



Volume 55, Number 1

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

February, 2002

## Wilderness:

### A Vermont Tradition

Forest Watch Executive Director Jim Northup will describe Vermont's long tradition of wilderness preservation and will discuss current proposals for additional wild, roadless areas. Jim's presentation, part of the GMC sponsored James P. Taylor Winter Series, will be at 7:00 PM, Friday, 15 March 2002, at the UU Church, 117 West Street, Rutland. Admission at the door: members \$5, nonmembers \$8, kids free.

## Dues To Increase

The GMC Board of Directors has made two changes in club-wide membership processing.

Effective 1 July 2002 dues will be increased to the following:

Single .....	\$30
Family .....	40
Student .....	20
Volunteer .....	20
Single Life .....	750
Family Life .....	1000

Renewal date for a member who was paid up as of 31 July 2001 is January first, as in the past. Renewal date for a member who joined after 31 July 2001 will be on the anniversary of his/her joining. A member who fails to renew within a four-month grace period after his/her renewal date will be dropped.

## Section Potluck and Annual Meeting

### Elect New Directors and Vote on Bylaw Changes

The Killington Section will hold its annual meeting following a potluck supper starting at 5:30 PM on Saturday, 20 April, at Fern Cottage. This new location for us is located on the west side of Creek Road just north of the intersection with River Street. (See map, page 6.) Bring a dish to share and a place setting. Beverages will be provided.

Members will elect three section directors for regular three-year terms and one for a two-year term. For the three-year positions incumbents Ruth Gibbud and Herb Ogden are term-limited out after six years in office. Incumbent Bill Robichaud intends to stand for reelection. The two-year slot became open when Sue Thomas announced her retirement for personal reasons. Any section member is eligible to serve as a director. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting. (Following the membership meeting the directors will convene to elect section officers for the coming year.)

Members will be asked to ratify two bylaw amendments recently approved by the directors: (1) To delete from Article 2 the sentence that requires voting members to be at least 18 years old. (2) To delete entirely Article 14, which authorizes the section to set its own annual dues. (The latter change is required for conformity with the GMC club-wide uniform dues policy.)

After the short business meeting out-going President Herb Ogden will show slides of his trip to Iceland.

## Member to Through Hike the AT – Again

Killington Section member, shelter adopter, and trail maintainer, Cindy Taylor-Miller, will be leaving the trailhead south of Springer Mountain, Georgia on 1 March to begin her second through hike of the 2168-mile Appalachian Trail. She knows what she's getting into. She made her first AT through hike a quarter century ago in 1977.

Cindy, trail name Mrs. Gorp, figures it will take her about 16 weeks to make it from Georgia to Vermont; she plans to be back home in Wallingford for a two week break in early July. Then it's on to Katahdin; six more weeks.

(You can find Cindy's web page at [trailjournals.com/mrsgorp](http://trailjournals.com/mrsgorp).)



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2002 .....	* Ruth Gibbud
" .....	* Herbert Ogden
" .....	William Robichaud
2003 .....	Gretchen Crowley
" .....	* Alfred Pulling
" .....	Susan Thomas
2004 .....	* Robert Perkins
" .....	* Jacob Sherman
" .....	* Connie Youngstrom

\* Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President .....	Herbert Ogden
Vice President .....	Connie Youngstrom
Secretary .....	Jacob Sherman
Treasurer .....	Alfred Pulling

### Committee Chairs/Co-chairs

History .....	Robert Perkins
Outings .....	Susan Thomas
" .....	Connie Youngstrom
Trails & Shelters .....	William Robichaud
" .....	Steve Williams

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director .....	Alfred Pulling
Alternate .....	Connie Youngstrom

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor .....	Robert Perkins
--------------	----------------

## From the Editor

### Meditations of a Cartophile

What could be a better way for a map lover to spend a few dreary winter evenings than to dig out the atlases and topo maps and to relive past hikes and imagine new ones? It's been a while since I abandoned any hope of bagging the Adirondack 48, or of conquering the White Mountain 46.

How about a more modest goal – say the high points of Rutland County? There are 27 towns and one city in the county and each must have, if not a peak, at least a highest point. Killington Peak, being on a town line, does double duty, so there are 27 high points.

I think I've located them all on 16 different topographic quadrangles. A surprise -- guess which quad has the most town high points. West Rutland with six! And close behind is Proctor with five!

On page 11 I've listed the results of my perusing. I'd like to hear from anyone who spots an error. Now the challenge is to visit these high points on the ground.

### Getting the Right Word

While writing the piece above I figured that "cartophile" was a wonderful ostentatious word for "map lover". Unfortunately, I could find it only in one dictionary where it is defined as "a collector of baseball cards". Oh well – I still like it.

Due to a miscommunication I referred, in the November issue, to "Hog Hill Cemetery". Although no wildlife was spotted, I've learned that the true destination of our 15 December outing was "Hawk Hill Cemetery". Evokes a rather different image, doesn't it?

### Contact Information

Gretchen Crowley, 32 Pleasant St., Proctor, VT 05765, 459-2098, gcrowley@rrmc.org  
 Ruth Gibbud, 69 Temple St., Rutland, VT 05701, 747-0732  
 Herbert Ogden, 20 Birchwood Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, (H)775-1350, (W)775-3368, lco@together.net  
 Robert Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, rperkinsvt@aol.com  
 Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, ral37@juno.com  
 William Robichaud, 215 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2567  
 Jacob Sherman, 48 Morse Pl., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2784, jakesher56@hotmail.com  
 Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185  
 Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, voorburg@sover.net  
 Connie Youngstrom, Box 1160, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3502, marky@sover.net



## Help Maintain the Long Trail - Be a Sector Checker

Do you know why our group is called the "Killington Section" rather than the "Rutland Chapter" of the Green Mountain Club? When the GMC was founded in 1910 the founders' vision and primary focus was the construction of the Long Trail from Massachusetts to Canada. They divided the projected trail route into sections, each named after its most prominent geographic feature, and they named local groups to build and care for each section of the trail. Some of these local groups have come and gone over the years, and some have changed their names, but today we have, among others, the Breadloaf Section, the Sterling Section, the Laraway Section and, of course, the Killington Section.

As members of the Killington Section we all support the Long

Trail financially with our dues, and many of us enjoy the outings and social get-togethers. But our name reminds us that our *raison d'être* is the care and maintenance of the "Killington section" of the Long Trail. Typical maintenance tasks include pruning trailside foliage, trimming grass and brush, repainting blazes, repairing or replacing directional signs, hoeing out water bars, and removing small blowdowns from the trail. Occasionally a large blowdown must be removed or a wet spot on the trail must be bridged or bypassed.

To give more members a chance for hands-on participation in trail care and maintenance the section directors, in the spirit of the founders, have sub-divided the Killington section of the trail into a number of shorter sectors. It is their hope that members,

either individually or with a partner, will volunteer to select and take charge of the care and maintenance of one or more sectors. Sector Checkers periodically will visit their sectors, perform any needed maintenance tasks that they feel comfortable doing, and report to the Killington Section trails chairman on the condition of their trails and on the need for any major tasks for which more help is needed. Tools and guidance by experienced trail workers will be provided as needed.

The available trail sectors are listed below. If you're interested in becoming a Sector Checker for the Killington Section, or have questions about it, get in touch with Bill Robichaud or Herb Ogden (See *Contact Information* on page 2).

### Trail Sectors Maintained by the Killington Section

- |                    |           |   |
|--------------------|-----------|---|
| • Bear Mountain    | 3.6 miles | Long Trail: Route 140 to Minerva Hinchey Shelter  |
| • Clarendon Gorge  | 2.7 miles | Long Trail: Minerva Hinchey Shelter to Route 103  |
| • Beacon Hill      | 1.9 miles | Long Trail: Route 103 to Lottery Road   |
| • Cold River       | 2.0 miles | Long Trail: Lottery Road to Lower Cold River Road   |
| • Gould Brook      | 1.5 miles | Long Trail: Lower Cold River Road to Upper Cold River Road                                |
| • Sargent Brook    | 1.4 miles | Long Trail: Upper Cold River Road to Gov. Clement Shelter                                 |
| • Killington South | 4.3 miles | Long Trail: Gov. Clement Shelter to Cooper Lodge  |
| • Killington North | 6.3 miles | Long Trail: Cooper Lodge to US Route 4  |
| • Willard Gap      | 1.4 miles | Long Trail: US Route 4 to Tucker-Johnson Shelter  |
| • Pico             | 3.4 miles | Sherburne Pass Trail: US Route 4 to LT at Jungle Junction,<br>plus Pico Link to Pico Peak |
| • Bucklin          | 3.6 miles | Bucklin Trail: Brewers Corner to Cooper Lodge,<br>plus Killington Spur to Killington Peak |
| • Blue Ridge       | 2.4 miles | Canty Trail: Old Turnpike Road to Blue Ridge summit                                       |



## Trip Reports

### Mount Antone

1 December 2001

By Steve Williams, co-leader

Thanks to Sue Thomas the group assembled at the Merck Forest Visitor Center. Unlike the previous southwest Vermont expedition, when one participant was lost while finding his own way from Rutland, and another appeared to be overawed by the peaks of the area, all declared participants were at the starting gate in good time.

To make the route more interesting, diversions via the McCormick trail and the ski trail were made as an alternative to merely following the "Antone Road" track. This led to complaints by a senior member of the party on the subject of going down rather than up, a valid point as it happened. However, in the interests of reaching the peak he was prevailed upon to stay with us: we hope that he saw the view from the top (over the northern part of the Mettowee valley) as an acceptable reward.

In the past six months there has been considerable logging around the McCormick trail, but with the exception of one very muddy patch at the top, the logging has opened up the trail considerably, also allowing glimpses westward toward the Adirondacks.

At the summit the party was rewarded with some sunshine, which made for a good lunch break with time to enjoy the surroundings.

The descent was via the

Beebe Pond trail, which has some attractive stretches through stands of silver birch. Beebe Pond does not rate amongst the state's most scenic, but Birch Pond, passed next, does have some claims as a picnic and (Summer!) swimming spot. Following Birch Pond, further protests were heard about going up on a down part of the trail. Fortunately no other option was practical as a means of returning to the Visitor Center, so the leaders were able to survive that one, too.

With a total elapsed time of about four hours, the ten participants, leaders Steve and Diana Williams included, appeared to have enjoyed their Merck Forest visit.

### Old Brandon Road

15 December 2001

by Roma Pulling, leader

A few years ago we hosted a trip to various historic sites in Rutland that we called "Hiking Through History." This outing was another hike through history as the area traversed by the Old Brandon Road was where Brandon's earliest settlers established their farms. Brandon's first white settler, Amos Cutler, built his cabin in this area. He was followed by David June and his father-in-law, John Ambler.

Seven people and a dog assembled for this interesting hike. We spotted two cars in the parking lot at Otter Valley Union High School and crowded into our station wagon, to ride to the end of Carver Street, where we parked and started our hike. A

sign here told us we were on property of the Vermont Land Trust.

As we followed the old road, now little more than a wagon track, we looked for signs of settlement and in addition to stonewalls found two cellar holes but were not able to identify the owners. Various signs have been erected locating farms by number but not by name.

Near the end of our hike we arrived at the old Hawk Hill, or June, cemetery. There are stones for David June and his wife, Prudence, and John and Sarah Ambler. John was the first settler to die, May 5, 1776. It was only a short distance from there to our cars.

This is a short, easy hike and one of great historical significance.

### Stockbridge South Hill

29 December 2001

by Herb Ogden, leader

Nine people showed up for this old road walk. One of them skied most of the way but didn't dare go fast on the downhill for fear of running across a gravelly stretch. This was, of course, the leader, who had advertized this as a walk, snowshoe, or ski outing. Nobody brought snowshoes, and that was just as well. There was at most four inches of snow.

Leaving the cars at the T where South Hill Road turns north, we followed an old town road that is also a major snowmobile route all the way to Fletcher Brook. Along the way, we noted several cellarholes where houses are shown on the



1869 *Beers Atlas* and the 1891 Rutland quadrangle. We also found a little flat place that may once have been Stockbridge School No. 17. The only major sighting in the wildlife department was a big buck that bounded down the road ahead of us. We could hear some very excited dogs (beagles?) after something near an inhabited cabin near Fletcher Brook, but we never found out what it was.

After heading north about a mile on the Fletcher Brook Road, we turned west on a steep uphill road that led past three or four more home sites before bringing us back to the road we came in on. At the end of the outing, we explored the South Hill cemetery, including the grave of the deaf mute who was "KILLED by the fall of a Tree" at age 21. There were several interesting epitaphs. We were appalled to see that two of the oldest stones had been shot through with guns, however.

### **Pico Camp**

5 January 2002

by Herb Ogden, leader

The ingredients were pretty good: a slightly breezy day just below freezing, a well-trodden trail, enough snow for snowshoes, and seven well-prepared hikers. The only drawbacks were an absence of wildlife and, above about 3000', an absence of views. In fact, by the time we reached the ski trail at the old Pico Junction, fog limited visibility to a few hundred feet.

So many people had already snowshoed the route that several of us just carried our snowshoes

on the way up. We halted occasionally to enjoy the spectacle of the snow-clad trees, and we stopped longer at the Sinkhole to hear one of our number describe the cave that lies below it, which he and others have explored recently. They even found a couple of bats once. Once we got up into the switchbacks, the evergreens were even more beautifully frosted. It appears there had been some ice fogs up there recently.

It took us only about an hour and a half to reach Pico Camp, so we were early for lunch. This 42-year-old building was in pretty good shape except for some rotted framing around the big east windows. Using supplies the Leader packed in, we replaced two big missing window panes with Lexan™, secured some smaller panes that were in danger of falling out, patched the door where it had been gnawed, and added more sheet metal to the privy door, where it had been gnawed through.

The well-trodden snowshoe track continued on south, but no one seemed to have snowshoed up Pico Loop. The last entry in the logbook was by a party snowshoeing from Sherburne Pass to Cooper Lodge and then down the Bucklin Trail! The trail seems to be getting more winter use than last time I led such a hike, back in 1996, even though it is now only a side trail. Anyway, with the benefit of all the packing done by others, some of us pretty much flew back down, taking about 3/4 hour for the 2.4 mile descent.

### **Glen Lake Overlook**

20 January 2002

By Sue Thomas, leader

When I planned a winter hike to Glen Lake Overlook, my biggest concern had been that the snow might obscure trail blazes, seemingly painted by leprechauns at an average height of three to four feet off the ground. Needless to say, that wasn't a problem. In fact, snowshoes were left behind and we made our way cautiously around the lakeshore on a combination of ice, snow, and a few patches of bare ground.

Even the dogs were smart enough to stay off the lake, where open water was still visible – proving that they're more intelligent than the occupants of the one lone ice shanty just off shore. It had not yet sunk when we moved on to the short climb up to the cliff, where we had a snack and enjoyed the view, and arrived back at the cars just in time for Ray's Happy Hour.

### **Snake Mountain**

27 January 2002

By Larry Walter, co-leader

Viv and I led a hike up Snake Mountain east of Vermont Route 22A, and south of Vermont Route 17 in Addison. We were joined by two other hardy souls for an enjoyable climb of about 950 feet to an open view from the top. We could see a good 180-degree panorama of the valley floor accentuated by Lake Champlain in the north and the Adirondacks to the west. The track was icy going up, but softened enough to afford some bite from our boots



on the way back down. The lack of snow in the valley below looked more like the scene of a May hike than a view from the deep end of January. No one needed snow shoes, and aside from some day-old ATV tracks there wasn't a sign of any mechanized use of the trail at all. No wildlife were sighted, probably due to our lack of attention to the surroundings. Where's Mr. Parker when you need him?!

Anyone planning a hike up Snake Mountain should be aware that the new trailhead and parking lot are north and west of the prior access. (Take Wilmarth Road east from Route 22A and then hang a left onto Mountain Road for a couple hundred feet to the parking lot on the left.) The hike is easy enough and rewards you with a wonderful view and a nice place to eat lunch.

### Little Rock Pond

2 February 2002

By Connie Youngstrom, leader

The day greeted us with brilliantly blue skies and frosty cold air -- a beautiful wintry morning glistening with rock-hard ice from yesterday's storm. Our group of five brave ice hikers, dressed for the cold and ready with poles and snowshoes, started off near Wallingford Pond access, heading towards the Long Trail and Little Rock Pond.

Walking on rutted icy tracks was tricky, to say the least. Once on the Long Trail, we headed south where the trail climbed gradually, following a north-facing slope to the pond. With

the snow surface encased in a half inch of ice, crampon equipped snowshoes were a necessity today. Our crunching footsteps were so loud that conversation had to wait till we stopped for a rest. We found the pond ice and snow covered and the outlet stream full and rushing. Atop nearby Green Mountain ice covered branches sparkled in the sun. Lunch was in the sunshine at the little bridge where we had a nice view of the pond and mountain.

I found an interesting variety of debris, or windchaff, on the icy snow after the high winds last evening. Some of these included: beech nut husks and tan leaves, shreds of paper and yellow birch bark, hemlock branchlets with tiny cones attached, red spruce and balsam needles, red spruce cones, scraps of all sorts of lichens and mosses, and bits of tree bark, twigs and larger branches of many different trees. Few animal tracks were spotted due to the storm, but I did see one set of coyote tracks and a set of deer tracks near the pond. Near Wallingford Pond we found a set of otter tracks. It's bounding gait and many slides must have occurred during the height of the storm before the sleet and snow changed over to rain.

### Killington Section, GMC Directors Meeting

5 December 2001

By Jake Sherman, Secretary

#### Present

Herb Ogden, Bob Perkins, Al Pulling, Bill Robichaud, Sue Thomas, Gretchen Crowley, Connie Youngstrom, Mark Youngstrom, and Jake Sherman

#### Secretary's Minutes

The minutes of the January 2 and March 31 meetings were approved. These minutes have already appeared in *Smoke & Blazes*.

#### Treasurer's Report

As of the present there is \$1,388.93 in the checking account, \$1,375.49 in the savings account, and \$747.36 in the Kirk Fund savings account. There is \$14,639.37 in Kirk Fund CDs, the same as last year. There are 62 individual members in the section, 52 family members and 14 life members. Allowing two individuals for a family membership, the total number of section members is 128.

#### President's Report

Clarendon Gorge Parking Lot -- The Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) is putting out to bid a \$53,000 job for paving of and improvements to the Clarendon Gorge parking area off Route 103. In addition to the paving, the job would involve improvements to the bulletin board as well as to the trail on both sides of the road. The work may be done next summer. Meanwhile, vandalism continues to be a problem at the area with the cars of even day hikers suffering broken windows. We are desirous of working with the main club and other organizations to increase patrols of the parking lot.

New Pico Shelter -- The GMC is planning to build a new Pico Camp on the relocated AT/LT on the west side of Pico. The biggest brook crossing along this stretch is located 1.8 mi. south of Route 4 and the proposal is to build the shelter 0.3 mi. away from the brook to the south along the same contour. This brook is the last reliable water source heading south. The shelter would be 0.3 mi. off the trail. The shelter is far enough around the mountain so you begin to lose highway noise. To further

#### Annual Meeting Site





minimize noise we persuaded them to reorient the shelter so it would face south.

### GMC Director's Report

Al reported that the agenda at the September meeting dealt with "the usual money matters." Part of the land around the Waterbury headquarters has been purchased and negotiations are continuing for the other, larger, part. Some shelters have been built on the Waterbury property to house GMC help; in winter they will be rented to skiers. There was no discussion at all of the Champion lands nor was there any mention of a proposed trail from Mt. Equinox over to Merck Forest. The last *Long Trail News* contains the annual report.

### Old Business:

**Governor Clement Shelter** -- After much discussion of possible solutions to ongoing problems of vandalism and rowdiness at the shelter, it was voted unanimously to request a meeting with the Shrewsbury Select Board to get their input and put forward our ideas. It was suggested that Roy Arthur of the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), Gary Salmon of the State Forest Service and Shrewsbury resident, and Mark and Connie Youngstrom, also Shrewsbury residents, be invited as well. The full array of options from putting up signs to banning parking, having periodic visits by law enforcement, digging trenches, gating the road, relocating the trail, and building a new shelter continue to be on the table. We were somewhat incredulous to hear from Dave Hardy that according to the Forest Service because the shelter is on public property we can't even put up a sign. We are asking him to go back and find out if this can really be true if legally use of the AT is restricted to pedestrians. Herb's strategy features a combination of signage, a parking ban by the town, and enforcement by Forest Service personnel. It is distressing that some guidebooks advise hikers to avoid stopping at Governor Clement, the LT's oldest shelter, because of possible harassment. Meanwhile, efforts to get stonework repaired have not met with success, as the stonemasons are still too

busy.

**Distribution of Outing Schedules** -- Sue takes the outing schedule to the *Rutland Herald* and sends it to *The Mountain Times*. Bob mails it to *The Rutland Shopper* and *Sam's Good News*. It was suggested that the *Black River Tribune*, *Vermont Sports*, the *Brandon-Pittsford Reporter*, Manchester papers and other radio and TV outlets might be good places to send it to. Bob said he would be happy to send it to any other print media to which we would like to have it sent. Jake will see that schedules of our hikes are available at Eastern Mountain Sports in the Diamond Run Mall.

**Use of Non-Members Addresses** -- It was felt that non-members who go on hikes and sign our register should receive a schedule of future hikes along with a letter inviting them to join the section. Mark and Connie offered to draft the letter along with input from Sue Thomas. While we want to encourage membership, we want to make it clearly understood that you don't have to join to go on the hikes.

### New Business:

**Policy on Physically Handicapped Hikers** -- After considerable discussion, it was unanimously voted that a copy of the GMC's *Trip Leader Handbook* along with a cover letter be sent to hike leaders. The letter would attempt to summarize the leader's responsibilities in such situations. While all are welcome to come on hikes, questions can arise over how much obligation there is on the part of the group to aid the handicapped hiker and whether hike plans ought to be modified to accommodate those with disabilities. Ben Rose, GMC executive director, has asked Herb to draft guidelines for dealing with handicapped hikers that will hopefully clarify these and various legal issues.

**By-Law Changes** -- Changes to two of the section's by-laws were unanimously approved. Eliminated from Article 2 was a sentence stating that all voting members shall be at least 18 years old. Article 14 defining the section's policy on dues was eliminated as well since all dues policies are now set by the main club.

**Annual Meeting** -- There was discussion of a date for the section's next annual meeting. None was set but it will take place sometime between late March and mid-April. We will look into Fern Cottage as an alternative to the Unitarian Church depending on cost. It was proposed that a 45-50 minute film on the training of the 10th Mountain Division would make a good program.

**Nominees for Directors** -- The terms of a number of directors and officers, some of whom are ineligible for reelection due to having served two consecutive terms, will expire at the next annual meeting. After some discussion of potential replacements, it was unanimously approved to put off further discussion of candidates until the next directors meeting. By this time there could be a thorough review of the membership lists.

**Trails & Shelters Report** -- Bill Robichaud opened by submitting his resignation as Trails & Shelters co-chair. Bill has been seriously disappointed during the past year by what he considers very poor turnout for work parties and walk-throughs and expressed frustration with trying to care for the trail with this lack of support. Jake expressed appreciation for all the time and hard work Bill has put into the section's trails for the past several years. Bill continued that it was his belief that the section was simply no longer interested in traditional trail maintenance and that the solution lay in "adopters," each of whom would commit to caring for a segment of the section. Some of these adopters could come from our ranks while others would be designated by the main club. After much discussion, there was a feeling that while "adoption" had much merit, traditional work parties should not be abandoned. Herb contended Bill was being overly pessimistic and that attendance at work parties had not changed all that much in 10 years. There was also concern that adopters might not be able to live up to their original good intentions. It appears that the future will involve some combination of the two approaches. The next issue of *Smoke & Blazes* will feature an article on the section's new program of trail adopters.



**Taylor Series** -- The next Taylor series program will take place Friday, March 15, at 7:00 PM at the Unitarian Church. The program will feature a slide talk by Jim Northup, executive director of Forest Watch, a Montpelier-based non-profit advocacy group calling for the creation of new wilderness areas in the state and the maintenance of existing ones. Connie and Sue will again handle refreshments and Sue will take care of posters and signs. We again want to display the GMC exhibit that was there last year. Last year's program attracted 30 people and at least that many should come this year.

**Trail Sharing** - A request was made by Connie Youngstrom that a short section of trail between Spring Lake and Patch Hollow be maintained in such a way that it is usable by cross-country skiers as well as hikers. It was unanimously approved that a letter be sent to the GMC expressing this request.

**Upcoming Meetings** -- The GMC Executive Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 11 at the Forest Service primarily to formulate its positions on wilderness expansion. At 6:30 that evening there will be at the Rutland Intermediate School Auditorium a statewide Forum on Wilderness that will include representatives of the logging interests as well as those of a wide range of environmental groups.

**Killington Flagging** -- Mark Youngstrom reported that trees have indeed been cut along a flagging tapeline from Cooper Lodge down to the West Glade Trail. Ruth Lamb, the shelter adopter, had previously notified Allen Wilson of ASC about this and been told the purpose was to aid skiers who accidentally got lost on that side of the mountain find their way back to the trail. It was felt that this was not a good precedent and that Killington should have cleared it with the club or at least asked. We would like Dave Hardy to verify the violation and contact Killington on behalf of the GMC.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 PM with several more agenda items yet to cover. The next meeting will take place Jan. 29, 2002, at 7:00 PM, again at Herb's office.

### **Killington Section, GMC Directors Meeting**

29 January 2002

By Sue Thomas, Acting Secretary

#### **Present**

Herb Ogden, Bill Robichaud, Al Pulling, Connie Youngstrom, Bob Perkins, Sue Thomas

#### **Secretary's Minutes**

The minutes of the 5 December 2001 meeting were read and approved.

#### **Main Club Director's Report**

Al reported that the Main Club has approved dues increases, to go into effect this summer, as follows: regular member, \$30; family, \$40; individual life, \$750; dual life, \$1000; student/low income, \$20.

The Champion Lands were not discussed.

Herb and Bill think we should be keeping an eye on main club expenses. Bill asked whether we get any funds from the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) for the shared portion of the trail. Herb asked Al to suggest to the Main Club that they minimize bureaucratic details with ATC that take up time and therefore money.

#### **New Pico Shelter**

We're not sure if GMC has money budgeted. Bill thinks that Killington (Resort) may not be able to make good on their promise to help with expenses. Should Killington Section think about donating money from our Kirk Fund?

#### **Bylaws**

Bob will print notice of proposed bylaw change in the next *Smoke & Blazes*.

#### **Section Elections**

Terms of directors Ruth Gibbud, Herb Ogden, and Bill Robichaud are expiring. Ruth and Herb are ineligible for reelection due to term limits. Names of several members were suggested as possible new board members and officers.

#### **Trail Maintenance**

Should we continue to have work parties? General feeling is yes, but Bill is not interested in leading them. Herb will lead the high elevation walk-through. Sue will ask Jerry Parker to

lead the low elevation walk-through. National Trails Day is 1 June. Should we approach Eastern Mountain Sports for sponsorship or recruitment? The Main Club has told Herb that Trail Adopters should report to the Main Club. The board doesn't like this idea: wants to maintain local control. We should still have a trails and shelters chair to oversee local projects. Should we consider using plastic rather than painted blazes?

We need to buy new tools as needed to bring us up to the following complement: 3 hoes, 4 short clippers, 4 small saws, 4 pick axes, 2 haul hoes, 3 shovels, 3 grass whips, 3 large saws, 4 long bypass loppers, 2 pry bars, 4 first aid kits.

Bill feels axes are dangerous and shouldn't be provided to volunteer crews.

Al will check on the price to rent or buy a power weed whacker.

#### **Volunteers**

Is anyone contacting people who check off "volunteer" on their membership forms? Decided to discuss, at the annual meeting, a new post of volunteer coordinator.

#### **Membership**

Connie and Sue will draft a letter to be sent to new members.

#### **Trip Leaders**

Connie has received new trip leader handbooks from the Main Club. She will mail one to each leader on the next few schedules.

#### **Trail Standards**

Herb will advise the Main Club of our position in favor of maintaining the trail near Spring Lake to be suitable for skiing.

#### **Governor Clement Shelter**

There will be a meeting at the Forest Service office on North Main Street at 3 PM on Thursday, 28 February about the problem of undesirable activity at the site. A law enforcement representative will be there to clarify the question of whether access can be limited on the road.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: March – May 2002

Trips leave from Rutland City Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at the times shown. Non-members are welcome. Bring drinking water and, for morning departures, bring a lunch. Wear sturdy footgear and dress for weather changes. Distances are approximate round trip; difficulty indicates steepness and footing. For more information about a trip, please call the trip leader listed at the right

March 2	<b>Skyline Lodge, Ripton</b>	
Saturday 10 AM	Snowshoe up the Skylight Pond Trail to this shelter on the Long Trail. Five miles; difficult.	Gretchen Crowley 459-2098
March 9	<b>Herrick Mountain, West Rutland</b>	
Saturday 9 AM	A strenuous 5-mile hike or snowshoe/ski, depending on conditions.	Larry & Viv Walter 775-3855
	<b>Bingo Brook Trail, Rochester</b>	
March 16	Ski or snowshoe a wide U.S. Forest Service Road that leads along Bingo Brook into the Green Mountains. Peaceful woods and some good views to the east. Five miles, moderate. If interest and abilities warrant, we can extend this by using the Pine Bend Brook Trail	Herb Ogden 775-1350
March 23	<b>Delaware &amp; Hudson Rail Trail, Poultney</b>	
Saturday 1 PM	Hike on a flatbed rail trail from downtown Poultney to Route 30 crossing. Three plus miles; no elevation gain. Rain date: Sunday, March 24.	Ray Catozzi 773-3006
March 30	<b>Mystery Hike</b>	
Saturday 10AM	Leader torn among several exciting possibilities at press time. Watch <i>Rutland Herald</i> calendar or call leader as the date approaches.	Connie Youngstrom 492-3502
April 7	<b>Mount Moosalamoo, Salisbury</b>	
Sunday	Hike from historic Ethan Allen Cave, where the Green Mountain Boys are said to have camped out, to Burnt Mountain. Five miles; moderate. Joint outing with the Breadloaf Section. Call leaders for time and meeting place.	Gordon & Helen Cawood 352-4310
April 14	<b>Silver Lake, Salisbury</b>	
Sunday 9 AM	Hike in via the Chandler Ridge Trail for lunch on the beach. Back via Leicester Hollow. Nine miles; moderate.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
	<b>Killington Section Annual Meeting</b>	
April 20	Join us for a potluck supper, followed by a short business meeting, after which Herb Ogden will present a slide show on Iceland. Nonmembers welcome. Bring a place setting and a dish to share. Hot drinks provided. Location: Fern Hill Cottage, 101 Dorr Drive, Rutland. Call leader if you need directions.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
April 21	<b>Children's Adventure Series</b>	
Sunday 1 PM	A fun outing for the whole family. We may catch frogs or tadpoles or just explore in the woods. All ages welcome.	Jerry Parker 747-4439
April 27	<b>Mount Aeolus, Dorset</b>	
Saturday 9 AM	Hike past the first marble quarry in America, then past a closed Indiana Bat cave, then up to an overlook on top of Aeolus. Rain date: Sunday, April 28.	Ray Catozzi 773-3006

Outing schedule continued on the following page.



**Outing schedule continued from preceding page.**

May 5 Sunday 1 PM	<b>Brown Covered Bridge, Shrewsbury</b> Hike in from Mendon. Four miles: easy	Roma & Al Pulling 773-6997
May 11 Saturday 10 AM	<b>Mystery Hike</b> Leader's surprise destination. Five plus miles: moderate.	Gretchen Crowley 459-2098
May 18 Saturday 9 AM	<b>Low Elevation Walk-Thru</b> Come help us do our spring clean up on the Long/Appalachian Trail between Route 4 in Wallingford and Governor Clement Shelter in Shrewsbury. Bring work gloves and lunch. Tools provided.	Jerry Parker 747-4439

**Preview of June outing schedule.**

June 1 Saturday 9 AM	<b>National Trails Day – High Elevation Walk Thru</b> Folks will be out today all across the country doing trail maintenance projects. Come join the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club on the upper elevations of the Long/Appalachian Trail from Governor Clement Shelter in Shrewsbury north to Sherburne Pass. Bring work gloves, lunch, and bug spray! Tools provided.	Herb Ogden 775-1350
June 8 Saturday 9 AM	<b>Little Rock Pond and Green Mountain, Mount Tabor</b> Hike in the Long Trail to beautiful Little Rock Pond, then climb to the summit of Green Mountain for views and return along the ridge. It's 6 ½ miles with some steep climbing to do the whole loop or 5 miles, easy into the pond and back.	Steve & Diana Williams 645-9529
June 15 Saturday	To be determined.	Barry & Barbara Griffith 492-3573
June 22 Saturday 1 PM	<b>Children's Adventure Series</b> A fun outing for the whole family. All ages welcome!	Jerry Parker 747-4439
June 23 Sunday 8:30 AM	<b>Cardigan Mountain, Canaan, NH</b> A short but rugged climb to a spectacular bare rock summit with a manned fire tower. Summit is exposed and windy; bring a jacket. Difficult. 3 ½ miles. Option to add a 2-mile loop to Firescrew.	Sue Thomas 773-2185

**Want to Lead a Hike?**

Our outing schedule is coordinated by Sue Thomas (773-2185) and Connie Youngstrom (492-3502). The summer schedule will include June thru August. To make a suggestion, or to get your favorite outing on the schedule, give Sue or Connie a call before May 1. Please don't wait till the last minute.



## High Points of Rutland County Towns

Town	High Point	Elevation (feet)	Location	Topo Quad (7.5 minute series)
Benson	Unnamed peak	1060+	About 1.8 mi. N and 100 ft. W from SE corner.	Bomoseen
Brandon	Point on W face of Lead Mine Mountain	2340	On Chittenden town line about 2.7 mi. N from SE corner.	Brandon
Castleton	Bird Mountain	2216	On Ira town line about 0.1 mi. N from SW corner.	West Rutland
Chittenden	Farr Peak	3522	About 3.9 mi. NE and 1.4 mi. SE from W corner.	Mt. Carmel
Clarendon	Susie Peak (Edmonds Peak)	2409	On Ira town line about 1.1 mi. N from SW corner.	West Rutland
Danby	Dorset Peak	3760+	About 0.2 mi. N and 1.6 mi W from SE corner	Dorset
Fair Haven	Coons Den	947	About 0.3 mi. S and 0.9 mi. W from NE corner.	Benson
Hubbardton	Unnamed peak on Pittsford Ridge	2006	About 0.2 mi. N and 0.1 mi. W from SE corner.	Proctor
Ira	Herrick Mountain	2726	About 0.4 mi. S and 1.1 mi. W from NE (concave) corner.	West Rutland
Killington	Killington Peak	4241	On Mendon town line about 2.7 mi. SW from W corner.	Killington Peak
Mendon	Killington Peak	4241	On Killington town line, about 2.7 mi. SW from "K" corner.	Killington Peak
Middletown Springs	Unnamed peak	2205	About 1.7 mi. S and 0.1 mi. W from NE corner	West Rutland
Mount Tabor	Pete Parent Peak	2960	About 1.4 mi. N and 2.2 mi. E from SW corner.	Danby
Mount Holly	Ludlow Mountain (Okemo)	3343	About 3.3 mi. N and 0.2 mi. E from SE corner	Mount Holly
Pawlet	Bald Hill	2088	About 0.4 mi. S and 2.8 mi. W from NE corner.	Wells
Poultney	Spruce Knob	2420+	About 3.2 mi. S and 0.2 mi. W from NE corner	West Rutland
Pittsfield	Unnamed peak	3100+	About 2.5 mi. S and 1 mi. E from NW corner.	Rochester
Pittsford	Unnamed peak on Pittsford Ridge	2035	About 2.1 mi. N and 0.1 mi. E from SW corner.	Proctor
Proctor	Pine Hill	1436	On Rutland town line about 2.5 mi. N from SE corner.	Proctor
Rutland City	Point on S shoulder of Pine Hill	1020+	On Rutland town line about 0.3 mi. S from NW corner.	Proctor
Rutland Town	Point on N shoulder of Boardman Hill	1160+	On Clarendon town line about 0.2 mi. E from SW corner.	West Rutland
Sudbury	Stiles Mountain	1213	About 0.6 mi. N and 0.5 mi. W from SE corner.	Sudbury
Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury Peak	3720	About 0.5 mi. S and 1.5 mi. W from NE corner	Killington Peak
Tinmouth	Tinmouth Mountain	2835	About 1.2 mi. N and 2.2 mi. E from SW corner	Middletown Springs
Wallingford	Wilder Mountain	2784	About 100 ft. N and 1.7 mi. W from SE corner	Wallingford
Wells	Northeast Mountain	2100+	About 2.0 mi. N and 2.3 mi. W from SE corner.	Wells
West Haven	Bald Mountain	900+	About 4.2 mi. S and 1.0 mi. E from NW corner.	Whitehall
West Rutland	Mount Hanley?	2110	About 2.9 mi. S and 0.4 mi. E from NW corner.	Proctor

Distances and elevations are approximate interpolations from the map. "Corner" refers to a corner of the town in question. Directions N, E, S, and W are nominal, to be laid off parallel or perpendicular to the town lines.



