



Celebrating  
25 Years



# Adirondack Canoe Classic

## 2025 Paddlers Guide

*Photo by Max Finkelstein*

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# Welcome to the 2025 Adirondack Canoe Classic

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. Since 2000, our organization has worked tirelessly to inspire paddlers to explore the woods and waters of the Northeast, steward the waterways that connect Old Forge, NY, to Fort Kent, Maine, and celebrate paddling with the communities that comprise the beautiful landscape of the region.

The NFCT took over the Adirondack Canoe Classic five years ago, and the 90-Miler has become a significant part of our story, not only because it's connected us with thousands of new paddlers, but also because the race is quite literally supporting our work, from the pilings that prop up the bog bridge on Brown's Tract Carry to the cribbed stone staircase that leads into Oseetah Lake. This was always the plan: carry on the Adirondacks' grandest paddling tradition and use the revenue it generates to support paddling infrastructure across northern New York and beyond, for all to use and enjoy.

The 90-Miler takes paddlers across the original "highways" of the Adirondacks: waters traveled upon by Indigenous peoples for centuries, and later used by guides, settlers and traders to move people and goods across the Northeast — a route steeped in history. These lakes, rivers and ponds connect the Adirondack region, supporting recreation and local economies. As you make your way from Old Forge Pond to Lake Flower, you'll be treated to stunning scenery and — perhaps more importantly — discover friendships that will last a lifetime.

As always, the NFCT is grateful to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), community leaders, business owners and the amazing volunteers who come together every year to make this event possible. Give them a shout-out as you pass!

This weekend, you'll be on the water with around 600 other paddlers and 250 boats. Above all else, we value sportsmanship and safety, so we ask that you be respectful of each other and the environment. Communicate as you pass fellow racers and yield the right of way to passing boats, heed all advice and warnings offered by safety staff, and do your best to leave no trace, especially in areas of the course where we don't have volunteers stationed to clean up. When it's time to answer nature's call, be discreet and follow Leave No Trace principles or, better yet, use porta-potties whenever possible.

We're so excited to host you for the weekend; please read on for information on daily schedules, rules, boat classes, wave orders and much more.



  
**ATHLETIC BREWING CO.**  
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**Proud to sponsor the  
Adirondack Canoe Classic.  
See you at the finish line!**

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*Photo by Max Finkelstein*



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[GRBmax.com](http://GRBmax.com)

## Day 1

Sponsored by the **Central Adirondack Association & Town of Webb**; finish line sponsored by **Indian Lake & Blue Mountain Lake**.

- Start Time for Wave 1: 8 am
- Cutoff Time, 8th Lake Carry: 1 pm (16 miles)
- Cutoff Time, Raquette Lake Bridge: 3 pm (22 miles)
- Cutoff Time, Marion River: 4:30 pm (29 miles)

## Day 2

Sponsored by **Long Lake Recreation**; finish line sponsored by **Town of Harrietstown**.

- Start Time for Wave 1: 8:30 am
- Cutoff Time, End of Long Lake: 1 pm (13 miles)
- Cutoff Time, Axton's Landing: 3:30 pm (24 miles)

## Day 3

Sponsored by **ROOST & Explore Adirondack Frontier**; finish line sponsored by the **Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce**.

- Start Time for Wave 1: 8 am
- Cutoff Time, Route 3 Bridge: 1:30 pm (14.5 Miles)

A black and white photograph of four people (three men and one woman) standing outdoors in front of a wooded area. They are all wearing tropical-style short-sleeved shirts. The man on the far left is wearing sunglasses. The woman in the center is wearing a cap and sunglasses. The man next to her is wearing a cap and sunglasses. The man on the far right is wearing a visor and sunglasses. They are all smiling and have their arms around each other's shoulders.

## Join Us at the Long Lake Long Boat Regatta!

Close out the NFCT's race season in style! This 10-mile race is great for competitive paddlers and folks looking for a fun challenge. Hosted by the NFCT and Long Lake Tourism & Recreation.

**Where:** Long Lake Public Beach  
**When:** Saturday, Sept. 20

Visit [bit.ly/longlakeregatta](https://bit.ly/longlakeregatta) or scan the QR code to learn more!

A square QR code located in the bottom right corner of the promotional image, intended for users to scan and learn more about the regatta.

*There's no better combination of  
lightweight, speed, maneuverability,  
stability, and comfort.*



*See you at the finish line.*



# 2025 90-Miler Wave Order

## Wave 1

Gold Canoe Club, sponsored by Mac's Canoe Livery  
C-1 Touring, sponsored by Nori's Village Market  
Solo Recreation Touring, Voco Saranac Lake  
SUP, sponsored by Fountain Square Outfitters  
Kayak Sport Touring, sponsored by Hotel Saranac  
Kayak 2-Person Touring, sponsored by Paddler's Rest  
Super Veterans, sponsored by Elevate ADK

## Wave 2 — Thumbs up for Pete Clark

Guideboats, sponsored by Adirondack Explorer

## Wave 3

C-1 Open, sponsored by Adirondack Watershed Institute  
C-1 Stock, sponsored by Southern Tier  
Kayak Sport, sponsored by Village Cottages

## Wave 4

Solo Recreation Men, sponsored by Placid Boatworks  
Solo Recreation Women, sponsored by Hornbeck Boats

## Wave 5

C-2 Recreation, sponsored by Mountainman Old Forge  
C-2 Stock Women, sponsored by Adirondack Bank  
C-2 Stock Touring, sponsored by Dak Bar

## Wave 6

C-2 Stock Mixed, sponsored by GRBmax

## Wave 7

C-2 Stock Men, sponsored by Adirondack Health  
C-2 Open, sponsored by New York Paddlesports Racing Association

## Wave 8

C-3 Stock, sponsored by Old Forge Hardware  
C-4 Stock Women, sponsored by The Wild Center  
C-4 Stock Touring, sponsored by The Weekender  
Voyageur Canoes, sponsored by Adirondack Experience

## Wave 9

C-4 Stock Men, sponsored by St. Joe's & Citizen Advocates  
C-4 Stock Mixed, sponsored by Wenonah Canoes

## Wave 10

C-4 Open, sponsored by Sara-Placid Inn  
Kayak Open, sponsored by Adirondack Hotel  
Kayak 2-Person Men, sponsored by Town of Inlet  
Kayak 2-Person Mixed, Ampersand Bay Resort & The Woods Inn

PLEASE  
NOTE:  
DAY 3 IS  
DIFFERENT!

Boat classes  
stay in the  
same wave  
and start in  
the following  
order:

Wave 1  
Wave 2  
Wave 10  
Wave 9  
Wave 8  
Wave 7  
Wave 6  
Wave 5  
Wave 4  
Wave 3

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**Good luck to all 90-Miler racers! Warm up with our broth at the finish, then come dine with us.**

**8814 NY-30, Blue Mountain Lake  
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## THE 90-MILER

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**We thank NYSDEC for ensuring safety at the 90-Miler. This incredible tradition wouldn't be possible without you.**



**NEW YORK**  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY

**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

# Adirondack Canoe Classic: Tips, Rules & More

**Cutoff times are established for each day of racing to ensure that all racers are off the water before dark.** Paddlers failing to make the cutoffs will be required to pull out of the race for that day. Racers will receive a “did not finish” (DNF) on the timesheet for that day, but will be able to paddle the following days in Wave 1.

