

= Joppenbergh Mountain =

Joppenbergh Mountain is a nearly 500 @-@ foot (152 m) mountain in Rosendale Village , a hamlet in the town of Rosendale , in Ulster County , New York . The mountain is composed of a carbonate bedrock overlain by glacially deposited material . It was named after Rosendale 's founder , Jacob Rutsen , and mined throughout the late 19th century for dolostone that was used in the manufacture of natural cement . Extensive mining caused a large cave @-@ in on December 19 , 1899 , that destroyed equipment and collapsed shafts within Joppenbergh . Though it was feared that several workers had been killed , the collapse happened while all the miners were outside , eating lunch . Since the collapse , the mountain has experienced shaking and periodic rockfalls .

During the late 1930s , Joppenbergh became the site of several ski jumping competitions , which continued until the early 1940s . The original slope was designed by Harold Schelderup for Rosendale 's first competition in 1937 ; Schelderup himself skied that July , after the slope was coated with borax for a summer competition . Several Olympic skiers participated in the competitions . Skiing began again in the 1960s , when a new slope was built on the mountain , and the revived competitions continued until 1971 .

The town of Rosendale considered buying land near the mountain in 2003 for parking , and the following year , the town leased a tract of land to build a municipal parking lot . Joppenbergh was put up for sale in 2009 , and in March 2011 , the Open Space Institute (OSI) offered to purchase the entire 117 @-@ acre (47 ha) property and sell it to the town . The Rosendale town board initially agreed to the deal the following month , with payment planned to come from a surplus fund . That June , however , the board found that the surplus fund had already been exhausted and could not cover the entire cost of the purchase . Ultimately , the OSI completed its purchase of Joppenbergh in October 2011 , without town money .

= = Name = =

Joppenbergh is named after Colonel Jacob Rutsen , born Jacobsen Rutger van Schoonderwoerd . Rutsen was a merchant , and the son of a Dutch immigrant , from Albany ; he founded the first settlement in what is now the town of Rosendale , New York , in the late 17th century . The spelling of the mountain 's name has been disputed , and has been rendered as Joppenberg and Joppenburgh . It has also been called Jacob 's Nose , Jacob 's Mount , and , in an early 18th @-@ century deed , Jobsenbright .

= = Geology = =

Sources differ on whether Joppenbergh is 485 feet (148 m) or 495 feet (151 m) . Both measurements give Joppenbergh a lower elevation than the highest point in the town of Rosendale , a 600 @-@ foot (180 m) peak of the Shawangunk Ridge .

The bedrock underlying the mountain is composed of limestone and dolostone members of the Helderberg Group , laid during the Paleozoic era . Most of the Helderberg carbonates in Rosendale are located north of the Rondout Creek , and have given Rosendale a karst topography , resulting in " sink holes , disappearing streams , caves , and springs " . The mountain 's surface is composed of unconsolidated , glacially deposited outwash and till , with several outcrops exposing Joppenbergh 's bedrock . Soils have been mapped as Farmington @-@ Rock outcrop complex . In some areas , the soil depth is less than 20 inches (51 cm) , which hinders groundwater filtration . Other parts of the mountain have a steep , 30 percent grade . These areas , comprising nearly 75 percent of the 117 @-@ acre (47 ha) property , cannot be easily developed .

= = History = =

= = Mining collapses = =

In 1825 , engineers working on the Delaware and Hudson Canal found large numbers of dolostone rocks in the region , which enabled the production of natural cement . The rocks contained dolomite of the Upper Silurian 's Rondout formation . Joppenbergh was rich in the mineral , and was mined . Several quarries operated on the mountain , including the New York and Rosendale Cement Company , and the James Cement Company . No one company had complete control of the entire mountain .

By late December 1899 , mining had compromised Joppenbergh 's integrity enough to cause a series of landslides , followed by a large cave @-@ in on December 19 . Four collapses occurred that day , beginning at 8 AM , and culminating in the 11 : 30 AM collapse of the Black Smoke Mine shaft network . Though it was initially believed that fifteen workers had been killed , the collapse happened while all 150 men were outside of the mountain , eating lunch .