## Killington Section, Green Mountain Club Application for Membership

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

**ANNUAL DUES:**

Individual.....\$27 (\$19 tax-deductible)\*  
Family.....\$35 (\$25 tax-deductible)\*  
Individual Lifetime.....\$500 (all tax-deductible)  
Family Lifetime.....\$750 (all deductible)

\* Anyone who volunteers a substantial amount of time for club work or who has a limited income, may deduct \$7.

**NAME:****ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_\_trail/shelter work, \_\_\_\_sign making, \_\_\_\_publications, \_\_\_\_leading outings, \_\_\_\_publicity, \_\_\_\_education, \_\_\_\_other.

**Make check payable to: Killington Section, GMC and mail with this application to:**

Alfred Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701



# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 55, Number 2

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

May 2002

## Herb Ogden Passes Gavel to Steve Williams

Barb Griffith is New V.P., Jake Sherman and Al Pulling Continue in Office



Herb

### Killington Section Annual Meeting

By Jake Sherman, Secretary

The Annual Meeting of the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club was called to order at 6:40 PM, April 20, 2002 by President Herb Ogden at Fern Hill Cottage in Rutland, following a potluck supper. Herb welcomed the group and thanked Sue Thomas for arranging for use of Fern Hill. About 30 were present; all introduced themselves.

#### Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 2001 Annual Meeting as printed in the February 2002 issue of *Smoke and Blazes* were unanimously approved.

#### Treasurer's Report

The report by treasurer Al Pulling was approved with one correction. The section has \$4,064.20 in assets. Currently there are 115 members, a gain of 27 from the year 2000. As of the end of 2001 there are total assets in the Kirk Fund of \$15,852.53. Herb explained that the Kirk Fund was established years ago by Dorothy Kirk of Rutland in memory of her husband George. Its purpose is to provide funds for maintenance of trails & shelters in the Killington Section. The practice has been to expend only the interest.

#### President's Report/Trails and Shelters Report

President Ogden combined both reports. He explained that the Trails and Shelters Committee was co-chaired by Steve Williams who takes care of paperwork and e-mail and Bill Robichaud who takes care of work on the ground.

The Governor Clement Shelter is jointly maintained by the Green Mountain Club, Appalachian Trail Conference, and the U.S. Forest Service. Because of vehicle abuse the club is pursuing three actions: (1) asking the Town of Shrewsbury to prohibit parking, (2) placing a line of obstacles (possible boulders)



Steve

to prohibit the access of full size vehicles (there is no way to keep out ATVs), and (3) posting signs prohibiting parking. If this were done, people could be ticketed since it is illegal to use motorized vehicles off town highways. However, usage cannot be restricted to certain groups on government land. Herb wasn't sure if this would work. He needs to have contact with the snowmobile club and meet with the Shrewsbury selectmen. If the selectmen approve, exceptions would need to be made to permit parking to repair the shelter. If vandalism continues, we would ask them to abandon the road and we would gate it (north of the northerly bridge).

See page 5: Meeting



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2003 .....	Gretchen Crowley
" .....	* Alfred Pulling
" .....	Susan Thomas
2004 .....	* Robert Perkins
" .....	* Jacob Sherman
" .....	* Connie Youngstrom
2005 .....	Barbara Griffith
" .....	* Bill Robichaud
" .....	Steve Williams

\* Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President .....	Steve Williams
Vice President .....	Barbara Griffith
Secretary .....	Jacob Sherman
Treasurer .....	Alfred Pulling

### Committee Chairs/Co-chairs

History .....	Robert Perkins
Outings .....	Susan Thomas
" .....	Connie Youngstrom
Trails & Shelters .....	Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director .....	Lynda Hutchins
Alternate .....	Alfred Pulling

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor .....	Bob Perkins
--------------	-------------

## From the Editor

### A Revoltin' Development?

So many of our important social issues generate extreme polarization: a women's right to choose versus a fetus' right to life, a land-owner's right to a manufactured home versus a neighbor's right to maintain his property value, a logger's right to his livelihood versus a spotted owl's right to its habitat, Tom and Brad's right to marry versus – well, you get the idea. In each case folks on both sides believe strongly that they have the high moral ground.

It can be surprising, humbling and, I hope, enlightening, to find oneself, suddenly, on an unfamiliar side.

The City of Rutland has raised some objection to the plans of the Green Mountain Club to build a new shelter near the recently relocated Long Trail on the west side of Pico. The proposed shelter site is on federal land in the Appalachian Trail corridor but it is also in the drainage area of the Rutland water supply. Are we now the ugly developers threatening our own drinking water?

Of course not. Clearly a new shelter with a modern composting toilet is preferable to having hundreds of hikers making do (so to speak) on their own all over the mountainside. We hope and expect to reach a satisfactory arrangement with the city and by this fall, to have a much needed replacement for the aging Pico Camp. But this episode has reminded me, at least, that there may indeed be two sides to every issue.

### Contact Information

Gretchen Crowley, 32 Pleasant St., Proctor, VT 05765, 459-2098  
 Barbara Griffith, 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, Griff3VT@aol.com  
 Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, lmhutch@shoreham.net  
 Herbert Ogden, 20 Birchwood Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, (H)775-1350, (W)775-3368, hogden@adelphia.net  
 Robert Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, rperkinsvt@aol.com  
 Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, ral37@juno.com  
 William Robichaud, 215 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2567  
 Jacob Sherman, 48 Morse Pl., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2784, jakesher@hotmail.com  
 Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185  
 Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, voorburg@sover.net  
 Connie Youngstrom, Box 1160, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3502, marky@sover.net



## Coolidge Range Ridgerunner 2001 Season Report

By Daniela Molnar

*[Daniela Molnar is the Ridgerunner who was hired by the GMC to be its presence on the Coolidge Range during the 2001 hiking season. The following is a lightly edited version of her report. It doesn't necessarily reflect official club views but contains much of interest from a thoughtful, close-up observer. Ed.]*

When I began this job in early August, I did not really know what to expect as a ridgerunner on the AT/LT. I quickly learned that I was to play many different roles: a trail worker responsible for a large stretch of popular, highly-impacted trails, a shelter maintainer for several heavily used (and abused) shelters, a public contact point for the GMC, an interpreter and protector of Vermont's high places for a diverse and constantly shifting population, and the list goes on. The Coolidge Range Ridgerunner faces the challenge of quickly adapting to constantly changing needs in an extremely high-use area. In this report, I will mainly address matters of concern to the GMC and to the 2002 Ridgerunner. I want to stress that although this report may make my summer sound difficult and tiresome, I thoroughly enjoyed my time in this powerful area and learned a great deal from my experiences there.

### Shelters

As the Coolidge Range Ridgerunner, I spent most of my time at Cooper Lodge and its environs. It is the highest-use shelter in the Coolidge Range, with about 180 overnight visitors between early August and mid October 2001. My time working at Cooper Lodge has led me to believe that it would be in the best interest of the Green

Mountain Club, the American Skiing Corporation and Coolidge State Forest to take down Cooper Lodge. Cooper Lodge is old, wet, perpetually dusty and cold, and is prone to vandalism year round. It is a vortex for human abuse, which in turn results in the disturbance of the fragile ecology of the region. The shelter itself is structurally flawed: the roof leaks, the windows have no glass because the glass is smashed as quickly as it is installed, the dirt floor is rife with mouse holes and droppings, and the bunks are lopsided. As if these inherent flaws were not enough, hikers and tourists regularly leave trash at the shelter. Most hikers that I met did not like the shelter. They found it cold and uninviting, and their initial dislike of the shelter perpetuated the vicious cycle of abuse.

The American Skiing Corporation, [is] the large conglomerate that owns Killington Resort, Cooper's close neighbor . . . [A]ny shelter easily accessible from the nearby ski trails will be prone to vandalism and disrespect, and this abuse will extend to the ecosystem around the shelter. Cooper Lodge is an easy two-tenths of a mile downhill from two major chairlifts. As long as Killington Resort is in existence in its current form, Cooper Lodge and the surrounding boreal forest will be treated with disrespect.

Another well-known problem shelter in the Coolidge Range is the Governor Clement Shelter. Because the road that goes directly to the shelter is likely to remain open by the discretion of the private landowner who controls access to the road, there is not much hope that this shelter will become a safe place for hikers at any point in the future. *[Actually the road is a town highway*

*and the property belongs to the federal government. The GMC is working to find a way to control vehicle access near the shelter. Ed.]* Just in my short time as a ridgerunner, I received a steady flow of reports of harassment, illegal tree cutting, loud drunken parties, and even physical assault. I never stayed at the shelter because I did not feel safe there. The GMC Guidebook discourages hikers from staying there, and I actively discouraged overnight use of the shelter, as well. What is the use of a shelter that hikers cannot use? Why is the GMC paying to maintain a shelter that is not used by hikers and is abused by non-hikers? The cry that the shelter is "historic" seems an unworthy justification. It is old, yes, but it is not preserved, which makes it simply old, not antique. Taking down the Gov. Clement Shelter seems like the only logical way to deal with the abuse of the area. If it remains standing, the abuse and violence will continue. *[The Killington Section has not, as yet, given up on preserving Gov. Clement Shelter. We are trying to locate a stonemason who will work on the walls and chimney. Ed.]*

If Cooper Lodge and Gov. Clement Shelter are to be taken down, one or two new shelters will need to be built. Although I have not researched the details of locating a new shelter, my experience in the area says that a good place would be the old site of the Tamarack Shelter, on the south side of Little Killington, at the junction with the Shrewsbury Peak Trail. *[The suggested site at the current Shrewsbury Peak Trail junction actually is about a half mile south of the of the former Tamarack Shelter site. Ed.]* At 3600 feet, the forest in this area is not as delicate as the present location of Cooper



Lodge, but it is still a high-elevation ecosystem. An even better spot may be about one mile south of the Shrewsbury Peak Trail junction where a small spring ran all summer (through a severe drought) and the forest begins to transition to a less-sensitive hardwood forest.

Because there is a composting toilet system already in place at Cooper Lodge, I would recommend leaving the tent platforms and making it a tenting site only. This would not attract winter visitors and would thus greatly reduce the threat of vandalism. It seemed that most visitors to Cooper Lodge preferred to camp on the platforms, anyway. The established tenting sites at Gov. Clement should also remain. I believe that the site's "nocturnal carousers" would be much less enticed by a tenting area than a shelter.

The other shelters in the Coolidge Range, Pico Camp and Clarendon Shelter, have their own share of challenges, though these are much less dire than Cooper Lodge and Gov. Clement. Pico Camp is a cozy little cabin, and although it receives its share of littering and some illegal fires, I believe that it should remain standing as long as it is not directly threatened by the expansion of Pico Resort. It is a popular lunch spot for hikers and receives moderate overnight use despite its location on a side trail. If it is to remain standing even one more season, the privy hole is full – the privy must be moved immediately.

Clarendon Shelter is a very peaceful shelter with few problems. . . . [Possibly due to an oversight, Clarendon Shelter lies on private land outside of the LT/AT corridor. The GMC may have little ability to control any undesirable activity there. Ed.]

## The Coopah Poopah

This new composting toilet faces its share of problems, but is operating relatively well. It receives very high use during the summer months, and is used by skiers during the winter months as well. There is certainly a need for close management of this facility. The catcher fills up quickly, especially during July and August, and there is always a lot of liquid in the catcher. New, eye-catching signs urging people to PLEASE not pee in there seemed to help considerably, and a new bucket to hold bark mulch helped encourage people to use the mulch more. The signs should definitely be replaced if they are not there at the start of the 2002 season, and the bark mulch bucket should always be kept full by the ridgerunner. Also, it is important to talk to people about the significance of the composting process – why it is important, what it does, and why to NOT pee in there. A drainage system such as the one that exists at Camel's Hump would greatly help the Cooper Pooper compost more effectively.

## Killington Peak

The Coolidge Range is certainly high-use. Between early August and mid October, I encountered 1,296 people: hikers, thru-hikers, tourists, school groups, and others. Most of these people were tourists or day-hikers that I met on or near the summit of Killington. The summit is very much a part of the Killington resort. There is no vegetation left to protect on the bare, rocky summit, so the job of the Coolidge Range ridgerunner is different from the "stay on the rocks" job of the summit caretakers of Mt. Mansfield, Mt. Abraham, and Camel's Hump. Killington summit duty consists mainly of being a talking brochure for the constant stream of tourists that circulate quickly on and off the

summit. The average visitor would stay on the summit for no longer than three to four minutes, during which time he or she would inquire about the names of the surrounding peaks and sometimes warily ask about the nature of my job. Having checked the destination off of their lists, they would then depart.

I had difficulty relating to so many people on such a surface level, so I rarely succeeded in adding depth or substance to the peoples' insubstantial experience of the summit. I felt like I was in a shopping mall, not on top of a mountain. I think that most of my difficulty relating to the big gondola crowds is personal. I certainly feel that I was able to create more successful summit experiences as the season progressed, but I am simply not as suited to that type of encounter as another person might be.

I think it is important that in hiring the 2002 Coolidge Ridgerunner, the GMC take into serious consideration the applicants' propensity for relating to large crowds in the ways described above. There is certainly enormous potential for a ridgerunner on summit duty to make an impact on the gondola crowds, but the person who is best suited to this type of work may not be the same person who is best suited to the other, very different aspects of the ridgerunner's duties. Most of my time as a ridgerunner was spent either alone doing trail work or with small groups of hikers at shelters, and I feel that I excelled at these types of interactions, but often felt confused as to how to best relate to the summit crowds. The Coolidge Ridgerunner is expected to be a summit caretaker, multiple-site caretaker, and a trail maintainer. These are all hard jobs, and they are all very different. It may be in the best interest of the GMC to decide



which of the duties of the Coolidge Ridgerunner is most important to the GMC, and to hire accordingly.

### Trails

The trails in the Coolidge Range are in generally good condition but require constant maintenance because they are so heavily used. I cleared several blowdowns, but most of my time was spent brushing in and clearing waterbars. The work is constant but not overwhelming, but it is important to stay on top of it and not let the trails get trampled, which can happen fast. Tom's 2000 End-of-Season Report has some good suggestions on how to manage the trails effectively.

### A Word on VYCC Crews

There were two Vermont Youth Conservation Corps crews stationed in the Coolidge Range for the month of August, one just north of Cooper Lodge and one just south of Pico Camp. The groups worked hard, accomplishing impressive and much-needed rock drainages and staircases. Both groups were initially welcoming, inviting me to dinner and asking me to lead discussions about Leave No Trace ethics. Many thanks to the Killington VYCC crew for their openness, hospitality, and enthusiasm; they contributed a great deal to my experience and to the trail. Unfortunately, my experience with the Pico VYCC crew was not as positive. The crew leaders encouraged a competitive, antagonistic relationship between my work on the trail and their work on the trail. They seemed to feel threatened by my questions and suggestions. I feel that there is a need for greater communication and cooperation between the GMC and the VYCC, both on an administrative level and in the field. The welcoming, cooperative attitude of the Killington VYCC crew is

commendable and is a good goal to work towards.

### Ideas for the Future

The Coolidge Range is a problematic area of the Long Trail because of its proximity to Rutland, the most crime-ridden city in Vermont, and its aggressive "development" by the large, absentee corporation that owns most of the range. During my time as a ridgerunner, I often felt a sense of uselessness in the face of matters over which I had no control. A person who has stated authority, like a police officer, is better equipped to resolve many of the problems that plague this region. I did not feel comfortable or empowered to approach the locals at Gov. Clement; the well-intentioned "unofficial caretaker" at the Clarendon Shelter did not listen to my strong suggestions; all that I could do to counter the abuse of Cooper and Pico shelters was to pick up the trash I found left there. It often felt like my job consisted mostly of picking up trash, which is a discouragingly reactionary (rather than preventative) approach to management of such a beautiful and sensitive region.

The 2002 Coolidge Range Ridgerunner would benefit from approaching the job with knowledge of its difficulty and by being creative and flexible in dreaming up strategies on how to deal effectively with the continual abuse of the region. A proactive, optimistic, dynamic person with the ability to transform a discouraging, difficult situation into a worthwhile eye-opening challenge will benefit greatly from the job and will be able to create needed changes in the Coolidge Range.

Thanks to all the good folks at the GMC for your flexibility, receptivity, and support. Keep up the good work, y'all.

## Meeting

*Continued from Page 1*

Cooper Lodge is maintained by Ruth and Sandy Lamb. There is a problem with people skiing off the roof. A possible solution is to make the roof steeper, although some might consider this a further challenge. People also jump off the roof in summer and this loosens the screws resulting in leakage. Pete Ketcham said that he was not aware of any conversation to restrict use of the shelter.

Herb reported that an improved parking area is now under construction at the LT/AT trailhead on VT 103. He also thanked Connie Youngstrom and Sue Thomas for organizing the James Taylor Lecture. Herb announced that the Trail Sector Checkers were Kathleen Wood for Killington North (Cooper Lodge to US 4), Connie and Mark Youngstrom (Lottery Road to Lower Cold River Road), and Herb Ogden (Canty Trail/Blue Ridge Mountain). The role of the Trail Checkers is to walk the trail at least once, make minor repairs, and report any work needed.

### Smoke and Blazes

Herb thanked Bob Perkins for a great first year. Bob remarked that he was having fun doing it and thanked everyone who submitted hike reports. He reminded members that anything is welcome. His intent is to publish *Smoke and Blazes* in February, May, August, and November. He urged hike leaders to submit schedules a month before the publication date.

### Outings Committee Report

Sue Thomas urged leaders to call as far ahead of time as possible to schedule hikes and to submit their reports to Bob Perkins.



## Historian's Report

Bob Perkins reported that there were no new initiatives but reminded members that all GMC memorabilia is welcome. The Rutland Historical Society has agreed to be a repository for donated materials.

## Green Mountain Club Director's Report

Al Pulling reported on the situation regarding the Jonesville Bridge over the Winooski. The old bridge has finally been removed and will be replaced, but in the meantime LT hikers have no way to cross the river. Fording is not recommended because releases from a hydroelectric plant can rapidly affect the water depth. Pete Ketcham from the GMC reported that a member of the Ottauquechee Section has donated a 16 passenger van that will be used to shuttle hikers on both sides of the river at posted times. The provision of a footbridge is stalemated because an adjoining landowner is not willing to give the club access rights. Work is being done on a possible relocation involving the State and the towns of Duxbury and Bolton.

## Old Business

The Killington Director's recommended that the Club amend the bylaws as printed in the February issue of *Smoke and Blazes*. This action would delete the part of Article 2 that requires that all voting members be at least 18 years of age. It would also delete Article 14, which authorizes the section to determine its dues, since dues are now set by the Green Mountain Club. The recommendation was passed with one abstention.

## New Business

The problem of an outhouse at a proposed new Pico shelter was discussed. The problem is that the newly relocated LT/AT crosses the

Rutland city watershed and city ordinances require that privies within the watershed be equipped with a full septic system. Even though the shelter the GMC proposes would be equipped with the latest composting/combustion technology, it wouldn't meet the present ordinance. We are therefore negotiating with the city Public Works Commissioner to get permission to build an outhouse. If no shelter were built, there would be no shelter between Cooper Lodge and Tucker-Johnson Shelter, and if one were built without a privy it would undoubtedly lead to contamination of a nearby brook. Pete Ketcham reported that the GMC has submitted an Act 250 application (which is more than 1" thick for those interested in reading it!) for the building of a new shelter and privy on the relocated trail. The goal is to fly the shelter in by August if there are no challenges to the permit. Eric and Laura Tobiason of the Ottauquechee Section are volunteering to build the shelter.

Sarah Lowry has been jointly hired (GMC/ATC) as Coolidge Range Ridge Runner from the end of June to mid-October. She will be responsible for basic trail maintenance. It was suggested that there be a Ridge Runner report in the next *Smoke and Blazes*.

Pete Ketcham reported that the new shelter must be accessible for those with mobility impairment. There is a public perception that the Architectural Barrier Act, which provides for such access, conflicts with the idea of a "primitive hiking experience" but Pete advised that it was not in the best interest of the Club to be against the ABA.

Herb asked for some direction regarding the relocated Pico Shelter if negotiations do not go well with the city. He reported that there were

three options: (1) do not build a new shelter in the city watershed and maintain the current Pico Camp as long as we can; (2) encourage the National Park Service to be aggressive with the city since federal land is not subject to local regulation (going through the Act 250 process is a good faith effort, but not required); or (3) urge the city to amend the ordinance to allow the Club to build the shelter since that would be the best solution to the waste situation. If no agreement could be reached the members voted to urge the city to amend the ordinance to specifically permit the GMC to build a shelter with a privy (which would have an incinerating composting system). There were no members who urged an aggressive stance and only one member who was in favor of abandoning the project.

Herb reported that the second three-year terms of Ruth Gibbud and Herb Ogden were expiring and they could not be reelected; in addition the first three-year term of Bill Robichaud was expiring. He also pointed out that in 2003, Al Pulling's term would be expiring and he could not be reelected, although Sue Thomas and Gretchen Crowley could be reelected for second three-year terms. In 2004 the three-year terms of Bob Perkins, Jake Sherman, and Connie Youngstrom will expire and they will not be eligible for reelection). It was moved and seconded to place the following on the ballot for three-year terms to expire in 2005: Bill Robichaud, Barb Griffith, and Steve Williams. The nominees were accepted and approved unanimously as a single slate.

The meeting recessed for the Director's meeting. Following a brief recess Jake Sherman reported that the following were elected: President -Steve Williams, Vice



President-Barb Griffith, Secretary-Jake Sherman, Treasurer-Al Pulling, and GMC Director-Herb Ogden. Herb declined in favor of Lynda Hutchins. Al Pulling was elected the Alternate GMC Director.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting for a slide program on Iceland presented by Herb Ogden; the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15. Following the program, Jake Sherman on behalf of directors and section members thanked Herb Ogden for his service of six years as president. Herb did a great job and provided exceptional leadership. He will be much missed in that capacity.

### Killington Section Hikers Take a Breather at Brown Bridge



## Trip Reports

### Grandpa's Knob

16 February 2002

By Gordon & Helen Cawood, leaders

Snowshoes were not needed for the hike up Grandpa Knob in Castleton on February 16. Trucks and snowmobiles on the service road left us more ice than snow. Sixteen hikers on this joint Bread Loaf/Killington outing trekked to the open summit. Viewing was good if you consider dark clouds over both the Green Mountains and the Adirondacks to be good viewing.

We talked about the experimental wind turbine that was installed on the peak in 1941. It had two steel blades, each weighing 8 tons, forming a 175-foot circle. It operated 16 months until one of the blades failed. The broken blade was tossed 750 feet! All that is visible today are four stanchions, once supporting the 107-foot tall tower.

We also checked on two unusual bedrock outcroppings, called "hogbacks." The crowns had been shaped by normal weathering; while the bases had

been eroded by running glacial ice melt, giving the outcroppings a top-heavy appearance. Thank you all for coming. Your company brought nice hiking weather and made for a very pleasant outing.

### Herrick Mountain

9 March 2002

By Larry Walter, co leader

The Herrick Mountain cross-country special came off with a minimum of hitches. The hardest part was figuring out how to coordinate all the vehicles in an effort to leave enough people-carriers spotted at trail's end. After some heroic spring-heave driving on the south end we managed to get all ten hikers to the trailhead.

The weather was near perfect with an uncommonly warm breeze and blue skies. The first and best viewpoint on the south end of the main ridge served as a good place to take a lunch break. The 170-degree vista includes parts of Lake Bomoseen, the back side of Birdseye, Ira, Grandpa's Knob, Route 4 and the entire approach,

summit and easterly slope of Herrick Mountain. At least one member of past Herrick hikes remembered having no view, so apparently the locals have cleared off some of the vegetation.

We eventually hit enough snow to warrant occasional use of the 'shoe's. A couple of hardy souls managed to post-hole through the white sections. To our surprise (kinda), there is now a brushed ATV/sled trail all the way to the summit. We bailed off the southeasterly side of Herrick onto increasingly better logging roads to a 3:00 PM rendezvous with our waiting vehicles.

Aside from one nasty little pitch up a snow-chute (good team work prevailed) and a couple false summits, the hike was fairly tame. We only spotted a couple guys headed up the northerly ATV trail in the morning, with no other humans sighted.

Those who wish to hike the same route (from Spruce Knob to the northerly end of the old Middletown-



Ira Town Road) should contact the locals for parking and access permission. I have names and numbers from some past survey work in the area.

### **Bingo Brook**

16 March 2002

Trip was cancelled due to rain.

### **Poultney Rail-Trail**

23 March 2002

By Ray Catozzi, leader

If you hadn't been out hiking this past winter with all the snow and cold weather, a nice short trip on a flat, no-elevation-gain trail was the perfect way to start your hiking season. We took the Delaware & Hudson Rail-Trail from the Route 30 crossing into the village of Poultney. It was almost like walking around your own neighborhood, but we were out in the open countryside with no snow or rain. A dog or two, and nine of us enjoyed a pleasant afternoon walk. I would recommend this way to start your hiking season if you spent too much time indoors during the winter watching television.

### **Mount Moosalamoo**

7 April 2002

By Gordon & Helen Cawood, coleaders

It must have been spring fever. We have never had so many calls about a hike (about 29), or so many hikers (21) participating in one of our hikes. Beautiful hiking weather may have had something to do with it. But the early callers could not have anticipated that.

We began the hike at the Branbury State Park campground, taking Ethan Allen Trail to Ethan Allen Cave. We checked, but Ethan was not in. He must have decided that these accommodations were rather too Spartan. Ethan Allen Trail continued to Hawkins Road, Summit Road and Bear Pond Avenue. In spite of the urban nomenclature,

there was no blacktop. Crag Trail and Pitch Pine Trail were more rugged, being most rugged after we stopped at Pitch Pine Point for lunch and a view of Lake Dunmore.

Cold Spring Trail, Iroquois Trail and Burnt Mountain Trail brought us to the summit of Burnt Mt. A ledge to the west gave us a good view of the Adirondacks and the hill in Orwell where Lynda Hutchins lives. Another to the east and south took in Mt. Moosalamoo and Lake Dunmore. A short retreat from Burnt Mt. brought us to Upper Plains Road, just north of Kampersville where cars had been spotted.

Many thanks, all, for coming. We enjoyed the hike and your company.

### **Mount Aeolus**

27 April 2002

By Ray Catozzi, leader

I had climbed this mountain with all the old marble quarries and the large Indiana Bat cave many years ago, but I wasn't certain now of the right trail up the mountain. I was put in touch with Rick Pingree, a local caver, and he said, "Yes, I can show you the route to the cave and beyond." So he and I went down there and up the quarry road to the cave. Now I was all set to lead the group of 15 hikers there a few days later.

'Twas a great sunny day and we hiked up a good quarry road, past three or four quarries, and then to the bat cave, which is closed off with a large metal gate covering the large opening. Entering the cave is prohibited most of the time so as not to disturb the sleeping bats. We passed two nice clearances with nice views of the Valley of Vermont and just past the cave was a third where we stopped for lunch.

After lunch we headed off the quarry road onto a nice trail that

started up the last half mile or so to the top of Mount Aeolus. Easy going at first, then we hit a short, steep pitch that a slight covering of snow made difficult for some of us. Then the trail leveled off again for a few hundred yards. The another steep, winding pitch, with more snow under foot, which proved too much for a few of us, so we sat down and waited while the hardy ones went on to the top of Aeolus. Not much of a view up there, but those who climbed can now say they climbed it!

All 15 of us had a nice pleasant walk back down to our cars.

### **Brown Bridge**

5 May 2002

By Roma Pulling, co-leader

The day of the hike was one of those perfect days hike leaders dream about but don't usually get. Also, we planned a half-day hike, a schedule that appeals to many people who think 9 AM is early. So we had a large group of 22 hikers at the park and only lost four of them. (Just kidding! Four people decided to cut the route short and found alternate means of returning home.)

The route from Tamarack Notch to Brown Bridge is a popular one with 4-wheelers and mountain bikes as well as hikers; so we found it surprising that we met no one. Recent rains had made a mess of the trail in spots where we had to detour off to one side. Wild flowers were not as numerous as hoped. We did see red trilliums, colt's foot and one lone dogtooth violet. A few hobblebushes were in bloom although those in other locations had long since gone by.

Brown Bridge is located in Shrewsbury over the Cold River where it crosses the Upper Cold River Road. For the benefit of covered bridge hobbyists, it was built in 1880 by Nicholas Powers and is of town lattice structure.



Even though we were competing with the Loyalty Day parade, we were pleased with the hike's success.

### **Mystery Hike**

11 May 2002

By Ray Catozzi, Leader

Where did we go? I led the group of 13 in five cars up Route 4 to where the new LT/AT crosses the highway. I suggested we could go south on the AT all the way to Springer Mountain in Georgia, but we couldn't be back in time for supper.

So we went north to Willard Gap, where the Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail separate. A short

distance further on the AT we came to the junction with the north loop of the Deer Leap Trail. Up this trail we went, over three short, steep pitches, but with nice easy stretches in between, to the top of Deer Leap Mountain. Then down a short, steep trail to a small brook crossing and up a short, steep trail on what I call the lower Deer Leap dome. We soon joined the east loop of the Deer Leap trail and ambled down and out to the Deer Leap overlook.

Many of our group had never been there before and were overwhelmed with the view of Pico, Killington, Blue Ridge and the mountains all the way to New York State. It was windy and cold so we

quickly got down in a hollow between some rock outcroppings and enjoyed our lunch in the warm sunshine.

After lunch we descended the east loop to rejoin the AT, but for only about 50 yards. We left the AT and went down the old LT/AT, now called the Sherburne Pass Trail, to the Inn at Long Trail. As we prepared to get in our cars for the drive home we looked back and saw three fellows rock climbing straight up the high, perpendicular Deer Leap cliff. We watched and admired them for quite a while, as we sipped a glass of homemade dandelion blossom wine.

### **Killington Section Members Encourage Future Members Examining Amphibious Wildlife**



### **Family Hike, Split Rock Trail in Pittsford**

21 April 2002, Jerry Parker, leader



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: June - August 2002

Trips leave from Rutland City Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at the times shown. Non-members are welcome. Bring drinking water and, for morning departures, bring a lunch. Wear sturdy footgear and dress for weather changes. Distances are approximate round trip; difficulty indicates steepness and footing. For more information about a trip, please call the trip leader listed at the right

<b>National Trails Day – High Elevation Walk Thru</b>		
June 1 Saturday 9 AM	Folks will be out today all across the country doing trail maintenance projects. Come join the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club on the upper elevations of the Long/Appalachian Trail from Governor Clement Shelter in Shrewsbury north to Sherburne Pass. Bring work gloves, lunch, and bug spray! Tools provided.	Herb Ogden 775-1350
<b>Little Rock Pond and Green Mountain, Mount Tabor</b>		
June 8 Saturday 9 AM	Hike in the Long Trail to beautiful Little Rock Pond, then climb to the summit of Green Mountain for views and return along the ridge. It's 6 ½ miles with some steep climbing to do the whole loop or 5 miles, easy into the pond and back.	Steve & Diana Williams 645-9529
<b>Baker Peak, Mount Tabor</b>		
June 15 Saturday 9 AM	We'll ascend Baker Peak (2840 feet) via the Lake Trail, a moderate but steady climb, to enjoy some splendid views from the summit. From there we'll take the Long Trail south for a look at Griffith Lake, then return via the old carriage route to our vehicles. Eight miles round trip.	Barry & Barbara Griffith 492-3573
<b>Children's Adventure Series</b>		
June 22 Saturday 1 PM	A fun outing for the whole family. All ages welcome!	Jerry Parker 747-4439
<b>Cardigan Mountain, Canaan, NH</b>		
June 23 Sunday 8:30 AM	A short but rugged climb to a spectacular bare rock summit with a manned fire tower. Summit is exposed and windy; bring a jacket. Difficult, 3 ½ miles. Option to add a 2-mile loop to Firescrew.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
<b>Snake Mountain, Addison</b>		
June 29 Saturday 9 AM	Hike up the trail to the site of an old hotel with panoramic views of Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks, then bushwhack down an alternate route. Moderate, 5 ½ miles. Rain date – 30 <sup>th</sup>	Ray Catozzi 773-3006
<b>Long Trail, Cuttingsville</b>		
July 6 Saturday 10 AM	Follow the Long/Appalachian Trail south from Clarendon Gorge across the suspension bridge and along the ridge with several scenic lookouts. Option to stop at Spring Lake, 3 miles, or continue to Route 140, 5 ½ miles. Moderate. Rain date – 7 <sup>th</sup> .	Andrea McQuade 775-6273
<b>Mount Ascutney, Windsor</b>		
July 13 Saturday 9 am	Up the Windsor Trail to the summit where an observation tower provides spectacular views of the Connecticut River valley, the White Mountains, and the Green Mountains. We'll descend via the Brownsville Trail, past old quarries. Six miles, moderate with some steep climbing. Rain date – 14 <sup>th</sup> .	Sue Thomas 773-2185
<b>Treadway Mountain, Eastern Adirondacks</b>		
July 20 Saturday	We'll be parking at Putnam Pond; \$5 fee per car. A moderate seven-mile hike with 900 feet elevation gain to an open summit with spectacular views. Call leaders for meeting time and place.	Gordon & Helen Cawood 352-4310

Outing Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: June - August 2002

Continued from previous page.

July 27 Saturday 1 PM	<b>Ice Beds, Wallingford</b> The perfect destination for both children and adults on a warm July afternoon! We'll start with a 200-foot ascent for a great view of the White Rocks cliffs, then descend and continue to the base of an old rock slide still cooled by last winter's snow! Two miles.	Barry & Barbara Griffith 492-3573
August 3 Saturday 1 PM	<b>Children's Adventure Series</b> An easy hike for the whole family. A great chance to share the outdoors with the kids. All ages welcome!	Jerry Parker 747-4439
August 4 Sunday 8:30 AM	<b>White Road, Mendon</b> Explore a new trail on the lower ridges around Killington that few have seen. (Bill is leading but this is NOT a work party!) Six miles, moderate.	Bill Robichaud 775-2567
August 10 Saturday 1 PM	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Annual Taconic Mountain Ramble: Hubbardton</b> Waterfalls, rock ledges, rolling meadows, mountain peaks with views north, south, east, and west, a Japanese garden, and other goodies. Wine and cheese on the lawn afterward. Walkers can leave the group at several different points and wait on the lawn for the rest. Bring no lunch.	Kit Davidson 273-2982
August 18 Sunday 1 PM	<b>Senior Shuffle: Flat Rock, Clarendon</b> A four-mile, easy-to-moderate trek to visit a geological oddity near the historic Crown Point Road.	Roma & Al Pulling 773-6997
August 24 Saturday 9 AM	<b>Work Party: Pico</b> Come help prepare the site for the Long Trail's newest shelter on the slope of Pico Peak. Tools provided or bring your own. Call leader for details	Herb Ogden 775-1350

### Hike Leaders - Note

Our outing schedule is coordinated by Sue Thomas (773-2185) and Connie Youngstrom (492-3502). The fall schedule will include September thru November. Please contact Sue or Connie soon (no later than August 1) with your hike suggestion so we can publish the schedule on time. Please don't wait till the last minute.