**Tips for basic first aid.** During the 90-Miler, common first-aid problems for participants include blisters, cuts, insect bites, dehydration, sunburn and hypothermia. We recommend that all racers: wear light, drainable protective footwear; carry one-inch regular cloth tape to wrap palms, fingers and toes, and pack Moleskin or band-aids, kept in a waterproof bag, to prevent blisters. Sun protection and synthetic long sleeve shirts and hats are helpful. Weather depending, layers for wind, rain and cold may also be needed. If any health problems arise during the race, let an official or safety personnel know.

**Electrolytes are a must.** One of the most common mistakes for first-time participants is forgetting about the all-important electrolyte. Water alone is not enough to keep you hydrated. Gatorade, Pedialyte or even just adding salt to your water will save you a literal and figurative headache later on. Salty snacks also work wonders if you prefer to just carry water.

**If you must leave the race for any reason, please notify an official with a radio immediately and tell them your boat number.** We can not stress enough how important this is as we do not want to lose anyone out on the water. We track every racer participating in this event; we will keep looking for you until we know your whereabouts. Please save us the time and worry by informing us if you must leave the race.

**All racers must wear a Coast Guard-approved PFD at all times.** This is a hard and fast rule. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. Inflatable PFDs are acceptable.

**Upgrading equipment during the race is not permitted.** Only broken or malfunctioning gear may be replaced. Racers should bring just the gear and clothes they need for the day. Wheels can be a useful tool and can be especially helpful on Day 1. Paddlers in competitive classes who opt to use wheels must carry the wheels and all associated equipment with them during the entire race.

**Pit crews are invaluable.** They may provide food, fluids and psychological support at any point. They may not carry the racer’s boat or gear, or upgrade equipment during the course of a day’s racing. Pit crews should come with their own supplies; do not raid the official water stations. Pit Crews will need to stay in contact with their teams. A list of boats that did not make cutoff times will be posted at the finish line each day so pit crews can attend to them.

**Mandatory walk zones.** We require your cooperation to maintain a safe course and to allow the Adirondack Watershed Institute staff to inspect boats for invasive species. Each day, you will see areas designated with traffic cones, signage and volunteers imploring you to walk in those areas. Failure to do so is grounds for disqualification. The specific locations are as follows:

*Day 1: On Brown's Tract Carry for an AWI inspection; the entire length of the boardwalk at the end of the Brown's Tract Carry (wheels off except guideboats, two-person kayaks and Voyageur Canoes); and halfway across the Marion River Carry for an AWI inspection.*

*Day 2: The first 300-yard section of the Raquette Falls Carry. No wheels until end of walk zone.*

*Day 3: The carry from Bartlett Carry Road to the Middle Saranac Lake put-in; the entire carry around both the Upper Locks and the Lower Locks.*

# Old Forge

# Adirondack Base Camp

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## 90-Miler: Early Check-In, Wednesday, Sept. 3

For folks in the Saranac Lake area who want to pick up registration packets early and skip the Thursday lines in Old Forge, early check-in is held from **noon to 6 p.m.** at Adirondack Lakes & Trails Outfitters, 8 Church St, Saranac Lake. Stop by to pick up your shirts, boat numbers, meal tickets, printed copies of the Paddlers Guide, prepurchased merchandise and more. While you're there, feel free to say hi to the ALTO team and stock up on last minute items. ALTO is one of the 90-Miler's premiere sponsors, and we're grateful to Jason and his staff for hosting early check-in.

## 90-Miler: Old Forge Check-In, Thursday, Sept. 4

**CHECK-IN:** 4-10 pm at the Old Forge Visitor Center. You will receive your shirts, boat numbers, meal tickets, a printed copy of our Paddlers Guide, prepurchased merchandise and more. You will likely need to wait in line. We thank you for your patience in advance. Paddlers are required to line-up outside and wait to be let into the building as space is limited. Boat numbers will be posted outside on the official 90-Miler roster; please check your boat number before entering the Visitor Center as this will help our check-in team expedite the process.

**DINNER:** There are many fantastic places to eat in Old Forge. Check them out!

**BOAT NUMBERS:** Attach the numbers to both sides of the bow. To put numbers on, make sure the boat is dry. If we will be transporting your boat from the day's finish line to the next day's start line, please put the red dots provided by us on the bow of your boat, but be sure to not cover up any part of your boat number.



Join Us for a 90-Miler Reception, 5-9 pm  
Thursday, Sept. 4. Check in for the race  
then head to 148 Route 28 in Inlet for  
refreshments, snacks, \$4 draft beer and  
s'mores by the fire!



[thewoodsinn.com](http://thewoodsinn.com)

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THEY CONTINUE BY LENDING YOUR SUPPORT!**



# 90-Miler: Day 1, Friday, Sept. 5

**LATE CHECK-IN:** Old Forge Visitor Center, 6-6:30 am. This is a busy morning for event staff and volunteers: please respect their time by checking in no later than 6:30 am. We offer multiple windows for checking in and it is your responsibility to pick up your race packet during these times.

**PADDLERS MEETING:** 7:30 am at the Start Line, Old Forge Pond. **All racers must attend.**

Course descriptions, last minute announcements, safety procedures and special considerations for the day will be presented.

**RACE START:** The first wave will start at 8 am, barring weather-related delays. All published start times are estimated. Please pay attention to the on-deck call and start order. We will call your boat number prior to the start of each wave; please listen carefully and wave your paddle when your number is called.

**PIT STOPS:** At the carry from Fifth to Sixth Lake, at Brown's Tract Carry and at the Marion River Carry.

**SAFETY:** If there is any question as to whether the race can continue safely, race officials will make the call at the bridge going into Raquette Lake. In the event of thunder and lightning at any point during the three days of the race, paddlers must exit the water and wait out the storm at the safest available spot.

**FINISH:** The finish line for Day 1 is at the public beach in Blue Mountain Lake. Parking is available at the ball field on Durant Road, the field on State Route 28, and behind the diner in Blue Mountain Lake. Please do not park along Route 28 or Durant Road. Curry's Cottages has granted us permission to use their beach for boat pick-ups. Please assist shuttle drivers in moving boats and equipment.

**CANOE TRANSPORTATION:** Participants are welcome to move their own boats. Please do not block the road at the finish line. Boats with a red dot will be transported to Bissell's Field in Long Lake, where they will be secured for the start of Day 2. Please assist the boat loaders by taking care of your paddles, PFDs and other gear, and by moving your boat to the opposite side of the road. While we take every precaution to handle your boat safely and with care, we are not responsible for minor damage that occurs during transport.

