



MT. BEACON INCLINE NEWS

THE MT. BEACON INCLINE SOCIETY

Dyson Foundation
Grants Incline Society
\$4000.00 to Create
Business Plan

The Mt. Beacon Incline Society just received a grant from the Dyson Foundation of Millbrook New York for \$4,000 to create a business plan for the Incline.

The Mt Beacon Incline Society has hired Ingrid Kulick of *Forward Solutions* to write the business plan.

Forward Solutions offers professional consultation services for the not-for-profit community throughout the Hudson Valley

We look forward to seeing the new business plan early this spring. Thank you Dyson.

Membership Drive

If you have not renewed your membership, please do so. Your tax-deductible donations are vital in helping us achieve our goal to resurrect the Incline. See back page.

THE MT. BEACON INCLINE SOCIETY WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ANNE LYNCH AS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE MT. BEACON INCLINE SOCIETY. CO-FOUNDERS ANDY CHIUSANO AND STEVE GOLD ELECTED CO-VICE PRESIDENTS. SINCERE THANKS TO ANDY AND STEVE FOR TEN YEARS OF SERVICE!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK By Anne Lynch

I would like to thank each and every person who helps us out during the year, whether it's by making phone calls, writing the newsletter, book keeping, slaving over the hot grill at a festival or one of the many other jobs that have to be done-the "natty gritty" behind the scenes work. You are the backbone of our group.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Trustee Neil Caplan. He has always been so supportive and always willing to give advice, time and even the use of his office space to hold our Executive meetings. In addition to being a Beacon Business owner, Neil Caplan is the President of The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. For more information on his organization, you may access the website at www.BannermanCastle.org.

Another thank you and also congratulations to Steven Gold who was recently elected Mayor of the City of Beacon. As one of the Co-founders, Steve himself has put in many hours of "Incline Duty". Sandy Piccone, our recording Secretary is more than that. She is a manager, making sure ...



Front left: Sheila Ronco, Corresponding Secretary, Anne Lynch, President Elect, Kitty Stager, Treasurer. Back row left: Neil Caplan, Trustee, Andy Chiusano, Vice President, Steve Gold, Vice President, Mary Gold, Legal Council, and Sandy Piccone, Recording Secretary. Absent: Dottie Bell, Yomni Groza, Maria Mersinger, Fred Novak, Henry "Hank" Trofinoff and Jim Bopp.

...everything runs smoothly and everyone knows what to do. All of which brings me to the biggest thank you of all-- to Andy Chiusano, Founder, Past President and current Vice President of the Society. No one has put in more hours, day and night to make our group a success. I could not begin to list in this little newsletter, all of the jobs and research Andy has done during the past ten years to bring this group to where it is now. Thank you Andy, and with our combined efforts we will see that Incline Railway run again.

Oh-- and one more thank you to the group--- thanks for having faith in me and electing me President. I have some pretty big shoes to fill and I will do my best to bring our goal to fruition.

D. W. GRIFFITH'S SILENT MOVIES ON MOUNT BEACON By Robert Murphy

In the fall of 1909 and again in 1910, famed silent movie director D.W. Griffith made two short-reel movies on Mt. Beacon: "The Red Man's View" (1909) and "The Fugitive" (1910). Both movies were filmed near the DAR Monument on the summit. For "Red Man's View", Griffith hired about a dozen Native Americans including Actor Dark Cloud in the lead role. The only local stars in the movie were the burros, owned by the Mt. Beacon Incline and normally used to carry tourists on the mountain trails near the casino.

In the movie the burros are teamed with the bad white men who harass and drive the Indians from their lands.



Actresses on top of Mt. Beacon filming a D.W. Griffin film. Photo courtesy of The Beacon Historical Society.



THE MT. BEACON INCLINE SOCIETY

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Andrew Chiusano
Vice President &
Co-Founder

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Co-Founder

Jim Bopp
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Fred Novak
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INCLINE DISPATCH

WRITERS

Sandy Piccone
Anne Lynch
Robert Murphy
Neil Caplan

EDITOR

Neil Caplan

PHOTOGRAPHS

Incline Society Archives
Beacon Historical Society
Sandy Piccone
Anne Lynch



Dotty Bell, Ned Sullivan of Scenic Hudson, Jim Bopp, and Sandy Piccone of the Mt. Beacon Incline Society.



Mt. Beacon Incline Society and Cub Scout Pack 54 of Fishkill Hike Mt. Beacon.

