

**2017 Southeastern Adirondacks Roadmeet
Cooper's Cave Ale Company, Glens Falls, NY
July 8, 2017**

Introduction

The Adirondacks have long been a summer vacation destination for Americans on the east coast. Lake George, Lake Placid and other settlements are some of America's longest-lasting vacation colonies, while the rugged wilderness of the interior is practically untouched to this day. The Glens Falls/Lake George region has held military significance since colonial days, as it lies on the divide and ancient portage between the Hudson River and St. Lawrence watersheds and was on the boundary between the Dutch and French colonies. A large amount of the French and Indian War was fought in the region, most notably the Battle of Lake George. During the American Revolution, several important battles were fought along the Hudson downstream from Glens Falls, including the Battle of Saratoga. The home of John Brown, abolitionist famous for the Harper's Ferry raid, is in Lake Placid. Glens Falls arose as an industrial town, with the region once home to several paper mills, including the former headquarters of International Paper, while tourism was and still is a major industry in the mountains themselves.

A southern extension of the Canadian Shield, the Adirondacks are the only mountains in the eastern United States that are not Appalachian. Most of the mountain range is protected as part of Adirondack Park, overseen by the oft-controversial Adirondack Park Agency. At 6.1 million acres, Adirondack Park is the largest protected area in the United States outside of Alaska. Most of the park continues to lack cell phone service, with service along Interstate 87 and in major settlements being a recent development. Development has been heavily restricted, resulting in a rapid change from suburbs to wilderness in the Glens Falls area. Several of the roads in the region are old Native American paths or military roads. Generally, state highways within Adirondack Park are built to much higher quality than those in most mountainous regions, likely due to the lack of population, and old alignments that were abandoned in the 1950s or 60s are common.

Meet: 11:30 AM, Cooper's Cave Ale Company, 2 Sagamore St, Glens Falls, NY 12801

<http://www.cooperscaveale.com/>

Important notes:

- **My cell number:** . Note that we will not have cell reception for portions of the drive.
- Speed limit in New York is 55 unless signed otherwise. "End 45 MPH Limit" or similar means a return to 55.

Leg 1: Lunch to Cooper's Cave Bridge, River Street and Coopers Cave Dr, South Glens Falls
(Depart 1:30 PM, estimated time 6 minutes, 1.2 miles)

1. Proceed west on Dix Avenue
2. At end of road, turn LEFT onto Ridge St (NY 9L)
 - a. Note "End NY 9L" assembly at Washington St. In the 1980s, Ridge Street was one-way NB south of this point and carried US 9 NB
3. At roundabout, take third exit onto US 9 South / NY 32 South / Glen Street. When second lane forms, get into right lane.
 - a. Centennial Circle, completed in 2007, replaced a five-way signalized intersection
 - b. Note the torch at the SE corner of the roundabout. The Olympic Flame spent a night here before the 1980 Winter Olympics in nearby Lake Placid.
4. After crossing Hudson River (entering Saratoga County, Village of South Glens Falls), immediately turn RIGHT onto River Street
5. Park in gravel lot on right. If lot is full/blocked off, park in paved lot about 1 block further on left

Cooper's Cave Bridge: The Cooper's Cave Bridge, completed in 2004, carries US 9 and NY 32 across the Hudson River. This is the fifth bridge at this site, replacing a concrete arch bridge constructed in 1914. Follow the path to the small island where a cave is visible. Cooper's Cave is named after James Fenimore Cooper, who wrote *Last of the Mohicans* after a visit to the region. Cooper's Cave is so named because, in that novel, the main character hides in this cave. Until the 1960s, it was possible to enter the cave via a spiral staircase attached to the bridge.

Just upstream of the bridge is Glens Falls, the namesake of the city. At 50 feet in height, the falls, now dammed, produces a significant amount of hydroelectric power for the region and industries. A paper mill was constructed on each bank, with the northern mill (Finch Pruyn) still active.

Leg 2: South Glens Falls to Hadley Parabolic Bridge, Hadley (Depart 1:55 PM, estimated time 35 minutes, 20.6 miles)

1. Proceed south on US 9 / NY 32
2. Turn slight right at Saratoga Avenue to remain on US 9 / NY 32. McDonald's is on the left. Continue to follow US 9 into the Town of Moreau
3. After 4.6 miles, turn RIGHT on Spier Falls Rd (Saratoga CR 24) at signal. Approximately ½ mile before is NY 197 and a Speedway gas station. Follow CR 24 into Corinth Town and Village.
 - a. Spier Falls, at 90 feet in height, is the largest waterfall on the Hudson River. When constructed in 1900, the dam was the largest power dam in the world and the fourth-largest dam overall. CR 24 passes very close to the falls.

- b. There is a sharp right curve a short distance past the dam. Stay on CR 24.
 - c. At approximately the village line, we enter Adirondack Park. At 6.1 million acres, it is the largest protected area in the United States outside of Alaska.
 - d. Just inside the Village of Corinth, look down the blocks to the right. The large open area was once the headquarters and main mill for International Paper. Today, only one building at the end of Heath St remains.
- 4. At end of road, turn RIGHT onto Main St. Stewart's is on the corner. Continue straight onto NY 9N north into the Town of Hadley
- 5. After 3.7 miles, turn SLIGHT LEFT onto Old Corinth Rd. Dollar General is on the left.
 - a. Old Corinth Rd is an old alignment of what later became NY 9N
- 6. Cross the one-lane bridge and park as close to the far end of the gravel lot on the left as possible. If lot is full, there is another space to park slightly beyond.

