

VERY GOOD NEWS!

Major victory for protection of Adirondack and Catskill Ecosystems: Supreme Court rejects Appeal of Bush Administration Mercury Rule

On February 23rd, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected an attempt by power plant polluters to reinstate a mercury-control regulation that would have had devastating impacts on the fragile ecosystems of the Adirondacks and Catskills. The Adirondacks and Catskills are downwind of numerous coal-burning power plants, whose mercury emissions contribute significantly, between an estimated 40 to 65 percent, to mercury pollution in these regions. High mercury levels in fish from reservoirs in the Catskills have pushed NY State health officials to issue warnings for infants, children under 15 and women of childbearing age not to eat any fish from these reservoirs. The decision means that EPA must now promulgate regulations requiring each power plant to install the most advanced pollution controls to reduce its mercury. The ADK, under leadership of Neil Woodworth, has been very active over several years in this fight to promote cleaner air in the Catskill and the Adirondack mountains.

Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) - Budget Alert!

New York State's main source of funding for open space protection and related environment initiatives is facing a major challenge because of the State budget crisis. As of now, the Executive Budget authorizes a \$205 million EPF for the coming 2009-10 fiscal year, a 20 percent reduction from the current fiscal year, a 32 percent reduction from the \$300 million authorized in the EPF Enhancement Act of 2007.

More unsettling is the proposal to shift all the funding but for \$80 million from primarily proceeds of the Real Estate Transfer Tax to proceeds from an expanded Bottle Bill. The deposit on bottles of water and noncarbonated beverages is expected to generate \$118 million from unclaimed nickels. Additional miscellaneous revenues sources, such as sales of bluebird license plates, would provide the remaining \$7 million.

While the ADK supports an expanded Bottle Bill, which would greatly reduce the litter that defaces our wild lands and waters, the Bigger Better Bottle Bill (BBBB), still faces significant legislative hurdles. The EPF would be devastated if the budget passes and the Bottle Bill does not. ADK opposes the replacement of Real Estate Transfer Tax revenues with prospective revenues from the Bottle Bill. If the Legislature does decide to alter EPF's funding stream, it should not do so until the Bigger Better Bottle Bill is approved and the funding is assured.

As the state budget is to be adopted by April 1, please write to your state legislators as soon as possible and mail letters to the editor of your local newspapers in support of the EPF funding. Active support of the EPF will insure sustained protection of the natural environment that we cherish and of the great outdoors that we enjoy even more dearly in times of economic uncertainty.

Assembly: www.assembly.state.ny.us Senate: www.senate.state.ny.us

CHECK OUT THESE SPECIAL SERIES

of
HIKES and PADDLES!

Bimonthly Thursday Hikes (1st and 3rd): C/B. On the first and third Thursday of the month the leaders offer 3-6 hour hikes to different areas of the Mid Hudson Valley. Hikes are followed by a stop for refreshment. There is a separate google group just for these hikes. Contact Leaders: Ginni Fauci at 845-658-3902 or vfauci1@hvc.rr.com or Lalita Malik at LalitaMalik@aol.com or 845-592-0204, by Tuesday to get the hike plan, depending on weather and other conditions. April 2,16, May 7, 21, and June 4,18 Joint with Sierra

NEW! Leisurely Hiking Every 4th Tuesday: These walks and hikes are shorter and more leisurely than the Bimonthly Mid Week Hikes. We will cover familiar and unfamiliar territory. These hikes will be fully described through a separate e-mail the Friday before the hike. Please express interest with an email or a call to Lalita Malik at LalitaMalik@aol.com (845-592-0204), Shari Aber at shnaber@yahoo.com (845-255-6005), or Ginny Fauci at vfauci1@hvc.rr.com (845-658-3902) April 27, May 25, and June 22. Mark calendars!

Bimonthly Thursday Paddles (2nd and 4th): Beginning again for the season on Thursday, April 23! We will paddle the second and fourth Thursday of each month, weather permitting. Paddles vary in length, difficulty, and location. Most are on quieter water; some will be on the Hudson River. All are generally leisurely—we stop to enjoy the birds, the foliage, the waterfalls and any other specimen of nature that presents itself! And of course, we stop for lunch! To be included on a separately maintained email list for these trips, contact Shari Aber at shnaber@yahoo.com or 845-255-6005. April 23, May 14, 28, and June 11, 25 Mark your calendars!


