in place. The images for the new panels have been labeled and verified. A funding source has been identified that will enable us to produce all four images on a more durable and weather resistant material. The project has been submitted to the DEC and awaits approval.

Planning is underway to have a display about the tower at the Paul Smith's College VIC. The original phone from the tower is already on display and additional historic artifacts are being sought. Replica panoramic panels matching the ones in the tower have been produced and will be hung in the main room of the Center building.

In 2023 we will be welcoming the Paul Smith's College VIC as our partner in supporting the Summit Steward. The Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute has been a wonderful partner with us for eight years and they are assisting us and the VIC in making the change. We see this as a perfect fit for both our organizations and look forward to a great relationship. Funding applications are in place and if approved a steward will be on the mountain three days a week from Memorial Day weekend through the holiday weekend in October.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Stewardship Report

2022 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 41 days of coverage. Our summit steward for 2022 was Tony Hanson. 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 2022:

Month	Days Present	Number of Visitors Reached
June 2022	2	55
July 2022	15	782
August 2022	12	485
September 2022	10	410
October 2022	2	162
Total	41	1894

In 2022, 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
2022	41	1894	46

- Closed due to Covid-19

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 3, 2022

The Friends of St Regis Mt Fire Tower participated in the statewide Lighting of the Fire Towers event on Sept 3rd sponsored by the NYS chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association. This was the 6th time the St Regis tower joined in and the 9th year FFLA held the lighting. Board members Tom Hirshblond and Bob Brand carried an array of lights to the summit in time to enjoy a beautiful sunset with "golden hour" fantastic views of the nearby plethora of ponds and lakes and distant Adirondack peaks. Friend and photographer extraordinaire Mark Boyce was, as usual for this event, on the summit for the entire show. We thank him for many of the photos he contributes.

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.



Meanwhile the Lake Clear Lodge hosted a special tower lighting dinner with an informative talk and slideshow by Friends board president Doug Fitzgerald followed up by tower viewing from their beach. It all came off without a hitch. The weather cooperated. Tom and Bob enjoyed a nice sunset from the summit with some interesting radiating cloud formations, saw far off lightning that was a bit of a concern until we determined it was coming from a storm northwest of Montreal, and tried to figure out where a couple of fireworks displays were coming from. The Lake Clear Lodge event had an excellent attendance for the dinner, Doug's presentation and viewing the lighting from their private beach. Lake Clear was calm and the light reflected in a beam across the water. Mary Brand greeted the guests and Doug made the rounds of the tables, handing out stickers and chatting folks up. After dinner he presented the slideshow outlining the

history of the tower and our role in the restoration and interpretation. After that everyone headed down to the shore and watched the light appear. The stars were out along with the moon and Jupiter. They talked by phone to Bob on the tower and visited until the lights went out.

OUTREACH

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 2022.

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 153 followers in 2022, with a total of 1826 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 130 posts has gathered 950 followers to date.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial Statements

2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE	
Grants	0
Membership Dues	0
Donations	2623
Events	0
Interest	0
Total Revenue	2623
EXPENSES	
Legal and Accounting Fees	383
Program Expense	0
Equipment	0
Supplies	7
Printing & Copying	0
IT	35
Postage & Delivery	106
Fundraising	552
Construction Costs	12
Total Expenses	1095
NET INCOME	1528

BALANCE SHEET AS OF 12/31/2022

Assets

Checking/Saving:

Adirondack Bank \$4659

Total assets \$4659

Liabilities and Equity

Equity:

Retained Earnings \$10,101

Unrestricted Net Assets -\$6,970

Net Income \$1528

Total Equity \$4659

Total liabilities \$0

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors

Doug Fitzgerald – Chair

Bob Brand – Vice Chair

Nancy LaBombard - Treasurer

Richard LaBombard- Operations

Jack Drury - Education

Scottie Adams

Jack Burke

Tom Hirshblond

Dr. Ed Hixson – deceased 2/23

David Petrelli

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Information

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