Hadley Parabolic Bridge (arrive 2:30 PM, group photo stop): The Hadley Bow Bridge, crossing the Sacandaga River, was constructed in 1885. Closed to vehicular traffic in 1983, it was rehabilitated and reopened in 2006 without a load restriction. A railroad trestle is located just upstream of the bridge and the mouth of the Sacandaga is just downstream of the bridge.

Leg 3: Hadley to Warrensburg (depart 2:55 PM, estimated time 35 minutes, 22.6 miles)

- 1. Continue north on Old Corinth Road, go straight at the stop sign onto Saratoga CR 1, becoming Warren CR 12 at county line
- 2. After 9.4 miles, turn RIGHT onto Warren CR 3 toward "Warrensburg". Post office is on the corner. CR 3 becomes CR 2 at Thurman town line, then NY 418 at CR 4.
- 3. After 9 miles, turn RIGHT across railroad tracks to stay on NY 418
- 4. After 3.6 miles, turn LEFT onto bridge to stay on NY 418
- 5. At signal, turn LEFT onto US 9 North (Main St)
- 6. After 0.2 miles, turn LEFT into Stewart's parking lot.

Restroom/snack break: Stewart's, 16 Lake George Plaza Rd, Lake George, NY 12845

Leg 4: Warrensburg to Lake George overlook (depart 3:40 PM (preferably earlier), estimated time 45 minutes (35 drive plus 10 for traffic), 26.2 miles)

- 1. Return to US 9, turn RIGHT (south)
- 2. At fourth light, turn LEFT onto Diamond Point Rd (to I-87). Dunkin' Donuts and Sunoco are on the left.
 - a. Diamond Point Rd bridge over I-87 has original railings and concrete
- 3. Turn LEFT onto I-87 NB
 - a. The first two bridges have original concrete and railings

4. After 9 miles, take Exit 24 (Bolton/Hague), turn RIGHT at end of ramp onto Warren CR 11 East.
 - a. Modern CR 11 was constructed by NYSDOT to state highway standards in the late 60s – early 70s
 - b. An old alignment departs on the left shortly after East Schroon River Rd, this crosses the modern alignment once before merging back in
 - c. CR 11 is one of a few T-shaped county routes in New York. We are driving the east and west legs of it. The south leg was part of the original road from Bolton Landing to the area of Exit 24, dating to long before I-87 was built.
 - d. Note the pavement markings approaching the end of the road
5. At end of road, turn RIGHT onto NY 9N south.
6. After 10.8 miles, turn RIGHT onto I-87 access road (to I-87, unsigned NY 912Q).
 - a. Prior to 1967, this ramp was the northern end of I-87
 - b. Between US 9 and I-87 is the southernmost Quebec Autoroute shield
7. After crossing I-87, turn RIGHT into parking area/text stop.

Lake George overlook: This is mainly a regrouping point to ensure we don't get too separated. Enjoy the view. South of this point is the original section of the Northway, opened in the late 50s-early 60s. North of here opened in 1967.

Leg 5: Lake George overlook to Hudson Falls (depart 4:30 PM, estimated time 40 minutes (30 driving plus 10 for traffic, 25.3 miles)

1. Leave parking area, turn RIGHT at end of ramp to enter I-87 south
2. Exit at Exit 19 for NY 254 (Glens Falls/Hudson Falls). Turn RIGHT at end of ramp onto NY 254 east
3. After 2.6 miles, turn LEFT onto NY 9L (Ridge Rd). Cumberland Farms is on the corner.
4. After 3.5 miles, turn RIGHT at first signal onto Sunnyside Rd East (Warren CR 39) (Becoming Warren CR 39, then Washington CR 35)
5. At T-intersection stop sign, turn LEFT onto Washington CR 36
 - a. At this intersection, note the old Washington CR shields. This is one of four known remaining assemblies of this type
 - b. After ¼ mile, note the old "4 Miles to Fort Ann" sign on the left
6. Take next RIGHT onto Rock City Rd
7. At stop sign, turn RIGHT onto US 4 south
8. Follow US 4 into Hudson Falls and around village green. Take first RIGHT after village green onto Depot St. Cross the river, park in lot on LEFT

Bakers Falls Overlook: Bakers Falls is the last waterfall on the Hudson River. The old bridge was taken out of use in the 1980s or early 1990s.

Leg 6: Hudson Falls to Cooper's Cave Ale Company (Depart 5:10, estimated time 20 minutes)

1. Cross the bridge, make first RIGHT onto Sumpter St
2. Turn LEFT onto John St
3. At signal, turn LEFT onto Main St (US 4 North)
4. Follow signs around village green to NY 254, take exit for NY 254 West
5. DO NOT TURN to follow NY 254, continue STRAIGHT on Lower Warren St onto NY 32 South
 - a. The short section of Lower Warren Street connecting NY 254 and NY 32 has NY 656 reserved for it
6. At roundabout in downtown Glens Falls, take 2nd exit onto US 9 North (Glen St)
7. At third signal, turn LEFT onto Grant Ave
8. Take third RIGHT onto Garfield St
9. After 0.5 mile, turn RIGHT onto Parkview Ave (look for one way signs)
 - a. Note the speed limit signs after the sharp curve
10. At light, turn RIGHT onto US 9 South (Glen St), immediately turn LEFT onto Webster Ave
11. At end of road, turn RIGHT onto Bay St
12. Take third LEFT onto Lexington Avenue (white house with red trim on corner)
13. At signal, turn RIGHT onto Ridge St
14. At second signal, turn LEFT onto Dix Avenue. Restaurant is at second intersection on LEFT.