## Rutland Senior Hikes: June - August 2002

The Rutland Recreation and Parks Department sponsors a series of "Turtle" hikes for seniors and others who wish to enjoy their outings at a somewhat slow and easy pace. The outings typically cover two to four miles, involve limited elevation gain, and try to avoid treacherous footing. All trips leave from the Godnick Adult Center on Deer Street off Woodstock Avenue on **Fridays at 9 AM** and return in early afternoon.

June 7	<b>Rail-Trail, Castleton</b>	Bob & Thelma Perkins	773-0184
June 21	<b>East of Bald Mountain, Mendon</b>	Ray Catozzi	773-3006
July 5	<b>Cook-out, Pittsford Recreation Trail</b>	Bob & Thelma Perkins	773-0184
July 19	<b>Catamount Trail, Mendon</b>	Al & Roma Pulling	773-6997
August 2	<b>Hitchcock Trail, Pittsford</b>	Charlie & Jean Davies	483-6623
August 16	<b>Diamond Run Nature Trail, Rutland</b>	Ray Catozzi	773-3006
August 30	<b>Chipman Pond, Tinmouth</b>	Al & Roma Pulling	773-6997



# Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

## Application for Membership

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, Vt., is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly Long Trail News, and the Section quarterly Smoke & Blazes including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

### ANNUAL DUES:

Individual..... \$30  
Family..... \$40  
Senior/Student/Volunteer..... \$20  
Individual Lifetime..... \$750  
Family Lifetime..... \$1000

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_\_trail work, \_\_\_\_shelter work, \_\_\_\_sign making, \_\_\_\_publications, \_\_\_\_leading outings, \_\_\_\_publicity, \_\_\_\_education,  
\_\_\_\_other.

Make check payable to **Killington Section, GMC** and mail with this application to:

**Alfred Pulling, Treasurer**  
**Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**  
**883 US 4 East**  
**Rutland, VT 05701**



# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 55, Number 3

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

August 2002

## We have a new Long Trail shelter on Pico To be named for veteran section leader Churchill Scott



Churchill Scott from a 1985 photo





## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2003 .....	Gretchen Crowley
" .....	* Alfred Pulling
" .....	Susan Thomas
2004 .....	* Robert Perkins
" .....	* Jacob Sherman
" .....	* Connie Youngstrom
2005 .....	Barbara Griffith
" .....	* Bill Robichaud
" .....	Steve Williams

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President.....	Steve Williams
Vice President .....	Barbara Griffith
Secretary .....	Jacob Sherman
Treasurer .....	Alfred Pulling

### Committee Chairs/Co-chairs

History.....	Robert Perkins
Outings.....	Susan Thomas
" .....	Connie Youngstrom
Trails & Shelters .....	Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director .....	Lynda Hutchins
Alternate.....	Alfred Pulling

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor.....	Bob Perkins
-------------	-------------

### Contact Information

Gretchen Crowley, 32 Pleasant St., Proctor, VT 05765, 459-2098  
 Barbara Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, Griff3VT@aol.com  
 Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, lmhutch@shoreham.net  
 Herbert Ogden, 20 Birchwood Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, (H)775-1350, (W)775-3368, hogden@adelphia.net  
 Robert Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, rperkinsvt@aol.com  
 Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, ral37@juno.com  
 William Robichaud, 215 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2567  
 Jacob Sherman, 48 Morse Pl., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2784, jakesher@hotmail.com  
 Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185  
 Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, voorburg@sover.net  
 Connie Youngstrom, Box 1160, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3502, marky@sover.net

## From the Editor

### It Was a Jungle Out There

I've proposed the name "Jungle Junction" for the intersection where the new Long/Appalachian Trail leaves the old LT/AT (now called the Sherburne Pass Trail) about a half-mile south of Pico Camp.

In the 1930s there were three trail junctions in the vicinity of Pico Peak. "Pico Junction", about one-half mile north of Pico Camp, was where the old LT/AT stops climbing, and swings around to the east. From Pico Junction the Pico Loop Trail climbed directly to the peak and then down to the camp (then Pico Shelter). Another trail from Pico Junction, the West Side Trail Around Pico, contoured around to the west.

This West Side Trail rejoined the LT/AT about one-half mile south of the shelter, very near to today's junction. This spot came to be called "Jungle Junction" because of the tremendous tangle of blowdowns in the area caused by the great New England hurricane of September 1938. Damage was on a par with that of the 1998 ice storm. By resurrecting the name "Jungle



Long Trail South of Pico Peak  
September 1938

Junction" we can commemorate a major trail maintenance event and at the same time provide a unique and alliterative name for a significant trail intersection.

To complete the 1930s junction story: from Jungle Junction the LT/AT continued south toward Killington along the east side of the ridge while a parallel trail provided an alternative route west of the ridge. These two routes joined at the third junction -- the one farthest from the Route 4 trailhead. We called it "The Far Junction".



## Utah's National Parks

By Roma Pulling

After more than a year since our last trip--time for the airlines to refine their security procedures--we flew to Salt Lake City for another trip through southern Utah and the red rocks and canyons that I love. It took more time than usual to clear security, during which Alfred had to remove his shoes for inspection, but I don't mind the time as long as they get it right. And we were sabotaged only by the weather when we landed in Newark in a thunderstorm and were tossed around rather more violently than was comfortable.

When time allowed we took short hikes in each of the parks. Weather was extremely hot but dry so was not a hindrance. The elevation was another matter. The change from Rutland's 500 feet to (in some places) over 10,000 is something that's hard to ignore. But we came through and returned with many pleasant memories. I will highlight three of the more outstanding trails:

Cedar Breaks National Monument in southwestern Utah near Cedar City protects a spectacular rock formation known as the "amphitheater." Measuring three miles wide and over 2000 feet deep with brilliant shades of red, yellow and purple, it is truly worth seeing. We took the Ramparts Trail, starting near the Visitor Center, and reaching Spectra Point at 10,285 feet elevation. We hiked on for a short

distance encountering widely scattered patches of snow before deciding to return to our car. By the way, "breaks" is an old word for badlands, and juniper trees growing in the park were mistaken for cedars by early explorers.

Capitol Reef National Park near Torrey protects the Waterpocket Fold, a "wrinkle" in the earth's crust. It also preserves white domes thought to look like a capitol building and ridges which the early settlers called "reefs." Some of these settlers were Mormons who established farms along the Fremont River, and some of their buildings stand today. We chose a trail leading to Hickman Natural Bridge past many interesting rock formations. The bridge is impressive and situated over the trail so we were able to walk under it. We learned the difference between natural bridges and arches. Bridges are formed by erosion from running water. Arches are formed by other means of erosion, one example being the result of freezing.

We had never found a way to drive to Hovenweep, a national monument on the Utah/Colorado border. But since our last attempt a paved road has been constructed from the Utah side, crossing a portion of the Navajo Indian Reservation. We hiked two miles in 87° heat, starting at the new Visitor's Center and returning there. We were in the Square Tower section of the monument and encountered the ruins of many stone structures built 700 years ago by the

ancestors of our Pueblo Indians. Hovenweep is an Indian word meaning deserted valley.

We have derived much pleasure from visits to our nation's parks. Stay tuned for our next trip.

## New Local Trail Initiatives

Killington Section members might be interested in any of three recently activated local trail projects. Contact the person listed for more information or to get involved.

The Rutland Recreation and Parks Department is organizing folks to map, sign, and rejuvenate the trails in Pine Hill Park (Cindi Wight, 773-1822 ext. 13.)

The Physical Activity Coalition is publishing a street-walking map of Rutland City and expects to receive a grant to support planning for a multipurpose trail in Rutland County. (Dr. Ben Thompson, 775-0555.)

The Spiritual Life Center hopes to build a walking path through the woods connecting the grounds of College of St. Joseph, Clementwood, and Fern Hill Cottage. (Sister Patricia Kane, 773-5900 ext. 3256.)

## Discount for GMC Members

The Great Outdoors at 219 Woodstock Avenue in Rutland offers Green Mountain Club members (with GMC membership card) a 10% discount on any camping or hiking equipment.



## Trip Reports

### Tiny Pond

24 February 2002

By Sue Thomas, leader

We couldn't have asked for a better day to hike up to Tiny Pond in Tyson; the sky was blue, the snow was white, the sun was warm, and the birds were singing spring-like tunes. We could have asked for a bit less ice however. The trail up the ridge is extremely steep, and I never felt so much like a bowling pin as when the hikers above me began to slide back down in my direction. With the aid of crampons, spiky snowshoes, ski poles, and sheer luck we all arrived at the pond intact and had our lunch sitting on the ice in the warm sunshine.

The pond is at a reasonably high elevation, so there was plenty of snow, but none of us trusted the ice enough to cross over. By venturing out a few yards, however, we could stand on the surface of the pond and look out over the valley beyond the beaver dam.

After lunch we continued on around the pond to look at the beaver lodges, passing tracks made by snowshoe hare, fishers, and grouse. The beavers were nowhere to be seen, no doubt pouring over home improvement catalogs and planning their spring projects.

I'd scouted out an alternative route on the Mount Holly side, so we avoided the extremely quick though undoubtedly painful trip back down the way we'd come, thus cheating Lucy, who works in

the x-ray department at the hospital, out of some job security, for all arriving home safely.

### Little Rock Pond and Green Mountain

8 June 2002.

By Steve and Diana Williams, leaders

Under the guidance of Transportation Coordinator Sue Thomas thirteen enthusiasts left Rutland to meet with hike leaders Steve and Diana Williams at the trailhead parking lot at the intersection of the LT and Mount Tabor Road. The arrival of the cars at different times led to allegations of speeding. There being no tickets in evidence these allegations were fortuitously moot.

The two-mile hike to Little Rock Pond is an easy one, a gradual slope with limited wet spots, and considerable use of puncheons over poorly drained sections of the trail on the approach to the pond. The pond looked clear and inviting. There was some talk by one member of the party about swimming to the other side, but the concept never advanced beyond the verbal stage. Sue Thomas brought to our attention the small shelter which used to be located on a small island in the pond; it was replaced by the larger Lula Tye shelter, first on the west bank, and later in its present position south-east of the pond.

The group shortly reached the "decision point" where any intimidated by the prospect of the ascent of Green Mountain had the opportunity to branch to the left,

follow the pond loop trail and return to the trailhead on the LT. There was a unanimous vote to continue up the Green Mountain Trail. Whether this result was due to confidence in the leaders, the adventurous spirit of all, or a belief in the GPS equipment carried by two members of the group remains unclear.

An hour's climb, including a few rocky passages, brought the group to a grand overlook providing an eastwards vista back towards the pond; an excellent spot for lunch. Following lunch some two hours were required for the steady downgrade back to the parking lot on the Mount Tabor Road. In many places the trail took a gentle descending angle across a steep slope, many of which were covered with fine stands of large and well-preserved evergreens.

Regarding sighting of flora and fauna, we had the benefit of having with us both Ray Catozzi and Rick Tilgree who provided a good overview of many of the plants on view. Regrettably this writer is rather weak on the subject; hence seekers of the facts are referred to Ray and Rick. Regarding fauna, considerable excitement was caused when the advance members of the group were following recent moose prints down the trail when suddenly there was movement by an active quadruped a short distance away. All were ready for a moose sighting when an anticlimax appeared in the form of a black Labrador, whose owner shortly appeared ahead of us. The only other livestock sightings



were two snakes by Mrs. Leader who will normally go to considerable lengths to avoid them. All three survived the two encounters unscathed.

On the groups return to the trailhead parking lot, Ray brought the hike to an eminently successful conclusion by making available the libation he so successfully produces. Thank you Ray.

### **Baker Peak, Mount Tabor**

15 June 2002

Rained out; rescheduled for the fall.

### **Snake Mountain**

29 June 2002

By Ray Catozzi, leader

Twelve stalwart hikers drove to Addison to climb the last prominent peak on the northern end of the Taconic Range. We hiked up the usual route, which used to be a road leading to a hotel on the southern end of this wonderful mountain. The hotel is long gone, but the gorgeous view out over the beautiful dairy farms, 1000 feet below us to the west, and 30 to 40 miles of Lake Champlain in the distance, attracts many hikers all summer long. Besides our twelve there were probably a dozen and a half of more folks eating lunch and enjoying the view.

My plan after lunch was to follow a trail that seesawed back and forth over the ridgeline and descended to Route 17 to the north. We all hiked to the northern end of the ridgeline where we split. Some, including a couple of drivers, returned the way we had come so they could

drive to Route 17 to pick up the rest of us: the courageous few.

The trail turned east for 100 yards or so, and then came out on an ATV road. Down this road we went, with many switchbacks, and soon came to level ground. But the road then turned east instead of continuing out to Route 17, which we could see across a long view of tall grass. One hiker suggested that we leave the trail and hike across the grass to the road, which we did, passing through a farmer's yard and out his driveway. Wondering how long we would have to wait for our ride, we found a shady spot beside the highway. We had no sooner settled down than the cars pulled up next to us. Only a five-minute wait! Wonderful; and a wonderful hike. If any of you readers of *Smoke & Blazes* haven't climbed Snake Mountain, put it in your future plans. You'll never be sorry.

### **Long Trail, Cuttingsville**

6 July 2002

By Andrea McQuade, leader

Cooler temperatures and sunny, clear skies brought out 15 hikers to explore this section of the Long/Appalachian Trail. After we crossed the suspension bridge, we met a fellow who was hiking to Massachusetts to attend a wedding – not his own, but was there a tuxedo somewhere in that gear? After our initial ascent, we stopped at one point overlooking Route 103 and back toward Rutland, followed soon after by another lookout that gave us a view of the Rutland State Airport. Our timing was just right to see a plane land.

We continued on, stopping at the Minerva Hinchey Shelter for lunch, where we enjoyed the company of several other hikers. At this point, some of our hikers left us to return to cars parked at Spring Lake Ranch and the rest of us continued on to Route 140. Shortly before we reached the end of our hike, we checked out another lookout point that gave us a view of White Rocks. This spot is somewhat obscured by trees, but perhaps this would make a good work project someday! The hike was a great opportunity to meet new people who we hope will join us again for another outing.

### **Treadway Mountain**

20 July 2002

By Gordon and Helen Cawood, co-leaders

Five Bread Loafers, five Killingtonians and Fred Torrisi from Alaska climbed Treadway Mountain in the eastern Adirondacks on July 20. We started from Putnam Pond State Park (off NY Route 74), skirted the southern border of Putnam Pond and proceeded to Treadway Mountain trail. After stopping for lunch at the eastern summit, most of us continued on to the western summit where we took in views of Pharaoh Mountain, Pharaoh Lake and many other Adirondack mountains. We knew where to look for the Green Mountains, but they were lost in the haze.

Thanks for coming: Debbie Ramsdell, Barbara and Al Stiles, Sue Thomas, Barbara and Barry Griffith, Diane and Steve



Williams, and, of course, Fred. We enjoyed your company and appreciated the good weather you brought with you.

### **White Rocks/Ice Beds**

27 July 2002

By Barbara & Barry Griffith, co-leaders

We started the hike from the Picnic/Parking area with 13 hikers looking for a cooler climate than the 80/90 degree weather that we have been experiencing. Following the blue blazed trail we came to the hogback and followed a series of switchbacks to the first overlook of the White Rocks Cliffs. The view of all those boulders cascading down the slope is impressive. Makes one want to learn more about the geology of Vermont. The White Rocks area is in the Green Mountain range. Another overlook to the Taconic

Range and Otter Creek below (0.3 miles) before descending to the Ice Beds (0.5 miles) where we were not disappointed in the plunge in altitude and temperature. The brook that comes out of the rock base was as refreshing as we remembered! There were many hikers enjoying the coolness of the area. After a pleasant respite we returned back up to the overlooks before descending to our vehicles. A good way to spend a warm summer day.

### **White Road, Mendon**

4 August 2002

By Bill Robichaud, leader

White Road is an old logging road constructed in the 50s on the southwest side of Pico. It was a warm day for a hike but as we proceeded up the trail we were greeted by a refreshing breeze. The only complaint, raised by

many, was that there were no viewing spots. This would be difficult to change as the trail is in a wooded area.

Our trail intersected another old road that we followed up the west side of Ram's Head Mountain to a plateau surrounded by evergreens at about 3100 feet where we had our lunch. Nearby was an old abandoned hunting camp covered with blue plastic.

On our trip back four hikers decided to return the way we had come. The rest of us took a spur trail to the south that took us to the Bucklin Trail.

We found the Bucklin in good shape but noted that the two large rocks at the upper stream crossing were still out of alignment. As the flow of the stream was low we had no problems crossing.

## **Killington Section Directors Meeting**

4 June 2002

By Jake Sherman, Secretary

Present: Steve Williams, Barbara Griffith, Sue Thomas, Bob Perkins, Bill Robichaud, Herb Ogden, Connie Youngstrom, Lynda Hutchins, Gretchen Crowley, and Jake Sherman. The meeting was held at Herb's office, 92 Center Street, Rutland.

The new section president Steve Williams opened the meeting at 7:05 with a welcome and introductions. There was no action on the secretary's minutes of the annual meeting, which will shortly appear in the upcoming issue of *Smoke & Blazes*.

### **Place and Format of Future Meetings**

It was decided that we will stick with Herb's office, as it is handy and central. Barry Griffith's office could serve as an alternative if necessary. All liked the 7:00 P.M. starting time.

### **Trails & Shelters Report**

After six years as president,

Herb has assumed the perhaps equally demanding role of Trails & Shelters chairman. There were a number of items needing attention

### **Pico Shelter Update**

The news here is excellent. The City of Rutland has agreed not to contest the club's building of a new Pico West Shelter in the city watershed. The city has agreed to our version of a campsite agreement calling for a privy with the latest in compost incineration. It will therefore not be necessary to go through the Act 250 process. A May 27 e-mail from Peter Antos-Ketcham of the GMC included thanks to



Herb for his support and counsel throughout the project.

The shelter itself is to be constructed by Erik and Laurel Tobiason of the Ottauquechee Section. The ABA compliant privy is being constructed by Jeff Bostwick of the Burlington Section. Pete will be working with Dick Andrews on construction of the permanent compost incinerator.

#### Naming of the New Pico Shelter

It was unanimously decided that the section would recommend to the main club that the new shelter be named in honor of longtime section member and officer W. Churchill Scott. Jake will forward the recommendation in the form of a letter to Waterbury. In light of Churchill's many decades of service to the GMC and the Killington Section, his years as a fire lookout on both Pico and Killington, and his work with the CCC in the Coolidge Range in the 1930's, that this honor would be most appropriate. It was also felt that two shelters bearing the name of Pico, Pico Camp and the new shelter, would likely prove very confusing to hikers.

#### Governor Clement Shelter Update

Herb met with the shelter adopter, Roy Arthur of VAST (the Vermont Association of Snowmobile Travelers). Roy found no problem with two of our proposals, posting signage and putting boulders along the level stretch of the town highway, but wanted to check with his club on the parking prohibition. If VAST likes all three of our proposals, then the next step is for

our two groups plus any other interested parties to meet with the Shrewsbury selectmen. Barb and Connie, who are Shrewsbury residents, could make the contact and lead the effort. We could probably gain access to the equipment needed to move the boulders through Gary Salmon. Meanwhile, it was reported that the outhouse at Gov. Clement has been vandalized with a chainsaw.

#### Walkthrough & Maintenance

Our section was checked on some recent walkthroughs and found to be in close to perfect shape. A few waterbars need to be rebuilt on the Canty Trail. With regard to the Bucklin Trail, it is in good shape but two large boulders that were installed in 2000 as stepping stones at the upper Brewers Brook crossing migrated several feet downstream last winter becoming no longer usable. The rocks need to be moved back upstream but the flow is swift at this time. As it happens, for years we have been asking the GMC to build a bridge but they have claimed it would only wash out in the spring.

After much discussion, it was agreed that we would request that the main club move the boulders back as a short-term solution and as a long-term solution that a bridge be built. We feel it would hold.

Regarding the Sherburne Pass Trail, Bill Robichaud arranged with Killington for them to take care of it at the top north of Pico Junction. There are some blowdowns. Sue Thomas reported that south from Killington there are some low wet areas. It was

felt that the water bars would not do any good in dealing with these areas.

#### Sector Checkers

Herb distinguished between sector checkers and trail adopters, noting that the former have less responsibility and are mainly to report problems. Quite a few portions of the section are still lacking sector checkers. People are still needed to cover the following: Vt. 140 to Minerva Hinchey Shelter; Gov. Clement to Jungle Junction; U.S. 4 to Willard Gap, and the Bucklin Trail. Herb has a list of those parts, which have been adopted. Ideally, sector checkers should check their sections twice a year. One problem is that some of the sections cover quite a bit of distance; however, Killington has a policy of letting GMC volunteers use the gondola.

#### Shelter Adopters

This program is managed by Waterbury, which selects the adopters. We believe all of our shelters except for one are taken at this point. Herb will check with the GMC on this as well as who has responsibility for Tucker-Johnson Shelter.

#### Welcome Signs

We need to change some names and phone numbers on the welcome signs that our section has been posting at shelters and road crossings within the section. We need to make up at least 20 to cover the road intersections and another six for the shelters. We'd like to get more of those little protective bulletin boards made and plan to ask Bill Carris about this since he



volunteered to make trail signs. Steve will mail the new signs to the sector checkers who can post them. Again, a distinction was drawn between sector checkers and trail adopters. The latter are chosen by and report to Waterbury and have more paperwork to fill out.

### **Financial Report**

There was no treasurer's report as Al Pulling is in Utah. However, a full treasurer's report was presented at the annual meeting April 20 and the figures are just about the same.

### **Smoke & Blazes**

Bob Perkins again won high praise for his editorship of the quarterly newsletter. Bob has introduced photos and a personal editorial column among other innovations. Bob expressed frustration that the May issue had been delayed for several weeks because the outings schedule was not complete. Sue Thomas, as co-outings chairman, said that from her perspective the problem was getting hike leaders to commit to particular dates. The problem was expected to be resolved soon and the newsletter mailed. Bob once again expressed his appreciation for the hike reports and said it was perfectly okay for the leader to appoint someone else for this task. Photos were welcome also.

### **Taylor Series Lectures**

We're not happy with the way this year's Taylor Series event went. Attendance was very poor, even embarrassing. A big part of the problem it was felt was the steep \$8 admission mandated

by the GMC, which sponsors the program. Sue suggested a free section-sponsored slide show and potluck would draw a much better attendance. The ideal time would be in February or March of next year. Sue said she will make some phone calls to gauge interest and picture availability and Bob will get something in Smoke & Blazes. The Rutland Historical Society stores and maintains our photo albums.

### **Sale of Postcards**

About 20 years ago the section had printed a considerable quantity of postcards as a moneymaking idea. There are two scenes -- one of the Green Mountains from Creek Road in Rutland and one of Stratton Pond. The GMC logo is on the back. The postcards did not sell as expected and the question has arisen what to do with them. It was suggested that Waterbury could sell some. Or we could just give them away at potlucks and other presentations. Some might also be used to communicate with potential members. Sue Thomas is still willing to draft a message for this purpose.

### **Communications with Waterbury**

The GMC Annual Meeting is coming up this Saturday. Our new GMC Director Lynda Hutchins is unable to attend because of prior commitments and Al Pulling, the alternate director, is away. Herb said we will be receiving minutes of the meeting. Meanwhile, Linda will relay to the main club our desire to have a bridge built across

Brewers Brook on the Bucklin Trail.

### **Clarendon Gorge Parking Area**

It is reported that the paving project is just about completed. Barbara Griffith has noticed that piles of trash are being left there and they just sit for weeks. She will look into the situation. She said there is an individual who's been picking trash up in the vicinity and bringing it to the lot. This individual has also taken to kicking out so-called squatters who camp along the river. Bill thought that the repaved lot would also be featuring a manned tourist information booth, which could provide some oversight, but apparently this is not the case.

### **Rutland County Physical Activity Coalition**

This is one of a couple of new groups trying to promote walking and physical activity in the county. We will be sending them our hike schedule.

### **Pine Hill Park**

The Rutland City Recreation and Parks Department is interested in getting grants to build and improve trails in the city's Pine Hill Park. We support this project. Herb offered to attend their meetings and report back.

### **Next Meeting**

The next directors' meeting was set for Tuesday, Oct. 1, at 7:00 P.M. again at Herb's office.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Sept. – Nov. 2002

Trips leave from Rutland City Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at the times shown unless otherwise stated. Non-members are welcome. Bring drinking water and, for morning departures, bring a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear and dress for weather changes. Distances are approximate round trip; difficulty indicates steepness and footing. For more information about a trip, please call the trip leader listed at the right

September 7 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Blue Ridge Mountain, Mendon</b> Via the Canty Trail that passes a beautiful waterfall and leads to a rocky summit with views of Rutland's valley. Five miles, moderate with some steep climbing.	Steve & Diana Williams 645-9529
September 14 Saturday	<b>Okemo Mountain, Mount Holly</b> Ascend via the Healdville trail to the summit observation tower for spectacular views all around. High point of the town. Call leader for meeting time and place.	Carolyn Waldhauer 228-3602
September 21 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Susie Peak, Clarendon</b> Four-mile, moderate hike with a short, steep climb near the top. High point of the town. Rain date: September 22.	Ray Catozzi 773-3006
September 29 Sunday 9:00 AM	<b>Buck Mountain, Lake George, NY</b> An open summit with panoramic views of the lake and the Adirondacks beyond. Four-and-a-half miles, moderate. Possible side trip to Shelving Rock Falls if time permits.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
October 5 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Baker Peak, Town of Mount Tabor</b> We'll ascend Baker Peak (2840 feet) via the Lake Trail, a moderate but steady climb, to enjoy some splendid views from the summit. From there we'll take the Long Trail south for a look at Griffith Lake, then return via the old carriage route to our vehicles. Eight miles round trip.	Barb & Barry Griffith 492-3573
October 13 Sunday 10:00 AM	<b>Bald Mountain, Mendon</b> Four miles, moderate with nice overlooks in all directions.	Andrea McQuade 775-6273
October 19 Saturday 10:00 AM	<b>Quimby Area of Killington</b> We'll climb from River Road east to near Quimby Mountain, and then descend on a woodroad to see the two-grave Woodard Cemetery from the 1840s and two cellarholes from around then, one of which is pretty impressive. Good views of the Coolidge Range from several spots. Five miles; moderate.	Herb Ogden 775-1350
October 27 Sunday 9:30 AM	<b>Stony Brook, Stockbridge</b> Three-mile, moderate-to-difficult hike to the new Stony Brook Shelter on the Appalachian Trail	Al & Roma Pulling 773-6997
November 2 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Pharaoh Mountain, Lake George, NY</b> We'll take the Lake Loop to this 2500-foot mountain from Route 74. Moderate.	Connie & Mark Youngstrom 492-3502

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Sept. – Nov. 2002

Schedule continued from previous page.

November 9 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Work Party</b> We'll put the trail to bed for the winter. Help clean waterbars and possibly saw any blowdowns we've not gotten to before. Work locations will depend on need and possible snow cover.	Herb Ogden 775-1350
November 16 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Mount Tom, Woodstock</b> Hike some of the 20 miles of Carriage Roads at the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. This park is the "only national park to tell the story of conservation history and the evolving nature of land stewardship in America. Enjoy magnificent views of Woodstock and the surrounding hills from the top of Mount Tom." Usually we avoid the woods during hunting season but these 550 acres are posted "NO HUNTING." We'll walk, snowshoe and/or cross country ski according to conditions. Five-to-six miles; moderate.	Barb & Barry Griffith 492-3573
November 23 Saturday 6:00 PM	<b>Potluck Supper</b> Bring utensils and a dish to share for our annual fall potluck. Nonmembers welcome! We'll have a slide program on the Crown Point Road after the meal. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1 Hillside Road (off Woodstock Avenue), Rutland.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
December 8 Sunday 10:00 AM	<b>Lefferts Pond Loop, Chittenden</b> Three miles, easy with a little gentle climbing.	Sue Thomas 773-2185

### Want to Lead a Hike?

Our outing schedule is coordinated by Sue Thomas (773-2185) and Connie Youngstrom (492-3502). The winter schedule will include December through February. To make a suggestion, or to get your favorite outing on the schedule, give Sue or Connie a call before November 1. Please don't wait 'til the last minute.

## Rutland Senior Hikes: September – October 2002

The Rutland Recreation and Parks Department sponsors a series of "Turtle" hikes for seniors and others who wish to enjoy their outings at a somewhat slow and easy pace. The outings typically cover two to four miles, involve limited elevation gain, and try to avoid treacherous footing. All trips leave from the Godnick Adult Center on Deer Street off Woodstock Avenue on **Fridays at 9 AM** and return in early afternoon. Bring a lunch.

September 13	<b>Tucker-Johnson Shelter, Killington</b>	Al & Roma Pulling	773-6997
September 27	<b>Bald Mountain, Mendon</b>	Ray Catozzi	773-3006
October 11	<b>Glen Lake Overlook, Castleton</b>	Bob & Thelma Perkins	773-0184
October 25	<b>Trail South of Middlebury</b>	Charlie & Jean Davies	483-6623



## Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

### Bylaws

**(As amended through 20 April 2002)**

1. The purpose of the Killington Section of the G.M.C. shall be to maintain that part of the Long Trail, along with side trails and shelters, which it agrees to maintain for the G.M.C.; to encourage proper trail and shelter use throughout its section of the Long Trail; and to arrange for group hikes and other social and appropriate activities.
2. Membership in the Killington Section is open to anyone who supports the purposes of the Killington Section and pays the annual dues.
3. The Killington Section shall conduct all activities without prejudice in regard to race, gender, religion, national origin, or sexual preference. We shall encourage persons with disabilities to participate according to their limitations.
4. The activities of the section shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of nine members. The Directors shall be nominated from the floor and elected at the Annual Meeting.
5. The terms of office of the Directors shall be three years, with three Directors elected each year. A Director who has served two full consecutive terms may not be re-elected until one year has passed.
6. The absence of a Director from two consecutive meetings of the Board, without a valid reason accepted by the Board, shall terminate membership on the board and create a vacancy. Vacancies on the Board, created thus or through resignation, may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining Directors, subject to approval of the Section at the next Annual Meeting.
7. Officers shall be elected by the Directors from among their number at the first meeting of the Board following the Annual Meeting. They shall consist of a President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer, with the last two being combined if found desirable. The term of office shall be one year.
8. Whenever necessary, the Directors shall elect, preferably from their number, G.M.C. Directors and alternate Directors as allocated by the G.M.C. bylaws. The Directors may at their discretion elect G.M.C. Directors and alternates from the general section membership.
9. The bylaws may be amended by the affirmative vote of seven Directors, effective upon ratification by a two-thirds vote of those section members who attend an Annual or Special Meeting, following a notice of at least two weeks.
10. The Board shall meet at least twice a year upon the call of the President or at the request of three or more Directors. A quorum for all business of the Board shall be a majority of the total number of Directors.
11. A quorum for all business of the Section shall be one-tenth of those members eligible to vote.
12. The Annual Meeting shall be held no later than the end of April to nominate and elect Directors, hear reports of the Officers and G.M.C. Director(s), plan for the coming year, and transact any other appropriate business.
13. Within fourteen days after a vote of a majority of the Directors or a petition of ten percent of the members, the President shall set the date of a Special Meeting of the Section and give at least fourteen days notice, with an agenda, to all members.
14. If the Section is dissolved or otherwise ceases to function, all of its property of every kind shall pass to the Green Mountain Club, Inc., or the G.M.C.'s designated successor.



## Your Invitation to Join Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

### ANNUAL DUES:

Individual..... \$30  
Family..... \$40  
Senior/Student/Volunteer..... \$20  
Individual Lifetime..... \$750  
Family Lifetime..... \$1000

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_ trail work, \_\_\_ shelter work, \_\_\_ sign making, \_\_\_ publications, \_\_\_ leading outings, \_\_\_ publicity, \_\_\_ education

Make check payable to **Killington Section, GMC** and mail with this application to:

Alfred Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701





# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 55, Number 4

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

November 2002

## Big turnout for dedication of new shelter



### CHURCHILL SCOTT SHELTER

BUILT BY ERIK AND LAUREL TOBIASON, GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB,  
GMC KILLINGTON SECTION, APPALACIAN TRAIL CONFERENCE  
AND FRIENDS OF ALL - AUGUST 2002



**Above left:** Pete Ketcham presents sign to Churchill.

**Above:** Builder Erik Tobiason makes it official.

By Steve Williams

As reported in the August 2002 issue of *Smoke & Blazes*, we have a new shelter on the west slopes of Pico. After some difficulty in finding a date convenient for all those involved, Sunday, November 10, not coincidentally the last Sunday before the start of the main hunting season, was selected for the naming and dedication ceremony at the shelter. 'Plan B',

to hold the ceremony at the Long Trail Inn, was held in readiness in case the weather made the trip to the shelter impractical. On November 7<sup>th</sup>, with six inches of snow on the trail, this appeared increasingly likely. However, three days of warm weather removed essentially all snow from the trail and Sunday presented great fall weather conditions with temperatures in the sixties.

The ceremony comprised two parts, naming the shelter after Churchill Scott, a long term and major contributor to the Killington Section, and dedicating it to the memory of Alice Ference, who lost her life while hiking the Appalachian Trail. Given that Churchill and his wife Virginia were able to participate at the Route 4 trailhead, but not to make the hike, Ray Catozzi, a

*See Dedication, page 7*



**Smoke & Blazes**

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

**Killington Section Directors**

Term expires in:

2003 .....	Gretchen Crowley
" .....	* Alfred Pulling
" .....	Susan Thomas
2004 .....	* Robert Perkins
" .....	* Jacob Sherman
" .....	* Connie Youngstrom
2005 .....	Barbara Griffith
" .....	* Bill Robichaud
" .....	Steve Williams

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.  
Not eligible for re-election.

**Killington Section Officers**

President.....	Steve Williams
Vice President .....	Barbara Griffith
Secretary .....	Jacob Sherman
Treasurer .....	Alfred Pulling

**Committee Chairs/Co-chairs**

History.....	Robert Perkins
Outings.....	Susan Thomas
" .....	Connie Youngstrom
Trails & Shelters .....	Herb Ogden

**Delegates to GMC Board**

Director .....	Lynda Hutchins
Alternate.....	Alfred Pulling

**Smoke & Blazes**

Editor.....	Bob Perkins
-------------	-------------

**Contact Information**

Gretchen Crowley, 32 Pleasant St., Proctor, VT 05765, 459-2098  
 Barbara Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, Griff3VT@aol.com  
 Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, lmhutch@shoreham.net  
 Herbert Ogden, 20 Birchwood Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, (H)775-1350, hogden@adelphia.net  
 Robert Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, rperkinsvt@aol.com  
 Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, ral37@juno.com  
 William Robichaud, 215 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2567  
 Jacob Sherman, 48 Morse Pl., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2784, jakesher@hotmail.com  
 Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185  
 Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, voorburg@sover.net  
 Connie Youngstrom, Box 1160, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3502, marky@sover.net

**From the Editor****So, what else is new?**

When I first moved back to the Rutland area after having lived "away" for half a century I frequently was asked whether I found much to be different. I immediately mentioned the Wal-Mart parking lot that has replaced the train station, the new Route 4 West, and the entire new neighborhoods east of the now paved Stratton Road. I quickly added, however, that to my delight, the natural scene was just as I remembered it. I was thinking of Pico, Killington, and Mendon "peeking" over East Mountain and of the Taconics with Mount Herrick forming the western horizon.

But as I got back into the woods and mountains I found that the natural scene was not entirely unchanged. The wild turkey and the coyote were not part of the Vermont of my youth. The moose, then found only occasionally in the Northeast Kingdom, now appeared in my Mendon back yard, in a Rutland swimming pool, and in a Shrewsbury cow pasture. On the other hand, in five years of tramping I've seen only one porcupine. They used to be so ubiquitous that even a bona fide conservationist felt no more guilt in dispatching a shelter-eating Porky with a heavy club to the snout than he felt in swatting a black fly.

The view from Blue Ridge, and the stone quarry scar on Pine Hill are now obscured by forest growth, but one must keep a sharp eye out now to spot an elm tree. What I at first took to be a beautiful stand of lupine near the Creek Road turned out to be purple loosestrife. Eddy's Ice Pond and East Pittsford Pond are no more; they are returning to meadow and woods. There are now zebra mussels in Lake Champlain and Eurasian milfoil in Bomoseen. I remember more monarch butterflies and fewer cardinal songbirds than I see today.