**DINNER:** All those with meal tickets can proceed to the Adirondack Hotel in Long Lake for dinner.

## Old Forge to Saranac Lake.



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# Welcome to Blue Mountain Lake



## Parking Information

There is no parking on the north (lake) side of Durant Road. Cars parked on this side will be towed by order of the New York State Police.

Please use designated canoe race parking areas. One is located by the school tennis courts at the east end of Durant Road, and another is located at the field between Durant Road and the Routes 28 and 30 intersection.

Green vest traffic guides can also assist you in parking on the south side only of Durant Road.



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# 90-Miler: Day 2, Saturday, Sept. 6

**PADDLERS MEETING:** 8 am at the start line at Bissell's Field on Endion Lane on the west side of Long Lake. Follow the signs and direction of race personnel. All racers must attend. Last minute announcements, course descriptions, safety procedures and special considerations for the day will be presented.

**RACE START:** The first wave will start at 8:30 am. Boats will mass start in waves by class. Please pay attention to the on-deck call and start order. We will check to make sure all boats start at the appropriate time. On Day 2, we check-in boats on the path to the start line. **Unless you're lining up for your wave, do not attempt to walk down to the beach.** This is a narrow path and we need space to let event staff operate effectively.

**PIT STOP:** At the far end of Raquette Falls Carry. **This site is not accessible by car.** The outlet of Stony Creek can be reached by turning down the Coreys Road from State Route 3. Follow the road to the horse assembly area on the right, past the steel bridge. Follow the trail to the right for 0.5 miles to the Raquette River.

**FINISH LINE:** Day 2 finish line is at The Crusher, the NYSDEC Raquette River Fishing Access Site on State Routes 3 and 30, 3 miles east of Tupper Lake. **Do not, under any circumstances, drive into the parking lot or attempt to park here.** People transporting their own boats can pick them up at the designated location at the entrance to The Crusher. Pit crews: Please park along Rte. 3/30, and make sure you are to the right of the white line. Please be safe and aware when walking along the highway.

**CANOE TRANSPORTATION:** Participants are welcome to move their own boats. Please do not block the road at the finish line. All boats with a red dot will be transported from The Crusher to Fish Creek Campground near sites 205 to 215 for the start of Day 3. Please assist the boat loaders by taking care of your paddles, PFDs, trash and other gear.



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Explore Adirondack Frontier's many peaks and lakes make it an outdoor lover's paradise. In the Explore Adirondack Frontier Region, you can breathe easy while embarking on new adventures and taking in the natural beauty of the region. When you visit, you get a taste of our incomparable lifestyle. So go ahead, picture your lunch break at the lake, your early morning workout on the mountains, or your weekends in the wilderness.



[www.exploreadirondackfrontier.com](http://www.exploreadirondackfrontier.com)

# 90-Miler: Day 3, Sunday, Sept. 7

**PARKING:** Parking at Fish Creek, especially around the start area, is at a premium. There are several parking areas on the way in. Take advantage of them for a quick exit. If you must park on the road, please park only on the non-campsite side. Participants should enter campground from the back gate.

**PADDLERS MEETING & ON-DECK CALLS:** Near site 207, Fish Creek, 7:30 am.

**RACE START:** 8 am at site 189. Please note that wave order on Day 3 will be partially reversed: Wave 1, Wave 2, Wave 10, Wave 9, Wave 8, Wave 7, Wave 6, Wave 5, Wave 4, Wave 3.

**PIT STOPS:** Water available on safety boat at Saranac River on Lower Saranac Lake near Bluff Island.

**PIT CREWS NOTE:** Do not drive into Bartlett Carry past the bridge. Please walk in to assist participants. The New York State Police have requested that we please stay off the Route 3 bridge at Second Pond. High speed traffic here makes for a very dangerous situation.

**FINISH & AWARDS CEREMONY:** Riverfront Park on Lake Flower in Saranac Lake. The awards ceremony will be held here as soon as results are available.

**POST RACE MEALS & DRINKS:** Provided by food trucks at Riverfront Park; a beer garden will also be on site, courtesy of our 90-Miler beverage sponsors.

**PROTESTS:** Protests may be lodged any of the three days of the race, within one hour of the protester's boat crossing the finish line. There is a \$25 fee to file an official protest. Official protests must be in writing and must be turned in at the race command headquarters at the finish line. Judges will investigate the matter and attempt to render expedient decisions. All decisions are final and may not be appealed.



# Welcome Paddlers



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**www.slareachamber.org**

**39 Main St, Saranac Lake NY 12983**



# Welcome to the 91st Mile

## *Food, Drinks & Festivities*

There's no better feeling than racing past the buoys at Riverfront Park in Saranac Lake. Once you've got your land legs again, use your meal tickets to refuel with one of our food vendors.

**On-site food vendors include:** The Belvedere  
Green Goddess • ADK Street Eats • Sloppy Dogs

### **Off-site vendors accepting meal tickets in Saranac Lake:**

Lakeside Drift (Voco, 250 Lake Flower Ave) • The Scullery (53 Main St)  
Nori's Village Market (138 Church St) • Bitters & Bones (65 Broadway)  
Rivertrail Beerworks (79 Woodruff St)

Don't miss our beer garden at the finish line, featuring:

Saranac • Fiddlehead Brewing • Switchback • 1911 • Lake Placid Pub & Brewery

Please drink responsibly. Thank you to all of our food and drink partners for teaming up with us this year. Special thanks to NFCT Trustee and 90-Miler veteran Brandon Devito for quenching our collective thirst, and to Race Director Jordanna Mallach and the Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce for coordinating the finish line logistics!





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# Gold Canoe Club

There is a special group of people who have made paddling and the 90-Miler a central part of their lives. To paddle in and complete 20 adventures from Old Forge to Saranac Lake is an accomplishment worthy of recognition. The Gold Canoe Club has gained a few members each year since it was formed. Congratulations to all of you who've made it, and good luck to those of you who aspire to earn your very own 90-Miler Gold Canoe.

Adam Wheeler  
Alec Davis  
Anne Gill-Wood  
Ben Hanson  
Ben Rochon  
Bill Pollock  
Bill Webster  
Bill Miller  
Blue Hannon  
Bob Davis  
Bob Pierson  
Bob Wood  
Brian Finn  
Brian Watson  
Bruce Braman  
Bruce Kennedy  
Celia Evans  
Chas Billingsley  
Chris Donner  
Clyde Yarnell  
Craig Benson  
Curt Reynolds  
Dan Heneka  
Dan Tickner, Jr.