OUTINGS: WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

- Class A —Difficult: More than 1500' climb or more than 8 mile miles
- Class B—Moderate: Less than 1500' climb, 6-8 miles
- Class C—Easy: Well-graded trails, less than 6 miles
- Walk—Suitable for Children, less than 4 miles


Participants should observe the following:

- *Notify leader of your intent to join an outing.
 - *Be at designated meeting place on time.
 - *Be properly dressed: sturdy footwear, for season & type of outing.
 - *Be properly equipped with water, lunch and extra snacks, rain jacket and the **Ten Essentials***.
 - *To bring a dog, call leader to get permission, bring a leash, be able to control dog and be responsible for its needs (water and food).
- Car Pooling** (encouraged)
CP expenses will include \$.20/mile + tolls and parking fees to be equally divided among all non-driving participants.

*www.midhudsonadk.org>Outings Schedule>Ten Essentials




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SPRING OUTINGS SCHEDULE (continued)

Mon Mar 30 Library Lecture: The Joys of Hiking See p. 2

Thurs Apr 2 Bimonthly Hike – See p. 4

Sat Apr 4 Work Day on the Appalachian Trail (near Pawling) See *Trail News* on p.3

Tues Apr 7 Library Lecture: The Joys of Hiking See p.2

Sat Apr 11 Trail Work Day at Balsam Lake Mt. Catskill Forest Preserve See *Trail News* on p.3

Sat Apr 11 Canoe & Kayak, Quiet Water, Bantam River, Western CT All Levels Leader: Russ Faller 845-297-5126 (before 9:30 PM) or russoutdoors@yahoo.com (preferred). Joint with AMC Paddle this narrow flatwater river as it twists through the White Memorial Conservation Center in Connecticut's Litchfield County and into Bantam Lake. This is a natural area with birds, turtles and undeveloped banks. Expect beaver dams. Bring lunch and water. You must have own cartop boat and equipment. PFDs required. Contact leader if you don't own a boat. Beginners welcome. Group size limited, so don't wait to register. Rain cancels

Tues Apr 14 Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Rockefeller Hall, Vassar College See details in box on cover page.

Thurs Apr 16 Bimonthly Hike See p.4

Fri-Sun Apr 17-19 The Old Loggers Path, NE PA. Backpack Leader: Russ Faller, 845-297-5126 (before 9:30 PM) or russoutdoors@yahoo.com. The Old Loggers Path is one of Pennsylvania's premier loop trails because it showcases some of the state's most scenic areas. A 27-mi. loop of moderate difficulty with mostly gradual ascents/descents & some steep sections. Limited to 10 in good physical condition. Fit beginners welcome. Participants need own gear & food. Meet at trailhead at 1 p.m. Fri. Contact leader to register.

Sat Apr 18 Canoe & Kayak Wallkill River from Wallkill to New Paltz (Intermediate Level) Leader: Ken Walton at 845-667-4664 or kaw569@yahoo.com. This section will be about a 12 mile stretch with a mixture of quiet water interspersed with short rapids up to Class II depending on the water level. Paddling experience required. PFD required. Wetsuit recommended or bring a change of clothes in dry bag. Bring lunch & water. Contact leader for meeting time/place.

Sat Apr 18 AT Series Hike #1 See Ollie Simpson's article on p.3. **Appalachian Trail - Schaghticoke Mountain B 5.5m** Leaders: Salley Decker 845-454-4206 sadecker2002@yahoo.com and Jane Geisler 845-677-9909 Preregistration preferred. Meet 9:15 AM at Star22 Diner in Wingdale (intersection of NY22 and DC21) to caravan to end point on East Mountain Rd.; then carpool to the start on Schaghticoke Rd. If question about weather, call a leader at 7:15 AM on morning of hike.

Sat Apr 18 Esopus Lighthouse Restoration Workday HHQ Leader: Skip Doyle at skipnewwork@yahoo.com

Celebrate the quadricentennial of Hudson's voyage by volunteering with the restoration of the Esopus Lighthouse. Skilled and unskilled workers needed. If you have home improvement skills, we can use them! If you have elbow grease, we have a job for you!

