



# Saratoga North Creek Railroad's Maiden Voyage

Steve Torrico, and crew deserves a tremendous amount of credit."

We traveled through the scenic Adirondacks along the Hudson River in the bubble dining car. The view was spectacular, and the staff of the SNCRR was very hardworking and courteous. Food and drinks were served in a professional manner and the food was well-prepared and delightful. Many of the maiden voyage riders had a grand time. Anna Bower and her sister from Barvino's in North Creek were on board, providing a wine tasting for the guests. Anna said, "This will be a boost to our business, bringing new customers to our town of North Creek. Hopefully once the Saratoga residents and people traveling to Saratoga and the track come to North Creek, they will fall in love with it as my family and

of the Iowa Pacific Railroad, who was on the maiden voyage and he shared his excitement about this new venture. The acquisition of the Adirondack Railway company from local municipalities and county government has allowed Iowa Pacific to expand its operations into the region. "We are looking to expand our link from North Creek to Albany and then Grand Central in the possible future," said Ed Ellis, "by receiving government approval of establishing fully compliant 49 CFR 238/239 passenger operations, we will be the only privately held company in the United States to have such an honor. We have worked very hard to complete this operation and our staff including general manager,



I have." As we journeyed along, we passed fly fisherman and white water rafters along the riverside. Our arrival in North Creek was met with a local band and many supportive citizens.

Steve Torrico, general manager of SNCRR, shared with me the history of the local railroad while donning his historic railroad engineer's uniform and his classic 1934 hat. According to Steve, In 1863, Dr. Thomas C. Durant—one of the owners of the Pacific Railroad—was given an



\$800,000 grant to build a sixty mile railroad line from Saratoga Springs to North Creek, New York, creating an important link with the Adirondack Mountains. It was completed in 1871 and was first named the Adirondack Company. In 1881 it was sold to his son, William West Durant, and renamed The Adirondack Railway Company. In 1902 it merged with the Delaware and Hudson Railroad to become the Adirondack Branch. The rail line has not run since 1956 as a passenger railroad.

I met with the North Creek Business Alliance and Gore Mountain Chamber of Commerce the next morning and they are working diligently to provide



combination travel excursions from Saratoga to North Creek and return trips to build the traffic between the two towns. The overnight and day trips will link the travelers coming to Saratoga from NYC and the Albany area and will drive business to North Creek and the Adirondacks. Success Magazine and Success-coupons.com will be working with SNCRR, North Creek, and Saratoga to develop the region's business.



The Saratoga North Creek Railroad made its maiden voyage Wednesday July 20, 2011. It initiated its journey from North Creek at 10 AM and arrived on time in Saratoga Springs at 12 noon. The SNCRR was met with Saratoga dignitaries from the Saratoga Chamber and media who were curious about this new opportunity to promote the Adirondack corridor from Saratoga to North Creek and bring business to both municipalities.

We spoke with Ed Ellis, owner