Dan Tickner, Sr.  
Dave Thomas  
David Donner  
David Drum  
David Hunter  
David Paddock  
David Hauber  
David Ware  
Donna Abbott  
Donna Walsh  
Ed Greiner  
Francis Gallagher  
Franz Haas  
Fred Goodnough  
Gene Newman  
George Bellerose  
Glen Vandewinckel  
Grace McDonnell  
Holly Crouch  
Howie Dower  
Jack Hyden  
Jack Semler  
Jas Yolles  
Jeanne Galvin

Jeff Shultis  
Jim Kiefer  
Jim Mattingly  
Jim Normandin  
Jim Wilson  
Joanna Faloon  
Joe Clauss  
John Jackson  
John Potter  
Jon Santor  
Ken Gerg  
Ken Streb  
Kerry Newell  
Kevin Berl  
Larry Sweeney  
Larry Thomas  
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Lorraine Turturro  
Lydia Kosinski  
Marlene Hyden  
Marvin Mattingly  
Michael Trump  
Michael Zegarelli  
Nat Tickner

Norm Goldstein  
Paul Olney  
Paul Repak  
Phil Millspaugh  
Pierre Pinard  
Randy Blakeman  
Ray Morris  
Richard Butts  
Richard Harrison  
Robert Wood  
Robin Leary  
Roger Dempster  
Roger Gocking  
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Tom Kime  
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[macscanoeadk.com](http://macscanoeadk.com)

# WELCOME 90-MILER PADDLERS!





**The Town of Harrietstown is proud to sponsor the Adirondack Canoe Classic. Good luck paddlers — we can't wait to join you at the finish line!**

**Good Luck Paddlers and Pit Crews!**

**Paddler's Rest**

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Long Lake, NY

**Private Beach, Complimentary Canoes and Kayaks, Motorboat Rentals,  
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# Adirondack Canoe Classic Awards

## **ADIRONDACK CANOE CLASSIC FOUNDERS CUP:**

Recognizes the contributions of those who work hard behind the scenes to make the Adirondack Canoe Classic happen.

**TERRY HEALEY AWARD:** Selected by NYSDEC staff and presented in memory of one of the original DEC employees who cajoled, prompted, rewarded and had the most fun with the organizing of the 90-Miler. Awarded to the person who best exemplifies the spirit of the Adirondack Canoe Classic.

**PETE CLARK AWARD:** Selected by current year guideboat participants. Presented in memory of a long time 90-Miler guideboat participant who, even in the face of tremendous personal adversity, found multiple ways to have fun and inspire all who had the pleasure of his company on and off the water. Awarded to the rower who best exemplifies the spirit of fun and camaraderie during the 90-Miler.

**REYNOLDS CUP:** Selected by event organizers. Presented in memory of Dick Reynolds, who loved paddling the 90, especially with his daughter Holly. Awarded to a parent-child team that plays hard, plays fair and has fun together on and off of the water.

**GOLDSTEIN PADDLE:** Presented to the winners of the super veterans class — paddlers over 75 years of age. Awarded in memory of Norm Goldstein, a 29-time finisher, 2013 Terry Healey Award recipient and principal instigator of the super veterans class. Norm portrayed the true spirit of the 90 — soft spoken words of encouragement, infectious enthusiasm and eagerness to help anyone and everyone.

**GOLD CANOE CLUB:** Must be earned. Recipients of the Gold Canoe have participated in and completed 20 Adirondack Canoe Classics. It's a symbol of a significant achievement.

**MILEAGE PINS:** Awarded annually to all finishers of the event. To earn the pin, paddlers must successfully complete all three days.



*Sue Dyer, right, was the inaugural recipient of the Adirondack Canoe Classic Founders Cup. Pictured here with NFCT Trustee Brandon Devito.*

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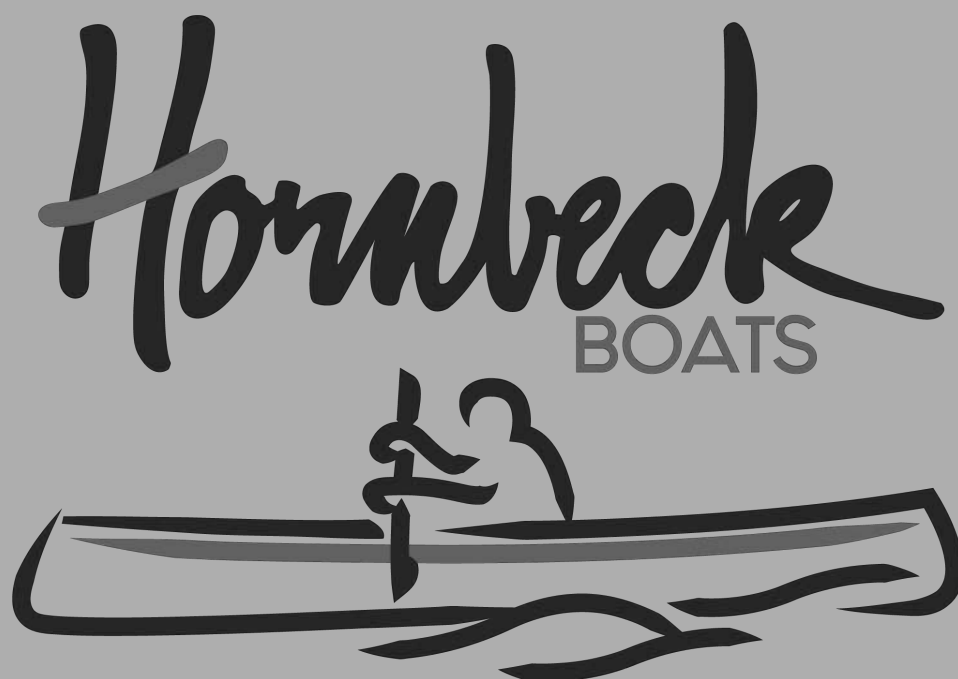
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**All of us at Hornbeck Boats would like to wish the paddlers and their pit crews the best of luck in the Adirondack Canoe Classic.**

**We'd also like to thank the NFCT staff and volunteers who make this event possible.**

**See you at the finish line!**



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- Proceeds support the NFCT's stewardship and programming
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Scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/hornbeck25](https://bit.ly/hornbeck25) to buy tickets!



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*of aquatic invasive species*

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# Help Us Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasives

The waterways that make up the 90-Miler route are critical for our region's environment health, recreational access and economy. Many of the lakes, rivers and ponds that constitute the 90-Miler course are invasive-free, but some are infested with several non-native plants and animals that can be harmful to native ecosystems. It is a delicate balance we seek: to provide protection for these water bodies while still supporting this historic race.

In an effort to control the spread of invasive species during the 90-Miler, there will be two Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) boat inspections on Day 1. The first will be at the Brown's Tract Carry, and the second at the Marion River Carry. Inspection zones will be marked with signs and cones; **they are mandatory walk zones** to allow inspectors to give boats, rudders and shoes a quality inspection as participants go by. Inspectors have been instructed that they are not to impede paddlers forward progress, but if they find something on your boat they appreciate your cooperation so they can quickly remove it. Inspectors are there to recognize and remove aquatic invasives if and when they see them. We thank the AWI crew for their involvement in the 90-Miler and request the cooperation and support of participants.