Thurs Apr 23 Bimonthly Paddle (First One of the Season!) See p. 4

Thurs Apr 23 Library Lecture Kayaking: How to Get Started See p.2

Sat Apr 25 Great Hudson River Sweep Clean Up at Plum Point Leader: Jean-Claude Fouere(jcfouere@optonline.net; 845-462 0142 Meet at 9:00AM at Plum Point in New Windsor for the clean up of the beach. Plum Point is the location for our chpt's annual PaddleFest, this year held on Sat June 20th. Directions can be found on p.11. Bring work gloves and rakes. Participants may go to a local pub for refreshments after work party.

Sun Apr 26 Great Hudson River Sweep Leader: Tom Galvin 845-564-3825 or 914-213-3421 (before 9PM) or thebaldguyd@yahoo.com (preferred) Paddlers with proper immersion gear launch at Foundry Cove at 9AM (Cold Spring RR Station). All others meet at Little Stony Point (one mile north of Cold Spring on Rt. 9D) at 9am and hike in to river.

Sun Apr 26 Harriman - map #4 (North) A 9miles Leader: Alvin DeMaria at demonalvin@yahoo.com; 845-255-1704 From Anthony Wayne parking area we will do a loop to the Timp and back. Perhaps visit a mine. Bailout points available. Meet: 9:30 AM Anthony Wayne parking lot.

Sun Apr 26 Bashakill Paddle - 6-9 mile paddle in the Bashakill Nature Preserve. Leader - William Mather 845-897-4317. Email - matherwb@aol.com Meet at Parking Lot on East Side, 1.8 miles south of Haven Road. Call, or Email, leader for meeting time by Friday, April 24. Heavy rain cancels. Bring water and lunch. PFD's required.

Tues Apr 27 4th Tuesday Leisurely Hike See p.4

A Tuesday in May or early June Field Trip to the Maritime Museum and IMAX Theater in Norwalk, CT Leader: Salley Decker (845) 454-4206 evenings before 10:00 PM No Date as of this printing. Call leader.

Thurs Apr 30 Library Lecture: The Joys of Hiking See p.2

Sat May 2 AT Series Hike #2 See Ollie Simpson's article on p.3. **Appalachian Trail: Johnson Hill Rd. to Hoyt Rd C 3.3 miles** Leaders: Jane Geisler 845-677-9909, Ollie Simpson 845-298-8379 or olliesimpson2005@yahoo.com Wiley Shelter is located in this portion. Meet at 9am at Hoyt Rd. parking area (off NY55 just before CT border); then carpool to start on Johnson Hill Rd.

Sat May 2 Canoe & Kayak Wappinger Creek Easy Whitewater Leader: Russ Faller, 845-297-5126 (before 9:30PM) or russoutdoors@yahoo.com. Paddle the beautiful Wappinger Creek from Pleasant Valley to Green Vale Park, Town of Poughkeepsie. Approx. 7 mi. with only one Class II (easy rapids; wide clear channels that are obvious w/o scouting; some maneuvering required). All others are Class I (moving water with

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SPRING OUTINGS SCHEDULE (continued)

riffles; few or no obstructions). Suitable for experienced flatwater paddlers. Bring extra clothes in dry bag or wet/drysuit, lunch, water, boat & gear (PFDs required). The Chapter has 2 tandem canoes to loan. Heavy or persistent rain cancels. Call if uncertain. Meet in park behind Pleasant Valley Town Hall, 1554 Main St./Rt. 44, Pleasant Valley at 9AM.

Sat May 2 Hike Across Maryland; 41 miles on the AT through Maryland Level A Leader: Pete McGinnis at 845-454- 4428 or pmcgin1@aol.com Start at Pen Mar, Pa. and finish at Harper's Ferry, W.Va. Contact leader for details and registration information. He's done it before!

Sun May 3 Arden Point & Glenclyffe, Garrison C Easy HHQ Leader: Georgette Weir at gweir@optonline.net (Put "Garrison hike" in subject line). Hudson River History—Quadracentennial Hike. Nearly 4-mile easy walk along the Hudson River starting at Garrison train station. This hike passes several panoramic viewpoints over the Hudson River and follows an historic road used by Benedict Arnold to escape during the Revolutionary War. Bring lunch & beverage. Start time: 11am; contact leader for car-pooling meet-up in Poughkeepsie and Fishkill.