Strawberry Festival: June 10th Pumpkin Festival October 14th

Both festival were held at Beacon's River Front Park and hosted by the Sloop Club. The events are big money makers for the Incline Society and also help raise awareness to our project of restoring the Incline Railway. Hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, corn dogs, soda and water are the main items sold. Some volunteer to make wraps, soup, cookies, cakes, breads that have become staples at the festivals. Many thanks go out to the volunteers who put in hours before and during the festivals to make them a success. Volunteers included Andy Chiusano, Anne Lynch, Yonni Groza, Steve Gold, Sheila Ronco, Kitty Stager, Steve Gold, Judy Stella, Jim Bopp, Henry "Hank" Trofinoff, Sandy Piccone.

Sprit of Beacon Day: September 30th

Spirit of Beacon Day was a tremendous success for the Incline Soc. For the first time the Incline Society marched in the parade which gave us great exposure. We had a booth set up on Main St. We sold framed Incline pictures, T-shirts, memberships and baked goods. President, Anne Lynch had a live interview on radio station WBNR promoting our group and the Incline restoration project. Many thanks to the volunteers: Anne Lynch, Yonni Groza, Roy Schiller, Sheila Ronco, Hank Trofinoff, Kitty Stager, Judy Stella, Sandy Piccone.

Incline Society's Annual Holiday Party

On December 12th, the Incline Society held its annual Holiday Dinner to thank the men and women who donate many hours of their time to keep the Society up and running. It was held at Angelo's Steak and Seafood House. Attending the party were fourteen Trustees including the Incline Founders Andrew Chiusano and Steven Gold.



D. W. Griffith— Filming on Mt. Beacon. (Continued from page 1.)

"The Fugitive" was a Civil War drama filmed here because of Mt. Beacon's similarity, in Griffith's eyes, to the legendary Lookout Mountain in Tennessee. The DAR Monument is the only local star to get screen time, as it is the backdrop for one dramatic scene where an old patriotic citizen urges on the local Union troops to battle. In the movie the old veteran points to the Revolutionary War monument and says, (in subtitles), "For this your fore fathers fought: go forth to your battles with strength and fortitude." In a review of the movie, (shown locally in Peattie's Academy of Music) by the Fishkill Daily herald, the newspaper said: "The pictures embody excellent views of the monument, one of the mountain cottages, and of the landscape west of the mountain, including (our) Villages, Newburgh and stretches of the Hudson from the Highlands northward".

The above article was reprinted with the permission of Bob Murphy and originally appeared in the Beacon Historical Society's newsletter from July, 2002.

The Mount Beacon Incline Society is planning on having a "Movie Night" early in 2008 in which the above movies will be shown. The event will be advertised and proves to be a very interesting and entertaining night.



Top left photo: D.W. Griffith's *The Fugitive*. Right photo: Mary Pickford behind the camera. Top photo courtesy of *The Beacon Historical Society*.

2007 Hikes

By Sandy Piccone

For the second time the Mt. Beacon Incline Railway Restoration Society was asked to participate in the 8th Annual Hudson River Valley Ramble, managed by the Hudson River Valley Greenway. The Ramble event encompasses areas from Waterford, NY to upper Manhattan. It's a celebration of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and the Hudson River Estuary.

Once again Sandy Piccone and Jim Bopp were asked to lead the hike. The dates this year were Sat., Sept. 15 with rain date Sun., Sept. 16. On Sat. it rained but Sandy and Dottie Bell from the Incline Soc. showed up at Scenic Hudson's Gateway to Mt. Beacon Park. They met 7 hikers waiting to climb the mountain and the rain date did not fit into their schedule. Sandy and Dottie reviewed the hazards of hiking in the rain and agreed to lead the hike. The visibility along the way and at the top was not great due to fog. Along the way the history of the mountain and the Incline Railway were explained. We got the group up and down the mountain safely; in fact they commented on how great the hike was.

Dottie and Sandy were interviewed by the Local Cable News who was reporting on the Ramble events in the area. It was televised later in the week. Then there was the rain date, Sun. Sandy, again, along with Jim Bopp led 11 hikers up the mountain. It was a gorgeous day. The hikers were given a history of the mountain and the Incline Railway. Both days the hikers did not realize the significance of Mt. Beacon or what it has to offer.

Spring Hike

Our annual Spring Hike was Sun., April 29. Jim Bopp, Sandy Piccone, Dottie Bell and Steve Gold represented the Incline Society. We had approximately 75 participate in the hike! This is the most we've ever had! It turned out to be a very warm day. The hike began at Scenic Hudson's Gateway to Mt. Beacon Park. We climbed up the face of the mountain; which is approximately one mile to the top. It's a short but strenuous hike. At the top Jim gave a brief history of the Incline Railway. After Dottie took some of the hikers over to the Fire Tower, Sandy hiked with others over to the remnants of the summer cottages, while Jim and Steve lead the remainder of the hikers down the mountain. Our hikes help raise awareness to our restoration project and also bring in new members. Prior to any of our hikes news articles, emails, fliers, and our website are used to promote our event.