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# Loon Celebration

Sun. Oct. 5, 2025

12 pm - 4 pm

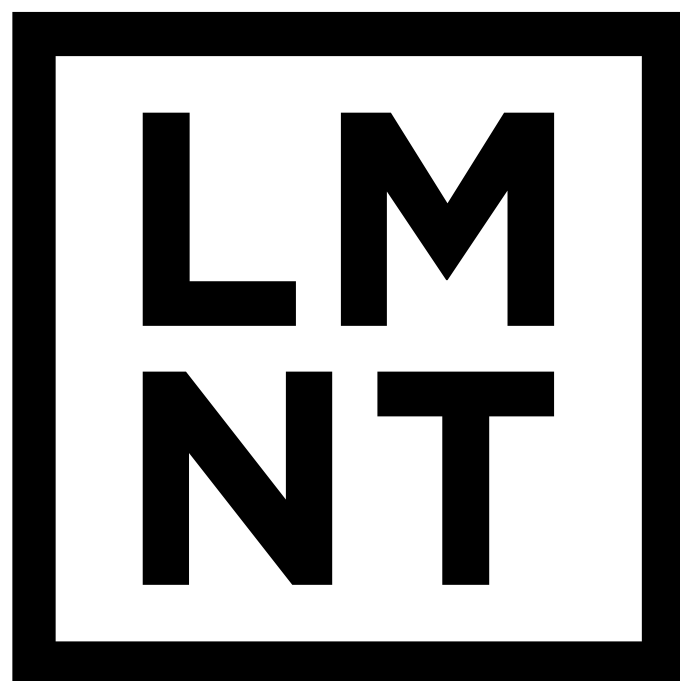
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Music - Nature Walks

Guest Speaker  
James Paruk, Ph.D.

*Ornithologist - Loon  
Expert - Author*



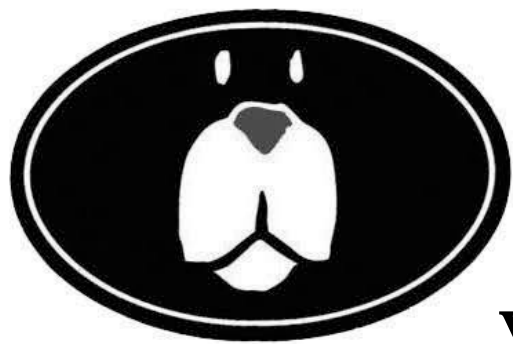
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# Save the Dates: 2026 nFCT Region Races

River Rat Race, Orange, MA, April 11-12  
Legends of Wells Bridge, Wells Bridge, NY, April TBD  
Little River Ramble, Canton, NY, April TBD  
Upper Ashuelot Canoe & Kayak Race, Keene, NH, April TBD  
Run of the Charles, Boston, MA, April TBD  
Canton Canoe Weekend, Canton, NY, May 1-3  
Ed Wessels Regatta, Wells Bridge to Sidney, NY, May TBD  
General Clinton Canoe Regatta, Cooperstown to Bainbridge, NY, May 23-25  
John Ledyard Classic, Hanover, NH, May TBD  
Madrid Canoe Regatta, Madrid, NY, June TBD  
NYS Paddle Champs, Liverpool, NY, June TBD  
Tupper Lake 8-Miler, Tupper Lake, NY, June TBD  
Armond Bassett Race, Macedon, NY, June TBD  
Brattle Paddle, Brattleboro, VT, June TBD  
Willard Hammer Guideboat Race, Saranac Lake, NY, July 5  
Electric City Regatta, Glenville, NY, July TBD  
Barge Chaser, Rotterdam Junction, NY, July TBD  
Blackburn Challenge, Gloucester, MA, July TBD  
Remington I, Heuvelton to Ogdensburg, NY, July 18  
BluMouLABuFuRa, Blue Mountain Lake, NY, July 19  
Great Brant Lake Canoe Race, Brant Lake, NY, August TBD  
Paddle Keuka 5K, Keuka Lake, NY, August TBD  
Auburn Great Race, Auburn, NY, August 9  
Cranberry Lake Race, Cranberry Lake, NY, August TBD  
Remington II, Rensselaer Falls to Heuvelton, NY, August 29  
Classique/DCSM, La Tuque to Trois-Rivières, QC, Sept. 5-7  
Seneca Monster, Geneva, NY, Sept/Oct TBD

**NYPRA Points:** Throughout the season, NYPRA members earn points based on their finishes in select races. These points are tallied at the end of the year, and Points Champions are crowned at our annual banquet! This series fosters a spirit of amateur competition at smaller events across New York. Kayak and Canoe points are counted separately, with champions awarded in different boat classes.

**NY Collegiate Points:** The New York Paddlesports Racing Association is pleased to announce the 2025 Collegiate Points Series. The Adirondack Canoe Classic, Long Lake Long Boat Regatta, and Seneca Monster are each a part of this three race series for Stock C4s. Individual winners will be acknowledged at each race, and a school will be crowned at the end of the season!

**Triple Crown of Canoe Racing:** Comprising the General Clinton Canoe Regatta, the AuSable River Canoe Marathon, and Le Classique Internationale de Canots de la Mauricie, the Triple Crown is the most elite level of marathon paddlesports in North America.



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*Photo by Tom Esmond*

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# Adirondack EXPLORER

MAY / JUNE 2023

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# Adirondack EXPLORER

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2024

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# Adirondack EXPLORER

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2025

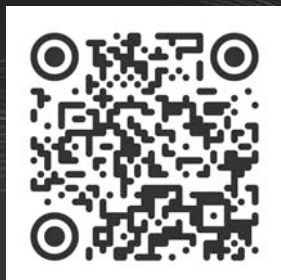


## VOICES OF THE PARK

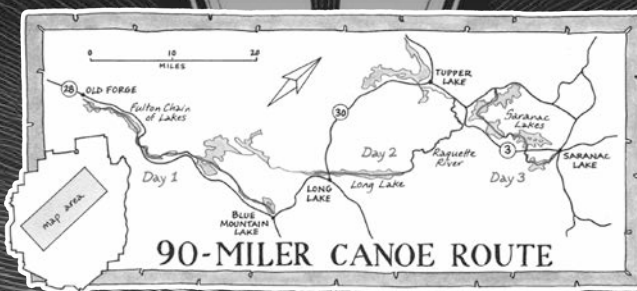
# CONGRATULATIONS PADDLERS

FROM THE Adirondack EXPLORER!  
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# Your Race Fees at Work: Lower Locks Portage

A professional trail crew and local volunteers teamed up earlier this summer to continue the rehabilitation of the Lower Locks portage trail.

In 2024, the NFCT, in collaboration with DEC, began work on the carry that connects Lower Saranac Lake and Second Pond to Oseetah Lake. The first year of the project included the leveling and rehabilitation of the takeout and portage trail; this year's work focused on rebuilding old timber steps on the downslope of the portage and fixing an existing retaining wall at the put-in.