Last but not least (except in the literal sense) we must now contend with the parasite *Giardia lamblia*.



## Trip Reports

### Flat Rock, Clarendon

18 August 2002

By Roma Pulling

The day of our hike was a real scorcher. In fact it was one of a string of uncomfortably hot and humid days, and we thought, "Who would want to hike on a day like this?" But sixteen of them did. Fourteen of us met at the park, and two more waited for us near the beginning of our route, as they lived in that area. We hoped they would be helpful in finding the inscription on the rock, purportedly from Revolutionary times.

Starting on the Quarterline Road in Clarendon, a round-trip hike to the rock would have covered perhaps a mile. So, as we had promised a four-mile hike, we started near where the road turns to dirt and did a road walk. Temperatures there were actually more comfortable than in the city as there was shade under trees beside the road and, thankfully, no pavement. It being Sunday afternoon, we saw more traffic than usual but were able to avoid any close encounters.

From a barricaded track leading into a pasture, we hugged a hedgerow and, upon reaching its end, we turned sharply to our right and crossed another field to a knoll near the edge of a forested area. There we entered the woods and almost immediately were standing on rock, although it was anything but flat. We followed it for some distance and I'm sure could have continued to do so, but we were summoned by our

two young friends, who had found the inscription. Perhaps due to erosion over a long period of time, we couldn't make out any words, only letters that looked like "BENF." Reports have it that at one time there was a metal plaque on the rock, but it apparently has been removed.

As we emerged from the woods on our return hike, we noticed a woman motioning and calling to us. This was the landowner, Helen Grembowicz, who had given us permission to walk there. She wasn't able to hike with us but had driven across the field to meet us. We chatted with her for a few minutes about the rock and the possible significance of the lettering. Our return trip to our cars was uneventful, and we were pleased to be able to renew an outing that had been taken by the section in the past.

### Blue Ridge Mountain

7 September 2002

By Steve Williams, co-leader

A welcome crowd of sixteen turned out to join leaders Steve and Diana Williams in hiking the Canty Trail to Blue Ridge Mountain. Had this number not included a majority who knew their way to the trailhead an immediate problem would have resulted in taking six vehicles out of the meeting point, reversing direction onto Route 7 and going right onto Route 4. Naturally all but two of the vehicles were separated during this maneuver, the two fortuitously being the Williams, who did know where they were going, and the Cawoods, who did not. Debacle

averted.

The first few hundred yards of the Canty Trail are owned by one of the Killington Section members, Bob Perkins. Fortuitously Bob was with the group and accepted the honor of leading through his property, where his father used to run a family camp, of which the buildings remain to this day. From this point on, Herb Ogden, Section Checker and aficionado of the Canty Trail, took up the pole position with Steve Williams acting as sweeper. Herb is to be congratulated on the general condition of the trail. He did advise, however, of the intent to install more water-bars on some of the steeper parts of the trail. Given the prevailing dryness their absence was by no means felt on this occasion.

Herb pointed out one of the geological features of the trail, a round sinkhole caused by glacial activity. He also led the party to the (just wet) falls at about the halfway point; falls which the Williams had completely missed on their trial run two weeks earlier.

The summit was reached precisely in accordance with the guidebook's 2 ¼ hours, which may or may not prove anything at all. Given the largely clear skies prevailing, there was an excellent view towards Pico, Killington and Deer Leap. The party then moved over to the western outlook to enjoy lunch in sight of Rutland, the Otter Creek Valley, and Bird Mountain and other peaks on the western side of the valley.



On returning to the trailhead, Herb pointed out another historical feature. Old Turnpike Road, where the trail originates, preceded the Sherburne Pass as Rutland's route east over the Green Mountains. At the time of writing it is only passable by motor vehicles for a limited distance, though a trail of some sort does still proceed to Route 100 on the east side of the Green Mountains.

Eighteen set off, (the same) eighteen returned; logistical equilibrium

### **Susie Peak, Clarendon**

21 September 2002

By Ray Catozzi, leader

I've climbed Susie Peak (also known as Edmunds Peak), which straddles the Clarendon-Ira town line, several times so I was familiar with the route. From the parking spot on the North Tinmouth road it crosses a power line; follows a short trail up a low, wooded hill; and passes through an opening in a stonewall into a large meadow. Crossing the meadow diagonally, the route connected with a nice gravel road that led up by a couple of summer camps to the ATV road that it followed all the way to the top of the mountain.

This time, however, we had problems. The power company had cleared all the brush under the power line and piled it high on both sides of the clearing. The brush piles hid the trail up the hill so we bushwhacked until we found the stonewall opening. Now we were on the right track.

After hiking up the camp

road about a half mile I started looking for the beginning of the ATV road, which was supposed to start just below the first camp. I couldn't find it. I figured someone had intentionally blocked the ATV road entrance so we hiked past the camp and looked for some other way to the top of the mountain.

We soon found a new logging road taking off up hill to the right, so we followed it for quite a ways, and in the right direction, and soon we connected up with the ATV road. Hooray, we found it! We were then all set to hike the rest of the way. The ATV road was rough and steep near the top, but we are hikers. We all made it to the clearing on Susie Peak, sat down, eat lunch, and enjoyed what view there was on that foggy and cloudy day. On a clear day you can see the Rutland Airport as well as the southwest part of Rutland City.

On the way back down we stayed on the ATV road all the way to the camp road. I then could see how we missed it on the way up. We followed the camp road all the way to the town road about a quarter-mile south of our cars. Next time I'll know where to find the hidden ATV road, I hope.

### **Baker Peak**

5 October 2002

By Barry & Barbara Griffith, leaders

This hike was rained out last spring, and as the weekend and Hurricane Lili both approached this fall we worried that history would repeat itself. We listened to

rain throughout the night, but awoke to dry and clearing skies.

Ten hikers ascended the old carriage road now called the Lake Trail. After crossing McGinn Brook we continued our climb heading north up the Baker Peak Trail to its junction with the LT/AT. From there the last one-tenth of a mile to the summit over the exposed rock edges presented the most challenging portion of the hike, but our party rose to the occasion. We were sheltered from the passing storm's winds at lower elevations, but felt their full force at the summit. We hunkered down to enjoy a well-earned lunch, and spectacular views up and down the Vermont Valley.

After eating we set off south on the LT/AT down the easterly side of the ridge until we arrived at Griffith Lake. In the late 1800s lumber baron Silas Griffith regaled guests at his lodge here in grand style. The buildings are long gone, but the setting remains. We enjoyed its beauty before retreating to the west down the carriage road to our waiting vehicles.

### **Bald Mountain, Mendon**

13 October 2002

By Andrea McQuade, leader

Eight of us – seven club members and a visitor from New Jersey – enjoyed this hike that is so close to Rutland. We experienced all kinds of weather – overcast skies, rain, wind, sunshine – and views of the fall foliage in Shrewsbury, the Cold River valley, Dorset Peak, and the Otter Creek Valley. The Rutland



Lookout is partially obscured by trees, but we were able to identify familiar landmarks. Everyone commented on the amount of leaves, especially the green ones, still on the trees at this time of year.

### **Quimby Area, Killington**

19 October 2002

By Herb Ogden

Five of us decided the weather forecast was not bad enough to cancel this history hike. In fact, when we parked at the Killington Town Offices on River Road, the sun even shone briefly. Unfortunately, by the time we reached the end of our 1300-foot climb at the 2523-foot peak between Taylor Pinnacle and Rounds Pinnacle, showers were changing to drizzle, and we had only local views. Still, though we couldn't see the Coolidge Range, the nearby views were beautiful, especially since the foliage lingered late this fall.

After lunching at the peak, we followed the Appalachian Trail farther east to the 1990s logging superhighway that connects Stockbridge South Hill with Notown via Little Sherburne. Where the new road turned west, we continued straight on the grass grown road that it replaced, soon coming to the remains of a large house about 100 feet west of the old road. From the Killington Land Records, it appears this was the homestead of Asa Woodard, who moved from Stockbridge and bought land in the Quimby area from 1812 until 1829. It is now a large, deep cellar hole with exceptionally good dry masonry.

The huge chimney pile in the middle probably served several fireplaces. Other signs of bygone settlement are terracing and a few apple trees.

We followed the old road south across a small brook. Where the road used to continue south only ten years ago to pass a small cellar hole, it is now grown up in brush, and we headed straight for the little Woodard Cemetery, the last resting place of Asa and Mary Woodard. Asa's stone says he died in 1845, aged 74. Mary died five months before him, aged 72. There is no sign of other graves and scant space for them in the little rock-walled plot on the side of Quimby Mountain overlooking the Coolidge Range. Atlases from the 1850s and 1860s show no house – indeed, no road – in this area, so the big Woodard house probably had fallen down by then. By 1845, agriculture on hillside farms above 2000' was declining. Perhaps no one lived in the big house after Asa died a widower.

Retracing our somewhat sodden steps, we followed the logging superhighway to its junction with the Quimby Road and soon were glad to be in the gorge of Quimby Brook, out of the wind. For about the last half mile to the River Road, the Quimby Road was the original route of the Appalachian Trail, relocated in the 1980s by the hard work of the GMC Ottauquechee Section. Some painted out blazes are still visible. Coming out onto the River Road, we were opposite the Town Offices, ending a pleasant outing.

Who was Quimby? Darned if I know! His house appears in the 1869 *Beers Atlas of Rutland County*, apparently somewhere southwest of the vacation camp that occupies the site of a lumber camp near the top of the Quimby Road. Either it has vanished without a trace or the camp stands where it used to. No Quimby appears in the town land records, so he must have been a renter. But a mountain, a brook, a road, and a neighborhood are named after him.

### **Stony Brook, Stockbridge**

27 October 2002

By Roma Pulling, leader

The day before our hike brought rain in the valleys and snow on the peaks, which brought me new concerns: Would the road in to Stony Brook, never in excellent condition, now become impassable? Would the rocky trail, covered with snow, become treacherous? Would Alfred, my co-leader, who had undergone angioplasty a few days before, climb to the shelter and do injury to himself? As usual, my worries were blown out of proportion, and we had a successful hike.

The closest thing to a problem that we encountered was a small tree that had blown down across the road. The driver of the lead car decided to drive *through* the treetop, followed by the other three cars. But on our return trip another driver took the lead and very sensibly stopped near the blowdown. Several of the hikers together were able to push the tree off the road.

As we started back to our



cars, a gentle rain started to fall. On the way back to Rutland it rained harder, but it was not a problem on the trail.

The original Stony Brook Shelter, on the Appalachian Trail near its junction with Stony Brook Road, was built in 1958 by the Norwich University Outing Club. Over the years it had become dilapidated and was too accessible to the public; so it was replaced in 1997 by a new shelter, three-quarters of a mile west, built by Erik and Laurel Tobiason. The old shelter has been dismantled.

### **Minerva Hinchey Privy Party**

9 November 2002

By Herb Ogden, leader



"Trail Party" is what the *Rutland Herald* calendar section called this, and it does have a more pleasant ring to it than "work party." Besides, this particular outing was unusually un-serious, anyway. Despite my fears of not having enough people to move the Minerva Hinchey Shelter privy to a new hole, a dozen people showed up on this fairly warm, sunny day. People took turns digging the new 3' hole while the rest took turns supervising. Then we all bodily picked up the less than two-year-old privy and put it onto its new

foundation over its new hole. One person tried it out, to make sure the privy wouldn't fall into the hole. Then everyone lined up outside the door for a group photo, appearing to wait for a turn at the convenience.

After the Privy Council disbanded, a few people went north to the Airport Lookouts to check for blowdowns, and the rest went south to Patch Hollow, removing one small and one large blowdown along the way. Some folks made their first acquaintance with a one-man crosscut saw. We had a very pleasant lunch overlooking the Patch Hollow beaver pond, decided that the trail up Bear Mountain would be too slippery what with wet leaves and a few inches of snow, declared victory, and went home happy.

### **Killington Area Bushwhack**

10 November 2002

By Herb Ogden, leader

While we were enjoying the dedication of Churchill Scott Shelter, I was asked whether it was practical to hike from there south along the Long Trail and take the Bucklin Trail down to Brewers Corners before nightfall. Because the ceremony lasted till around 2 p.m., I said I didn't think so, but I suggested an alternative: near Jungle Junction (the south end of the Sherburne Pass Trail), leave the trail, bushwhack about a tenth of a mile, and pick up some ATV tracks and logging roads that lead down to the Bucklin Trail about midway between the two brook crossings. About a dozen of the crowd wanted to do this, but

transportation was a problem, so eventually we settled on a group of seven. Five had hiked south from Route 4 to attend the ceremony, while Larry Walter and Dave Coppock had lugged a chainsaw up the Bucklin Trail and then north along the Long Trail to reach the new shelter, clearing blowdowns along the way, and needed a shortcut back to Brewers Corners.

We climbed to the birch knoll with the huge glacial erratic, enjoyed a very windy view up there, and plodded through three-to-four inches of snow south on the LT to Jungle Junction. About 200 feet south of it, I headed downhill, hoping to find one of the faint tracks that end about a tenth of a mile downhill from the LT. After a little searching, we found one, and it was "all downhill from there." Actually, not quite. Farther down, after the faint track turned into a wide woodroad, the tank traps began. These are regulation deep waterbars, installed after a logging operation. They give the hike a sort of roller coaster effect. I think we were all glad to hit the flat Bucklin Trail.

We didn't see much wildlife, but Jerry Parker did point out a very fresh bear track in the snow, which greatly interested our one canine companion. There were also several moose tracks.



## Dedication *continued from page 1.*

contemporary of Churchill's within the Section, spoke at the trailhead about Churchill's contributions to the Section and to the GMC as a whole. Please see page 11 of this issue for a review of Churchill's accomplishments.

For the hike to the shelter, Churchill was represented by his oldest son, Walter Jr., and his children Robin and Becky; his oldest daughter Linda and husband Ray and their son Keith; his son Kim, wife Sue and two children Britney and Zachary; his youngest daughter Candy and husband Clarence plus their two children Jill and Katie and, last but not least, his granddaughter Brianna, making some fifteen in all. While some lived locally, others had traveled from Connecticut.

Alice's daughter Jean and her son Douglas, who had traveled from New York City for the occasion, represented the Ference family.

Ben Rose, GMC Executive Director, who brought along his daughter Anya, and Pete Ketchum, Field Supervisor & Back Country Management Specialist, with his wife Katie, represented the GMC, Waterbury. J.T. Horn, New England Regional Co-coordinator, represented the Appalachian Trail Conference.

The party was brought up to forty by the addition of the shelter builders Erik and Laurel Tobiason and sixteen members of the Killington Section.

The two-mile hike passed by without event, though did require some effort by those of the Scott family not used to the hiking milieu. They, and in particular five year-old Brianna, are to be congratulated on their efforts. The party thus just about managed to congregate at the shelter at the scheduled time of one p.m.

After inspection of the shelter and a brief lunch break, addresses were made by:

- Steve Williams, President, who welcomed everyone on behalf of the Killington Section.
- Ray Catozzi, who further addressed Churchill Scott's contributions to hiking in the Rutland Region,
- J.T. Horn, who expressed thanks to the Mr. Ference (Alice's husband, Jean's father) for his significant financial contribution towards the shelter. J.T. then described the ATC's policy of naming shelters after those who have made major contributions to ATC activities, for example Churchill Scott. He then went on to describe the ATC's readiness to dedicate a shelter, as indicated by a plaque, to memorialize those with special attachments to the trail, for example Alice Ference and her family, who have made such a contribution to the financing of the shelter.
- Jean Ference, who spoke of the importance of the trail to her mother and her attachment to it.
- Ben Rose, who spoke of the

relationship between the Waterbury GMC headquarters and the Sections such as Killington; GMC goals, and the importance of contributions by members to the ongoing maintenance and expansion of the LT/AT system.

To increase the festivity of the occasion, which in the writer's humble opinion was already very positive, and to follow a tradition initiated by Ray Catozzi at the end of hikes he leads, a toast was proposed to recognize Churchill Scott and remember Alice Ference. Again following Ray, the toast was Ray's vin non-ordinaire, Catozzi Elderberry Special. This was supported by cheese nibbles, naturally Vermont Cabot cheddar.

Katie Ketchum then demonstrated great energy as a photographer, taking appropriate groupings of the participants to record the occasion. These photos will, we hope, be a memorable addition to the video of the occasion made by Barbara Griffith to augment the video she previously made during the construction phase of the shelter.

Both the Churchill Scott name board and Alice Ference dedication plaque were then installed.

The party departed as the weather began to show signs of deteriorating. The majority descended by the LT/AT, while a few adventurous souls were led by Herb Ogden up to the ridge and then, via a "corner-cut"



known to Herb, down onto the Bucklin trail.

In conclusion, the Killington Section of the GMC is extremely

grateful to all who have participated in the financing and erection of the Churchill Scott Shelter; to those who helped organize the ceremony of

November 10<sup>th</sup> and to those who attended the ceremony, in particular the members of the Churchill Scott and Alice Ference families.

### Green Mountain Club Walking Song

By R. W. Saunders

*Air: I Went to the Animal Fair*

I joined the Green Mountain Club;  
I felt like a regular dub;  
The first four miles were only smiles  
And then there came the rub.  
My prayer for a rest was balked;  
No matter how hard I talked,  
They would not rest at my request,  
But only walked and walked.

*(Refrain in Monotone)*

And walked and walked and walked  
and walked  
And walked and walked and walked.

Oh, but my feet were sore,  
And some of my clothes I tore,  
The mud was deep, the hills were steep,  
And fences we climbed galore;  
As onward the leader stalked  
My prayer for a rest was balked;  
They left me dead as on they sped,  
And walked and walked and walked.

*(Refrain in Monotone)*

And walked and walked and walked  
and walked  
And walked and walked and walked.

*[This is one of several verses written for the New York Section of the Green Mountain Club and made available to Smoke & Blazes by Betty Gilman who is a relative of the Haley family of Shrewsbury that hosted many GMC activities in the early days of the club.]*

### Attention – Hike Leaders

Our outing schedule is coordinated by Sue Thomas (773-2185) and Connie Youngstrom (492-3502). In order to publish *Smoke & Blazes* and our quarterly outing schedule in a timely fashion we need your cooperation in contacting the outing coordinators before the target dates.

		<u>Target date</u>
Spring outings:	March, April, May	February 1
Summer outings:	June, July, August	May 1
Fall outings:	September, October, November	August 1
Winter outings:	December, January, February	November 1

Call Sue or Connie if you'd like to lead a Killington Section outing, or to make a suggestion for an outing.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Dec. '02 – Feb. '03

Trips leave from Rutland City Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at the times shown unless otherwise stated. Non-members are welcome. Bring drinking water and, for morning departures, bring a lunch. Wear sturdy footgear and dress for weather changes. Distances are approximate round trip; difficulty indicates steepness and footing. For more information about a trip, please call the trip leader listed at the right

December 8 Sunday 10:00 AM	<b>Lefferts Pond Loop, Chittenden</b> Easy, 3 miles with a little gentle climbing.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
December 14 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Catamount Trail, Mendon To Shrewsbury.</b> We'll proceed on cross-country skis or snowshoes from Brewer's Corner to Gov. Clement Shelter over the VAST snowmobile trail/Catamount Trail. Moderate to difficult, 5 miles.	Barb & Barry Griffith 492 3573
December 28 Saturday 10:00 AM	<b>Bear Mountain and Airport Lookout, Wallingford/Clarendon</b> Snowshoe on the Long/Appalachian Trail from Clarendon Gorge (Vt. 103) to Wallingford Gulf (Vt. 140) with views of Rutland Airport, Spring Lake and White Rocks. Moderate, 6.3 miles.	Herb Ogden 775-1350
January 5 Sunday 12:30 PM	<b>Rocky Pond, Rutland</b> Ski or snowshoe at the site of Rutland's proposed new hiking trails and enjoy a bit of wilderness within the city borders. We'll loop back by way of Muddy Pond and a small waterfall. Easy, 2.5 to 3 miles with some climbing.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
January 11 Saturday 10:00 AM	<b>Patch Hollow, Wallingford.</b> Hike back in time. Come and learn about the tragic 1831 tar-and-feathering party here; who was killed and why. Walk, ski or snowshoe, depending on conditions. Moderate, 3 miles round trip.	Barb & Barry Griffith 492 3573
January 18 Saturday 4:30 PM	<b>Moonlight Ski, Gov. Clement Shelter, Shrewsbury</b> Moonlight ski, snowshoe, or hike from Upper Cold River Road to Gov. Clement Shelter, Shrewsbury. Follow the road past old cellar holes and along a rushing brook, up to the unique 1929 stone shelter for a hot beverage around the fireplace. Return by the light of the full moon. Easy, 2.4 miles.	Herb Ogden 773-2185
January 25 Saturday 10:00 AM	<b>Hot Dog Roast – Gifford Woods, Killington</b> Ski or snowshoe in the park and then gather around the fire. Bring hot dogs to roast. Hot drinks will be provided. Easy.	Roma & Al Pulling 773-6997

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Dec. '02 – Feb. '03

Schedule continued from previous page

February 1 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Mount Independence, Orwell</b> Explore the site of a Revolutionary War era fort overlooking Lake Champlain with several interesting sites along the route. Easy to moderate, 2 to 3 miles.	Andrea McQuade 775-6273 or Linda Hutchins 948-2770
February 8 Saturday	<b>Robert Frost Mountain, Ripton</b> A joint outing with the Breadloaf Section. Snowshoes may be needed. Moderate, 5 miles with scenic views. Call leaders for meeting time and place.	Gordon & Helen Cawood 352-4310
February 15 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Merck Forest, Rupert</b> Ski or snowshoe the varied trails at the Merck Forest & Farmland Center. Moderate, 4 to 6 miles.	Steve & Diana Williams 645-9529
February 15/16 Saturday/Sunday	<b>Merck Forest, Rupert, Overnight</b> Join the day hikers and then enjoy an overnight stay in a rustic shelter. Reservations and a fee required for overnight stay. Contact leaders by February 8.	Larry & Viv Walter 775-3855
February 23 Sunday 9:00 AM	<b>Mystery Hike, Shrewsbury</b> Snowshoe in the wilds of Shrewsbury. Some bushwhacking possible. Moderate, 3 miles.	Jerry Parker 747-4439
March 2 Sunday 10:00 AM	<b>Deer Leap, Killington</b> Snowshoe to the lookout on Deer Leap with option of a longer loop over Deer Leap Mountain. Moderate, 3 miles with some steep climbing.	Sue Thomas 773-2185



**Killington Section  
Hikers  
on  
Mt. Antone  
in  
Merck Forest**



## Walter Churchill Scott

At its directors meeting on June 4, 2002, the Killington Section officers and directors voted unanimously to recommend to the main GMC that the new Pico West Shelter to be built on the relocated LT/AT south of Rte. 4 be named in honor of dedicated longtime GMC and Killington Section member W. Churchill Scott and be known as the Churchill Scott Shelter.

Churchill has been associated with the GMC and the Killington Section for nearly 70 years, most of that time as an active member assuming numerous leadership roles. Shortly after graduating from high school in 1932, Churchill joined the Killington Section trail crews under the direction of Willis Ross, who was a postal employee in Rutland. After serving on these crews in 1933 and perhaps in 1932 as well, he was recruited by Ross to be the caretaker of Porky Camp, a closed camp on Killington Peak near the present Cooper Lodge, where he spent the summer of 1934. After the hurricane of 1938 made the stretch of LT between Pico and Killington impassable, Churchill was one of a crew that cleared it.

Following military service in World War II, Churchill resumed his activity with the section serving as president for two years (1950-1951), secretary for twenty-two years (1961-1982) and treasurer for



twenty-five years (1961-1985). During this time he also played a key role in the maintenance of trails and shelters. Following retirement from his career with the U.S. Postal Service, he returned to Killington Peak for several years working from the summit as fire lookout.

On June 12, 1999, at the GMC's Annual Meeting at Stratton, Churchill received an honorary life membership in recognition of his years of service to the Killington Section and the Club. Churchill's contributions were summed up as follows in the fall 1999 issue of the Long Trail News:

In 1934, at the age of nineteen, Churchill Scott began his long association with the GMC. In that year, he became caretaker at Porky Lodge on Killington Peak. Scott has been very involved in the

Killington Section. Over two decades, he served as section officer and for many years, Churchill single-handedly kept the trails and shelters in the Killington Section going. He handled correspondence, finances, and did on-the-ground trail and shelter maintenance. He also led countless outings over the years and edited the section's newsletter, *Smoke and Blazes*.

Scott received his end-to-end certification in 1969. He encouraged his own children and Rutland area youth to discover the joys of hiking. Scott's first membership in the Killington Section was given to him, like other youth, because he joined the military during WW II.

We in the Killington Section are proud of Churchill's legacy and feel that his early connections to the GMC going back to the increasingly legendary 1930's together with his many decades of continuing service to the Killington Section make him very deserving of having this new shelter named after him. We believe that such a move would help to pass on the kind of history and dedication that he embodies to future generations of hikers. He has certainly been an inspiration to us in the Killington Section.



**Your Invitation to Join  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont

**ANNUAL DUES:**

Individual ..... \$30  
Family ..... \$40  
Senior/Student/Volunteer ..... \$20  
Individual Lifetime ..... \$750  
Family Lifetime ..... \$1000

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_ trail work, \_\_\_ shelter work, \_\_\_ sign making, \_\_\_ publications, \_\_\_ leading outings, \_\_\_ publicity, \_\_\_ education, \_\_\_ other.

Make check payable to Killington Section, GMC and mail with this application to:

Alfred Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701







## It was a dark and stormy night -

Patch Hollow, May 11, 1831  
[This story, taken from the *History of Wallingford, Vermont* by Rev. Walter Thorpe (1911), was recounted by leader Barry Griffith to about two dozen enthusiastic Killington Section snowshoers at the scene of the crime.]

Away back in the early part of the nineteenth century there occurred "The Patch Hollow Tragedy." Rapidly returning to primitive wilderness is what was formerly well settled land. On the east side of Bear Mountain running in a northerly and southerly direction is Patch Hollow. At the time of the tragedy the Mount Holly road, as it was called, passed over the highlands, north of the present road, by way of Congdon's and Clemons'. About a mile east of the Clemons place the road branched off north running through Patch Hollow. Upon this road five families lived. At the south end, Luther Hale, who made wooden plows for farmers in the vicinity. Next lived David Patch, who had built a substantial house and reared a large family. Then came Simon

Patch's and away to the right lived Edmund Patch.

Further on north, a little away from the road to the left, Rolon Wheeler had built a log house 24 x 18 and here was the scene of the tragedy. Wheeler had married a daughter of David Patch and was a man of violent passions and jealous disposition. Report said he was guilty of indiscretion with his wife's sister and the community to show resentment for such conduct, planned to turn out and give him a coat of tar and feathers and perchance ride him on a rail. They were well organized and comprised young men from the village, from Sugar Hill and even Shrewsbury. Threats were made so publicly that Wheeler hearing of them swore that if attacked he would defend himself. Visiting the village, he went to the blacksmith shop of Thomas Draper, made a large file into a two-edge knife and fitted it to a handle. It appears that Jarvis Learned had been selected to lead "the rioters" but on the appointed day he was called to attend his sister's funeral

in Danby. He afterwards felt fortunate to think it was not his own. On the night of May 11, 1831, the party set out from the village. Several carried jugs of rum, one a bucket of tar, another a sack of feathers. The detachment from Shrewsbury got lost in the woods, either from darkness or too frequent potations, and after wandering about for a time went home and reported they'd had a great time with "Old Wheeler." Next day, hearing how the affair terminated they were glad to make it known that they had never reached the house. In a field south of the "hollow" the parties from the village and Sugar Hill met, compared the contents of various jugs and proceeded to disguise themselves. Isaac Osborne, at the time a foreman of James Rustin's hat shop, was appointed leader. The party followed along the road until they came to Wheeler's house and there called for admission. They claimed they were going fishing in Shrewsbury Pond and wanted some fire. Wheeler had placed

See Patch Hollow, page 3



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2003 .....	Gretchen Crowley
" .....	* Alfred Pulling
" .....	Susan Thomas
2004 .....	* Robert Perkins
" .....	* Jacob Sherman
" .....	* Connie Youngstrom
2005 .....	Barbara Griffith
" .....	* Bill Robichaud
" .....	Steve Williams

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.  
Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President.....	Steve Williams
Vice President .....	Barbara Griffith
Secretary .....	Jacob Sherman
Treasurer .....	Alfred Pulling

### Committee Chairs/Co-chairs

History.....	Robert Perkins
Outings.....	Susan Thomas
" .....	Connie Youngstrom
Trails & Shelters .....	Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director .....	Lynda Hutchins
Alternate.....	Alfred Pulling

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor.....	Bob Perkins
-------------	-------------

### Contact Information

Gretchen Crowley, 32 Pleasant St., Proctor, VT 05765, 459-2098  
 Barbara Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, Griff3VT@aol.com  
 Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, lmhutch@shoreham.net  
 Herbert Ogden, 20 Birchwood Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, (H)775-1350, (W)775-3368, hogden@adelphia.net  
 Robert Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, rperkinsvt@aol.com  
 Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, ral37@juno.com  
 William Robichaud, 215 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2567  
 Jacob Sherman, 48 Morse Pl., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2784, jakesher@hotmail.com  
 Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185  
 Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, voorburg@sover.net  
 Connie Youngstrom, Box 1160, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3502, marky@sover.net

## From the Editor

### What's the point?

From sometime in the mid 1950s until sometime in the mid 1990s the *Guide Book of the Long Trail*, in describing the trail up the south side of Killington, mentioned a waypoint called "Consultation Point". What 's the story behind the unusual name of this transitory landmark? Based on a conversation with my late father, Craig S. "Pinky" Perkins, I offer the following explanation.

In the early 1950s a group from the Killington Section set out to conduct one of the periodic relocations of that piece of trail. I don't know for sure who else was in that particular work party, but among Dad's frequent trail-working colleagues were R. Gale "Breezer" Spaulding, Clarence O. "Doc" Gaskill, and Malcolm (son of Willis) Ross. They decided this time to take a scientific approach. Taking into account the total elevation to be gained they selected an acceptable average pitch and resolved to maintain that average as an actual constant pitch throughout. I'm not sure that they used a surveyor's transit in the process but I know Dad owned one and it would have been in the spirit of the project.

As the day wore on, however, the careful calculation of switchbacks grew tedious, the crew grew weary, and the hour grew late. At some point they paused, consulted one another, agreed to abandon science, and struck out on a due north course for Killington. The strategy worked, the new trail was a success, and the point became Consultation Point.

### One more point

Speaking of interestingly named points, perhaps the most intriguing is a lookout on Kit Davidson's Mount Zion property in Hubbardton that he calls Moot Point. But it's debatable.



**Patch Hollow** *continued from page 1*

against the door a rail long enough to brace against the opposite wall and feeling secure paid no heed to them. Finding it impossible to force the door, they pried a hole in the gable end of the roof and Isaac Osborne, James Sherman and Silas Congdon sprang into the house.

Then commenced a terrible struggle in the dark. Sherman got Wheeler by the hair and began to drag him out when Wheeler commenced to use his knife with deadly effect. The rail was knocked down and others rushing in from the outside added to the confusion. Benj. Brownell received a stab in the side. Jas. Sherman received fourteen wounds. Silas Congdon seized the blade of the knife in his hand and it was twisted round and wrenched from him, cutting out the inside of his hand. Isaac Osborne fell across the bed and died without a cry. During the struggle Wheeler slipped out of his shirt, dived under the bed, raised some floor boards, crawled under the house and made his escape into the woods. Meantime those within the house had got hold of Osborne's body and drew it about the floor thinking it was Wheeler. It was not long before they noticed the man was dead when they dropped the body and hastily left the house. In the meantime Mrs. Wheeler with many shrieks had run for her father's house. The "rioters", (for so they were termed in the indictment) hurriedly disappeared and James Sherman made his way to Dr. John Fox's home so as

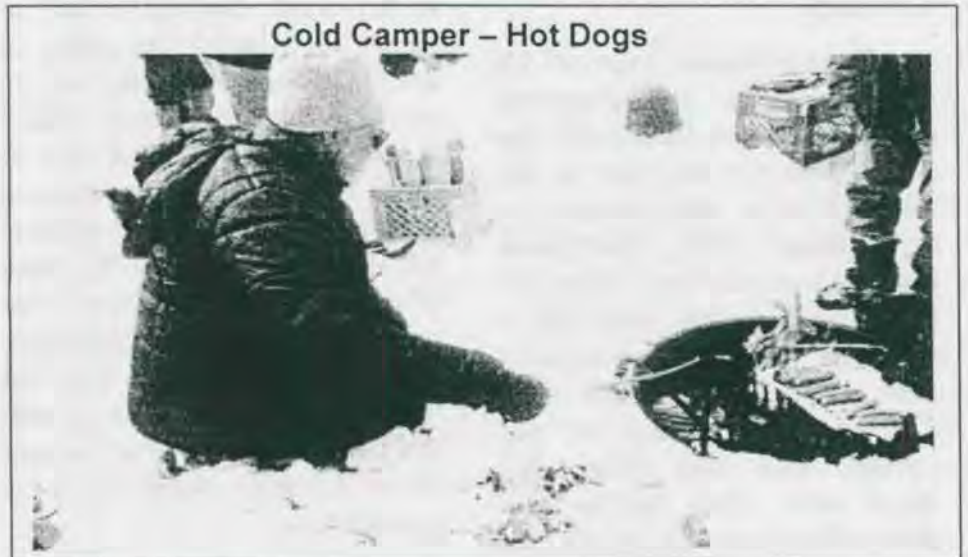
to get his wounds dressed. He informed the good doctor of the circumstances, urging him to hasten up to "the Hollow," fearing that someone was killed. Many times afterwards in recounting the experience, Dr. Fox claimed that what he saw within the log hut was the most terrible sight he could recall. By the dim light of a bit of tallow candle he noticed the livid body of Osborne on the bed and the cabin literally soaked in blood. It is a question how Wheeler, who had passed out entirely naked, spent the night in the woods. Before daybreak he fled into the Hartsboro section, stole a shirt from Mrs. Horton's clothes line and selected an unfrequented barn to spend the day in. It was entirely empty excepting two bundles of dry straw. With these he made himself a straw dress and thus clad made his way across country to his sister's home in a part of the town of Pawlet called "Tadmar." Here he was arrested the following day and brought back to Wallingford for trial. The court was called in

the Hotel but so great was the interest that it moved to the Baptist Church. Upon hearing the facts of the case the prisoner was discharged. His acquittal was unexpected and it tended to intensify the excitement. After Wheeler's release he with his wife left town and afterwards lived near Danby Corners, from thence going to the great west.

The "rioters" in turn were held for trial in the county court and according to the records of Joseph Hagar and Reuben Wood were fined \$60.00 each, and James Huntoon, James Sherman and Herman Mighells \$40.00.

For the foregoing account I am indebted for my information to Dr. J. E. Hitt, who wrote an article upon this phase of Wallingford's history and before it was printed was at great pains to see it was authentic. The dreadful tragedy must have left its blight upon "Patch Hollow" for shortly afterwards the dwellings were unoccupied and it has never since been used for residence.

**Cold Camper – Hot Dogs**





# Trip Reports

## Mount Tom, Woodstock

16 November 2002

Barbara Griffith

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park is Vermont's only National Park and the only National Park to tell the story of conservation history and the evolving nature of land stewardship in America. "No Shooting" signs helped us pick this area for a hunting season outing.

Undeterred by a snowstorm and reports of a pile-up of vehicles on the Killington Pass a party of 12 set off to hike the easy carriage roads of Vermont's only National Park in Woodstock, Vt. We added a couple visiting from Connecticut to make us a group of 14. This relatively easy stroll followed an old carriage road winding up an easy grade. We strolled around the "Pogue" (a pond tucked in the cleft of the mountain), marveled at an old drinking fountain being gravity fed from the pond and wound up to the top of Mt. Tom (elevation 1240 feet).