Tues May 5 Library Lecture: The Joys of Hiking See p.2

Thurs May 7 Bimonthly Hike See p.4 for information.

Thurs May 7 Library Lecture: Kayaking: How to Get Started See p.2

Sat May 9 Paddle the Basha Kill Marsh Level: Novice Leader: Tom Galvin 845-564-3825 or 914-213-3421 (before 9PM) or thebaldguyd@yahoo.com (preferred) Launch at 9:30 AM. A good place to view birds. Bring wet suit or extra clothes in dry bag, water and snacks. Good for novice paddlers. After-paddle optional social at Danny's in Wurtsboro. Contact leader to register. Directions: 84 west to 17 west/north (Binghamton exit); 17 to exit 113 (Wurtsboro); left turn to 209 south go 1.8 miles down 209, turn left on Haven Road (there will be a brown/yellow DEC sign) follow Haven Road 1/2 mile (over and past 1 lane bridge) to South Road. Make a right turn and take this 1.8 miles. There will be a launch on the right.

Sat May 9 Delaware River Paddle B Moderate Leader: Don Urmston email: Durmston@hvc.rr.com or phone 845-457-4552 (before 9pm) We will paddle 8-10 miles down the Delaware River in our kayaks and canoes. There will be class II rapids and we will get wet, so dress in layers, use fleece clothing and bring a change of dry clothes along with lunch & water. PFD Required! Trip is open to anyone with previous paddling experience or adventurous beginners. Meet at Tourist Information Center off I84 in Matamoras, PA at 9:00 am. Register with leader by 5/7/09. Rain cancels.

Sun May 10 Nature Walk at Carnwath C Leader: Sue Mackson susiem6@juno.com, 845-471-9892 Going out for mother's day—how about really going out? Town of Wappinger Recreation Dept Dir, Gary Trudell & his wife Marion, want to build a nature trail at this Hudson River hillside property in Wappingers Falls. They'd like to identify as many plants as possible at the site so—we'll have a nature hike and you will provide the information. Bring your keys and guides and a picnic lunch. The property is hilly, but we will walk slowly and only for a few miles. Then, visit the sports museum, and/or picnic on the hilltop. Meeting time/place: 11:00 AM at Carnwath Farms upper parking Directions: Route 9D south from Wappingers; right at light in Hughsonville on New Hamburg Rd (DC28); left at fork onto Wheeler Hill Road (sign "Welcome to Wheeler Hill Historic District, Carnwath Farms); left at stop; right into Carnwath. Use parking area on left above manor house. Heavy rain cancels.

Tues May 12 Membership Meeting 7:00 pm Rockefeller Hall Vassar College See details in box on cover page.

Thurs May 14 Bimonthly Paddle See p.4 for information.

Thurs May 14 Library Lecture: Kayaking: How to Get Started See p.2

Sat May 16 SW Hunter & Hunter (Level B+-A) Leader: Cal Johnson, hikeski@hvc.rr.com (preferred) 845-246-2006 Before 10 p.m Joint with Albany Chapter Starting in Spruceton, we will hike up the Devil's Path to the herd path for SW Hunter. Following this excellent path on a long abandoned RR bed, we will head for the canister. Backtracking, we will continue on the Devil's Path and then take the Hunter Mountain trail to the fire tower. After taking in the fantastic views from the tower, we will take the Spruceton trail back to the starting trail-head. Distance is around 9 miles with around 2000' up & down. Carpooling can be arranged to meet leader in Hunter at 8:00 a.m. Steady rain or no sign-ups by May 14 cancels.

Sat-Sun May 16-17 Beginner Backpack in South Taconics, CT. Leader Barry Skura 914-779-0936, bskura@optonline.net About 15 miles along the NY, CT, MA border. Fantastic views of the Taconic, Berkshire, and Catskill mountains as well as the Housatonic River Valley. Fantastic views of the Taconic, Berkshire, and Catskill mountains as well as the Housatonic River Valley. No backpack experience necessary, but you must be physically active and have recent day hiking experience. Register via E-mail to leader, indicating your prior hiking experience and that you are an ADK member.