In addition to regular traffic during the paddling season, the Lower Locks portage sees heavy use during the 'Round the Mountain Canoe & Kayak Race and the 90-Miler.



"Stewardship is the most important piece of our work," said NFCT Executive Director Karrie Thomas. "We want everyone to enjoy paddling, regardless of skill level or background, and that's not possible without safe infrastructure that can hold up to human use and natural erosion. We strive to take care of infrastructure across the entire canoe trail, from Old Forge, NY, to Fort Kent, Maine, but we do feel a particular sense of responsibility along the sections where our events generate a higher impact. We're grateful to the DEC and our volunteers for helping us continue this work on the Lower Locks portage."

The NFCT's roving stewardship crew, led by Assistant Trail Director Alex Delhagen, partnered with volunteers in June to complete the second year of work. The crew rebuilt an old retaining wall at the put-in to Oseetah Pond, and restored an existing timber staircase that leads to the put-in. Further up the portage, crews restored a second set of steps, helping to stabilize a steep section of trail that was unsafe for paddlers.



"Our crew always looks forward to setting up in Saranac Lake at the beginning of summer," Delhagen said. "The community and our volunteers are incredible, and the paddling is some of the best around. The Lower Locks portage is an important connector along the NFCT — we want to be sure people can use it safely while also protecting the surrounding woods and water."

The Lower Locks portage work was supported by revenue from the NFCT's Adirondack Race Series as well as grants from the Lake Champlain Basin Program and Two for the Trails, an initiative of the Athletic Brewing Company.

As the only dedicated water trail crew in the Northeast, the NFCT's stewardship crew specializes in projects at the interface of land and water, including campsites, portage trails and access points. To learn more about the NFCT's stewardship work, contact Trail Director Noah Pollock at [noah@northernforestcanoetrail.org](mailto:noah@northernforestcanoetrail.org).

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## Fostering a New Generation of Paddlers



The NFCT's commitment to connecting kids to nature continued in 2025, with full Northern Forest Explorers (NFE) trips across New York and the Northeast, and a successful second year of our new Canoe & Camp 101 program.

Led by Matt Burnett, a longtime 90-Miler supporter and competitor, NFE takes kids on week-long excursions along the canoe trail, from New York to Maine. This popular program is supported by our NFE Scholarship Fund. Canoe & Camp 101 launched in 2024 with a goal of providing introductory level overnight experiences for kids who weren't quite ready to try a week in the backcountry. The program is presented by the NFCT, Paul Smith's College and Matt Burnett Guiding, with additional support from St. Regis Canoe Outfitters, NRS, Adirondack Lakes & Trails Outfitters, Guide ADK and Adirondack Mountain Outfitters. This year's program featured three overnight trips at the Paul Smith's College Alumni Campground, led by experienced guides and assistant "guides in training," many of whom were former NFE participants.

The 90-Miler community helps support this work. Race revenue from the Adirondack Canoe Classic helps to support our stewardship program, freeing up existing resources to help us foster more youth paddling.

*The Trading Post  
welcomes  
90-Miler  
paddlers!*

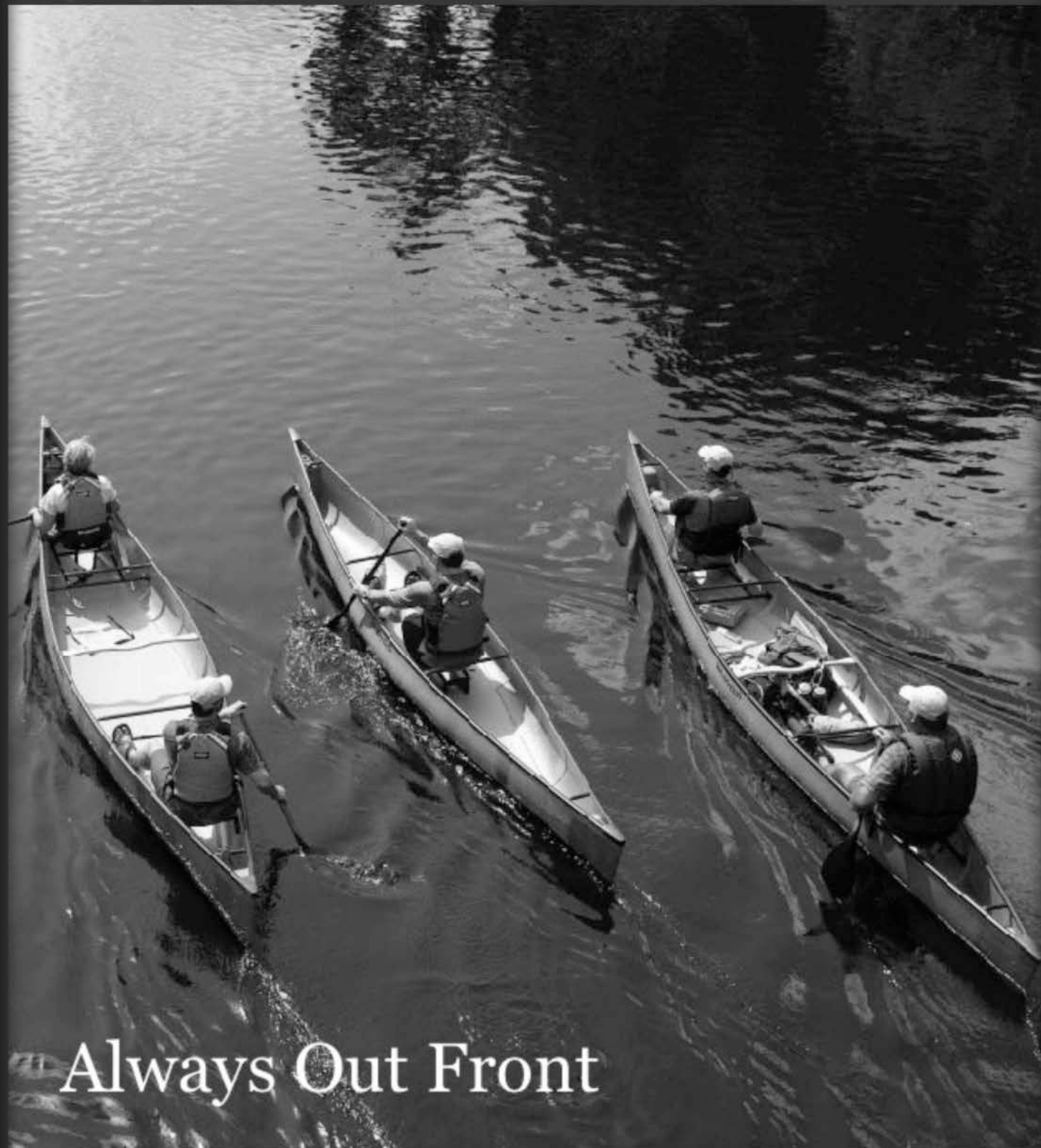
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# 90-Miler Supports Ongoing Work on Valcour

A multiyear collaboration between the DEC and the NFCT continues to make progress rehabilitating outdoor recreation infrastructure on Valcour Island.