The spectacular view of Mt Ascutney (one of Vermont's monadnocks) was obscured by the clouds, however the view to the east and south was a reward for the minimal effort. Woodstock from the top with snow flying and the covered bridge was like a postcard. What an ideal place to relax and enjoy lunch. The amazing craftsmanship of the carriage road was oohed and ahhed over. One section was about 40 feet of stonemasonry to

span a small gully. One could imagine being pulled to the top in a carriage pulled by a team of horses!

On the return we meandered around, visiting a log ski lodge that had a wood stove to warm us up. Down the trail we located a "two-seater" his and hers outhouse. Onward we passed the old bowling alley and the mansion. There are 20 miles of groomed trails in the 550 woodland acres for all to enjoy. See you on the trails!

## Catamount Trail

14 December 2002.

This hike was postponed due to inclement weather. We will reschedule it for a future date.

## Bear Mountain, But Not Beyond

28 December 2002

By Herb Ogden

This was going to be an over 5-mile hike or snowshoe from Wallingford Gulf to Vt. 103. Plans were changed by the heavy snowfall that began on Christmas Day. No longer did I have to worry about coping with a muddy or icy trail. Instead, I had to figure out whether our group of ten could make it all the way in over a foot of new snow. First I scaled back to a round trip to Patch Hollow, planning to return on the old road that leads south to the Long Trail. Eventually, some of the group did snowshoe as far as the top of Bear Mountain, about 2.1 miles from Vt. 140. On the way down, we caught up with the majority, who turned around after reaching the south end of the summit ridge.

Because the parking lot off Vt. 140 was not plowed out, it took us a while to get all the snowshoers to the trailhead after parking cars in a tiny pull-off to the west of the trail crossing and at the Sugar Hill Road. After a few misbehaving snowshoe bindings, the next problem was encountered when we entered the woods: not enough blazes. Even those of us who were familiar with the trail sometimes had trouble deciding where it went. Some of us spent considerable time bobbing our heads from side to side trying to spy the next blaze through the trees. This shows that the new GMC blazing policy is, as the GMC says, not designed for winter hiking. I'd like to blaze this stretch to the old standard: always have one in sight. The new policy allows this but does not require it.

Our lunch break was at the fine lookout on a short spur trail partway up the switchbacks. By that time, some folks' thighs were already getting tired of lifting a lot of new snow every time they took a step forward. Alternating the lead, we nevertheless pushed on up the mountain and got to the summit ridge in good spirits. From there, a few of us followed the swath for the beacon electric line along the ridge. With no snow on the ground, this is tough going, so this part was actually easier on snowshoes, over a thick blanket of snow that evened out the rough terrain.

Retracing our steps was a real joy, much easier than breaking trail on the way up. We all returned to the Wallingford Gulf Road in good spirits.



**Patch Hollow**

11 January 2003

By Barb &amp; Barry Griffith

This was a hike with a hook—the chance to hear what happened at this secluded spot on the Long Trail one fatal night in 1831. Section members were joined by others who do not regularly snowshoe -- including a curious newspaper reporter -- along to hear the tale, which is recounted elsewhere in this issue.

We carpoled to our trailhead at Spring Lake Ranch, with Bob Perkins' VW van filled with hikers leading the way. The drive up the narrow, icy road to the parking area added adventure to the trip before we even put on our packs! We were joined at the Ranch by a Shrewsbury contingent, bringing our total to 27 hikers.

Snowshoes and one pair of skis were donned. We struck off heading south along the well-marked trail, grateful for the snowshoes in the deep snow left by recent storms. After about a mile of moderate elevation gain we reached the ridge and went across to the headwaters of Patch Creek, where the secret of the Hollow was revealed.

**The D&H Rail-Trail  
By Moonlight**

18 January 2003

By Herb Ogden

Like my first outing this season, the moonlight hike had to be changed from its original route. It was supposed to go from Shrewsbury's Upper Cold River Road to Gov. Clement Shelter, where we were supposed to enjoy hot drinks around the stone

shelter's fireplace. After several weeks of snow, however, there was at most space for one car to park at the triangle on the Upper Road. I thought about a ski and snowshoe outing to Clarendon Shelter via the old Gaynor Road instead, but the Vt. 103 parking lot was not well plowed. Besides, the stream that runs down the old road had not entirely frozen over, and the descent on skis was very tricky. So I settled for the combination of Castleton State College's huge parking lot and the nice level trail that was made after the old Rutland & Washington Railroad was abandoned about twenty years ago. (Tracks now end at Salem, New York.)

Though the temperature was around zero, ten of us started south on the Delaware & Hudson Rail-Trail, six on skis and four on snowshoes. The skiers had a fine time. Though many snowmobiles had used the trail, it had been so cold since the last snowfall that the surface was still powder snow. The snowshoers? Well, they, um, had more time to thoroughly take in their surroundings. The skiers turned around near the two-mile mark; the snowshoers had to stop sooner so we could all finish together.

The surroundings were worth taking in. Soon after we left South Street, the full Frost Moon rose. The night was still. No wind blew. The bitterly cold snow squeaked beneath our skis and snowshoes. Where the railbed cut through pastures, horses stood sleeping in the cold. Lights shone from houses near and far. As the moon rose

further, we could see the details of the Taconics around us and of the trail ahead of us, right down to the snowmobile runner tracks. Even though the temperature was now about seven degrees below zero, everyone enjoyed being out in the moonlit landscape.

To top off a successful outing, former GMC Director Wally Rogers invited us all to his house, which is in sight of the rail trail, for hot drinks. He gave us that and more, namely an excellent soup, cheese, crackers, and cookies. This will be a hard act to follow.

By the way, the very next night, four of us from the Unitarian Universalist Church skied the rail trail all the way from Poultney to Castleton, 7.2 miles. It took us about three hours, because we stopped often to enjoy the scenery and talk of many things in the moonlight.

**Gifford Woods  
Hot Dog Roast**

January 25, 2003

By Roma Pulling

After many nights of sub-zero temperatures and days with icy winds, we felt very fortunate that the day of our hike was comfortable and the snow was ideal. We gathered 19 people, starting with 14 at the park. We were joined by five more at Gifford Woods.

Parking our cars near the maintenance shed on Route 100, we loaded two plastic toboggans with supplies, strapped on our snowshoes and headed for the campground. Alfred and one other hiker stayed at the lean-to to start a fire while the rest of our



group with veteran hike leader Jerry Parker in the lead started up the trail. We followed the Appalachian Trail at first but then bushwhacked south for a ways before swinging back toward the lean-to. Jerry said it was pure luck that he came out at our destination, but we knew better. We studied many animal tracks, most of which were hard to identify because snow had drifted in, but Jerry was sure that one set of large prints were those of a moose.

At the lean-to Alfred had a cozy fire burning and water heating in the old Killington Section pot. Hot dogs were soon cooking on a barbecue fork, sticks and aluminum foil and tasted delicious with hot beverages furnished by the club and cookies for dessert. After satisfying our appetites, we hiked back to our cars and returned home. To our friends in Florida, you don't know what you're missing!

### Mount Independence

1 February 2003

Andrea McQuade

Twelve of us pretty much had the place to ourselves as we snowshoed around this Vermont historic site. In 1776 American Revolutionary War troops built a fort here, across Lake Champlain from Fort Ticonderoga, hoping to prevent a British attack from Canada.

We stopped at a number of places along the trails to learn about the different structures including the barracks, the hospital, and artificers' shops, as well as the garden area, the

floating bridge connecting the two forts, a quarry, and a crane that was used to lift supplies from the shore 200 feet below. Co-leader Lynda Hutchins' lively commentary helped us visualize these places, especially because so much of them was covered in snow.

For lunch we stopped on the shore of the frozen lake, where we had a great view of Fort Ticonderoga, snowmobiles, and ice fishermen. Our hike also offered opportunities to view animal tracks, porcupine quills, rabbit fur, and two foxes by the side of the road. At the end of our hike, we stopped at the picnic tables, enjoyed snacks, and heard a ghost story told by Sue Thomas.

Hiking and history - both factual and haunted - what a great combination!

### Robert Frost Mt., Ripton

19 February 2003

Gordon & Helen Cawood

A large group of 21 hikers assembled for this hike. There were ten Breadloafers, six Killingtoners, two Burlingtoners,

and three nonmembers. We started at the junction of Lincoln-Ripton Road and Norton Farm Road and headed west on the snowmobile trail.

It was a beautiful, sunny day. Nevertheless, it was cold, moving the faster members of the party so far ahead that it was impossible to keep count. But, all the cars disappeared at the end of the hike, so we're sure that we lost no one to any pedestrian-snowmobile encounters. Killington member Bill Lucas, though visually impaired, could follow the well-defined trail with impressive speed.

The snowmobile trail was wide and hard packed and led to the peak of Robert Frost Mountain where we were greeted with a chilling westerly wind and no one chose to stay there for lunch. However, three of the party continued a short distance down the snowmobile trail as it continued west where there was a good view of Bread Loaf Mountain and others in the Green Mountain chain



Killington Section snowshoers explore Gifford Woods



**Section Directors Meeting**

6 February 2003

By Jake Sherman, Secretary

A meeting of the section directors was held on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. at the offices of Herb Ogden. Present were Steve Williams, Barb Griffith, Lynda Hutchins, Sue Thomas, Bob Perkins, Herb Ogden and Jake Sherman.

**Secretary's Minutes** -- The minutes of the Oct. 1 meeting were approved as submitted.

**Trails & Shelters Report** -- Herb gave an extensive report covering a number of areas. He noted that as a result of new federal funds becoming available the Forest Service had asked the GMC to come up with ideas for capital improvement projects along the Appalachian Trail.

One possibility might be moving or replacing Clarendon Shelter. It is presently not on federal land and it would be desirable if it were. However, no one is pressuring us to move it at present and in fact it is well maintained. If it were moved, criteria for a new location would include a reliable water source and good distance from any road.

Also, the GMC is planning at some point to build a new shelter between Gov. Clement and Cooper Lodge, possibly with an eye to ultimately removing both.

Tucker-Johnson Shelter, north of Route 4, is not our responsibility but a few years ago had support

beams torn out. There is concern it is too close to developments.

Herb will check on the status of the proposed trailhead parking lot on Rte. 4. There was engineering done on a proposed \$60,000 plan a couple of years ago but nothing has happened. The site's pretty rough and can get quite muddy, particularly in spring.

The main club agrees with us that a bridge is needed over Brewers Brook on the Bucklin Trail. There might be delay on construction, however, because of handicapped access concerns. It is supposed to be wheelchair-accessible.

There is also a move to put in composting privies at both Minerva Hinchey and Clarendon Shelters.

Except for some blowdowns between Wallingford Gulf and Minerva Hinchey, the trails are in pretty good shape.

Herb recommended we purchase a one-man crosscut saw. Also, inquiries will be made about getting our saws sharpened.

It was suggested that during spring walk-throughs we pay particular attention to possible relocation sites for shelters.

**Gov. Clement Shelter** -- Barb Griffith reported on her second meeting with the Shrewsbury selectmen and local landowners regarding measures to protect Gov. Clement Shelter.

She noted that while cabin and camp owners along the road "feel very abused" they didn't want the road closed. However, the selectboard is agreeable to having the side of the road near the shelter bouldered to prevent access by full-size vehicles. The state can take care of this but not till late June.

The selectboard also requested that Barb's husband, Atty. Barry Griffith, draft an ordinance banning parking from dawn to dusk along Gov. Clement Road. It is our understanding that once signs are in place the ban can be enforced by the Forest Service. The section has also suggested to the selectboard that there be a sign on the Upper Cold River Road near the intersection with Gov. Clement Road notifying potential parties of the parking ban.

Thanks were extended to both Barb and Barry for pursuing the issue with the selectboard.

**Annual Meeting Date** -- Several possible dates for the annual meeting were discussed with April 12 finally being selected as our first choice. Also discussed was the need to fill two director positions. We will need a candidate for treasurer as Al Pulling's term will be up and he can't be reelected. Herb is willing to continue as Trails & Shelters Chairman but wants to step down as a director.

Sue Thomas again brought up her difficulty as outings chairperson in getting hike leaders to commit in a timely fashion to particular



dates. However, if she doesn't get these dates pinned down in a timely fashion it holds up publication of *Smoke & Blazes*.

**Kit Davidson Property** -- Kit would ultimately like to leave his property in Hubbardton, which overlooks the battlefield and has provided the club with many hikes and outings over the years, to the state. But he would like us to maintain the trails and also wants the GMC to hold an easement as a check on the state. Nothing more has been heard recently. Lynda suggested checking with Waterbury to see what they know about it. Sue spoke to Kit recently. He has laid out some additional cross-country ski trails on his property and would like everyone to use them.

#### **Guidance To Outing Leaders** --

The section has put together a one-page list of suggestions and recommendations for trip leaders to lead safe and successful hikes. One of these is to assess whether hikers with special needs should undertake a particular hike and, if not, attempt to dissuade them from participation.

**Younger Members** -- We would like to do things that would attract younger members to the section. Lately we have had in fact a lot of new people on our hikes. It was suggested that this is because there has been a run of easy hikes. It's been found that younger people, particularly with children, do not want anything too intimidating. It was suggested that perhaps we offer two hikes on a Saturday -- one difficult and

the other easy -- but we don't have enough people for that.

**Section Website** -- Deb Weggett has offered to set up a website but needs input from us. Steve suggested we accept her offer and Bob agreed to act as our liaison. It was suggested that there might or ought to be an area for section news and announcements on the main club's website.

**GMC Director's Report** -- Our new GMC director Lynda Hutchins gave a very extensive report from the last club-wide meeting. Much of the discussion concerned plans for the South Barn, which a few days later was consumed by fire. It was a substantial blow resulting in loss of property, guidebooks, and even some archival material. On the positive side, a new edition of *50 Hikes in Vermont* is due out this spring and the Long Trail Protection Program has less to do lately being "a victim of our own success."

Unfortunately, income has been going down and there is a budgetary shortfall of \$80,000. Ways are being sought to reduce expenditures, increase funding, and over the next few years attain "sustainability." Lynda would be pleased to relay any questions and concerns from our section at the annual meeting.

**Forest Plan Revision** -- Sue Thomas reported on a meeting held by the Green Mountain National Forest concerning its revision plan. The meeting was more for the purpose of laying out a timeline than dealing with

issues. In 2003 there will be a series of monthly local meetings for the purpose of defining issues, and then in 2004 draft statements will be developed for inclusion in the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement). It's important we be represented as a counter to the logging people and the snowmobile interests.

**Rutland County Physical Activity Coalition** -- Bob Perkins has been acting as the section liaison to this group which consists of numerous local groups and agencies interested in promoting walking and physical activity. The group has already published a map of suggested walking routes in Rutland City and has appointed a County Walks & Trails Committee on which Bob is serving.

Other than thanking Sue Thomas for the excellent cookies, there was no other business. The next meeting will be the annual meeting on April 12.

---

#### **Not very original**

According to Esther Munroe Swift's *Vermont Place-Names* there are, in Vermont, no less than eight Bald Hills and eight Bald Mountains. She counts our Mendon summit, a frequent Killington Section outing destination, as a "Hill" but the United States Geological Survey Topographic map rates it as "Mtn."

And in Fairlee there's a Bald Top Hill.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: March – May 2003

Trips leave from Rutland City Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at the times shown unless otherwise stated. Non-members are welcome. Bring drinking water and, for morning departures, bring a lunch. Wear sturdy footgear and dress for weather changes. Distances are approximate round trip; difficulty indicates steepness and footing. For more information about a trip, please call the trip leader listed at the right

March 2 Sunday 10:00 AM	<b>Deer Leap, Killington</b> Snowshoe to the lookout on Deer Leap with option of a longer loop over Deer Leap Mountain. Moderate, 3 miles with some steep climbing.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
March 9 Sunday 1:00 PM	<b>Bucklin Trail, Mendon</b> Follow the Bucklin Trail to upper Brewers Brook crossing, along scenic Brewers Brook. About a mile and a quarter on an old woodroad; slight climb. Skiers or snowshoers only.	Herb Ogden 775-1350
March 15 Saturday 10:00 AM	<b>Bald Mountain, Mendon</b> Snowshoes required. Some steep climbing and nice views. Four miles; moderate.	Dale Christie 747-6923
March 22 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Catamount Trail, Mendon</b> Ski or snowshoe. Four to five miles; moderate.	Andrea McQuade 775-6273
March 29 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Saltash Mountain, Shrewsbury</b> Six miles, moderate with some steep climbing and bushwhacking to the 3286-foot summit.	Connie & Mark Youngstrom 492-3502
April 5 Saturday 10:00 AM	<b>Mystery Hike</b> Moderate.	Barbara & Barry Griffith 492-3573
April 12 Saturday 6:00 PM	<b>Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper</b> Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Hillside Avenue, Rutland. Join us for a potluck meal followed by a short business meeting and a presentation by Susan Morgan of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Bring a dish to share and a place setting. Hot drinks provided. Nonmembers welcome!	Sue Thomas 773-2185
April 26 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Bristol Bushwhack</b> A six-mile, moderate trek to the site of a World War II plane crash. Some climbing in a trailless area.	Jerry Parker 747-4439

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: March – May 2003

Schedule continued from previous page

May 3 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Zion Mountain, Hubbardton</b> Visit a Japanese garden with waterfalls, pools and spectacular boulders. Hike the ridge of Zion Mountain for sweeping valley views. Three to four miles, moderate with climbing.	John Hale 273-2293
May 10 Saturday 10:00 AM	<b>Wildflower Ramble</b> Celebrate spring with a trip to the woods to identify Vermont's many wildflowers. Three to four miles; easy to moderate.	Sue Thomas 773-2185 Barbara Griffith 492-3573
May 17 Saturday 9:00 AM (Rain date 5/24)	<b>Lowland Walk-Through</b> Join us for our spring cleanup on the Long/Appalachian Trail from Gov. Clement Shelter in Shrewsbury to Route 140 in Wallingford. All ability levels welcome to help us get this historic hiking trail in shape for the season. Bring work gloves and sturdy shoes. Tools provided.	Herb Ogden 775-1350
May 18 Sunday 9:30 AM	<b>Beulah Hill, Bridgewater</b> Explore the site of a mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century hill farm in the wilds of Bridgewater with a descendant of the original owner. Three miles; moderate.	Roma & AL Pulling 773-6997
May 24 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Equinox Preservation Trust, Manchester</b> Three to four-mile moderate hike with some steep pitches leading to views of Equinox Pond and the Green and Taconic Mountains.	Steve & Diana Williams 645-9529
May 31 Saturday 9:00 AM (Rain date: 6/1)	<b>Cardigan Mountain, Canaan, NH</b> A short but rugged climb to a spectacular bare rock summit with a manned fire tower. Difficult, three and a half miles. Summit is exposed and windy; bring a jacket.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
June 7 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>National Trails Day – Highland Walk-Through</b> Folks will be out today all across the country doing trail maintenance projects. Come join the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club on the upper elevations of the Long/Appalachian Trail from Gov. Clement Shelter in Shrewsbury to Sherburne Pass. Bring work gloves and bug repellent. Tools provided.	Herb Ogden 775-1350
June 13-15 Friday-Sunday	<b>Green Mountain Club Annual Meeting, Middlebury</b> Keep this weekend open for the annual meeting of the statewide club. There will be several trips to choose from on Saturday afternoon	See your <i>Long Trail News</i>



## Killington Section Hikers at Bear Mountain Lookout White Rocks Cliffs in the Background



### **Don't Forget**

Killington Section Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper  
Program by Susan Morgan, Vermont Institute of Natural Science

6:00 PM, Saturday, April 12  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Hillside Avenue, Rutland

Bring a dish to share and a place setting.  
Hot drinks provided.

Members and nonmembers welcome.



**Your Invitation to Join**  
**Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

**ANNUAL DUES:**

Individual..... \$30  
Family..... \$40  
Senior/Student/Volunteer..... \$20  
Individual Lifetime..... \$750  
Family Lifetime..... \$1000

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_\_trail work, \_\_\_\_shelter work, \_\_\_\_sign making, \_\_\_\_publications, \_\_\_\_leading outings, \_\_\_\_publicity, \_\_\_\_education, \_\_\_\_other.

Make check payable to **Killington Section, GMC** and mail with this application to:

Alfred Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701





# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 56, Number 2

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

May 2003

## Andrea McQuade and Roma Pulling elected Directors at Killington Section annual meeting

By Barbara Griffith,  
Acting Secretary

The annual meeting of the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club was called to order on 12 April 2003 by President Steve Williams. A warm welcome was extended to Dave Hardy, the Field Supervisor from GMC headquarters in Waterbury and Susan Morgan, the speaker from Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS).

### President's Report

Steve summarized the Club's involvement with our new shelter, which is named for Churchill Scott and dedicated to the memory of Alice Ferrance. Churchill was President of the Killington Section from 1950-51, Secretary from 1961-82, and Treasurer from 1981-85. For many years he ran the Club, the outings, the finances, and the mail. Churchill was a "heck of a guy" to have done all he did for the Club.

Thanks were given to Erik and Laurel Tobiason for the shelter construction, to Jeff Boswick for the construction of the handicapped accessible composting privy, and to Jerry Parker for the tent platform. A thanks also was given to Deb Weggett for getting the Killington Section web site up and running.

President Steve reported the following outing statistics:

- \* Number of outings ..... 39
- \* Number of participants ..... 176
- \* Fewest per outing ..... 5
- \* Most per outing ..... 31

- \* Average number per outing ..... 13
- \* Sue Thomas attended ..... 30
- \* Andrea McQuade attended ..... 28
- \* Barbara Griffith attended ..... 25
- \* No. attending 20-30 outings ..... 6
- \* No. attending 10-19 outings ..... 4
- \* No. attending 3-9 outings ..... 29
- \* No. attending 2 outings ..... 17
- \* No. attending only 1 outing ..... 120
- \* % attending 1 or 2 outings ..... 78

### Report from Waterbury

Dave Hardy made the following points:

1) Eric and Laurel, who built the beautiful Churchill Scott Shelter, will be constructing a new shelter at Bromley in the fall. In August the materials will be flown in and the shelter will be built in September. The privy will be a handicapped accessible composting privy. Anyone wishing to help out can contact Marge Fish.

2) A new bridge over Brewer's Brook on the Bucklin Trail is on the schedule

See Meeting, page 9

## Killington Section members on six-mile bushwhack in Bristol examine remains of World War II plane crash





**Smoke & Blazes**

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

**Killington Section Directors**

Term expires in:

2004 .....	* Bob Perkins
" .....	* Jacob Sherman
" .....	* Connie Youngstrom
2005 .....	Barbara Griffith
" .....	* Bill Robichaud
" .....	Steve Williams
2006 .....	Andrea McQuade
" .....	Roma Pulling
" .....	* Susan Thomas

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.  
Not eligible for re-election.

**Killington Section Officers**

President.....	Steve Williams
Vice President .....	Barbara Griffith
Secretary .....	Jacob Sherman
Treasurer .....	Roma Pulling

**Committee Chairs/Co-chairs**

History.....	Bob Perkins
Outings.....	Susan Thomas
".....	Connie Youngstrom
Trails & Shelters .....	Herb Ogden

**Delegates to GMC Board**

Director .....	Lynda Hutchins
Alternate.....	Alfred Pulling

**Smoke & Blazes**

Editor.....	Bob Perkins
-------------	-------------

## From the Editor

### Does size really matter?

Half of the population insist that it doesn't; the rest of us worry that maybe it does. The Killington Section today has 182 members of whom 136 live in Vermont. The population of Rutland City is about 17,292. Some sixty years ago in 1940 the numbers were 81 and 17,217. So, are we and the city stagnant; or are we stable? Should we be doing more to increase section membership? If so, what?

It's understandable that the Burlington Section, with a city population of 38,889, has 910 members, but how come the section in Montpelier, population 8,035, has 394 members, and the Ottaquechee Section, in the Upper Valley with no real hometown, has 255? (Of course, on the other hand, the former New York Section, with a base population of many million, had only a few hundred members.)

I'm no believer in the bigger-is-better school. I've often said that if I wanted to live in Chittenden County (or New Jersey, for that matter) I would have moved there. But I think I would feel better about the long-term prospects for the Killington Section if we could attract a larger number of young, active, local folks who would learn to love the Long Trail as we do.

The statistics on our outing attendance, reported by President Steve Williams at the annual meeting and elsewhere in this issue, were an eye-opener for me. Should we be concerned that more than two-thirds of the folks who come on one of our outings never come again and probably never join the club?

Our average hike attendance of thirteen is probably about as many as we would want. Should we schedule more outings? How about different outing types – cycling? kayaking? rock-climbing? bush-whacking? nature-studying? overnight camping? How can we encourage those who show a spark of interest?

Let us know what you think. Letters to the editor, on this or any subject, are always welcome.

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>**

Barbara Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, Griff3VT@aol.com  
 Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, lmhutch@shoreham.net  
 Andrea McQuade, 36 Morse Place, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-6273, andrea6273@aol.com  
 Herbert Ogden, 20 Birchwood Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, (H)775-1350, (W)775-3368, hogden@adelphia.net  
 Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, rperkinsvt@aol.com  
 Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, ral37@juno.com  
 William Robichaud, 215 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2567  
 Jacob Sherman, 48 Morse Pl., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2784, jakesher@hotmail.com  
 Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185  
 Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, voorburg@sover.net  
 Connie Youngstrom, Box 1160, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3502, marky@vermontel.net



## Trip Reports

### Merck Forest, Rupert

15 February 2003

By Steve & Diana Williams

Having heard from our Rutland transportation coordinator, Sue Thomas, at eight in the morning, that she feared that no-one would turn up as a result of the prevailing temperature, it was a pleasure to find a total of six willing souls to join the leaders, Steve and Diana Williams, at Merck Forest shortly after 10.00 a.m. (Merck Forest is located between Dorset, Vermont and Salem, New York).

Merck Forest has the advantage of a welcome, i.e. warm and hospitable, Visitor Center, which is valuable for orientating participants at the beginning and snacking at the end of an outing. The warmth is provided by a brick fireplace of a special Finnish Design that provides impressive heat storage with a high-energy efficiency. For those technically minded the Visitor Center also contains the batteries for storing power from the Trust's solar panels and wind turbine, plus the inverter to provide the 110 volts a.c. used on the Trust property.

The selected route was a circular one of some 3 ½ miles and coming within a few hundred feet of the summit of Spruce Peak. The intermittent views, north, west and south before reaching the turn-off to Spruce Peak, provided a good overview of the terrain of the 3000 acre Merck Forest Trust property, and of the southeastern Adirondacks. The route was partly on old farm/logging trails, easy to follow, and partly on hiking trails, somewhat less easy to follow in view of the recent snow. Snowshoes were certainly an advantage, particularly on the hiking trail portion.

The leaders had attempted the side trail to Spruce Peak the previous week, but in light of its steepness and absence of markers beyond the starting point, had deferred the ascent for more adventurous spirits, who may indeed have been included in the party. However, at that juncture, Sue gave the party the benefit of her experience, namely that there is no view from the summit meriting the

attempt. This having been said, interest in the peak diminished, and the party continued on Gallup Road, first east, with views over towards the Mettawee valley, then north and west and back to the starting point. The Visitor Center was then the venue for lunch, topped off by Diana's hot chocolate and brownies.

For the record, the temperature on arriving at, and finally leaving, the Visitor Center was a consistent minus nine.

### Brewers Brook Bridge Site And Back

9 March 2003

By Herb Ogden

Thirteen people and two dogs showed up for this easy Sunday afternoon outing. There had been rain and snow in Shrewsbury earlier in the day, but nothing had fallen along the Wheelerville Road and the driving was easy except a bit muddy. From Brewers Corners, we headed up the Bucklin Trail, following snowmobile tracks to near the bridge about 1,000 feet up the trail. From there to the next brook crossing, the crusty snowshoe and ski tracks were hard enough so several folks didn't bother to put on their snowshoes. This was a far cry from a few weeks ago, when the snowshoe tracks ended soon after the bridge and all I found was a very old single ski track in deep snow from there on up. Unfortunately, the solid track also caused one of the dogs to lose a toenail, so Pat and Omar headed home shortly before the rest of us climbed the hill above the upper crossing.

The crossing had a solid looking snow bridge, but we stayed on the north side of the brook and discussed the plan for a new bridge. Then we had a moment of silence to honor Churchill Scott, whose funeral was the day before. Churchill had probably passed this place over a hundred times in his long life of service to the Killington Section.

We opted for some variety on the way back, and crossed Brewers Brook at the site of a logging road bridge that existed till about ten years ago. Scrambling up the south bank, we followed the logging road to its junction

with the old Killington Stage Road, making quite a racket crunching along the crusty track. The Stage Road was a snowmobile superhighway at this point. I wished I'd had my Flexible Flyer! Very soon, we were back at Brewers Corners.

Few realize it now, but Brewers Corners is the site of a manmade stream alteration. As the 1892 USGS Rutland Quadrangle shows, Brewers Brook used to hit the Wheelerville Road near Brewers Corners and then flow south into Eddy Brook. When the City of Rutland developed the watershed, it diverted Brewers Brook to flow north, where its water winds up in the reservoir.

### Bald Mountain, Mendon

15 March 2003

By Dale Christie

The weather was just what everyone had hoped for—just what the doctor ordered. Although my doctor probably wouldn't have approved of my participation because I had been sick for the previous week and had not yet fully recovered. But I was not going to miss one of my favorite mountains. Also, I was fortunate to have an experienced and knowledgeable co-leader in Joanna Graves. I knew that if I had a lapse in judgment due to my medication, I could count on her to keep the group from getting lost.

There was quite a range in the ages among the ten hikers. The youngest member was about 10 and the eldest—we'll be kind with this estimate and say at least 60. This age difference led to quite the contrast in conversations. Some doubt about the success of the hike was spreading early. This was because of a story about a previous GMC hike at Bald Mountain that involved a hiker getting lost and separated from the group. Thankfully no one got lost this time.

Thanks to the good weather, there was no rush to finish the hike. There was plenty of sun and snack, and the unique mountain offered us many beautiful vistas from different locations on the trail. With the clear skies, the view was endless and even the moon paid us a daytime visit. Despite the



doubt about a lack of snow as the winter season neared its end, there was plenty of snow to walk on. There was even enough snow for a nice snowman at the Rutland Vista. After that the extra snow allowed for a few snowballs to be exchanged among the hikers. There was plenty of fun as the snowballs flew. Even though some of the folks had previously visited Bald Mountain, it was enjoyed by all.

### **Catamount Trail, Mendon**

22 March 2003

By Andrea McQuade

Six club members set out on snowshoes from the trailhead below Pico, headed for Brewers Corners. The snow was wet, heavy, and deep in many places along the trail, except where the brooks and streams were starting to open up. The weather was overcast with fog and rain, obscuring some nice views.

Along the way we saw signs of woodpeckers, moose, ruffed grouse, and a tiny bird's nest balanced in the branches of a tree. A roll of film dropped on the trail produced only blank pictures, rather than an interesting story. To avoid more steep climbing, we took a side trail, which led us to the middle of the Wheelerville Road. We were content, at that point, to remove our snowshoes and walk up the road to our cars.

### **Saltash Mountain (almost)**

30 March 2003

By Mark & Connie Youngstrom

Fifty degrees, a heavy gray sky, gusting wind and rain in the forecast; it was a typical early spring day. Thus 11 adventurers set out to bushwhack up Saltash Mountain. Perhaps climbed almost 250 years ago by planners of the military road from Fort Number 4 to Ticonderoga, Saltash's 3286-foot peak sits just over Shrewsbury's east border with Plymouth, forming a significant landmass between Eastham and the Route 100 valley.

Our group started from Bailey Road, snowshoeing along an old road that leads to the abandoned site of one of largest sugaring operations in the state. We then crossed a snowmobile trail. Mark took a compass bearing, pointed

up the hill, and the procession proceeded up the flank of Saltash. Connie led the way, followed by Jerry Parker. Up through the remains of the old sugarbush, the leaders, ignoring the careful directions offered from the rear, continued to list to port, and crossed a beautiful stream bridged with snow. The woods were beautiful and there was significant snow depth. Upward we continued, following our leaders.

A long rock outcropping appeared to the north and we shod along its base. Jerry thought he saw a good spot for a bear den. Sure enough, 20 feet toward the base were fresh bear prints in the snow. It must have just emerged from its winter's nap. Our two leaders then continued upward, until there was no higher to go. A small open area on top offered beautiful views, including a nice view of Saltash peak just to the south! Sure enough, those breakfast doughnuts had settled a bit too heavily in their left legs, causing our leaders to veer too far north, and we were on the summit of 3060-foot Bear Mountain looking at a pretty, gladed saddle between us and Saltash. Oh well, it was a first time up Bear for everyone, a very nice summit with fresh bear tracks along the way, so there were no disappointments. Lunch was consumed with a lot of chuckling.

With rain threatening, we slid down quickly on our snowshoes, stopping for a group photo on a large maple branch, which dipped to the ground like a giant wooden swing. Just as we got to our cars, the clouds let loose and it started to pour. Good timing.

A great day. We recommend Bear Mountain for a nice day hike (maybe you'll end up on Saltash).

### **Bristol Bushwhack**

27 April 2003

By Barbara Griffith

Jerry Parker lead our party of 6 out to find the crash site of an Army Air Force plane that went down during World War II. Our weather didn't look very promising as it was dark and drizzly, but we believed the weather report of clearing, which it eventually did.

The story goes that a five-plane squadron left Burlington for Plattsburg AFB. One plane was delayed to take on a passenger that had blood poisoning, and left later than the other four. That plane ran into inclement weather and ended up crashing into the Bristol Cliffs Wilderness area. It was two weeks before the remains of the men and plane were discovered.

We "bushwhacked" (does that mean that the person behind you gets whacked by the bush that you release?) up to a vernal pool where we found frogs eggs and other pool activities. There were several streams to cross and most made it over them without getting wet. Onward - or I should say downward - to a spectacular waterfall cascading down the cliff. With the water so high it was breath taking.

Then upward to the cliffs for an overlook where we decided to have lunch. Partway through we observed four turkey vultures whipping by seeming to pursue a hawk. Suddenly we were interrupted by a raptor that didn't like our presence. Believing that we had unknowingly come near a nesting site we packed up and quickly departed the area. Upward some more to another cliff area where we once again came near a raven's nest dangling on the cliffs. Again these birds made it known we were not welcome and we quickly departed.

We bushwhacked some more up and across the slope coming out west of North Pond. Jerry located the site of the plane crash south of North Pond. It was scattered over quite a large area. Several pictures were taken to capture the "moment" and Barry took a GPS reading to be able to find the spot easily next time.

Down the slope where Jerry retrieved belongings to carry all the way back down. We all were glad that we had decided to ignore the morning weather. It turned into a beautiful day and quite an adventure.

Flowers in bloom: the first- yellow and white violets, colts foot, Trilliums, Spring Beauties Animal signs: Moose, deer and rabbit droppings. Several



"Bear" trees with scratch and bite marks. Apparently bear prefer red pine trees. Also bear hair clinging in the bark and sap of the trees. Pileated Woodpecker trees, coyote scat. A red eft in the trail, wood frog eggs and the first garter snake of the year!

### Mount Zion, Hubbardton

3 May 2003

By John Hale

Mount Zion in Hubbardton comes in two parts, Major and Minor, but there are also the Japanese Garden, the Waterfall, and Moot Point. We saw them all on Saturday, May 3rd.

We were only nine, which was a little surprising because the weather was perfect—in the 50's, windy, with full sun; and we had a personal guide in Kit Davidson himself, the property's owner.

We started off going down and then up through open meadows just greening with the new hay crop. Then into the woods following the old stone wall and then the creek, which was running high because of the recent rains, to the Waterfall. There are actually a couple of really significant falls of water of about 30 feet down into a rock gorge.

Some of us got wet feet re-crossing the creek, it being too early in the season for the stepping stones to have been replaced following the winter wash out. But we were back in the sun and on our way up through the meadow to the Japanese Garden.

This is a very peaceful place centered on a huge boulder around which Kit has created a pool and from the top of which water falls down the face into the pool. Ladders give access to other large boulders and there are Adirondack chairs all over the place to facilitate quiet meditation.

