

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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Year in Review and Looking to the Future

2025 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

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

2025 OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

Restoration and Maintenance

Fencing - The primary focus of work on the tower was directed towards the replacement of the safety fencing. Substantial progress was made on the project. Fencing for the second section of stair risers was completed. Two sections are now complete. The material for two more risers is cut and ready for placement in June of 2026. The project is expected to be fully completed during the 2026 season.



Panoramic panels – The goal for 2025 was to install the permanent panels showing the east and south view. That project is now expected to be completed in 2026.

Education

The fire tower display at the Paul Smith's College VIC was put into place during the summer of 2025. It has grown from a few wall displays and some scattered historic artifacts, to a museum quality display case with valuable pieces of communication equipment and other historic items. Large scale posters, replica panoramic panels, trail signs and the original St. Regis Mt. fire tower map table round out the display.



LOOKING AHEAD

Summit projects

In 2026 completion of the fencing project will be the number one priority for work on the tower itself. In addition, painting the cab is expected to get done. The placement of the two remaining permanent panoramic panels in the tower cab is also a priority project.

Education and Interpretation

During 2026, in coordination with the Paul Smith's College VIC and the NYS DEC there will be a Summit Steward on the mountain five days a week. This is an increase from three days during previous summers.

In the Main Lodge at the VIC, the indoor tower display will continue to be improved. Additionally, working with VIC staff and local artists, a panoramic panel will be developed and

installed on the VIC deck. It will label landmarks and natural features of the view over Heron Marsh with St. Regis Mountain as the backdrop.

Outreach
We will again be part of the NYS FFLA Annual Lighting of the Fire Towers, held throughout the state on Saturday, September 5th. A dinner at Hohmeyer's Lake Clear Lodge & Resort will be held in conjunction with the lighting.

Stewardship Report

2025 was another tremendous year for stewardship on St. Regis Mountain. In partnership with the DEC, Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) and Paul Smith's College Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC), the Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower were able to provide **49** days of coverage and interact with **1986** visitors. Our summit steward for 2025 was, Aubrey Fox. She was an excellent and enthusiastic ambassador for the mountain and the tower and provided useful suggestions for the future.

Summit stewarding is an important way to educate visitors about history, the environment, and the importance of conservation. Throughout the summer, the steward interacts with hundreds of visitors and helps 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 serves as a museum and the stewards offer information regarding how the tower and observers played a part in the protection of the natural resources of the Adirondacks.

Below is a table summery of our stewardship numbers for 2025:

Month	Days Present	Number of Visitors Reached
May-June 2025	12	204
July 2025	9	498
August 2025	13	468
September 2025	12	512
October 2025	3	184
Total	**49**	**1866**

In 2025, 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
2023	52	2017	39
2024	42	1189	28
2025	49	1866	38

- Closed due to Covid-19

OUTREACH

Outreach

Trail reports: The summit steward and work crews continue to give periodic reports on trail conditions, which are posted on our Facebook page. This year our summit steward, Aubrey Fox, prepared a collection of photos of Plants and Fungi, Sunsets and Sunrises, and Animals on the Mountain, which can be seen on the web site.

EVENTS

Annual Lighting of the Tower: August 30, 2025

The Friends of St Regis Mt Fire Tower participated in the statewide Lighting of the Fire Towers event on August 30th sponsored by the NYS chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association. This was the 9th time the St Regis tower joined in and the 12th year FFLA held 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.



The 2025 annual St Regis Fire tower lighting dinner at the Lake Clear Lodge had a capacity crowd from throughout the North Country. Jack Drury welcomed attendees and sold raffle tickets during dinner. Simon Thill, Associate Director of Astronomy Outreach at the Adirondack Sky Center & Observatory (ASC&O) in Tupper Lake gave a brief presentation on the night sky. Jack followed with a brief overview of the purpose of the Friends of St. Regis Fire Tower followed by Aubrey Fox, Summit Steward giving a presentation about her work this past summer. Drawings for the raffle were made, followed by Peggy Lynn singing a special song, “St. Regis” from her latest album. The evening wrapped up with attendees walking out to the shore and seeing the lighted tower. Meanwhile, Board members Bob, Tom and Rich hiked to the summit with all the lighting gear. After dinner and some housekeeping chores on the tower, the lights were set up. Although it was quite rainy and very windy on the summit, the skies cleared in time for the lighting. The wind however, never slowed until it was time to leave.





Special thanks go out to the Lake Clear Lodge, the entire Hohmeyer family and everyone else who made the evening a success.

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 2025.

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 108 followers in 2025, with a total of 2041 by the end of the year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial Statements

2025FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE	
Grants	0
Membership Dues	0
Donations	3273
Events	0
Interest	31
Total Revenue	**3204**
EXPENSES	
Legal and Accounting Fees	457
Program Expense	51
Equipment	0
Supplies	131
Printing & Copying	0
IT	59
Postage & Delivery	93
Fundraising	700
Construction Costs	163
Total Expenses	**1654**
NET INCOME	**1650**

BALANCE SHEET AS OF 12/31/2025

Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Adirondack Bank	672.04
Fidelity	6401.16
Total assets	**$7,073.20**
Liabilities and Equity	
Equity:	
Retained Earnings	10,100.86
Unrestricted Net Assets	-4677.86
Net Income	1,650.20
Total Equity	$7,073.20
Total Labilities & Equities	**$7,073.20**

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

Peggy Lynn

David Petrelli

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Information

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