Fall Hike

The annual Incline Fall hike was held Sun., Oct. 21. We met at Scenic Hudson's Gateway to Mt. Beacon Park. Once again Sandy Piccone, Dottie Bell, and Jim Bopp from the Incline Society led the event. There were approximately 48 adults and young people who climbed the face of the mountain. Along the way hikers are given some history of the mountain. Remnants of the old ski trails and concrete structures are viewed. Some of the hiking trails are on the former ski trails.

The Incline Railway was used as a chair lift for skiers in the early beginnings of skiing on Mt. Beacon in the late 60's. Arriving at the top of the mountain at the old casino and hotel sites, Jim gave a brief history of the Incline.

Dottie and Sandy led hikers over to the Fire Tower while Jim led others down the mountain. The weather was great and everyone made it up and down the mountain safely. Many people are first time hikers and some veteran hikers are still in awe at the view from the top of Mt. Beacon. The view is so spectacular that it's one reason the Incline Railway was constructed 105 years ago. So lets make it accessible for everyone's enjoyment by restoring the Incline Railway!

Cub Scout Hike

Sandy was contacted by Cub Scout Pack 54 of Fishkill about leading a hike up Mt. Beacon. The Scouts chose Sun., Nov. 11, Veterans' Day. Sandy along with Dottie Bell and Jim Bopp led the hikers up the mountain. There were approximately 50 hikers including scouts and families. Each scout was accompanied by at least one adult. Overall everyone said they enjoyed the hike and agreed that the length of time was good for the ages of the scouts. The climb did not seem to bother the Scouts at all. It takes approximately one hour each way plus time spent at the top. Jim gave a history of the Incline Railway and Sandy passed out booklets with some of Mt. Beacon's history. The following week a picture of the Scouts on top of Mt. Beacon appeared in the Free Press and a thank you note to the Incline Society.

Many thanks go out to Dottie Bell, Jim Bopp, Steve Gold and Sandy Piccone for leading the hikes up Mt. Beacon. Without their knowledge and experiences the hikes would not be a success. Any group or organization wanting information on scheduling hikes up Mt. Beacon should contact the Incline Society's website: Inclinerailway@aol.com

Sharing Recipes

From The Incline

MOUNT BEACON HUCKLEBERRY COFFEECAKE



2 cups of fresh picked Mt. Beacon huckleberries (or substitute 2 cups of fresh or frozen blueberries) 1 1/4 cup sugar.

2 eggs
2 cups sifted flour
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking powder
1 cup sour cream
1 tsp. vanilla
3/4 cup butter

Sift flour, baking powder and salt; set aside. Cream butter and sugar; add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add sour cream to the flour mixture. Add to butter mixture. Mix well. Add the vanilla. Fold in the berries. Pour into a 9x13x2 inch greased and floured pan.

Mix well 1 cup sugar, 1 cup flour, 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Cut in 1/2 cup butter to make the crumble topping. Sprinkle over the batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 50 minutes.

Pour a cup of your favorite coffee and enjoy while looking up at the mountain.

Enjoy!

Lauren Groza

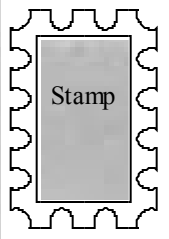


Sandy Piccone and singer Pate Seeger at *The Spirit of Beacon Day*, September 30, 2007

MT. BEACON INCLINE NEWS



*Mt. Beacon
Incline Railway Restoration
Society
P.O. Box 1248
Beacon, New York 12508
www.InclineRailway.org*



To:

Help Us Rebuild Our Heritage! Become a member of
THE MT. BEACON INCLINE RAILWAY RESTORATION SOCIETY
Membership Form:

General Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone: Home: _____

Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

Please enclose Employee Matching Grant Info.

Membership Plans:

Individual: \$20.00 _____

Family: \$40.00 _____

Institution: \$100.00 _____

Sustaining: \$500.00 _____

Your Donation: \$ _____

I would like to volunteer: _____

I have Incline photos to share: _____

My organization would like a slide show! _____

PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

The MT. Beacon Incline Society

Post Office Box 1248

Beacon New York 12508

FOR INFORMATION

CALL: 845-831-3562 or 845-831-4261