We next scrambled up the escarpment which on one end is Zion Minor and Moot Point and the other is Zion Major. Did I mention that at no time, except when you are in the woods at the Waterfall, is there ever a place without a fantastic, long distance view. We ate lunch on Z. Minor and got drowsy in the sun before continuing on to Moot Point. (You just have to climb

to a place called Moot Point at least once in your life.)

Zion Major is at the north end of the escarpment and there is a choice of how to get there—the baby trail or the really-really-difficult, not-suitable-for-some trail. We all agreed to take the latter at Sue and Andrea's encouragement. Let's just say that it was challenging and we all felt a strong sense of accomplishment when we emerged at the top of Z. Major. Here the view is north across the Hubbardton Battlefield with the Adirondacks in the distance, Whiteface being clearly visible on this clear, clear day.

Down the Mickie Trail back to the cars. What a day!

## More Trips

*[Smoke & Blazes would like to report interesting activities of members in addition to our reports of scheduled section outings. The two trips reported here by Vice President Barb Griffith are good examples. We hope more members will be inspired to submit their stories. Ed.]*

### Buck Mt. from the West

25 April 2003

By Barbara Griffith

It was a sunny Friday beaoning to us to "get out and enjoy a fine Spring Day". After a winter of hiking in inclement weather, we decided to take advantage of the situation. We were a party of three, leaving obligations and work behind. The "Green Trails" still had snow cover; however the close Adirondacks appeared to be clear and dry.

The trailhead for Buck Mt. was easy to find, well marked, and had a good-sized parking lot. The trail up begins along an abandoned carriage roadway with a rock base built into the hillside. At 1.5 miles of easy climb we crossed a brook with a small waterfall on the left. We saw remnants of stonewalls and were delighted to find small yellow violets in bloom.

At this point the climbing began with switchbacks. Only once did we need to take time to "find the trail". At

about three miles we reached an outcrop with a view of Crossett Pond to the southeast, and Lake George to the West. We decided to make this our goal and dug in for lunch and full sun. The views were spectacular of the Greens, Taconics and Adirondacks.

Buck Mt is a 2334-foot summit. Our climb was probably closer to 2000 feet. The trip up took about two hours; the trip down, a little over an hour. Overall we hiked approximately six miles. The trail was in good condition. We would rate this a moderate hike and recommend it to all.

### Lowe's Bald Spot, NH

3 May 2003

By Barbara Griffith

We were in North Conway, NH for a weekend Conference and of course had to get a hike in during our "free time". We arrived at the Appalachian Mountain Club's Pinkham Notch parking lot at 2 PM to find it full, but managed to eek out a spot in the overflow lot. The line of snow boarders and skiers up the Tuckerman Ravine trail was long and that trail well traveled. We chose an alternate route encountering only five or six people in the next three hours.

The trail followed the "Old Jackson Road" rising steeply only at two inclines. Otherwise the ascent was gradual. We crossed several streams, climbed steadily up rock steps, leveled off and heard traffic on the Mt. Washington auto road (not opened to the top yet due to snow.) After crossing the auto road we followed the Madison Gulf Trail to a short climb to Lowe's Bald Spot, about two miles from, and 1000 feet above our starting point.

The views were stupendous. Looking north we would see Mount Adams and Mount Madison. To the west is the headwall of Huntington Ravine topped by Nelson Crag and the cone of Mount Washington. The weather was perfect; the mountains breathe taking. The "Whites" are so different than the "Greens" that we are accustomed to. (Sigh—that Saturday morn a few exchange students were taken to see the "Old Man in the Mountain" only to find it gone—how sad.)



**Senior Turtle Hikes****June – October 2003**

The Rutland Recreation and Parks Department sponsors a series of "Turtle" hikes for seniors and others who wish to enjoy their outings at a somewhat slow and easy pace. The outings typically cover two to four miles, involve limited elevation gain, and try to avoid treacherous footing. Bring water and a lunch, wear sturdy footwear, and be prepared for Vermont weather. All trips leave from the Godnick Adult Center on Deer Street off Woodstock Avenue on **Fridays at 9 AM** and return in early afternoon.

May 30	<b>Flat Rock:</b> Check out this feature that's noted on the maps. One of the rocks bears some mysterious inscriptions.	Al & Roma Pulling 773-6997
June 13	<b>Lefferts Pond:</b> A nice, easy loop hike around the pond near Chittenden Reservoir. Mostly level.	Bob & Thelma Perkins 773-0184
June 27	<b>Notch Road Extension:</b> A loop hike from the north branch of Cold River and along Mendon Brook.	Ray Catozzi 773-3006
July 11	<b>Gifford Woods:</b> Experience a short portion of the Appalachian Trail from Sherburne Pass down to Gifford Woods.	Al & Hilddie Cerney 773-4147
July 25	<b>Trail Around Middlebury:</b> Not all the way around the town but we'll explore another section of the twenty-or-so miles of the TAM.	Charlie & Jean Davies 483-6623
Aug. 8	<b>Mount Antone:</b> A new destination for us and the high point of the unique Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert.	Al & Roma Pulling 773-6997
Aug. 22	<b>Ice Beds – Cookout:</b> Enjoy views of the White Rocks Cliffs and visit the Ice Beds on this hot August day. Then return to the picnic area for a cookout. For this trip only – bring hot-dogs or something else to cook over the fire.	Bob & Thelma Perkins 773-0184
Sept. 5	<b>Texas Falls:</b> Hike by a scenic stretch of waterfalls, flumes, and potholes on Texas Brook, an upper branch of the White River in the town of Hancock.	Charlie & Jean Davies 483-6623
Sept. 19	<b>Mount Tom:</b> Climb Mount Tom in Marsh Billings, Vermont's only National Park. Great views of Woodstock village.	Al & Hilddie Cerney 773-4147
Oct. 3	<b>Leicester Hollow:</b> One of several trails in the Green Mountain National Forest east of Brandon.	Al & Roma Pulling 773-6997
Oct. 17	<b>Rocky Pond:</b> A loop hike, mostly within the city limits, passing Rocky and Muddy Ponds, the golf course, and East Creek.	Ray Catozzi 773-3006
Oct. 31	<b>Around back of Blue Ridge:</b> Celebrate Halloween with a hike from Mendon to Chittenden via abandoned portions of Old Turnpike and Wildcat Roads.	Bob & Thelma Perkins 773-0184



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: June – Aug. 2003

Trips leave from Rutland City Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at the times shown unless otherwise stated. Non-members are welcome. Bring drinking water and, for morning departures, bring a lunch. Wear sturdy footgear and dress for weather changes. Distances are approximate round trip; difficulty indicates steepness and footing. For more information about a trip, please call the trip leader listed at the right.

June 7 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>National Trails Day – Highland Walk-Through</b> Folks will be out today all across the country doing trail maintenance projects. Come join the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club on the upper elevations of the Long/Appalachian Trail from Gov. Clement Shelter in Shrewsbury to Sherburne Pass. Bring work gloves and bug repellent. Tools provided.	Herb Ogden 775-1350
June 13-15 Friday-Sunday	<b>Green Mountain Club Annual Meeting, Middlebury</b> The Green Mountain Club will hold its statewide annual meeting at the Middlebury College Snow Bowl. Club business, food, entertainment, and a selection of hikes to choose from on Saturday afternoon.	See your <i>Long Trail News</i>
June 21 Saturday 9:00 AM Rain date 6/22	<b>Bird Mountain, Castleton</b> Hike south on Bird Mountain to its highest point, called Castle Peak, and learn the history of what happened there over 100 years ago.	Ray Catozzi 773-3006
June 22 Sunday 1:00 PM	<b>Children's Adventure Series</b> A fun outing for the whole family. A great chance to introduce the kids to the outdoors. All ages welcome.	Jerry Parker 747-4439
June 28 Saturday 1:00 PM	<b>13<sup>th</sup> Annual Taconic Mountain Ramble, Hubbardton</b> Waterfalls, rock ledges, rolling meadows, mountain peaks with views north, south, east, and west, a Japanese garden, and other goodies. Wine and cheese on the lawn afterward. Walkers can leave the group at several different points and wait on the lawn for the rest. Bring no lunch.	Kit Davidson 273-2982
June 29 Sunday 9:00 AM	<b>Otter Creek Canoe/Kayak</b> Paddle from Proctor to Florence on the Otter Creek, starting at the falls and ending at a historic covered bridge. Bring your own canoe or kayak, life jacket, lunch, and bug spray. Approximately six miles.	Lynda Hutchins 948-2770
July 5 Saturday	<b>Mount Moosalamoo, Salisbury</b> A joint hike with the Breadloaf Section, up the Oak Ridge and Moosalamoo Trails, returning via the Keewaydin Trail. Five miles, moderate; 1,200-foot elevation gain. Call leaders for meeting time and place.	Gordon & Helen Cawood 352-4310

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: June – Aug. 2002<sup>2003</sup>

Schedule continued from previous page.

July 12 Saturday 10:00 AM Rain date 7/13	<b>Bridgewater Gold Mines &amp; More.</b> Visit a horizontal shaft mine from before 1869 (bring a flashlight to explore), and, if feeling adventuresome, peer down a vertical shaft mine from the same era. Then follow a pleasant old road past remains of farms that have been gone over a century, all between Dailey Hollow and Dana Hill. Five miles; moderate, 600 feet total climb.	Herb Ogden 775-1350 hogden@adelphia.net
July 19 Saturday 9:00 AM Rain date 7/20	<b>Mount Abraham, Lincoln</b> Climb to the 4,006-foot summit via the Long Trail for spectacular views and one of only three alpine tundra environments in Vermont. Descend via the Battell Trail. Five and one-half miles; difficult.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
July 20 Sunday 1:00 PM	<b>Children's Adventure Series</b> A fun outing for the whole family. A great chance to introduce the kids to the outdoors. All ages welcome.	Jerry Parker 747-4439
July 26 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Catamount Trail, Mendon-Shrewsbury</b> We'll set out along the Trail southerly from Brewers Corner, making a steady climb of 800 feet to the notch between Mendon Peak and Robinson Hill. Our reward will be a steady descent to Gov. Clement Shelter on the Long Trail. Five miles, moderate but with steep stretches.	Barb & Barry Griffith 492-3573
August 2 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Lost Pond Shelter, Mount Tabor</b> Visit the site of the newly rebuilt shelter on the Appalachian/Long Trail. Five to six miles; moderate.	Roma & AL Pulling 773-6997
August 9 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Spruce Peak, Manchester</b> Hike in via Prospect Rock and the Appalachian/Long Trail. Seven miles; moderate with 1,200-feet elevation gain.	Steve & Diana Williams 645-9529
August 16 Saturday 9:00 AM Rain date 8/17	<b>Mount Hanley, West Rutland</b> We'll hike up the trail that the leader couldn't find to hike down last year. He knows where it is now and he'll talk about an alternate trip down the upper half of the mountain.	Ray Catozzi 773-3006
August 23 Saturday 10:00 AM	<b>Shrewsbury Loop</b> We'll explore the Long Trail, the historic Crown Point Road, abandoned town highways and more between Route 103 and Shrewsbury's Lottery Road. We'll visit Clarendon Shelter, the Bullard cemetery, old cellar holes and (of course) a scenic vista. Five miles, 800-foot ascent, mostly moderate but with some steep climbing over rocks early on.	Barb & Barry Griffith 492-3573



**Meeting, continued from page 1**

3) We need to select a site for a new shelter between Cooper Lodge and Governor Clement Shelter.

4) The club has a project to repair the old log Douglas Shelter, which is in the federal Lye Brook Wilderness Area. Logs will be cut and peeled on site.

5) In 53 days help will be needed setting up the caretakers' tents. Dates are: May 23, June 4, and June 27

6) There is a project to restore the Glastonbury Fire Tower.

7) A new printing of the Long Trail Guide is available.

8) The fire that ravaged the South Barn at headquarters destroyed the historical items that were hanging on the walls. The old shelter logs were smoke-damaged. Someone will have to decide which ones are worth trying to restore. A lot had been moved out of the barn. The GMC was underinsured by 2/3. There is, or will be, a Building Committee to update the headquarters plan. This will be a yearlong process.

**Secretary's Minutes**

The minutes of the 2002 Annual Meeting, which were printed in the May 2002 *Smoke & Blazes*, were approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Al Pulling's report of the General Fund and the Kirk Trail Maintenance Fund were passed out to members and approved (see attached report).

**Trails & Shelters Report**

Herb Ogden reported the following:

1) Governor Clement Shelter: We are still working with the Shrewsbury

Selectboard to try to come up with a solution to the vandalism and partying. A thanks was given to Barry Griffith for his work on this situation. Suggestions have been to post "No Parking" signs, and to put boulders along the road.

2) Bucklin Trail Bridge: Bridge design is underway. Jerry Parker and Mark Youngstrom have advised using aluminum girders at this site.

3) Sector Checker Program. A Sector Checker's obligation is to check the trail and report back to Herb. We still need checkers for the Long Trail from Gov. Clement to Cooper, and for the Killington Spur Trail

4) Tools: We now have a new crosscut saw thanks to Waterbury.

5) Blazing and Signage: We need to reblaze the trail from Lower Cold River Road to Gov. Clement, and supply better signs at Brewers Corner and Clarendon Shelter

**Editor's Report**

Bob Perkins extended a Thank You for all the hike reports submitted for *Smoke & Blazes*. He suggested that if hike leaders don't want to write a report they might find someone else on that hike who would do it. If there are any other interests that members have that they wish to see in the paper let him know. We need to get the hike schedule in May for the June-August season. Leaders: PLEASE let Sue Thomas know of your plans.

**Historian's Report**

Bob Perkins asked folks to submit photos; the more the better. He would also like any other memorabilia that people have. We have an agreement with the Rutland Historical Society. They are archiving the Killington Section data and materials.

**Outings Committee Report**

Sue Thomas asked hike leaders to get their hikes in to her as soon as possible

Sue is compiling a memorial book to give to Churchill Scott's wife, Virginia. A request went out to members to write about their experiences with Churchill. Letters are still coming in. The book is here for this meeting.

**GMC Director's Report**

Lynda Hutchins, who is our representative on the statewide GMC Board of Directors, presented an extensive report on its recent meeting. Most of the items covered were of statewide interest and not of special import to our section.

The annual meeting of the statewide club will be at the Middlebury Snow Bowl on June 13-15

**Elections**

Steve Williams offered a slate of three for election to three-year terms as Killington Section Directors. The nominees were Andrea McQuade, Roma Pulling, and Sue Thomas. There being no nominations from the floor, these three were declared elected.

The Director's then met and elected the following officers for the coming year:

President .....	Steve Williams
Vice President.....	Barbara Griffith
Secretary .....	Jake Sherman
Treasurer.....	Roma Pulling
GMC Director.....	Lynda Hutchins

**Program**

Following the meeting there was a program presented by geology major Susan Morgan from VINS. The topic of the evening was *A Long View of the Long Trail: Vermont's Natural History in a Nutshell*. Susan told us how Vermont's geologic history has shaped the natural and human history of the state.

Check out our new Killington Section web site:

<http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Thanks Deb Weggett!



**Your Invitation to Join  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

**ANNUAL DUES:**

Individual..... \$30  
Family..... \$40  
Senior/Student/Volunteer..... \$20  
Individual Lifetime..... \$750  
Family Lifetime..... \$1000

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_ trail work, \_\_\_ shelter work, \_\_\_ sign making, \_\_\_ publications, \_\_\_ leading outings, \_\_\_ publicity, \_\_\_ education,  
\_\_\_ other.

Make check payable to **Killington Section, GMC** and mail with this application to:

Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701







## Killington Section directors hold routine meeting

By Jake Sherman, Secretary

A meeting of Killington Section directors was held on Thursday, 10 July 2003, at 7:00 P.M. at the offices of Herb Ogden in Rutland. Present were Directors Steve Williams, Barb Griffith, Sue Thomas, Bob Perkins, Roma Pulling, Andrea McQuade, Connie Youngstrom, Bill Robichaud, and Jake Sherman; Trails and Shelters Chair Herb Ogden; and guests Mark Youngstrom and Alfred Pulling.

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES** -- The minutes of the Feb. 6, 2003, board meeting, which have already been printed in *Smoke & Blazes*, were approved as submitted.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - The treasurer's report was submitted by new treasurer Roma Pulling. There is at present \$1,418.34 in the savings account, \$1,651.60 in the checking account and \$1,051.73 in the Kirk Savings Fund. Kirk funds also include three certificates of deposit totaling about \$15,700.

**TRAILS & SHELTERS REPORT** -- The main item in Herb's report was the new bridge to be erected over Brewer's Brook on the Bucklin Trail. Construction of the bridge abutments is being done between July 14 and July 25 by the Green Mountain Volunteer Group under the auspices of the state forest service. We hope to complete the bridge this fall. The new span will

be paid for by our section. A motion was unanimously approved to authorize the Trails & Shelters Committee to expend up to \$4,000 from the Kirk Fund to build the bridge. Prior to the motion there was much discussion of the nature of the abutments on each bank, the nature of materials to be used in the construction process, and how they might be transported to the site. It is anticipated that a 25-foot span will need to be crossed once the abutments are in place. Every attempt will be made to minimize damage to greenery.

**Youth Conservation Corps** -- Two groups of the Youth Conservation Corps have been working in our section. The first is on the LT in the area of Snowden Peak working south from where they left off last year. The second is working on the Canty Trail, which ascends Blue Ridge Mountain from the Old Turnpike Road in Mendon. This group was encountered by Sue Thomas several weeks ago and told her they expected to be there for a month so they should be almost finished at this point. They had flagged numerous waterbars. Some of their work may end up being bypassed if the trail is rerouted but they understand this.

**Cooper Lodge** -- Herb has talked to the new adopter of Cooper Lodge who is Peter Dekker of Greenfield, NH. Peter has been hiking in our section for over 30 years. He

thought putting up shutters at Cooper would be futile, as they would just be torn down again. He felt the spring was running just about normal and also felt better signage going north was needed to point out the LT. It was also noted that a sign for Cooper that used to exist lower down on the Bucklin is no longer there.

**Tucker-Johnson Shelter** -- The shelter was checked recently by Herb and Andrea. The entire shelter is leaning backward. Herb felt the problem could be dealt with by jacking up the structure and repairing the back sill.

**Gov. Clement Shelter** -- The door to the privy was found in the woods and reinstalled by Jerry Parker. It was not burned as had been thought.

**Miscellaneous** -- The Trail Checker program is going well. Every part of our section is covered. Jerry Parker is going to build a new privy for Pico Shelter. The walk-throughs went well though attendance on the second one was a little thin. Everything that was needed got done. A wooden sign near the Churchill Scott Shelter notifying that it is located on Rutland city watershed is being gnawed, chewed and literally eaten. Perhaps it is because the varnish used had tea in it. This will need to be repaired, as Herb is due to organize a site visit to



**Smoke & Blazes**

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

**Killington Section Directors**

Term expires in:

2004 ..... \* Bob Perkins

" ..... \* Jacob Sherman

" ..... \* Connie Youngstrom

2005 ..... Barbara Griffith

" ..... \* Bill Robichaud

" ..... Steve Williams

2006 ..... Andrea McQuade

" ..... Roma Pulling

" ..... \* Susan Thomas

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

**Killington Section Officers**

President..... Steve Williams

Vice President..... Barbara Griffith

Secretary ..... Jacob Sherman

Treasurer ..... Roma Pulling

**Committee Chairs/Co-chairs**

History..... Bob Perkins

Outings..... Susan Thomas

" ..... Connie Youngstrom

Trails & Shelters ..... Herb Ogden

**Delegates to GMC Board**

Director ..... Lynda Hutchins

Alternate..... Alfred Pulling

**Smoke & Blazes**

Editor..... Bob Perkins

**From the Editor****Governor in jeopardy**

The current campaign to recall California Governor Gray Davis is evocative of a situation right here in Vermont. No; as far as I know, Governor Jim Douglas is secure in his position. But our Governor Clement Shelter on the Long Trail in Shrewsbury is not.

The shelter, built in 1929 and named for Rutlander Percival W. Clement, Vermont governor 1919-1921, is, I believe, the oldest Long Trail shelter still in use. The unique stone structure was designed by Wallingford architect Paul W. Thayer who later also designed the former Long Trail Lodge at Sherburne Pass.

Unfortunately, in recent years Gov. Clement Shelter has come under attack by a small number of selfish, thoughtless, and sometimes-malicious people who choose to party there, usually with alcohol and occasionally with firearms. Several through-hikers have been so intimidated that they felt it necessary, even in the middle of the night, to hike on to the next shelter. The situation has become so serious that Gov. Clement is the only Long Trail shelter, and perhaps the only shelter on the entire Appalachian Trail that hikers are advised to avoid.

The Green Mountain Club has tried, and continues to try, to find a solution to this complicated situation. The shelter is on public land and the road that leads to it is a public town road. The location is not on any frequent law enforcement beat. In fact, some of the rowdy behavior may not be illegal. Posting of signs, and requesting additional attention from the sheriff have been tried. Gating the access road has been considered. Current plans call for placing boulders to discourage vehicles from leaving the road, and possibly, with the cooperation of the Shrewsbury selectboard, a new no-parking ordinance.

If all of these measures fail to solve the problem the Club will have to seriously consider destroying the historic building and erecting a new shelter a couple of miles to the north away from the road.

What a shame that would be.

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>**

Barbara Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff3VT@aol.com](mailto:Griff3VT@aol.com)

Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, [lmhutch@shoreham.net](mailto:lmhutch@shoreham.net)

Andrea McQuade, 36 Morse Place, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-6273, [andrea6273@aol.com](mailto:andrea6273@aol.com)

Herbert Ogden, 20 Birchwood Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, (H)775-1350, (W)775-3368, [hogden@adelphia.net](mailto:hogden@adelphia.net)

Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, [rperkinsvt@aol.com](mailto:rperkinsvt@aol.com)

Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, [ral37@juno.com](mailto:ral37@juno.com)

William Robichaud, 215 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2567

Jacob Sherman, 48 Morse Pl., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2784, [jakesher@hotmail.com](mailto:jakesher@hotmail.com)

Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, [voorborg@sover.net](mailto:voorborg@sover.net)

Connie Youngstrom, Box 1160, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3502, [marky@vermontel.net](mailto:marky@vermontel.net)



# Trip Reports

## Shaw Mountain Wildflowers

10 May 2003

By Barbara Grffith

Co-leader: Sue Thomas

The Nature Conservancy maintains the trails at Shaw Mountain in Benson. The early flowers were in bloom. Spectacularly on display were the White Trilliums on the hill across the road. Their blossoms, creating such a thick blanket of white ground cover, made it appear that it had snowed the night before.

In bloom were wild ginger, bellwort, wild oats, trout lily, yellow violets, purple violets, purple spur violets, white violets, white trillium, Dutchman's breeches, miterwort (Bishop's cap), wild columbine, Canada mayflower, wild sarsaparilla, Solomon's seal, burdock, bloodroot, meadow rue, and sedge. There were probably more, but that was what we identified. Not to mention the garter snake basking on a sunny rock that Barbara pointed out to everyone.

Keep this hike in mind for early next spring if you missed this year's event

## Beulah Hill, Bridgewater

18 May 2003

By Roma Pulling

In 1853 Daniel Robinson purchased 142 acres of farmland in Bridgewater Chateaugay on what later became known to his descendants as Beulah Hill. His family consisted of his second wife, Beulah Dimick, and three children. Daniel and Beulah were my great grandparents.

On hike day we met five people at the park and drove with three cars to West Bridgewater, where we picked up another hiker. We took

two cars to Chateaugay and left one. The remaining two cars proceeded up the Gold Coast Road as far as possible, where we met my cousin Otis Robinson, another Daniel descendant, and the current owner of Beulah Hill. The hike north to the farm was easy with very little uphill but many muddy spots. Otis was able to point out several cellar holes, and we explored the Kellogg-Bassett Cemetery, with gravestones dated from 1813 to 1865 but with many fieldstone markers.

We stopped to admire wildflowers along the way, including dogtooth violets, blue violets, red trilliums, and a few yellow violets. We were passed on the way by two 4-wheel-drive vehicles, with Otis' daughter and family and some friends on their way to the farm to enjoy a hot dog roast. At the farm we were impressed with the way Otis has kept the fields mowed in order to keep them from growing up to brush. He pointed out the original location of the farmhouse, and we explored the foundations of the house and barns.

Our return to the spotted car was by a short but very steep section of road built by Daniel to give him easier access to Bridgewater Center, where he had business interests. This was a great way for me to connect to my roots, and I hope it was enjoyable to others.

## Equinox Mists and Morels

24 May 2003

By Steve and Diana Williams

The Equinox Preservation Trust (EPT) is an approximately one thousand-acre parcel of land on the slopes of Mount Equinox in Manchester Village. It is managed on behalf of the owners of the Equinox Hotel by The Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences (VINS). The route followed was suggested by Susan

Morgan, the director of the VINS Manchester office, who was the guest speaker at the club's recent annual meeting.

After a number of phone calls along the lines of "Are you really proposing to go with the rain predicted?" and the response "Yes, if it is anything less than a major downpour", it was gratifying to find ten others arrive to join the leaders. As it happened, rain was not continuous, and was never heavy, but did give the woods an invigorating freshness. Thanks are given to Ray Catozzi for leading the Rutland participants to the trailhead.

The route chosen was a circular one of some three and a half miles, with stops at two overlooks over the Battenkill valley: Robin's Lookout and Deer Knoll. During the course of lunch in a moderate drizzle at the latter, the leaders were challenged to produce a ghost or historical story to match those produced at other recent outings. At that time a twisting vertical mist was seen to be rising from an elevation beneath the knoll; some speculated that it was the spirit of Robert Todd Lincoln keeping an eye on Hildene. Besides this "mini" mist, there was significant cloud cover on the ridges on both sides of the valley. Though frequent brighter spots suggested the imminent appearance of the sun, this remained illusion rather than reality. As a small piece of history, "Mount Equinox" was so named because the first recorded ascent was made on the vernal equinox.

The route descended a steep pitch with some well-constructed steps and then took the party round the Equinox Pond. What appeared to be a fisherman's meeting was being held in the hotel's building at the pond. Outside, an instructor, whose attire suggested a female Indiana



Jones, was giving practical instruction.

The relatively flat trail back to the hotel was marked by the finding of morels, a cylindrical mushroom, by Jerry Parker who pointed them out to Dale Cobb, a visitor for the hike from Bennington. Dale explained how to distinguish an edible morel from its poisonous cousin, the false morel. Jerry had previously been concerned about this very point and, after receiving Dale's explanation, took one home for experimental purposes. As long as we see Jerry again we will know that we have at least one part of the morel story straight.

### **Cardigan Mountain, NH**

31 May 2003

By Sue Thomas

I remember writing a hike report back in the mid-eighties about a particularly black-fly-infested outing entitled "They Were the Size of Crows!" Well, here comes the sequel! Even the usually windy summit provided little relief from the onslaught, though if you're going to be devoured by insects, I suppose you might as well have a nice view to enjoy as well.

Cardigan has one of the few remaining manned fire towers and unobstructed views of the Green Mountains and the Presidential Range. We eat lunch (and were lunch) beside an interesting collection of historical graffiti carved into the rock and dating back to the mid-1800s. As we descended no one dared lag behind or stop to rest for fear of being carried off – after all, they were the size of crows!

P.S. On the way home we stopped at Gillingham's store in Woodstock and stocked up on bug spray – too little, too late.

### **Bird Mountain Churchill Scott Shelter**

21 June 2003

By Ray Catozzi

Why was the Bird Mountain hike cancelled? A week before the scheduled hike I went up to the north peak looking for the trail that heads south up the ridge to the south peak, known as Castle Peak. I looked for it a year ago and couldn't find it. This time all I could find was a mess of treetops dumped all over the ridgeline – not even a glimpse of the trail. A logging operation! They couldn't care less about hiking trails that they cover up.

So I announced at our Main Street meeting place that Bald Mountain was cancelled but I told our small group about the history of the ten-foot tall Masonic monument that used to be there. Instead, we were going to hike up the new Long Trail south of Route 4 and visit the new Churchill Scott Shelter that was erected just last summer. A nice 2.5-mile hike up to the shelter, a nice lunch break, and a 2.5-mile walk back down to our cars. A very enjoyable hike.

I don't know if we will ever get back up to Castle Peak

### **Otter Creek Canoe/Kayak**

29 June 2003

By Linda Hutchins

It was a fine, albeit hot and humid, summer day in June when the group of 11 enthusiastic seafarers sallied forth from the park meeting place to explore the mighty Otter Creek. Quickly it became apparent this was no ordinary GMC adventure.

After hasty communication and a few creative turns en route (prompted by an unseemly red light in downtown Rutland), the leader soon became estranged from the

group of "followers". She made the reasonable (and brilliant, she asserts) decision to meet up with the rest of her party at the final destination, the historic covered bridge of Florence. Unfortunately, the rest of the group underestimated her ingenious foresight, and after a few unsuccessful and disheartening attempts at area search parties, made their way to the drop-off point (alas, the very same covered bridge of Florence). The party was thus happily reunited, and undaunted, traveled to the falls of Proctor and made ready to set sail.

Many obstacles awaited the group in their pursuit of adventure over the six-mile stretch of coursing waterway. Several unanticipated blowdowns and a half dozen unfortunate log jams prompted creative bank scaling, mud wrestling with the valiant vessels over vigorous terrain, untangling snags in branches swept up in the vicious current, and an encounter with a dismembered fawn who had lost out in a snafu with a mowing machine. But these minor impediments were not enough to discourage this group of seasoned adventurers, and only solidified their resolve to navigate to the famed Florence bridge.

A few hours later, the group, a tad harried but all physically intact (no mental anguish has been reported to date), arrived safely at the fabled covered bridge. It was widely agreed that the ducklings, hawk, turkey vultures, and good company were just compensation for what some considered a harrowing experience.

With promises of new members to rejoin the group on its next water excursion, the daring crowd disbanded and traipsed home (though rumor has it that some rehabilitated in the local pub).



**Mt. Moosalamoo, Salisbury**

5 July 2003

Joint hike with Breadloaf Section

By Gordon &amp; Helen Cawood

Eleven of us took the Keewaydin Trail from the Campground up to the Oak Ridge Trail. The Keewaydin Trail on the east side of the mountain is seldom used and poorly maintained. The footpath was overgrown and barely visible in places. Fortunately, others in the party were astute in finding blue blazes and kept the leader on the straight and narrow. After the junction, we continued on the Oak Ridge trail to the north to the rock ledge viewpoint eastward where we enjoyed lunch and the company of some flying insects. Further north on the Oak Ridge Trail we came to the Moosalamoo Trail, providing an easy descent to the campground parking area.

After the hike, some of us motored to Voter Brook overlook and found that there really are views to behold.

**Bridgewater Gold Mines**

12 July 2003

By Herb Ogden

Because the Rutland Herald ran a big article on the Plymouth and Bridgewater gold mines the week before this outing, I was afraid we'd have too many people. Luckily, however, the group topped out at 19, a manageable number in the fairly easy terrain north of the Dailey Hollow Road. We did consolidate passengers into just four cars in Bridgewater Corners, though, because there is no parking area at the trailhead, just a wide shoulder that is not all that long.

From the Dailey Hollow Road, we followed an old road north along the east side of a pretty little brook, till we reached a four corners. The road west leads across the brook to a

formerly farmed area. We took the road east, immediately passing an old house foundation. This appears to have been the W. Baker place on the 1868 map of Bridgewater and the 1869 Beers Atlas of Windsor County. Going straight ahead, we soon passed the foundation of the Baker barn and then followed a lane several hundred feet, passed an old well, then left the lane to go downhill to the entrance of the mine. The place where one leaves the lane is far from obvious. The lane eventually leads to the next road east on the 1868 map, which the 1869 atlas no longer shows.

Most everyone had brought flashlights and explored the several hundred foot horizontal bore. It was damp and cool, and its winter denizens, the bats, were gone. If anyone found any gold, they didn't tell me.

We took a group photo on the tailings pile at the shaft entrance and retraced our steps till we came to a fork. The right turn leads to a huge old three-sided foundation. I think the late W. Churchill Scott told me he'd heard it was a boardinghouse for the mineworkers. During the lunch break, some folks found interesting scraps of metal.

Heading downhill from the supposed boardinghouse, we soon passed a decaying little shed, the last standing remnant of the Baker place. I suppose the house was still standing in 1911, because the 1911 U.S. Geological Survey Woodstock quadrangle shows it at the end of a primitive road. It shows neither the boardinghouse nor the mine, however. In fact, no map I've found clearly shows the mine, though the 1869 atlas does show an unlocated "Hunt & Washburn" item in the general area.

From here almost to the next mine, the old road up the brook was

pretty overgrown, though someone did clear it after the ice storm of the late 1990s. When a road that comes up from the boardinghouse joined it, the walking was much easier. Soon we were at the height of land and ready to look for the Mt. Hope Gold Mines, which show on the 1868 map and the 1869 atlas. A bushwhack of maybe 150 feet west took us to a gaping water-filled pit of considerable circumference and unknown depth. Nearby were other signs of digging. Backtracking to the old road, we soon came to the Pioneer Mine, also shown on both of the old maps. It is a big open pit mine with no obvious shaft, hidden from the road by a tall pile of tailings.

After leaving our last mine, we passed a little cellar hole just east of the road, and then descended gradually past the remains of a farm that shows on none of the maps. Presumably it had fallen down by 1868. It was starting to sprinkle when we crossed the next brook, so we forwent a visit to the J. Bugbee (1868 & 1869) cellar hole at the end of the road and passed up the short horizontal shaft mine that lies southeast of it and east of the brook. The next old farm was the E. P. Perkins place on the 1868 map. The 1911 map still shows it and the Bugbee place. Unfortunately, logging in the last year has filled up some of the foundation with slash. We took a photo of Bob Perkins with the "Perkins Place" road sign that someone had brought up there, then descended past one more cellar hole not clearly shown on any map, came out on the Dailey Hollow Road, and followed it back to the cars, passing a strange semicircular stone wall or foundation along the way.

Some of us took the scenic way home, past the old schoolhouse at the end of the Dailey Hollow Road.



south to the Bridgewater Hill cemetery, and then steeply down to Route 4.

Anyone who is interested in the Bridgewater mines might want to read *Vermont Mines and Mineral Localities*, by Philip Morrill and Robert C. Chaffee, published by the Dartmouth College Museum in 1964. It mentions a "Carbeneau" mine near the Pioneer Mine. Perhaps that was the horizontal shaft we explored.

### **Mount Abraham**

19 July 2003

By Sue Thomas

Our Mount Abraham trek got off to an uncertain start when we discovered bridge construction in Lincoln, which detoured us hither and yon. The detour route did provide us with a beautiful view of our target though it was viewed with trepidation by some who thought it looked awfully big from that angle. One of the cars thought so too, and began to smoke alarmingly on the way up to Lincoln Gap. But all the hikers made the climb to the summit in much better shape – if not easily, at least cheerfully.

The summit affords a good view of Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks and, at 4,006 feet, is one of only three alpine tundra environments in the state. Our GMC caretaker answers questions and keeps watch to be sure no one treads on the fragile tundra plants. All 12 hikers and Shannon the dog managed to get back down the rocks in one piece, and luckily the car was feeling much better after its rest. Ever the detour seemed shorter on the way home, and we enjoyed the signs that reassuringly pointed the way to "Lincoln Center" along the dirt roads – too bad we had binoculars instead of opera glasses!

### **Catamount Trail, Shrewsbury to Mendon**

26 July 2003

By Barry Griffith

The venerable Long Trail, a footpath in the wilderness from the Massachusetts border to Canada, is well known to all of us. The newer, parallel Catamount Trail was more recently marked off to afford cross-country skiers a similar path. This trek was originally scheduled for last winter, but inclement weather intervened, converting it to a summer hike.

As often happens, the initial decisions concerned the spotting of vehicles to accommodate our one canine and 16 human hikers. The majority of us headed to Shrewsbury, where we parked and walked in the town highway to Gov. Clement Shelter. We discussed the easy vehicular access to the site, and proposed "no parking" regulations that might be enacted to discourage use of the site as a "party" site for non-hikers. We also chatted with through-hikers, several of whom had started this spring in Georgia and were en route to Mt. Kahtadin.