Sun May 17 Poet's Walk in Rhinebeck. Level C Leader: Nancy Keenan-Rich, 845-452-1727 or NKrich@blackcreekphoto.com Easy hike of 3 miles or so with varied elevations. The highlight will be snacking/lunching in the gazebo and sharing of spring/nature poems so bring one. Rain cancels. Meet the leader in the Poet's Walk parking lot at 10:00am.

Sun May 17 Rondout Paddle Wawarsing to High Falls Intermediate Level Leader: Ken Walton 845-667-4664 or kaw569@yahoo.com The put in would be at the Port Ben Road overpass in Wawarsing (east of Rt. 209) to the public launch at Central Hudson in High Falls just before the dam, about 16 miles (about 6 hours of paddling). Bald eagles have been sighted along this stretch. During this time of season, expect some quickwater with riffles (more during the first half of the trip), but mostly flatwater. There'll be a portage around Aligerville Rapids. Paddling experience and PFD required. Wetsuit recommended or bring a change of clothes Bring lunch & water. Contact leader for meeting time/place. Only interested in doing a certain part of the trip? Call leader to make arrangements.

Tues May 19 Evening Lecture Kayaking: How to Get Started See p.2



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SPRING OUTINGS SCHEDULE (continued)

Thurs May 21 Bimonthly Hike See p.4 for information.

Thurs May 21 Library Lecture The Joys of Hiking See p.2

Sat May 23 AT Series Hike #3 See Ollie Simpson's article on p.3
Appalachian Trail --- Johnson Hill Rd. to NY22 (Level B- 4.1 miles)
Leaders: Jane Geisler 845-677-9909 and Ollie Simpson 845-298-8379
(no answering machine) or OllieSimpson2005@yahoo.com We'll discuss flora, fauna, geological, historical, and maintenance items. We'll also walk the blue side trail between Pawling Nature Reserve and Hurds Corners Road. Meet 9am at NY22 DOT parking area (east side) which is just north of the AT crossing about 3 miles north of Pawling; then carpool to start on Johnson Hill Road.

Sat-Mon May 23- 25 Appalachian Trail Backpack in VT & NH
Leader: Russ Faller, 845-297-5126 (before 9:30 PM) or russoutdoors@yahoo.com. Did you ever do a backpack where you could stop midway for a cold beer at a sidewalk cafe? On this one you can! A 37-mi. hike at the VT-NH border. A few steep ascents, but terrain is mostly gentle as the AT winds through pastures, fields & forest. Meet Fri. evening in Woodstock, VT. Limited to 8 in good physical condition. Joint with AMC. Contact leader to register.

Sat May 23 Walkkill River Paddle Level: Novice Leader: Tom Galvin 845-564-3825 or 914-213-3421 (before 9PM) or thebaldguyd@yahoo.com (preferred) Launch at 9:30 AM. New Paltz to covered bridge in Rifton. Bring extra clothes in dry bag or wet suit, snacks and water. Good for novice paddlers. Optional social afterwards at the Gilded Otter (www.gildedotter.com) in New Paltz. Contact leader to register. Directions: East on Route 299 to Village of New Paltz. Follow Main St/299 all the way through village to the last street on the left before the bridge over the Walkkill. This is Water St. Turn left onto Water St and go to the stop sign. Bear to the right onto Plains Rd. Go approx. 1/4 to 1/2 mile on the right. You will see the launch on the right at Sojourner Truth Park. You can pull down to the water to launch.

Sun May 24 Paddle Constitution Marsh Leaders: Jean-Claude Fouere (jcfouere@optonline.net or 845-462 0142 and Georgette Weir. Call, or email, leader for meeting time by Friday, May 22. Heavy rain cancels. Bring water and lunch. PFDs required.

Tues May 25 4th Tuesday Leisurely Hike See p.4

Mon May 25 Memorial Day Holiday Hudson River Paddle Experienced paddlers only Leader: Tom Galvin 845-564-3825 or 914-213-34121 (before 9 PM) or thebaldguyd@yahoo.com (preferred) Memorial day paddle. Launch at 2:00 PM. Paddle from Beacon RR station to Fishkill Creek.. For intermediate paddlers. Bring wet suits, snacks and water. Contact leader to register.