The NFCT's roving stewardship crew returned to Valcour Island in June for year four of the ongoing project. This year's work was funded with support from a Lake Champlain Basin Program Education and Outreach grant as well as revenue generated by the 90-Miler.

"Our appreciation for Valcour Island grows each year we return," Delhagen said. "Valcour is a bridge between past and present: it's a recreation area that allows us to connect with history and enjoy a wild place that's easily accessible, right off the coast of the Plattsburgh and Peru communities. We're thrilled to see more and more people enjoying the paddling, hiking, fishing and camping opportunities Valcour provides in abundance."

This year's work saw crews rebuild 150 feet of boardwalk on the Cross Island Trail. The NFCT also repurposed slate native to the island to rebuild four concrete fireplaces, helping to restore campsites to a more primitive character using natural materials. Trash and debris was also collected and transported off the island to be disposed of properly.



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# Boat Hauling: Guidance & Thanks

One of the biggest and most important tasks our race staff undertakes at the 90-Miler is transporting boats from finish to start on the first two days. Moving nearly 250 boats each day is a big lift (literally), so we ask racers and pit crews to follow all guidance provided by the boat hauling team. On Day 1, the finish line in Blue Mountain Lake offers a long shoulder in the eastbound lane of State Route 28. Paddlers are encouraged to move their boats across the road to remove personal items, to then be loaded by our team. On Day 2, it's imperative for racers having their boats hauled to remove personal items as quickly as possible so our crew can load trailers. The Crusher is a very tight area with a lot of congestion. If you are not having your boat hauled, bring it immediately to the designated areas at the top of the driveway. We send our thanks to the businesses and individuals who contribute to boat hauling. And a special thank you to Jason Smith of Adirondack Lakes & Trails Outfitters, who takes extra time during the busiest time of his season to coordinate and direct boat hauling for the 90-Miler.



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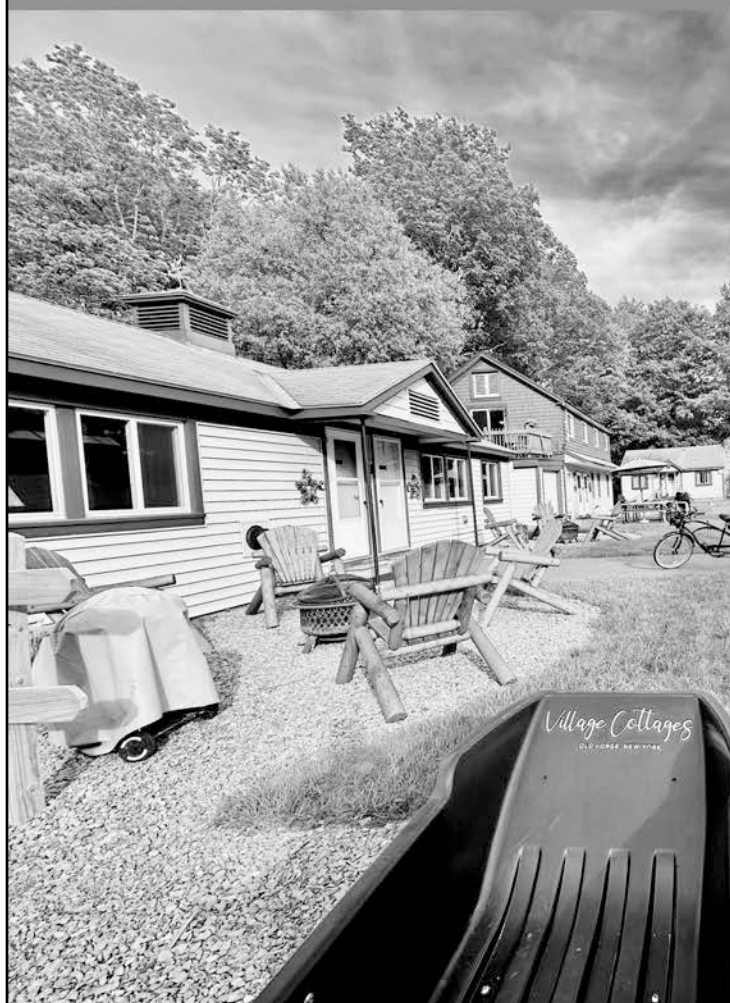
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# 90-Milers Help Rehabilitate Brown's Tract Carry

The NFCT, in partnership with the DEC, has completed critical maintenance on an iconic Adirondack portage trail.

The NFCT's professional stewardship crew teamed up with local volunteers in June 2025 to rehabilitate the Brown's Tract portage trail. The winding Brown's Tract inlet flows into Raquette Lake and is a popular paddling destination. The portage sees heavy use in spring, summer and fall, particularly during the 90-Miler.

"When you see those aerial photos of Brown's Tract, it's instantly recognizable by paddlers from the Adirondacks and beyond," said Alex Delhagen, the NFCT's assistant trail director. "The NFCT feels a particular responsibility for taking care of this portage. Hundreds of paddlers trek along the trail and boardwalk every year during the 90-Miler as do dozens of NFCT thru-paddlers and section paddlers throughout the paddling season. We're committed to ensuring that the trail provides safe passage for these folks while also respecting the surrounding environment and promoting sustainability."



The stewardship work included rebuilding the final section of boardwalk along the carry, reconnecting the gangway to the dock at the put-in, and fixing pilings that were sinking into the mud below the bridge. Approximately 30 pieces of deck boarding were rotted out or damaged, necessitating replacement. The crew also repaired the bumpers that run along the edges of the boardwalk.

On the portage trail, the NFCT addressed drainage issues and established several bench cuts that help control water flow and prevent erosion, limiting negative impacts on the surrounding forest. Additionally, the NFCT replaced signage and pruned overgrown areas along a privy trail and near the takeout.

All projects were performed in collaboration with DEC. The work was funded by revenue generated by the NFCT's Adirondack Race Series. The NFCT also received a grant from Athletic Brewing's Two for the Trails initiative.