The collapse rendered the canal and nearby road impassable , and caused a boiler explosion that shook the nearby Rosendale trestle . At the time of the collapse , the total cost of the damage was estimated to be between \$ 20 @,@ 000 and \$ 25 @,@ 000 . Another , larger collapse happened the following week , late at night . This cave @-@ in was believed to have been caused by the December 19 collapse . Shortly after the landslides , " swarms of gawking spectators " crowded the village to photograph the debris ; one such photograph was alleged to depict the Madonna . Frequent rockfalls as a result of mining led to calls to destroy the mountain in 1907 .

= = = Skiing competitions = = =

Throughout the 1930s the tourist industry in Rosendale flourished , generating almost \$ 700 @,@ 000 each year between spring and autumn . The Rosendale Township Association , founded in 1934 to encourage tourism in the town , sought out new activities to attract tourists to Rosendale during the winter . In 1936 the association asked a Brooklyn @-@ based telemark skiing club to build its new 40 @-@ meter (130 ft) ski jumping slope in Rosendale . The group leased Joppenbergh from owner Warren Sammons .

Rosendale 's first ski jumping competition was held on January 24 , 1937 . The ski track was designed by Harold Schelderup , a ski hill designer from Norway . Bad weather caused the cancellation of competitive events , but a skiing exhibition still occurred . That April , the Telemark club held a special dinner in Brooklyn to honor members who performed well in the January competition . The club planned to hold a summer competition by covering the mountain with " straw and pine needles " . Harold Schelderup , who was recognized at the dinner for his skills , performed in the summer tournament . Joppenbergh 's ski track was coated with borax , and the tournament was held on July 18 , 1937 at 2 : 30 in the afternoon , with enough parking provided for 500 cars . In front of a crowd of 3 @,@ 300 people , " jumpers took off from an in @-@ run covered with borax and landed on a hill covered with mats and carpets topped with straw and borax " .

Olympic skier Ottar Satre set a record jump of 112 feet (34 m) in 1937 . The following year a 25 @-@ foot (7 @.@ 6 m) extension was placed atop the mountain to increase jumpers ' distance . Although Satre 's 112 @-@ foot (34 m) record was expected to be beaten by more than 30 feet (9 @.@ 1 m) , the winner of the January 23 , 1938 competition was Norwegian skier Nils Eie , who jumped only 128 feet (39 m) . Harold Schelderup also participated in the competition , which was held the week after he won a separate tournament in White Plains . Another Joppenbergh tournament was planned for March 7 , 1938 . Competitions were held in 1940 and 1941 . The length of the slope was increased to 50 meters (160 ft) in 1941 , but the United States ' entrance into World War II caused skiers to enter the military , and competitions were not held after the war .

Skiing resumed on Joppenbergh in the 1960s . The Rosendale Nordic Ski Club was organized on January 11 , 1964 , and immediately created the Joppenbergh Mountain Corporation (JMC) to manage the Joppenbergh property . Three hundred shares of stock were issued for the JMC , priced at \$ 100 per share , to build a new slope ? and to buy the mountain itself for \$ 20 @,@ 000 from its owner , Mary Sammons . The JMC gained control of the property on August 20 , 1964 , and immediately announced its intent to build a new ski slope on the site of the original one , as well as a

parking lot capable of holding 10 @, @ 000 cars . The goal of the club was to make Rosendale the " Nordic Ski Capital of the East " . A new 70 @-@ meter (230 ft) slope was completed on November 14 , 1965 , and augmented by a snowmaking system to provide artificial snow . When a ski jumping competition was held on January 30 , 1966 , skier Leif Bringslimark achieved a 152 @-@ foot (46 m) jump from the new slope . Competitions were held January 22 , 1967 and January 27 , 1968 . The winner of the 1968 tournament was Per Coucheron , a 22 @-@ year @-@ old Dartmouth student who reached 206 feet (63 m) . The slope was icy prior to the competition ; a snowmaking machine was used the night before the jump , and club members , as well as the competitors themselves , " help [ed] manicure the slope " . When the jump began , the slope was in fine condition .