Tues May 26 Library Lecture Kayaking: How to Get Started
See p.2

Thurs May 28 Bimonthly Paddle See p.4

Sat May 30 Catskills-map #43 A 9 Miles
Leader: Alvin DeMaria demonalvin@yahoo.com; 845-255-1704
From Peekamoose road, we will attempt to find Spencer's Ledge and various points along the ridge. We will shuttle cars and finish (hopefully) at Kanape parking area. Most of this hike is a bushwack. But the peaks are under 3000 feet elevation. Meeting time and place: call leader.

Sat May 30 (Raindate Sun May31) Black Creek Clean-up & Paddle
Russ Faller, 845-297-5126 (before 9:30 PM) or russoutdoors@yahoo.com Please help with our seasonal clean-up of the Black Creek in the morning, then enjoy a paddle in the afternoon. Bring boat, gear (PFDs required), hand saws, loppers, work gloves, high boots or watershoes, lunch & water. If you don't have a boat or

tools, contact leader. Meet at 9:30 AM in the grassy parking area on south side of Rt. 299 at Black Creek bridge, across from the motel just east of Chodikee Lake Rd. Please contact leader to let us know you're coming.

Sun May 31 Delaware River Paddle B, Moderate
Leader: Don Urmston email: Durmston@hvc.rr.com or phone 845-457-4552 (before 9pm) We will paddle 8-10 miles down the Delaware River in our kayaks and canoes. There will be class II rapids and we will get wet, so dress in layers, use fleece clothing and bring a change of dry clothes along with lunch & water. PFD Required! Trip is open to anyone with previous paddling experience or adventurous beginners. Meet at Tourist Information Center off I84 in Matamoras, PA at 9:00 am. Register with leader by 5/22/09. Rain cancels.

Wed June 3 Library Lecture Kayaking: How to Get Started See p.2

Thurs June 4 Bimonthly Hike See p.4 for information

Sat June 6 Storm King Mountain Level A Leaders: Georgette Weir & Jean-Claude Fouere; geweir@optonline.net (Put "Storm King hike" in subject line). Hudson River History-Quaridcentennial Hike Approximately 4 very strenuous miles with many fabulous panoramic viewpoints of the Hudson River and Highlands. Storm King has played a featured role in the history of American art and environmental awareness. Bring lunch & beverage. Meet 9:00 am Contact leaders for carpooling and meet-up places:

Sat June 6 AT Series Hike #4 miles See Ollie Simpson's article on p.3 Appalachian Trail - NY22 to West Dover Rd. (DC20) Level B- 5 miles Leaders: Sue Mackson 845-471-9892 or susiem6@juno.com and Jane Geisler 845-677-9909. Leisurely pace—Heavy rain cancels. Hikers will get an in-depth look at the Mid-Hudson ADK maintained portion of the AT. We'll discuss flora, fauna, geological, historical, and maintenance items. A large field of blue Iris should be blooming. This is National Trails Day. We may meet some thru hikers. Meeting Time/Place: 9:00 AM DOT parking area west side of NY 22, which is just north of the AT crossing & railroad station, about 3 miles north of Pawling.

Sat Jun 6 Walkkill River Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Paddle Rt.565, Town of Vernon, NJ to Oil City Rd, NY - Novice to Intermediate Ken Walton 845-667-4664 or kaw569@yahoo.comThis is a quietwater paddle for about 8 miles of the headwaters of the Walkkill in Northern New Jersey. Very scenic and remote. PFD required. Bring lunch & water. Contact leader for meeting time/place.

Sun June 7 Mills Mansion to Norrie Point Level C Leader: Beth Willis 845-373-8202For those new to hiking or who enjoy a leisurely pace. Spend several hours walking alongside the Hudson River from the Mills Mansion down toward Norrie Point. Possible stop afterward for late lunch/early supper. Wear good hiking boots and bring at least a quart of water. Meet 1 pm. Call leader to register and for meeting place.

Thurs June 11 Bimonthly Paddle See p.4

Thurs June 11 Library Lecture Kayaking: How to Get Started See p.2

Sat June 13 Sugarloaf Level B Leader: Cal Johnson hikeski@hvc.rr.com (preferred) 845-246-2006 before 10PM