After our "spotters" joined us, we headed south on the LT a short distance to its intersection with the so-called Poczubut Road, meeting the Catamount Trail and following it upward and westward. We enjoyed views of Mendon Peak, Little Killington and Shrewsbury Peak from north to east along the way. We passed the abandoned Poczubut Camp, stopping for lunch in the notch between Mendon Peak (to the north) and Robinson Hill (to the south).

After that it was downhill, continuing to the west and then turning to the north, with a nice view of Pico Peak on the way. We ended up at Brewers Corner, and our awaiting vehicles.

This route is not shown in GMC Guidebooks, but it is an access road, which is well maintained by VAST, and the State through the Calvin Coolidge State Forest, as depicted in the Catamount Trail guidebook. Check it out!

### **New Lost Pond Shelter**

3 August 2003

By Roma Pulling

The old Lost Pond Shelter had been my destination several times starting in 1978, and a friend and I stayed there overnight several years ago. That structure was built on Cape Cod in 1965 by Louis Stare Jr., who then had it delivered in sections to Forest Road 10 by truck. When I read about a new shelter at the site I knew I had to visit again.

Six people met us at the park on Sunday morning, and we were off for Mt. Tabor in two cars. We drove to the end of Forest Road 30, where there is ample parking, and walked more than two miles, partly through Wilderness area, to the trail's intersection with the Long Trail. The shelter is slightly north of that point on the Long Trail. We met a hiker there who left shortly after our arrival. Finding comfortable rocks and logs, we ate our lunch.

Decision time! While some of us walked back to the cars, those who desired could choose to hike north by way of the Long Trail 2.7 miles to Big Branch parking lot, where we would pick them up. Five people chose that route. We picked them up in advance of a very heavy shower and delivered them safely back to Rutland.

Note for those who knew about Alfred leaving his glasses at the shelter:

What with other commitments and rainy weather, it was six days before we were able to walk back.



The glasses were there! What are the chances that this would happen anywhere else? An unknown person took them inside the shelter and stored them high and dry. This goes to prove a long-held theory of mine--that hikers are nice people!

### **Spruce Peak / Prospect Rock**

9 August 2003

By Steve Williams

After a drive south on Route 7 from Rutland, the party assembled at the AT/LT trailhead on Routes 11 and 30 about a mile west of the Bromley ski area. Given the muggy weather of the previous week and the day's forecast of "cloudy, with some sunny patches but also the likelihood of showers and thunderstorms" the turnout of seven was not bad. The route was south on the AT/LT, 2.4 miles to Spruce Peak and a further 2.5 miles to Prospect Rock with modest undulations all the way. Our historians Barbara and Barry Griffith observed two features shortly after the start of the hike, a cellar hole and, not far away, a cast iron plate which appeared to indicate the one time presence of a charcoal kiln, presumably with some connection between the two.

Spruce Peak, reached by a 300-foot spur from the main trail, is a rock pile reminiscent of the Killington Peak, with good views northwesterly towards Mount Aeolus. The peak provided an open and convenient lunch stop.

In the next stage, as the party aimed for Prospect Rock, the weather moved on from the "cloudy with sunny patches" stage to the "showers and thunderstorms" phase. Some added waterproof covers; others demonstrated their Vermont hardiness by not doing so. The trail turned from its previous soggy stage to a streambed situation, which resulted in what could perhaps be called an aquatic sport as opposed to hiking. While the thunder was limited, the volume of the downpour was not. At one stage the writer noticed the interval between thunder and its associated lightening as being imperceptible. In the interests of the comfort level of the party he did not share the thought until later.

By the time Prospect Rock, an outcropping overlooking Manchester and Mount Equinox, was reached, the rain had diminished to a merely moderately wet level. At Prospect Rock the AT/LT joins the old Rootville Road, which is maintained to allow some high level camps to be reached. Arriving simultaneously with ourselves were two men in a pick-up truck on the way to one of the camps. They stopped for the view from Prospect Rock and were as surprised to meet our party as we were to meet them. From the Rock the writer pointed out the location of the Equinox Hotel that Abraham Lincoln was planning to visit in the summer of 1865.

The final stage of the trip was two miles down the Rootville Road

to the outskirts of Manchester where a Jeep had been located to take the party back to the Route 11 and 30 trailhead, with the vehicle crowded but acceptably so under the damp circumstances.

### **Mount Hawley**

16 August 2003

By Ray Catozzi

As advertised in the hike schedule, this year I found the route that eluded me last year. This year's route and last year's start from different points on the Whipple Hollow Road and connect near the top of the mountain.

Seven of us hiked up to the hang-glider launching platform. The view to the west and southwest would be wonderful but this time, as last year, it was foggy and misty with only the valley immediately below in good view.

We bushwhacked south from the launching platform for about 100 yard and came upon a nice level grass clearing on top of a large rock outcropping. The view here is right down to West Rutland and to the south. 'Twill be wonderful to get to that spot again sometime when the weather is clear.

My oldest son Jim, who lives in Pennsylvania and was up visiting, hiked up Mount Hawley with us. He's an Appalachian Trail section hiker as I am. We each have hiked over 1,000 miles of the AT

### **Directors continued from page 1**

the shelter for the city forester to make sure the club is doing all we're supposed to do.

**KORZUN EASEMENT** -- Aaron Korzun is a landowner off the North Lottery Road in Shrewsbury whose property is crossed by the AT/LT. He has a small pipeline crossing the

trail between a spring on one side of it and his house on the other. After some discussion, a motion was unanimously adopted stating that the section approves the granting of an easement to Korzun. A copy of these minutes highlighting this action will be forwarded to Waterbury which will hopefully support us and so advise the NPS.

**NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR CHAINSAW USE** - New rules have been adopted by the Park Service stating that if you're out on the trail using a chainsaw or a crosscut saw you have to be certified and also be wearing certain protective gear such as chaps, helmet and goggles. The certification



involves completion of a day and a half of training. The rules apply to all LT patrols, shelter adopters, and other volunteers. A member of our section, Larry Walter, has such certification and Herb will sound him out about the possibility of his offering certification training to others. The section has at least a couple of members who've been using a chainsaw for years and are quite expert at it, but they will still have to be certified.

**KS CONTRIBUTION TO SOUTH BARN FUND** -- After some discussion, the section agreed to contribute \$400 to the main club for its South Barn Fund. The money will go toward rebuilding the South Barn, which was consumed by fire last February. The contribution is in line with amounts being contributed to the fund by other GMC sections.

**COOLIDGE RANGE RIDGE RUNNER** -- This year's Coolidge Range ridge runner is Adam Hall. He will be contacted by Barb with a welcome from our section. We would like his feedback on what is going on up there and what he perceives as problems. We would also like it if he could coordinate with Bill Robichaud. If possible, the directors would like to host him at a dinner or potluck sometime when his duties permit. Sue Thomas volunteered to explore various options.

**KS TRAILHEAD NOTICES** -- The new signs at trailheads informing hikers about the Killington Section have been a success but many need to be replaced. Steve will put together a dozen new ones and get 10 to Herb and two to Barb.

**NEXT OUTING SCHEDULE** -- The next outing schedule will cover September through November and is rapidly filling up. September and most of October are already filled.

Hike leaders are urged to get their dates and information to Sue and Connie as soon as possible.

**NEXT SMOKE & BLAZES** -- Bob will be going on vacation the first few weeks of August. Hopefully upon his return Aug. 18 he will find all the material needed to put together the next issue. The newsletter has been receiving much good feedback.

**PUBLICITY PANEL** -- At the last main club meeting the GMC presented the section with a folding display panel promoting the club and the LT. It is a good general display that hopefully could be placed in the windows of downtown storefronts and outdoor equipment stores or at the library. It was suggested that we could also make it "local" by adding pictures, maps, and other material related to the Killington Section. Andrea will pursue getting maps while new pictures will be taken on upcoming hikes. It may be advisable to add another panel that would focus exclusively on us.

**GOV. CLEMENT SHELTER** -- Barb reported that her husband Barry is working on drafting an ordinance for the Shrewsbury selectboard with regard to restricting parking from dusk to dawn. The selectboard doesn't want the road "thrown up" or gated but prefers this more moderate approach. Once an ordinance is adopted, the select board will have signs put up and arrangements can be made with Gary Salmon to have some boulders put up there.

**DIVERSIFICATION** -- What if anything to do about the statistic that 78% of new hike participants attended only one or two times was discussed. Various means of soliciting feedback both from newcomers and club members were discussed. It was suggested that easier hikes might attract more people, but Sue Thomas felt that our

schedule already reflected a good balance of easy, moderate, and more challenging hikes. Sue also felt care needed to be taken with newspaper publicity as sometimes in its wake unmanageable numbers turned out for hikes. Steve offered to call Jack Crowther at the Herald. Steve will also draft a questionnaire that will be looked over by Bob and Sue.

**GMC ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 14 AT MIDDLEBURY SNOW BOWL** -- Our GMC director, Lynda Hutchins, attended the meeting and submitted a written report noting that the main club had a challenging year. In addition to the South Barn fire, endowment funds were down and there was a \$13,000 budget deficit. Executive Director Ben Rose took members on a virtual tour of the LT pointing out areas that either have seen improvements or will need them in years to come. In our section, he noted that the Clarendon Gorge bridge would need repairs within 10 years. There are also ongoing discussions about the ultimate viability of Gov. Clement and Pico Shelters.

**MISCELLANEOUS** -- Members were urged to attend US Forest Service informational and planning meetings, which are held the fourth Tuesday of every month for the purpose of soliciting input from the public. Since the logging and motorized vehicle communities are always strongly represented at such sessions, it is felt that the hiking community would do well to make sure the powers that be are keenly aware that we are equally concerned about what goes on in the national forests through which pass many miles of the Long Trail.

**ADJOURNMENT** -- The meeting was adjourned about 9:15 P.M. The next directors' meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, 23 October, at 7:00 P.M. also at Herb Ogden's office in Rutland.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Sept. – Nov. 2003

Trips leave from Rutland City Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at the times shown unless otherwise stated. Non-members are welcome. Bring drinking water and, for morning departures, bring a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear and dress for weather changes. Distances are approximate round trip; difficulty indicates steepness and footing. For more information about a trip, please call the trip leader listed at the right

September 6 Saturday 9:00 AM rain date 9/7	<b>South Pond, Chittenden</b> We'll reach this ridge-top pond via an unmaintained section of the former Long Trail, rewarded by one of the best views in the area. Return on the Long Trail past Ralston Rest Shelter. Six and one-half miles, some bushwhacking and a steep ascent, but mostly moderate.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
September 13 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Work Party</b> Transport and assemble the new privy for Pico Camp on the Sherburne Pass Trail (formerly the Long Trail), and general maintenance if we have time. Bring work gloves and sturdy shoes. Tools provided. It's more fun than it sounds, really!	Herb Cgoen 773-1350
September 14 Sunday 8:30 AM	<b>Kayak/Canoe the Winooski River, Richmond</b> Paddle a scenic stretch of river near Richmond. Call the leader for more details about distance and difficulty.	Jerry Parker 775-6208
September 20 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Mount Antone, Rupert</b> Enjoy views of the Mettawee Valley from the 2,610-foot summit in the Merck Forest and Farmland Center. Five miles, 820-foot ascent, moderate.	Larry & Viv Walter 775-3855
September 21 Sunday 9:30 AM	<b>Old Baldy, Bridgewater</b> We'll climb mostly on old roads to the 2,409-foot summit in Coolidge State Forest. Approximately three miles, moderate.	Roma & Al Pulling 773-6997
September 27 Saturday 9:00 AM rain date 9/28	<b>Black Mountain, New York</b> This time we'll go up the route we came down on last year, and down the way we went up! Difficult, 5.6 miles.	Ray Catozzi 773-3006
October 5 Sunday 9:00 AM	<b>Slack Hill, Plymouth</b> We'll follow a trail from Coolidge State Park, site of a depression-era CCC Camp, to the 2,174-foot summit. Moderate, 4.5 miles, 500-foot ascent.	Andrea McQuade 775-6273
October 11 Saturday 9:30 AM	<b>Mendon Peak, Mendon</b> If a difficult hike interests you, join us for this 2,000-foot climb and bushwhack off the beaten path to remote, 3,840-foot Mendon Peak.	Barbara & Barry Griffith 492-3573
October 18 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Eagle Rock, Hubbardton</b> We'll do some bushwhacking to reach this rocky outcrop overlooking Lake Bomoseen. Moderate, 5 miles.	Larry & Viv Walter 775-3855
October 25 Saturday 9:00 AM rain date 10/26	<b>Mt. Equinox, Manchester</b> We'll go up on the North Ridge Trail from Bear Town Gap and down the Burr & Burton Trail. Difficult, 7.5 miles, steep.	Ray Catozzi 773-3006

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Sept. – Nov. 2003

Schedule continued from previous page.

November 1 Saturday 8:00 AM	<b>Lake George Region, New York</b> Depending on the weather, we'll either climb a mountain or stick to the lower elevations. Moderate to difficult depending on destination, 6 or 7 miles. Call Leaders for details.	Connie & Mark Youngstrom 492-3502
November 8 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Bromley Mountain, Peru</b> We'll follow the Long/Appalachian Trail to the summit and descend to Mad Tom Notch. Moderate, 5.5 miles.	Steve & Diana Williams 645-9529
November 15 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>History Ramble – Feeder Canal Park, Hudson Falls, New York</b> Follow an easy trail alongside the historic Feeder Canal, begun 1817 to get passenger and freight boats from Lake Champlain to the Hudson River for passage to New York City. Includes the "Five Combines" series of locks with interpretive signs. Possible visit to the Rogers Island Visitors Center, site of a pre-Revolutionary fort. Three to seven miles, depending on the weather.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
November 22 Saturday 6:00 PM	<b>Fall Potluck Supper</b> Joins us for our annual potluck supper and a slide program. Nonmembers welcome! Bring plates, utensils, and a dish to share. Hot drinks provided. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Hillside Avenue, Rutland.	Sue Thomas 773-2185

### Want to Lead a Hike?

Our outing schedule is coordinated by Sue Thomas (773-2185) and Connie Youngstrom (492-3502). The winter schedule will include December through February. To make a suggestion, or to get your favorite outing on the schedule, give Sue or Connie a call before November 1. Please don't wait till the last minute.

## Senior Turtle Hikes – September – October 2003

The Rutland Recreation and Parks Department sponsors a series of "Turtle" hikes for seniors and others who wish to enjoy their outings at a somewhat slow and easy pace. The outings typically cover two to four miles, involve limited elevation gain, and try to avoid treacherous footing. Bring water and a lunch, wear sturdy footwear, and be prepared for Vermont weather. All trips leave from the Godnick Adult Center on Deer Street on **Fridays at 9 AM** and return in early afternoon.

Sept. 5	<b>Texas Falls:</b> Hike by a scenic stretch of waterfalls, flumes, and potholes on Texas Brook, an upper branch of the White River in the town of Hancock.	Charlie & Jean Davies 483-6623
Sept. 19	<b>Mount Tom:</b> Climb Mount Tom in Marsh Billings, Vermont's only National Park. Great views of Woodstock village.	Al & Hildie Cerney 773-4147
Oct. 3	<b>Leicester Hollow:</b> One of several trails in the Green Mountain National Forest east of Brandon.	Al & Roma Pulling 773-6997
Oct. 17	<b>Rocky Pond:</b> A loop hike, mostly within the city limits, passing Rocky and Muddy Ponds, the golf course, and East Creek.	Ray Catozzi 773-3006
Oct. 31	<b>Around back of Blue Ridge:</b> Celebrate Halloween with a hike from Mendon to Chittenden via abandoned portions of Old Turnpike and Wildcat Roads.	Bob & Thelma Perkins 773-0184



## Membership Interest Survey

The Section is anxious to learn more about how individual members regard Section activities and to solicit their views on additional activities that might be undertaken. Will you take a few minutes to review and respond to the questions on the back of this sheet. Then please fold the sheet with Steve's address on the outside, tape it shut, affix a 37-cent stamp, and mail.

-----  
Fold here

37-cent  
stamp

Steve Williams  
682 Vermont Route 30  
West Pawlet, VT 05775





## Membership Interest Survey

Please circle your answers.

For how many years have you been a Killington Section member? 0 1-2 3-5 6-10 More

How many time a year do you attend Section outings? 0 1-2 3-5 6-10 More

Have you attended a Section meeting or potluck supper in the past three years? No Yes

Have you participated in a Section Trails & Shelters work party in the past three years? No Yes

How about the lengths of hikes on our schedule? Too many are short A good mix Too many are long

How about the difficulty of hikes on our schedule? Too many are easy A good mix Too many are hard

How often have you been asked to join a Section work party? Not often enough About right Too often

What activities would you like to see added to schedule? Cycling Kayaking Canoeing Social events  
Bushwhacking Overnights Nature study Others (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to play a greater role in the Section in any of the following areas?

Leading hikes Leading kayak/canoe trips Trail & shelter maintenance Social events

How could the Section do a better job of meeting your needs or expectations? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your name and address are on the label below. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks for taking part in our survey.

Steve Williams, Section President

-----  
Fold here  
-----

Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 005701





# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 56, Number 4

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

November 2003

## New bridge on the Bucklin Trail

By Barbara Griffith

The upper bridge over Brewers Brook is finished thanks to the 100s of hours of both volunteer and hired help. This 35-foot span is 1.2 miles east of Brewers Corners on the Bucklin Trail. The abutments are high enough so they should keep the bridge above the highest spring floods, ensuring this bridge will last a lot longer than past ones. Now, for the first time since the late 1960s, both crossings have been bridged, and hikers no longer need to think about whether it has rained recently before deciding whether to climb Killington on the Bucklin Trail.

Bravo! Many of you probably read the recent Rutland Herald article about the bridge, however you had to be there seeing it happen to appreciate what took place. Young workers lugged hundreds of pounds of heavy pressure treated wood, tools and equipment up the trail on their backs, in their arms, and dragging it in teams. Volunteers lugged bits and pieces up, as did passing hikers who would pause and grab something to drop off at the work site on their way up to the peak.

The bridge was preassembled at GMC headquarters under the direction of GMC Field Supervisor Greg Western, disassembled, and reassembled on site by volunteers and paid staff directed by Greg and by our own Jerry Parker. However that isn't the entire story. As the days went by the bridge went



Killington hikers can now cross Brewers Brook high and dry.

through an evolutionary process, spurred by engineering suggestions from our own Mark Youngstrom that were advocated on site by Jerry Parker. Spending several days with the bridge construction crew I was amazed how smoothly the work went. After getting all the material to the site the biggest problem was how to make the 35-foot span without the bridge ending in a big bow. Many a brainstorming session went into effect. Changes were brought about with Team intervention. Not one mind made the difference; it was always the culmination of the group decision.

This story is about the building of the Bucklin Trail Bridge over Brewers Brook, yet it is also a tribute to the many people who dug in and helped make it happen. I'll work in some clichés here. This organization works because of dedicated volunteers who ask for nothing in return. It's about the "silent ones" who do hours upon hours of work on the trail to make it a better place for all. As for those young workers, I personally feel that the future of America is in very capable hands and I am thankful that I had the privilege to spend hours in the outdoors with them.



**Smoke & Blazes**

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

**Killington Section Directors**

Term expires in:

2004 .....	* Bob Perkins
" .....	* Jacob Sherman
" .....	* Connie Youngstrom
2005 .....	Barbara Griffith
" .....	* Bill Robichaud
" .....	Steve Williams
2006 .....	Andrea McQuade
" .....	Roma Pulling
" .....	* Susan Thomas

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

**Killington Section Officers**

President .....	Steve Williams
Vice President .....	Barbara Griffith
Secretary .....	Jacob Sherman
Treasurer .....	Roma Pulling

**Committee Chairs/Co-chairs**

History .....	Bob Perkins
Outings .....	Susan Thomas
" .....	Connie Youngstrom
Trails & Shelters .....	Herb Ogden

**Delegates to GMC Board**

Director .....	Lynda Hutchins
Alternate .....	Alfred Pulling

**Smoke & Blazes**

Editor .....

**Web Site**

Web master .....

## From the Section President

Now that the season for trail and shelter construction and maintenance is essentially over it is appropriate to extend thanks to all those who have been active in construction and maintenance on the Section's trails during the year.

The major construction activities have been the Pico camp privy, ably led, prefabricated and directed by Jerry Parker, and the Bucklin Trail bridge, erected under the direction

of Waterbury's Greg Western, with considerable support from Jerry, to a design by Mark Youngstrom. Greg in turn was supported by a number of Americorps and other volunteers from outside the Section, but also by a considerable number of Section members. Thanks to Jerry and to Greg and to all those who assisted them.

At the top of the trails man-hours league (outside the scheduled walk-throughs), we again find Bill Robichaud with more than eighty hours fieldwork, largely on the Bucklin Trail, but also on the Sherburne Pass trail and the LT/AT from Jungle Junction to a point north of Route 4. Thank you Bill.

With high honors there are Peter Dekker and Barbara Griffith with approximately twenty hours each; thank you Peter and Barbara.

With very honorable mention there are David Coppock, Barry Griffith, Ruth Hare, Ruth and Sandy Lamb, Andrea McQuade, Cynthia Taylor-Miller, Sue Thomas, Craig Tomkinson, Larry Walter and Deb Waggett who all made very worthwhile contributions. Thank you, one and all.

Very special thanks should also go to Herb Ogden, who heads the Section's Trails & Shelters Committee, and, besides his time on the trail, spends a lot of time off the trail gathering information and coordinating with the Waterbury GMC headquarters.

If for reasons of incomplete bookkeeping I have failed to mention

See **President**, page 5

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>**

Barbara Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, Griff3VT@aol.com  
 Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, lmhutch@shoreham.net  
 Andrea McQuade, 36 Morse Place, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-6273, andrea6273@aol.com  
 Herbert Ogden, 20 Birchwood Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, (H)775-1350, (W)775-3368, hogden@adelphia.net  
 Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, rperkinsvt@aol.com  
 Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, ral37@juno.com  
 William Robichaud, 215 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2567  
 Jacob Sherman, 48 Morse Pl., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2784, jakesher56@hotmail.com  
 Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185  
 Deborah L. Waggett 21 Academy St. Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024 waggett@aol.com  
 Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, voorburg@sover.net  
 Connie Youngstrom, Box 1160, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3502, marky@vermontel.net



## Killington Section Directors Meeting, 23 October 2003

By Steve Williams

President and Secretary pro tem

### Present

Barbara Griffith, Andrea McQuade, Bob Perkins, Roma Pulling, Sue Thomas, Steve Williams, Herb Ogden, Lynda Hutchins, Al Pulling

### Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and approved that the minutes of the July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003, meeting be approved as presented.

### Treasurer's Report

Roma Pulling reported the current account balances to be:

Checking Account: .....	\$8.87
Savings Account	\$1,422.78
Kirk Savings Account	\$619.96
Kirk Fund CD's.....	\$15,776.31

(Still to be paid from the above funds are the remaining expenditures for the Bucklin Trail bridge and materials costs due to Jerry Parker for the Pico Camp privy; see below).

Roma also advised the current membership to be 124.

### Trails and Shelters Report

Herb Ogden reported on the near completion of the Bucklin Trail bridge and the expectation that Greg Western would shortly return from Waterbury to finalize the bridge by the addition of some stabilizing beams. Herb noted that the Forest Service would shortly expand the Bucklin Trailhead parking lot. Herb had previously submitted to board members a list of ongoing and upcoming work projects.

Herb advised that Greg Western had provided him with the names of two Green Mountain College volunteers who had expressed interest in participating in trails maintenance.

Herb advised that he had heard from Dave Hardy (Waterbury) who provided a map of the three locations he considered viable for the new shelter to be constructed in 2005 between Governor Clement Shelter and Cooper Lodge. Dave had also advised that there is no limitation on buildings at any one of the three sites. In discussion, the Board reached the conclusion that, pending a walk-through, which Herb will arrange in a timely manner, one of the two lower sites was preferred, from the viewpoints of access during construction and winter temperatures. Herb will so advise the Waterbury trails committee.

Herb noted that the Route 4 AT/LT trailhead parking lot is in bad condition from the viewpoint of ruts and run-off. The State is believed to be the first party to be sought to rectify the matter. Steve Williams will communicate with Ben Rose (Waterbury) to ask if Waterbury will approach the State on the matter. Reimbursement of Jerry Parker for materials for Pico privy.

It was proposed, seconded and approved that Jerry Parker be reimbursed \$577.65 for the purchase of materials for the new Pico Camp privy.

### Aaron Korzun Easement

The Section has advised Waterbury of its support for this easement.

### Requirements for Chain-saw use in Appalachian Trail Corridor

Herb reported from his Waterbury discussions that the GMC position on the new requirements for chain-saw use is still being developed. It was agreed that the Section would take no further action regarding the training of its volunteer chain-saw operators, or their required safety equipment,

until further word is received on the subject from Waterbury.

### Ridge Runner

Steve reported that he had tried to reach Adam Hale during the previous two weeks to see if he had any comments for the Section resulting from his summer ridge running in the Section's area. Regrettably the connection failed to materialize and we must now await receipt of a copy of Adam's final report to Waterbury.

### Killington Section notices at trailheads

It has been observed that not all trailheads have a copy of the Section's "Welcome to the Killington Section" notice. Members seeking to rectify this are requested to talk to Steve or to Herb in order to seek copies of the updated trailhead notice for placing at the appropriate location(s).

### Walking across Posted Land without permission during club activities

After discussion this was agreed, as part of a club activity, to be unacceptable. The point was confirmed by the proposing, seconding and approval of a motion to ban such walking without the landowner's permission.

With regard to an attractive alternative to the Burr & Burton trail up Mount Equinox, which alternative has two posted sections with so far inaccessible owners, it was agreed that Sue Thomas would revisit the area to obtain the company or organization names of the two owners. Herb will then submit such names to the Vermont Secretary of State with the request that he (or she) advise the names of the contact individuals so that the Section can approach the two landowners with a



request to be able to cross the two parcels of land.

### Next Outing Schedule

Sue reported that this is well in hand and will be ready to be published in the next *Smoke & Blazes*

### Next *Smoke & Blazes*

Bob Perkins reported that the November issue is in progress.

### Publicity Panel

Andrea McQuade reported that this is now ready and will be on display at the Rutland EMS store on their "club days", October 24 and 25. She is seeking to contact Mark Foley who owns a number of downtown Rutland buildings in the hope that the panel can be displayed in one of them.

### Rutland Herald Article

Steve reported that he had discussed the subject with club member Jack Crowther, who works for the Rutland Herald. Jack advised that the prerequisite for any article to be of interest to the Rutland Herald is newsworthiness. Consequently, at the time of the bridge construction on the Bucklin Trail, Steve called the Herald, which did indeed do an article on the subject. Hike leaders and Sue, in her role as outings' committee chair, are requested to see if there is a story associated with any given hike (such as the history associated with Patch Hollow). If so, he or she is requested to let Steve know, whereupon he will contact the Herald.

### Governor Clement Shelter Update

Due to the pressure of other workload requirements, Barry Griffith's activities on developing a town ordinance to ban parking on the

town road leading to the shelter have been delayed. Herb suggested calling on Norman Cohen and Becca Rice, other attorneys who also live in Shrewsbury, to see if they would be willing to work with Herb and Barry on the matter. The Board endorsed such an approach.

### Survey Results

Steve presented the survey results, which were disappointing in terms of the responses received (14). There was a 65-95% satisfaction with the "length of hikes", "difficulty of hikes" and "frequency of requests to join a work party" questions. Additional activities proposed which received at least four in favor were cycling, canoeing/ kayaking and nature study. Two thoughts emerged from the ensuing discussion:

- Sue Thomas would be pleased to hear from anyone willing to lead one of these events.
- Members always have the opportunity to join other sections, which frequently run these events.

### Report on GMC Waterbury Directors' Meeting September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Lynda Hutchins presented a comprehensive written report of the meeting and then verbally highlighted the key issues and decisions.

### Website

Steve reported that from his recent view of the site it is working very well. However he noted, after linking to the Waterbury site, that only a single commercial page was operational. Pete Ketchum (Waterbury) confirmed that a problem exists with the site and is being worked on.

### Andrew Nuquist letter of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003 (submitted by Lynda for the Board's review)

Andrew Nuquist (GMC President) received an offer of an \$8,000 donation towards the club's impending 2004 budget deficit of \$13,000 if the GMC Board "raised or pledged" \$5,000, which Andrew relayed to individual directors in a letter, dated June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003, regrettably emphasizing "pledging" rather than "raising". Lynda reported that, believing it inappropriate that directors, particularly those elected by the sections, such as herself, should be asked to donate financially in addition to their other contributions to the club, she so advised the GMC Board at their September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Steve advised that he subsequently attempted to reach Andrew to support Lynda's viewpoint and, in Andrew's absence, made the point to Executive Director Ben Rose, who said that Lynda's point had been well understood, and recognized, by both he and Andrew. Lynda stated her belief that the point should be made in writing and requested the (Killington) Board to endorse her sentiments in writing to President Andrew Nuquist. A motion was proposed, seconded and approved that this be done. Barbara agreed to write the letter.

### Next Meeting

8.00 PM. Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004 at Herb Ogden's Offices, 92 Center Street, Rutland.

### Post Meeting Note

Greg Western and a number of volunteers, including Barbara, Sue, Lynda, Bob, Jerry and Bill, completed the Bucklin Trail bridge on October 25<sup>th</sup>



**President** *continued from page 2*

others who have contributed, such as the hikers who carried up wood from Brewers Corners for the Bucklin trail bridge, I apologize; your time is so less appreciated.

Besides the above, thanks also go to sector checkers Gretchen Crowley, Barry and Barbara Griffith, John and Nadine Horchner, Herb Ogden, Bill Robichaud, Cynthia Taylor-Miller, Sue Thomas, Deb Waggett, Vivian Walter and Mark and Connie Youngstrom who provide the status reports to Herb Ogden to make the system work.. Likewise thanks to shelter adopters Ray Arthur, Max Carleton, Peter Dekker, Erling and Christian Omland, Cynthia Taylor-Miller and Sue Thomas and Carol Chapman who, while reporting to Waterbury, handle the shelters within the Section's domain. Finally, thanks to those Section members who participated in the scheduled walk-throughs; Mark DeCrease, Gary Donell, Michael Forsyth, Jacob Flusche, Kyle Halligan, John Horchner, Lucille Hurley, Lynda Hutchins, Andrea McQuade, Herb Ogden, Mike O'Neill, Jerry Parker, Bill Robichaud, Cindy Taylor-Miller, Sue Thomas, Larry Walter and Connie Youngstrom. (Apologies for any misspellings of those I don't know; I did my best with the handwriting in the book).

Last but not least, thanks to Lynda Hutchins for her time of a different sort in being our nominated Director to the main club and giving up her Saturdays to attend the main board's quarterly meetings.

I hope to see as many of you as can make it at the Potluck Supper scheduled for November 22nd.

Sincerely  
Steve Williams

## Trip reports

### Shrewsbury Loop

23 August 2003

By Barry Griffith

Fourteen human hikers, led by Dickens, began this trek at the AT/LT parking area on Route 103. We struck out on the Long Trail heading north, working up a sweat on the ascent. There was a welcome breeze on the ridge above, carrying a reminder of cooler weather to come. We paused at a scenic vista to take in the view to the south and west. We then continued on to Clarendon Shelter, where we had lunch and chatted with through-hikers.

After our repast we diverged from the Long Trail, continuing our walk up the so-called Gainer Road – a former town highway discontinued after the Great Flood of 1927. We paused to inspect large stone foundations, and a picture of the long-abandoned home of the Anthony Adams family, which stood here in the late 1800s, reproduced in Dawn Hance's history of Shrewsbury. We discussed the original settlers, who came here a century earlier.

In 1797 young John Bullard married Lucy Buxton in Barre, Massachusetts. The newlyweds came here to raise their family – among the original settlers of Shrewsbury. We were determined to visit the cemetery on their home farm where they were laid to rest – a quest unfulfilled on the last Section hike here. Barbara would have led us there directly. Her absence required some bushwhacking, but the objective was achieved! We memorialized our visit in the site's journal.

We continued to the north and uphill until we arrived at

Shrewsbury's Lottery Road – named for the way it was financed by the fledgling town in 1792. We moved on – finally downhill – to the east, pausing to inspect the site of Town School #11, established in 1840, long since abandoned.

We reconnected with the Long Trail and took it to the South, over Beacon Hill, and then steeply downhill back to Clarendon Shelter. Here we again diverged from the present AT/LT, Southerly and down the aforementioned abandoned town road. This connects with Vermont's first interstate highway – the venerable Crown Point Road, laid out in 1759, during the French & Indian War. Continuing down we inspected CPR markers, to find ourselves back on Route 103.

A short jaunt westerly returned us to the parking lot, where our party had a chance to visit and traverse the AT/LT Swinging Bridge over Clarendon Gorge. A successful loop concluded, we departed with visions of hikes to come. Happy Trails!

### Pico Camp Privy

13 September 2003, et al.

By Herb Ogden

Last summer, the small Pico Camp privy that the Section built around 1992 under the direction of former Trails & Shelters Chair Tim Welch was in such disrepair that GMC Field Supervisor Val Stori took it apart and put a "chum" in its place. I don't know why it's called a chum, since it consists of a toilet seat on a big box, with no walls to separate the user from the environment. I wouldn't feel particularly chummy when using one. Some of us were miffed that we weren't given the chance to repair what we had, but the result was good for us, as you'll see if you read on.

This summer, Jerry Parker took privy plans supplied by GMC



headquarters, simplified them to suit a situation where supplies could be trucked to within 1,000 feet of the work site, and completely prefabricated the privy. On 7 September, Jerry and I scouted out the site and made sure Pico's service road was in decent shape for a loaded truck. The next weekend, a dozen or so of us hiked or drove to the site and hauled in two pickup truck loads of privy lumber, roofing, and bin. The larger part of the work party got the new outhouse mostly built under Jerry's supervision. Meanwhile, Bob Perkins and I replaced the rotted window frames in the Camp, cinched up and put a new 2x4 in the front wall, and put in a new windowsill to keep the weather out of the inside of the wall. The previous windowsill, installed around 1995, had disappeared totally, and, for several years, closing the windows had not done much to keep out the wind. During the week, Jerry returned to finish nailing down the roof before a big windstorm. The next weekend, Jerry, Barb and Barry Griffith and I returned to finish siding the privy, install the bench and seat, and do a little clearing on the 0.4 mile trail from the Camp to Pico Peak.

The new privy stands a few feet closer to Pico Camp than the old privy did, with its back facing downhill to make it easier to remove the bin. It is also much larger, lighter, and better ventilated than the old one.

Thanks to Jerry and to John Horschner for the use of their vehicles, and to Killington Ltd. for the use of the service road. And thanks especially to Jerry for building the privy at home and then directing the rebuilding at the site.

#### **Mt. Antone, Rupert**

20 September 2003

By Larry Walter and Viv Bebee

The weather was a little iffy at the onset of our hike up Old Towne Road. The Merck folks were hosting some sort of Oktoberfest/ Chevy Corvair Enthusiast/ Other Old Car People celebration so there were about 20 times more humans running around than usual. We parked at the lower parking lot by Route. 315 and set out for the visitor center. Once we passed the upper parking areas and barn, things quieted down considerably.

It took about two hours at a steady pace to reach the summit where we had lunch. The views were initially limited to a couple chains down the hill, but the ceiling lifted enough to get a nice peak at the sun, the Adirondacks and the approaching route. Tom kept an interesting record of our progress with his little GPS unit. We descended slowly though a couple brief showers, then though the throngs of Oktoberfesters to the parking lot.

Merck Forest has 28 miles of hiking and skiing trails ranging over 3,100 acres of forest land. Motorcycles, ATV's and snowmobiles are prohibited. Viv and I have stayed at two of Merck's cabins, all of which have a wood stove. Aside from an occasional farm tractor, you're pretty much treated to a quiet hike or ski. Be aware that there is no grooming of the ski trails, so you're probably going to be breaking trail on the more challenging routes. The visitor center is powered by an impressive array of photovoltaic cells and a giant fireplace with auxiliary power from a windmill up by the barn.

#### **Old Baldy, Woodstock**

21 September 2003

By Roma Pulling

The day of our hike was like an island in stormy seas, preceded by remnants of Tropical Storm Isabel

and followed by a rainstorm that left one and three-eighths inches of rain in our gauge. Hike Day was the sort that hike leaders dream of: mostly sunny, cool and crisp. We met six hikers at the park, drove to Bridgewater and met five more hikers there.