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## *Upcoming Events:*

**Fall Festival**    September 20-21, 2025

**Inlet Emergency Services Clam Bake**    September 27, 2025

**Adirondack Kids Day**    October 4, 2025

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# Spectator Info: Where to Watch the 90-Miler

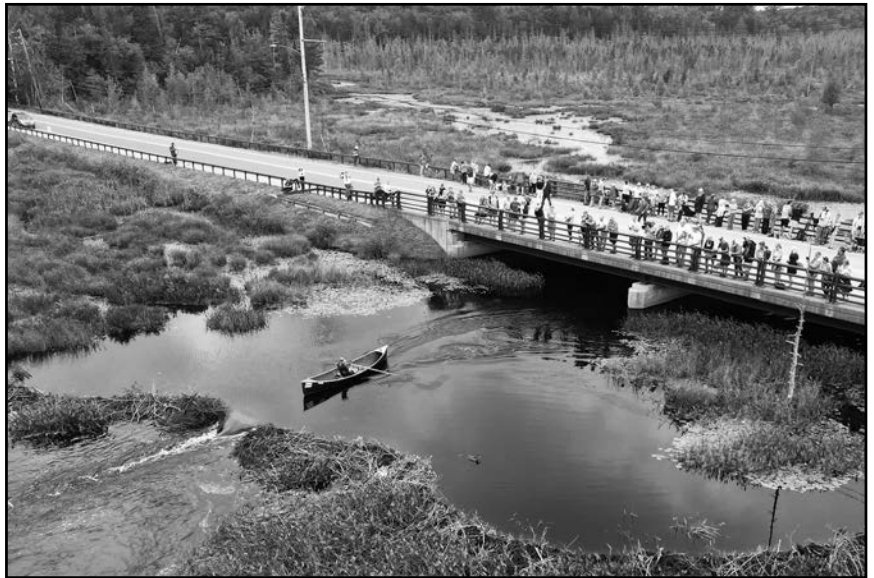
The Adirondack Canoe Classic course winds its way through some of the wildest and most scenic landscapes in the Adirondack Park, but that doesn't mean you can't watch your favorite paddlers. Here are some of the most popular places to spectate:

**Day 1:** The start in Old Forge, 8-9:30 a.m., several locations along state Route 28 including Arrowhead Park in Inlet, the bridge at Brown's Tract in Raquette Lake and the finish line in Blue Mountain Lake.

**Day 2:** The Route 30 Bridge in Long Lake, from 8:30-10a.m., and a hike into Stony Creek on the Raquette River.

**Day 3:** The start at 8:30 a.m. at Fish Creek Campground (note that parking is at a premium), a hike into Bartlett Carry and the finish line festivities at Riverfront Park on Lake Flower in Saranac Lake.

Please refer to the maps inserted in the Paddlers Guide to familiarize yourself with the course for each day. And remember: the 90-Miler is a longstanding tradition in the Adirondacks, and many of these spectating locations will be very crowded. Do your part: pick up trash, be aware of your surroundings and traffic, and be respectful of each other. Have fun!



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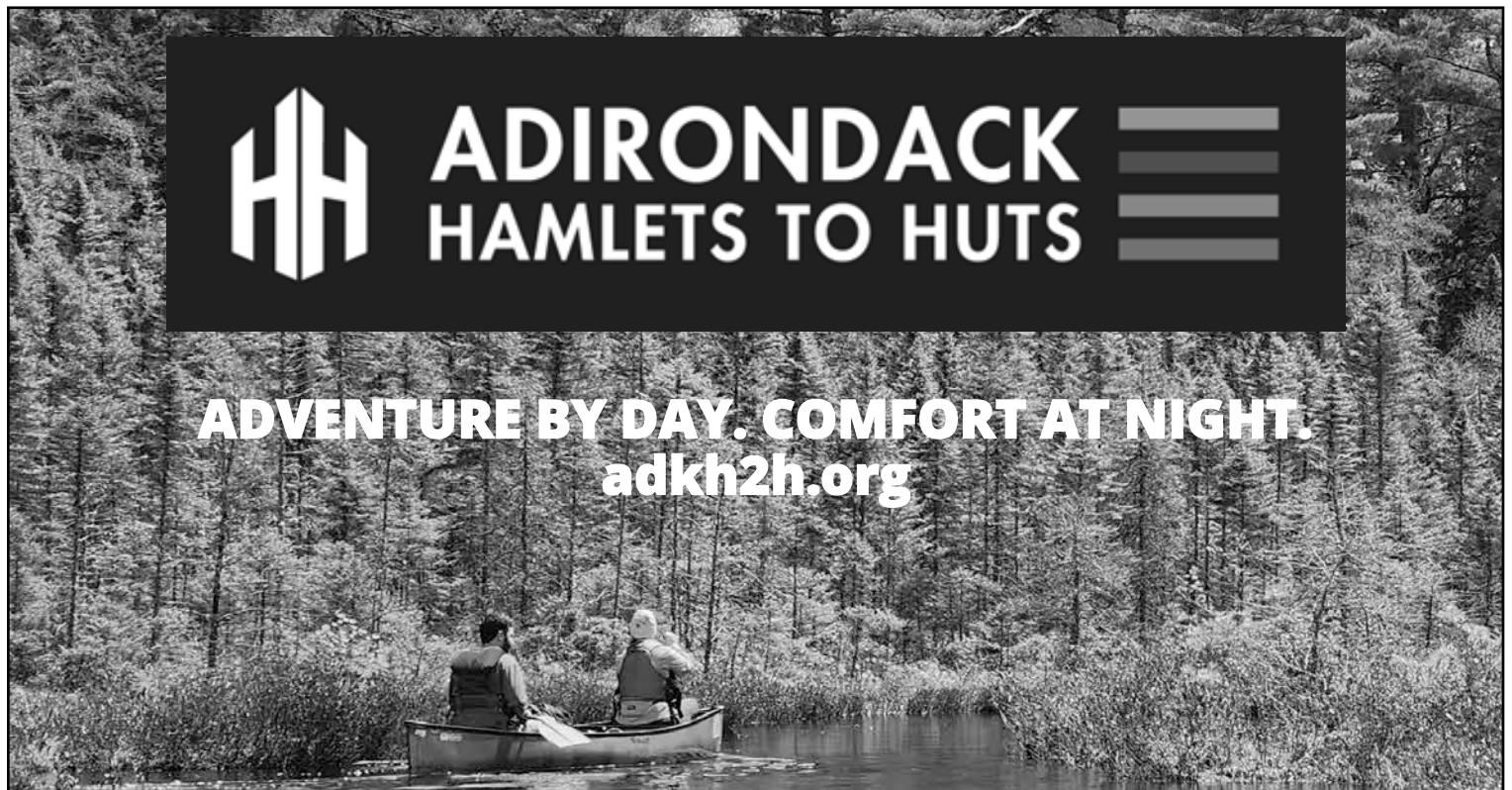
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# Thank You to the Safety Boat Team

Safety is our number one concern throughout the course of the Adirondack Canoe Classic. We thank all of our volunteers who help to keep paddlers, pit crews, staff and volunteers safe both on and off the water.

We send a special thank you to our fleet of safety boat drivers and the generous businesses and individuals who donate the use of a motorboat for some or all of the 90-Miler. We remind racers to heed their advice at all turns. If a safety boat driver gives you instructions, please follow them.

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**Good luck to all 90-Miler racers ...  
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# Save the Dates for 2026

**May 9: 'Round the Mountain Canoe & Kayak Race**

**June 12-15: Adirondack Paddling Symposium**

**June 17-19: Rangeley Oquossoc Adventure Rendezvous**

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