The Rosendale Outing Ski Club organized a competition on January 25 and 26 , 1969 , attended by a crowd of 3 @, @ 000 people . Olympic medalist Franz Keller jumped 212 feet (65 m) down a 65 @-@ meter (213 ft) slope on Joppenbergh , though he managed to reach 214 feet (65 m) during practice . It had rained the week before the competition , and although 20 truckloads of snow were brought in , the condition of the track was " extremely fast " . Several participants fell , and one was brought to a hospital in Kingston .

A jump took place on January 18 , 1970 , the same year that the Rosendale Outing Ski Club became part of the Rosendale Nordic Ski Club . The new club organized Rosendale 's final skiing competition , which took place on February 6 and 7 , 1971 . Keller 's 212 @-@ foot (65 m) record was broken twice on February 6 , by Middlebury College student Hugh Barber . The 185 @-@ pound (84 kg) Barber reached heights of 213 feet (65 m) and 217 feet (66 m) during the competition , and 226 feet (69 m) during practice , in front of 3 @, @ 500 spectators . Although Barber believed the ski hill was in " great condition " , 10 to 15 percent of participants had fallen during the tournament . Consistently unfavorable weather conditions and a lack of profitability were the major reasons skiing stopped on Joppenbergh ; the poor design of the slope , as well as infighting among ski club members , also contributed . The slope was subsequently abandoned , and an adjacent facility , for the ski jumps , fell into disuse . The JMC continued to own and maintain the property after skiing ceased .

= = = Modern use = = =

Periodic rockfalls continue to happen , with debris sliding down the mountain face . In 1984 , State Route 213 was moved 50 feet (15 m) away from Joppenbergh and closer to Rondout Creek to protect motorists . A retaining wall was put up at the foot of the mountain to prevent falling rocks from rolling onto the street . During the 1980s , Vidacable TV Systems leased part of the mountain from the JMC to set up an antenna . Cellular One considered building a 180 @-@ foot (55 m) cell tower on top of Joppenbergh in 1992 , but decided not to do so . Although there was public opposition to the proposal , Cellular One stated that local sentiment was not a factor in its decision against building the tower . In 1995 the mountain was studied by the New York Public Service Commission to determine a possible route for new transmission lines laid by a local energy utility .

The body of a 25 @-@ year @-@ old substitute teacher from Kingston , Amy Glauner , was found on Joppenbergh after an October 1998 search . Police determined that she died of head trauma following a fall . Her car had been found in a parking lot by the mountain .

In 2003 , the town of Rosendale considered either leasing a tract of land near Joppenbergh , or purchasing a 1 1 ? 2 @-@ acre (0 @. @ 61 ha) lot , to expand parking on Main Street . The lot belonged to former village mayor Joseph Reid , who refused to sell it to the town . Although the town board considered using eminent domain to acquire Reid 's property , it agreed in June 2004 to lease the Joppenbergh property instead , for a period of 10 years , at a rate of \$ 3 @, @ 500 each year . One member of the town board opposed the deal because it would not secure the land beyond the 10 @-@ year term . The lease allowed the town to create a park by the municipal lot , Willow Kiln Park , which contains several defunct cement kilns . Willow Kiln Park has served as the setting of an art show and , following a zombie @-@ themed street festival , a concert .

Though the JMC had been unwilling to sell its land in 2004 , by December 2009 the entire mountain was put up for sale , for \$ 500 @, @ 000 . Before 2009 , the assessed value of the property was only

about \$ 50 @, @ 000 . In early March 2011 , the Open Space Institute (OSI) offered to purchase the 117 @-@ acre (47 ha) property ? which had , by that time , been reassessed at \$ 240 @, @ 000 ? for \$ 185 @, @ 000 , and sell it to the town for \$ 85 @, @ 000 . The deal would create an easement with the town , allowing only noncommercial use of the mountain while preserving the municipal parking lot at its base . While some government officials viewed such an acquisition as a permanent solution to the hamlet 's parking problems , other officials viewed the loss of tax revenue from the privately owned property to be undesirable .

More than 175 people showed up for a rancorous public hearing over the purchase on April 6 , 2011 . During the hearing , members of the Rosendale town board determined that the tax income from the entire property was much less than the cost of renting part of it for parking . Residents brought up several issues , such as the liability the town would assume from falling rocks , and sinkholes . Other issues discussed were the lack of road access to the parking lot , and whether the property should be used commercially . An individual living adjacent to the property , Brett Hansen , expressed a strong desire to buy it and build additional parking lots , as well as an amphitheater . Proponents of the purchase described how ownership of Joppenbergh would allow Rosendale to connect the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail with Main Street , and how property values near the mountain would increase . The town board agreed to the purchase in a 3 ? 2 vote on April 13 .

Although a 17 @-@ page petition with 298 signatures in favor of a public referendum was presented at the meeting , the board felt that OSI funds would not be available by the proposed November referendum . Opponents of the board 's decision protested it by placing signs near the mountain deriding the purchase as an unwise expenditure . The town was not legally obligated to hold a referendum , regardless of public sentiment , because the money budgeted for the purchase was not borrowed ; board members planned to tap a \$ 340 @, @ 000 surplus fund , generated by the 2010 sale of town land to the OSI , which intended to allow bouldering on the property . The \$ 340 @, @ 000 fund was originally intended for capital improvements , specifically the construction of a new town hall , but a June 2011 audit of the town 's 2010 budget found that a large part of the surplus had already been used to offset budget and tax shortfalls ; only \$ 79 @, @ 000 remained available .

Several local businesses considered contributing money to the mountain 's purchase . Such funding would be considered surplus , and would not be subject to referendum . Owners of businesses on Main Street expressed concern at the June 1 town board meeting that the cost of parking would increase if the property was purchased by a third party . One board member estimated that without paying rent , the town would recoup the cost of the property within 12 years . Ulster County Area Transit expressed a desire to route its buses through the property , creating a connection to the Mohonk Preserve . A nonprofit organization , the Joppenbergh Mountain Preservation Association , was created in June 2011 to raise funding to purchase the mountain , the parking lot , and Willow Kiln Park .

In an effort to reduce the purchase price , the town board asked the mountain 's current owners to discount the final four years of rent on the parking lot , a cost of \$ 32 @, @ 000 . The town considered buying only the parking lot and Willow Kiln Park , but the JMC 's lawyer indicated that the 117 @-@ acre (47 ha) property would not be divided . Ultimately , the OSI bought Joppenbergh without any financial assistance from the town , gaining ownership of the property in October 2011 , although the sale was not completed until December 20 , 2011 . By that time , most of the JMC 's stockholders had died , and ownership of the property generated so little income that it served " no further business purpose " . Joppenbergh was a point of contention during the town 's November 2011 elections , with Republicans criticizing the affair as " reflect [ing] poorly on town Democrats ' fiscal management skills " . The town of Rosendale approached the OSI in January 2012 to renew its lease of the parking lot , which was set to expire at the end of 2013 .

In 2012 the OSI transferred ownership of the property to a local conservancy , the Wallkill Valley Land Trust (WVLT) . An informal association of businesses , the Joppenbergh Mountain Advisory Group (JMAG) , began working with the WVLT to create a land use policy . The WVLT began having monthly meetings with the JMAG , and with town and state departments ; its stated goal was to combine Joppenbergh 's development with the rehabilitation of the adjacent railroad trestle and

subsequent expansion of the rail trail . In late September 2012 , the WVLT held a hearing on a proposed land use plan that would allow deer hunting on the property beginning in 2013 , and would prohibit entry into several caves on the mountain .