Our destination was in the southwest part of Woodstock in Coolidge State Forest. Most of our hikers, including our editor, had never heard of it, but I had hiked it twice, the last time in 1986. Steve, the leader of that hike, was with us again and helped us choose the right trail. It followed an old logging road very gradually with a short, steep rise at the very end. We saw many flowers including goldenrod, fall asters, a very confused Canada violet which should have finished blooming in July, and most exciting, a large patch of bottle gentians.

The elevation at the summit of Baldy is 2,409 feet, and the view is at least 180 degrees. Steve pointed out Ascutney and Okemo with a peak at Killington through the trees. We ate our lunch there before returning to our cars to conclude a fantastic outing.

#### **Black Mountain, New York**

27 September 2003

By Ray Catozzi

The weather was fairly nice when we left Rutland, but completely clouded over when we stopped at the Vermont Welcome Center in Fair Haven to pick up our section president, his charming wife, and our lovely director to the main club. Oh yes, their names are Steve and Diana Williams and Lynda Hutchins. So the bunch of us proceeded to the trailhead east of Black Mountain. It was getting darker by then, but we could still see the trail and the signs.

Part way up the east trail we turned left on another trail that



headed south, to a couple of nice ponds, and then west toward the northbound trail that would take us up to the summit. It was nearly noon when we reached the nice open Adirondack shelter near the pond so we stopped and had our lunch there.

After lunch we started up the steep, rocky, mile-long trail. Before we'd gone a half of a mile it started sprinkling and by the time we reached the top it was raining. There were only 12 to 15 people up there this time. On our last hike to Black Mountain there were probably 50 or more up there enjoying the view.

This day the view down the mountain went as far as 200 feet and then stopped in the thick clouds. The gorgeous view down the steep slope of Black Mountain was completely gone. When it is clear, it is a great treat to look down on Lake George, and watch all the powerboats, ferry boats, and the canoes and kayaks glide up and down the lake. I promised our group that I would put this hike on the schedule again next year and pray for a clear day.

It kept sprinkling, sometimes hard and sometimes lightly, so we stayed on top only about minutes while some group pictures were taken. Then down we went in the rain. The rain nearly stopped half way down to our cars. So it wasn't too bad a hike.

### **Mendon Peak**

11 Oct 2003

By Barbara Griffith

Our apologies to anyone who showed up for the hike and got left behind. We had it on our calendar as a 9:00 AM hike. We thought that our description of a difficult bushwhack had kept many away. Only one hiker showed up so we headed out to Brewers Corner and met up with

another who said it was billed as a 9:30 hike. Having a cell phone he reached his group who were waiting at the park. Oh well.

Three of us set off up the trail, a 40-minute walk on an old logging road. After crossing Eddy Brook we started a steady ascent up an ATV trail which runs along Mendon's westerly slope. No switchbacks — straight up. Phew! This hike is not for the faint of heart. The trail stopped about 500 feet from the top and our bushwhack started. We got into short fir trees packed together, up mossy cliffs. An hour later, battered and tired, we came out within feet of the canister. This contained information about Mendon Peak being one of the top 100 peaks in NE. Yea! We made it!

Halfway into our lunch the 9:30 party joined us, making us a group of 6. With a 360-degree view of the valleys and mountains we enjoyed the fall colors beneath spacious sunny skies. To make this trip more of a challenge we all agreed on an alternate descent. Compasses and GPS in hand, we headed easterly along the ridge toward Little Killington. We hoped to come across a logging road or trail that would lead down to Eddy Brook. We descended past three ravines that were pointed out to be "flumes." These were used to slide the logs down the mountain to the brook below. Not finding a better route, we finally descended one ourselves to get down to the brook. More bushwhacking followed. Finally we located the logging road, and followed it past Stovepipe City and back to Wheelerville Road.

Seven hours after we began, we arrived back at our vehicles. Our party was tired and dirty, but all agreed that the challenge was worth the trip. See you on the trails!

### **Eagle Rock**

#### **Freedley Quarry, Dorset**

18 October 2003

By Larry Walter and Viv Bebee

The great Eagle Rock scramble unraveled at the last moment due to unplanned conflicts with the landowner. (I'll try to set up a January visit to the same). Viv and I dug out the hiker guides and settled on an alternative visit to Freedley Quarry in Dorset. It's a good thing we recon'd the quarry hike the week before, as the route was a little confusing.

The weather was cool, but agreeable for the 10 of us as we ascended through a farmer's field from Lower Hollow Road. At the top of the cleared fields we picked up a well-worn woods road that climbed southeasterly though a saddle. (Note: About halfway up this road, you ignore a side road to the northwest, which climbs, steeply to a small camp on the ridge. A short distance after this intersection the road forks, where you keep to the left.) After hitting the saddle, we took a smaller road about 500 feet to the north where we picked up a recently cleared (muddy) skid trail that descended northeasterly to the old Dorset Road. A couple minutes to the north on the Dorset Road and the quarry appeared on our left.

The quarry is an interesting, semi-open cut into the side of the hill, with deep pools of water where they had originally taken the bulk of the marble out. There is some old mining equipment still lying around, along with a lot of local graffiti. The pools freeze over in the winter and are frequented by skaters who don't mind a couple irregularities here and there.

We ate lunch at an overlook on the side of the logging landing and even caught a couple rays of sun in the process. The return trip was easy



after the 20-minute backtrack up the logging trail to the saddle.

It looks like the approach from the Lower Hollow Road to this saddle would be an excellent jump off to the summits of Dorset Hill and Mt. Aeolus, but one should check with the local owners before hand. The fellow who owns the barn, across the street from where we parked, is the key contact for use of this route. Unfortunately, I did not get his name and number.

### **Mount Equinox**

25 October 2003

By Ray Catozzi

Our hike was scheduled to go up the North Ridge Trail from Bear Town Gap and then down the Burr & Burton Trail into Manchester Center. I had learned ahead of time that a logging company and a rod and gun club had closed the North Ridge Trail to hikers. Our group of six decided not to ignore the NO TRESPASSING signs but to go up the 35-degree Burr & Burton Trail and to return by the same route.

Half way up the trail, which was wide enough for a jeep, we ran into an inch snow. Two-thirds of the way up, the trail narrowed to a steep, slippery path with two inches of snow. Other hikers had gone up ahead of us, but that made the trail under foot even more dangerous from slipping and sliding. As leader, I was having a terrible time climbing up this steep, rocky, snowy, slippery trail. I had to stop often to catch my breath.

Our group consisted of three younger members: Tom Shanahan, and Tom and Maria Walsh, plus three older ones: Steve Williams, John Hale, and me. I told the two Toms and Maria to go on up and not to wait for me, their fearless leader. By this point there was over three inches of snow. I had to stop every

50 yards or so, not only to catch my breath but also to rest my shaky legs. God, it's hell to get old! I stopped at least 25 times before we reached the Rock Overlook.

So much time elapsed that the young three were on their way back down that dangerous Burr & Burton Trail, but Steve and John agreed to stay with this tired old hiker, and to walk down the toll road. One of the three younger hikers would drive up to meet us.

We made it to the overlook and then up the last one-half-mile moderate trail to the hotel. There were several cars of tourists there enjoying the wonderful view in all directions. The hotel and restaurant are closed until next summer so we had to eat our carry-up lunch. The toll road was plowed so it was nice walking down. A couple of miles down the long, curvy, five-mile road Tom Walsh met us. He didn't have to pay the \$8.00 toll road fee as he said he was on an emergency drive to pick up a worn out hiker – me! He brought us back to our cars at the trailhead in Manchester.

In spite of my darned old senior problems, the mountain is beautiful with great views of the Green Mountains to the east, the Taconics north and south, and the Adirondacks to the west. Try it the way we did – if you are young!

### **Bromley Mountain**

8 November 2003

By Steve Williams

With a roster of fifteen and two dogs the party left the Route 11/30 LT/AT trailhead, heading north, at about 10.00 AM. The weather was great; about freezing, little wind (except at the summit) and a mostly clear sky.

The first destination was the new Bromley shelter and its

associated privy, about one-and-a-half miles from the trailhead. This shelter was built in mid-September by the Manchester Section and looks out in a southwesterly direction. Materials were delivered by helicopter from the nearby Bromley ski area parking lot. All were impressed by the layout, quality and location of the shelter, though perhaps a little uncertain as to the impact of a south westerly wind on the warmth index.

The trail has been relocated for some six-tenths of a mile towards the summit. As the new section is better graded than the original trail it is assumed that the relocation is to reduce erosion. In any event, the new section is indeed easier walking than the original, with the benefit of a new vista, some three-tenths of a mile above the shelter, overlooking Stratton Mountain.

About three-tenths of a mile below the summit, the walker is disgorged onto a Bromley ski slope where, visible just ahead, snow was being manufactured. The party elected to make its way around the patch and come out at the summit. [See Steve's photo, opposite page. Ed.] A few brave souls made it to the top of the observation tower where the view was first class, as was the wind. All gathered in the ski area hut – totally enclosed – to enjoy the view and lunch in protected seclusion. As a result of the snow making, most, but not all, of the summit had a pronounced wintry appearance, leaving the impression that the mountain could not make up its mind whether to be in fall or winter attire.

After lunch, Jerry Parker and his dog Dickens left us to return the same way, while the remaining fourteen and one dog set out for Mad Tom Notch. After a steep descent for the first hundred yards or so, the



trail undulates in a gentle fashion until, after some two-and-a-half miles, it has dropped some eight hundred feet to Mad Tom Notch. With leaves having long gone there

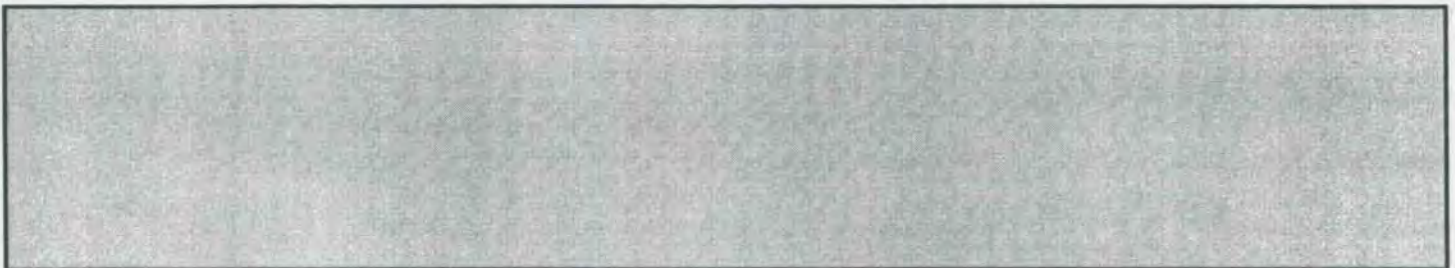
are periodic good views to both east and west.

Leaders Steve and Diana Williams, having previously spotted their Jeep at Mad Tom Notch, were able to carry five others back to the

starting point. Sue Thomas and Ray Catozzi were then kind enough to return for the remaining seven who were making their way down the Mad Tom Notch Road towards Peru.



**Killington Section hikers near the top of Bromley. Left to right: Autumn, Winter**



**Panoramic view from Black Mountain toward beautiful Lake George as enjoyed by Killington Section hikers on September 27, 2003. [A simulation. Ed.]**



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Dec. '03 – Feb. '04

Trips leave from Rutland City Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at the times shown unless otherwise stated. Non-members are welcome. Bring drinking water and, for morning departures, bring a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear and dress for weather changes. Distances are approximate round trip; difficulty indicates steepness and footing. For more information about a trip, please call the trip leader listed at the right.

December 6 Saturday	<b>Grandpa's Knob, Castleton</b> Snowshoe or hike depending on conditions. Hike up the service road to the open summit, site of a wind generator that failed in the 1940s. Elevation gain of 1,000 feet. Easy hike; moderate snowshoe. Joint outing with the Breadloaf Section. Call leaders for meeting place and time.	Gordon & Helen Cawood 352-4310
December 13 Saturday 10:00 AM	<b>Patch Hollow, Wallingford</b> We'll follow the Long Trail north and branch off on the old road to Patch Hollow, take a short bushwhack around the beaver pond, visit home sites, and return by the long Trail over Bear Mountain. Possible additional trip to Button Hill from Patch Hollow. Moderate, 5 miles. Snowshoes may be needed.	Herb Ogden 775-1350 hogden@adelphia.net
January 3 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Merck Forest Ramble, Rupert</b> Snowshoe or hike depending on conditions at this forest and farm preserve. Moderate 4 miles. Skiing may also be an option. Check with leaders for route planned.	Steve & Diana Williams 645-9529
January 11 Sunday 10:00 AM	<b>Jockey Hill, Shrewsbury</b> We'll ascend Shrewsbury's 2,650-foot Jockey Hill. Are the rocks at the peak an ancient Celtic site? Snowshoes or x-c skis. Five miles round trip; 700-feet total elevation gain; moderate.	Bard & Barry Griffith 492-3573
January 18 Sunday 10:00 AM	<b>Mystery Outing</b> Call leaders for further information as the time draws near.	Larry & Viv Walter 775-3855
January 25 Sunday 9:30 AM	<b>Bomoseen Hot Dog Roast</b> Bring your own dogs; hot beverages provided. We'll take a short to moderate snowshoe or hike to work up an appetite!	Roma & Al Pulling 773-6997
February 7 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Galick Preserve, West Haven</b> Enjoy hiking or snowshoeing on Nature Conservancy land overlooking the south end of Lake Champlain. Approximately 4 miles; moderate.	Lynda Hutchins 948-2770
February 14 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Griffith Lake, Mount Tabor</b> We'll travel easterly up the so-called Lake Trail, a nineteenth century carriage road to remote Griffith Lake, on snowshoes or x-c skis. Circa seven miles round trip, 1,000-feet elevation gain, a gradual but somewhat lengthy ascent.	Bard & Barry Griffith 492-3573
February 21 Saturday 10:00 AM	<b>Tucker-Johnson Shelter, Mendon</b> Snowshoe a 3.5-mile loop on the Long Trail.	Andrea McQuade 775-6273
February 28 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Chandler Ridge, Leicester</b> Falls of Lana Trail to Silver Lake Trail to Chandler Ridge Trail to Minnie Baker Trail. We will spot cars for a one-way outing, about 7.5 miles. Moderate to difficult depending on weather and conditions. Good views.	Mark & Connie Youngstrom 492-3502



## Killington Section Members, November 2003

(\* New member since August 2001)

*Linda D. Aines	Brandon	John & Janet Martin	Rutland Town
*Ronald G. Anderson	Wallingford	*Jason Massey	West Rutland
*Valenda Applegarth	Swampscott MA	Jon & Kimberly Mathewson	Middletown Springs
Robert L. Badger	Potsdam NY	*Dave Mathis & Lulu Anderson	Rutland
*Lynda & Jeff Baydin	Morristown NJ	Richard E. Matteson	Killington
Vivian Bebee & Larry Walter	Rutland	Donald R. McIntyre, M.D.	Rutland
*Eve Beglarian	New York NY	M. Cecilia McMillen	Ludlow
C. Stark Biddle	Rutland	*Andrea McQuade	Rutland
Joel Blumenthal	Proctor	*Matthew S. Mitchell	Bloomfield CT
Rev. & Mrs. Robert B. Boutwell	Rutland	*Richard C. Mitchell	Oswego NY
*Karen Bowles	Killington	Kelly & Bruce Moreton	Cuttingsville
*Lyle J. Breitkopf	Teaneck NJ	*Dick Nelson	White River Junction
Jeffrey Breslow & Ginna Frantz	Chicago IL	*John Newman	Mendon
*Susan Carpenter	Bethel	Herbert G. Ogden & Catherine Thomas	Rutland
*Karen W. Cartier	Rutland	*Fran & Artie Oken	Middletown Springs
*Francisco Castillo	Cuttingsville	*Donna O'Malley	Rutland
Raymond Catozzi	Rutland	Gerald Parker	Cuttingsville
Rachael W. Charland	Springfield MA	Robert & Thelma Perkins	Rutland
*Dale Christie	West Rutland	Mark J. Petrone	Averill Park NY
*Kerry Christler	Sudbury	Paul Pilcher	Proctor
*Norman Cohen	Rutland	Pat Pranger	Wallingford
George Conlon	Rutland	Ronald & Sarah Pulcer	Rutland Town
Dave & Clare Coppock & Family	Rutland	Alfred & Roma Pulling	Rutland
*Tom Copps	Rutland	John Rantanen & Susan Orzell	Rutland
Susan Corrigan	Rehoboth MA	*The Rayner Family	Mendon
*Alexander S. Coulter	Rutland	*Jaclynne Reed	Brandon
*Gerard Coursey	Rutland	*Michele Reed	Tinmouth
*Deanna Cross	Castleton	George Reynolds	Springfield
*Marion Dane & Wilbur Abrams	Pittsfield	William T. Robichaud	Rutland
Dr. & Mrs Robert P. Darrow	Mendon	*Steve Robinson	Killington
Kit Davidson	Castleton	*Craig J. Roebuck	Rutland
Theresa L. Davis & Janine F. Small	Pittsford	Wally Rogers	Castleton
*Mark DeCrease	Rutland	F. John & Moira Romeo	Homosassa FL
Walter F. Deinzer	Tinmouth	Ellen B. Russell	Rutland
Bernard G. Donahue	Rutland	*Paula Russell	Rochester
*Bruce E. Douglas	Wallingford	*Lora Salladin	Cockeysville MD
Janet Estelle & Don Kass	North Clarendon	*Donald Sandall	Rutland
Sarah Fearing	Rutland	*Judy Sauby	Rutland
*Michael H. Forster	Killington	*Deborah Schoch	Shrewsbury
Ruth Gibbud	Rutland	*Charlotte S. Schwartz	Goffstown NH
Frances Ginsberg	Rye NY	Marilyn Sheldon	Rutland
Zed Grande	Rutland	Jacob & Madeline Sherman	Rutland
Donald Green	Wallingford	Joan Sibley	Cuttingsville
Barry & Barbara Griffith	Shrewsbury	B. Phillip & Linda Smith	Fair Haven
*John M. & Til Hale	Castleton	Carlene P. Smith	Proctor
*Anne M. Hamilton	West Hartford CT	*Anthony Spiridakis	Brandon
Patricia K. Hannegan	Rutland	*J. Ross Stevenson	Poultney
Ruth Hare	Montpelier	Lindsey & John Suddarth	Mendon
Lorraine Hawley	Rutland	Kevin Sweeney	Rutland
*David W. Higley	Lufrow	*Kate H. Taylor	Clarendon
John & Nadine Horchner	Rutland	Cynthia Taylor-Miller	Wallingford
*Lynda M. Hutchins	Orwell	Sue Thomas	Rutland
Michael Ilyichenko	Yaphank NY	*Mr. & Mrs. Doug Thorne	Killington
*Steve Jackson & Family	Shoreham	*Craig H. & Dot Tomkinson	North Clarendon
R. Joseph Jalbert	Rome NY	Jeffrey Trubisz	Salem MA
*Kay Jones	West Rutland	Albert L. Tufano	Cuttingsville
*Linda M. Jones	Mendon	*Deborah L. Waggett	Fair Haven
Robert & Sue Kancir	Fairfield CT	Jane Walczykowski	Shrewsbury
*Andrew Kemp	Mendon	Carolyn Waldhauer	Ludlow
*David Kirk	Rutland	*Mary Lou Webster	Brandon
*Peter & David Kirk	Rutland	*Jennifer Wichland	Rutland
Ruth & Sandy Lamb	Cleveland Heights OH	Stephne & Diana Williams	West Pawlet
*Michele Landis	Carlisle PA	Joyce K. Wilson	Shrewsbury
*Jill Lauren	New York NY	*Mark D. Wilson	Castleton
John & Betty Little	Rutland	David P. Wright	Middletown Springs
Shelley Lutz	Center Rutland	Connie & Mark Youngstrom	Shrewsbury
Sam Malkus	Proctor	Joan Zardus	Amesbury MA
*David G. Marsh	Proctor	Maryellen Zizis	Wilmington MA
Davids S. Martin	McLean VA		



Your Invitation to Join  
**Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

**ANNUAL DUES:**

Individual..... \$30  
Family..... \$40  
Senior/Student/Volunteer..... \$20  
Individual Lifetime..... \$750  
Family Lifetime..... \$1000

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_ trail work, \_\_\_ shelter work, \_\_\_ sign making, \_\_\_ publications, \_\_\_ leading outings, \_\_\_ publicity, \_\_\_ education,  
\_\_\_ other.

Make check payable to **Killington Section, GMC** and mail with this application to:

Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701





# Smoke & Blazes

Volume <sup>57</sup>56, Number 1

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

February 2004

## On the trail to Mount Antone



Sue Thomas, Diana Williams, and Lynda Hutchins are ready to go

## Annual meeting is set for April 24

The Killington Section annual meeting and potluck supper will take place at 6 PM on Saturday, April 24 at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Hillside Avenue in Rutland.

There will be openings for three new members on the Board of Directors. As specified in our bylaws, retiring directors Bob Perkins, Jake Sherman, and Connie Youngstrom are not eligible for reelection after six consecutive years on the board. Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting.

See the Outing Schedule on page 3 for more information about the meeting.

## Directors meeting

by Steve Williams, Acting Secretary

A regular meeting of the Killington Section, Green Mountain Club Directors was held on 10 February 2004 at Barry Griffith's office in Rutland.

### Present

Barbara Griffith, Herb Ogden, Roma Pulling, Bill Robichaud, Sue Thomas, Steve Williams, Connie Youngstrom, Barry Griffith, Al Pulling, Mark Youngstrom

### Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and approved that the minutes of the October 23, 2003, meeting be approved as presented.

### Treasurer's Report

Roma Pulling reported the current account balances to be:

Checking Account .....	\$1,281.67
Checks not deposited .....	303.75
Savings Account .....	1,123.78
CD .....	1396.43
Kirk Fund Savings .....	1,145.36
Kirk Fund CD's .....	14,577.36

The above figures are after payment of \$2668 for the Bucklin Trail bridge and the material costs

due to Gerry Parker for the Pico Camp privy.

Roma also advised that the total section membership is 128 with 163 voting members.

### Trails and Shelters Report

Herb Ogden reported that at a recent Waterbury Trails and Shelters Committee meeting there had been discussion of making an emergency skimobile trail to provide access to the Bucklin Trail (uphill from the bridge and the anti ATV barricades) for use in lost skier

See **Meeting**, page 8



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2004 ----- \*Bob Perkins  
" ----- \* Jacob Sherman  
" ----- \* Connie Youngstrom  
2005 ----- Barbara Griffith  
" ----- \* Bill Robichaud  
" ----- Steve Williams  
2006 ----- Andrea McQuade  
" ----- Roma Pulling  
" ----- \* Sue Thomas

\* Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for reelection.

### Killington Section Officers

President ----- Steve Williams  
Vice President ----- Barbara Griffith  
Secretary ----- Jacob Sherman  
Treasurer ----- Roma Pulling

### Committee Chairs

History ----- Bob Perkins  
Outings ----- Sue Thomas  
" ----- Connie Youngstrom  
Smoke & Blazes ----- Bob Perkins  
Trails & Shelters ----- Herb Ogden  
Web Site ----- Deborah Waggett

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director ----- Lynda Hutchins  
Alternate ----- Alfred Pulling

## Vermontivia

It was suggested recently by Herb Ogden that it might be fun to include in *Smoke & Blazes* some trivia questions on the subject of Vermont, the Green Mountains or, best of all, the Long Trail. We agree and are giving it a try.

For starters Herb offered the following:

**Q1. Which crossing of a large brook on a Killington Section trail is where no brook used to be?**

The following was inspired by a question put by Barry Griffith. Many of Vermont's 251 towns share their names with large or well-known cities elsewhere. There's Berlin, Germany and Moscow; Russia; Dover England and Calais, France; Jericho and Bethel, Palestine; and Halifax and Windsor, Canada. Then, in the United States, there's Hartford and New Haven, Connecticut; Springfield and Worcester, Massachusetts; Concord and Manchester, New Hampshire; Troy and Rochester, New York; Richmond and Arlington, Virginia; and Charlotte and Wilmington, North Carolina. All have like-named Vermont towns. It goes on and on. Even Orange and Bakersfield, California.

**Q2. What is the largest (population) American city that shares its name with a Vermont town?**

**Q2a. Name two states and four foreign countries that share their names with Vermont towns.**

In the early 1930s the Blue Triangle camp was built next to the brook near Gov. Clement shelter. It served until the late 1940s when it was disassembled and moved to the then pasture above Spring Lake where it became Spring Lake camp. In the 1950s it was moved again and became Sunnyside camp.

**Q3: Why was the old Blue Triangle camp so named?**

Answers will appear in the next issue of *Smoke & Blazes*. Let us know what you think. And please submit some posers.

### Contact Information:

Web site -- <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Barbara Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, Griff2VT@Vermontel.net  
Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, lmhutch@shoreham.net  
Andrea McQuade, 36 Morse Place, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-6273, andrea6273@aol.com  
Herbert Ogden, 20 Birchwood Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, (H)775-1350, (W)775-3368, hogden@adelphia.net  
Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, rperkinsvt@aol.com  
Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, pullingal37@aol.com  
William Robichaud, 215 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2567  
Jacob Sherman, 48 Morse Pl., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2784, jakesher56@hotmail.com  
Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185  
Deborah Waggett, 21 Academy St., Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, purplejeep99@hotmail.com  
Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, voorburg@sover.net  
Connie Youngstrom, Box 1160, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3502, marky@vermontel.net



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: March – May 2004

Visit our web site: <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Trips leave from Rutland City Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at the times shown unless otherwise stated. Non-members are welcome. Bring drinking water and, for morning departures, bring a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear and dress for weather changes. Distances are approximate round trip; difficulty indicates steepness and footing. For more information about a trip, please call the trip leader listed at the right.

March 7 Sunday 10:00 AM	<b>Tamarack Notch to Brewers Corner, Mendon</b> Snowshoe, walk, or ski depending on conditions, along old roads and past McLaughlin Falls. Approximately 4.5 miles; moderate.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
March 14 Sunday 10 AM	<b>Shrewsbury Bushwhack</b> Snowshoe into the backcountry of Shrewsbury with an expert to look for animal tracks and signs. Three to four miles, moderate.	Jerry Parker 747-4439
March 21 Sunday 9:30 AM	<b>Bomoseen Hot Dog Roast</b> Bring your own dogs. Hot beverages provided. We'll take a short to moderate snowshoe or hike to work up an appetite.	Roma & Al Pulling 773-6997
April 3 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Snake Mountain, Addison</b> A short climb to an open summit and the site of an old hotel, circa 1870. Beautiful views of the Champlain valley and the Adirondacks. Moderate, 3.6 miles, 900 feet elevation gain.	John Hale 273-2293
April 10 Saturday	<b>Grandpas Knob, Castleton</b> Hike up the service road to the open summit, site of a wind generator that failed in the 1940s. Easy uphill hike; elevation gain of 1,000 feet. A joint outing with the Breadloaf Section. Call leaders for meeting time and place.	Gordon & Helen Cawood 352-4310
April 18 Sunday 9:00 AM	<b>Merck Forest Traverse, Rupert</b> Hike through the fields and woodlands and out the south end of the preserve. Approximately 6 miles, moderate.	Larry & Viv Walter 775-3855
April 24 Saturday 6:00 PM	<b>Killing Section Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper</b> Come to the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Hillside Avenue in Rutland. Bring a generous sized dish to share and your own place setting. Hot drinks will be provided. After a short business meeting we'll have a slide presentation on the historic Long Trail Lodge by Dave Wright. Located across the road from the present Inn at Long Trail, the Lodge was owned and operated by the Green Mountain Club until 1955. Non-members welcome!	Sue Thomas 773-2185
April 25 Sunday 1:00 PM	<b>Patch Hollow, Wallingford</b> Join us for a jaunt into history at the site of a long-gone mountain settlement, and hear the story of a grizzly murder that occurred there. A good introductory hike for new members. About 4 miles, easy to moderate.	Barb & Barry Griffith 492-3573

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: March – May 2004

Schedule continued from previous page.

May 2 Sunday 9:00 AM	<b>Bristol Bushwhack</b> We'll be mostly bushwhacking through the woods, rewarded with nice views, beaver dams, wildlife, and a really big rock. Moderate, 5 miles.	Jerry Parker 775-6208
May 8 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Long Trail Spring Clearing</b> All are welcome to join us for our annual cleanup and maintenance, preparing the trail for the summer hiking season. We'll clear water bars, trim brush, and cut blowdowns on the lower elevations. Bring work gloves and sturdy shoes. Tools provided. Have fun while doing a good deed!	Herb Ogden 775-1350
May 16 Sunday 1:00 PM	<b>Wildflower Identification Hike</b> We'll go wherever the woodland flowers are most plentiful and identify as many as we can. A slow-paced, leisurely hike, to "stop and smell the flowers". Call for location.	Barb Griffith 492-3573
May 22 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Appalachian Trail, Barnard</b> We'll hike to the Lookout and the Pinnacle for views of the White Mountains and our home mountains, Killington and Pico. Lunch will be at Winturi Shelter, named for a former Killington Section member. Then on to another fine view of Mount Ascutney. Moderate, 5 miles.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
May 29 Saturday 10:00 AM Rain Date 5/30	<b>Pittsford Recreational Trails</b> Hike south from Arch Street on the Meadow Loop Trail. Join the Cadwell Trail along Furnace Brook down to Otter Creek. Loop around the short Phillips Trail, then up across Elm Street and down to rejoin the Meadow Loop Trail back to Arch Street. Moderate 5 miles.	Ray Catozzi 773-3006
June 5 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>National Trails Day – Upper Elevation Work Party</b> All across the country folks will be out today volunteering their time to maintain hiking trails. Join the Green Mountain Club in out spring cleanup on the Long/Appalachian Trail on Killington and Pico for a day of fun in the woods and worthwhile accomplishments. All welcome. Bring work gloves and sturdy shoes. Tools provided.	Herb Ogden 775-1350
June 6 Sunday 9:30 AM	<b>Amity Pond, Pomfret</b> Hike through woodlands and upland pastures to a small pond and some nice views. Easy to moderate, 3 miles.	Roma & Al Pulling 773-6997
June 11-13 Friday-Sunday	<b>Green Mountain Club Annual Meeting, East Burke</b> Business meeting, entertainment, an early morning bird walk, a mountain bike ride and a variety of hikes to choose from. See your Long Trail News or the club web site for details: <a href="http://greenmountainclub.org">greenmountainclub.org</a>	

### Want to lead a hike?

Our outing schedule is coordinated by Sue Thomas (773-2185) and Connie Youngstrom (492-3502). The summer schedule will include June through August. To make a suggestion or to get your favorite outing on the schedule, give Sue or Connie a call before May 1. Please don't wait till the last minute.



## Outing Reports

### Feeder Canal History Ramble

15 November 2003

by Sue Thomas, Leader

The Killington Section came thru last fall's hunting season unscathed and well fed, thanks to happy coincidence and a band of Red Coats. We began our history hike on a piece of the Feeder Canal bike path in Ford Edward, NY, which winds easily alongside the remnants of the old Champlain Canal, begun in 1817 to provide access for freight and passenger boats from Lake Champlain to the Hudson River



#### On the Feeder Canal

The Canal opened in 1822, linking the St. Lawrence River with New York City and enabling shipping of lumber, marble, and produce from the North Country to the busy port for the next 100 years. We enjoyed exploring the remains of the limestone locks and stopped for lunch by "The Five Combines", a series of locks which each lifted or lowered a canal boat about 11 feet in order to negotiate a 55 foot change in elevation. Someone commented that a time machine would come in handy so that we could actually see it as it

was. That's exactly what we got at our next stop, the visitors center on Rogers Island, when we arrived to find a detachment of Revolutionary War era British soldiers occupying the site!

We got a much more cordial welcome than a band of "Green Mountain Boys" should expect. In fact we were ushered in for refreshments and the debut screening of a filmed reenactment of the Battle of Saratoga. (It debuted there because apparently no space in Saratoga could be found large enough to accommodate the 1400 costumed reenactors, horses, and cannons, so the film was shot in a Fort Edward farm field.)

Far from being sore losers, the Red Coats cheerfully shared their popcorn and explained the uses of their period equipment. Perhaps they didn't fully understand our enemy status, thrown off no doubt by the familiar accents of Steve and Diana. We decided not to press our luck in the face of bayonets and retreated back to the bike path, this time a section in Glens Falls that follows the Hudson River. Interpretive signs explain that the caves in James Fennimore Cooper's "Last of the Mohicans" are hidden behind the powerful waterfalls where the trail begins.

Having returned to Rutland unperforated by either hunters' bullets or musket balls, I say the day was a success.

Postscript: My brochure detailing the history of the Feeder Canal, which was nowhere to be found the day of the hike, has resurfaced after an extensive archeological dig in my office. I'd be happy to copy it for anyone interested.

#### Grandpas Knob

6 December 2003

by Gordon & Helen Cawood, leaders

Winter storm warnings prompted us to cancel this trip. Judging from the news reports a foot or more of snow fell in the Castleton area. Belgo Brook Road would have been a bad place to be stuck. There were five parties from Killington (six or more people) planning to hike, four parties (six people) from Bread Loaf and two other folk.

We promised our callers that the hike would be rescheduled.

#### Patch Hollow from the South

13 December 2003

by Herb Ogden, leader

Ten people turned out on a beautiful mid-December day for a loop hike from the Wallingford Gulf Road (Vt. 140) to Patch Hollow. Because the Wallingford Gulf trailhead parking lot on the Long Trail is not plowed, we left our cars at a plowed pull-off about half a mile west and walked back up through the wildest part of the gulf. Observing it at pedestrian rather than automobile speed, one can see why building a road through it was quite a challenge, and therefore why the first road between Wallingford and East Wallingford was the topographically less challenging Bear Mountain Road, which the Long Trail crosses 0.6 miles north of the Wallingford Gulf Road.

This was an ideal snowshoeing day. A day's rain had shrunk the foot and a half of fluffy stuff that fell the previous weekend into about half a foot of crunchy, but not icy, firm snow. Soon we were inspecting what appears to be a barn foundation just to the east of the trail. The Griffiths said they had looked around for a house foundation but found none. We crossed the Bear Mountain Road and crunched our way up the first switchbacks to the old road from the Bear Mountain Road north to Patch Hollow, described in the article the Griffiths quoted in the February



2002 *Smoke & Blazes*. At the south end of the hollow, the old road seems to disappear under the water of Patch Brook, which beavers have triple-dammed. There was much sign of beaver activity along the shore of the big beaver pond. We stopped for lunch and sat on a beaver-chewed tree trunk while Barry Griffith read us the article about the failed tarring and feathering attempt of 1831 that left one of the would-be tarrers and featherers dead in the cabin at the north end of the hollow.



**Barry Griffith reads  
The Legend of Patch Hollow**

Occasionally following wood roads or the old Patch Hollow Road, and occasionally bushwhacking to stay away from steep shoreline, we found a small cellar hole in a flattish field with very old apple and maple trees. According to the same article, this would have been home to one of the Patch families in the 1830s. At the head of the hollow, we looked at the cellar hole of the cabin where the 1831 killing occurred, admired the view south, and rejoined the Long Trail for the hike south over Bear Mountain. Some of the rock steps were a little icy, but the hike up the mountain was beautiful, and the hike down was easy.

We saw numerous tracks of deer and small canines, but the only animals we saw were some crows. We were pleased to see no ATV tracks.

### **Mount Antone in Winter**

3 January 2003

by Steve and Diana Williams, leaders

Misty, icy, wet, foggy, fun, invigorating, slippery, slushy, snowy, opaque.

These were the adjectives put forward by the four participants (the leaders having been joined by Sue Thomas and Lynda Hutchins) to describe the outing. Bill Lucas prudently decided that the ice underfoot provided a real safety hazard as opposed to a mere challenge and did not participate after the first quarter of a mile. He then retired to the Merck Forest Visitor Center where he produced some fine artwork on the blackboard. He did, however, receive credit from the Rutland Herald for starting, as their reporter, Gordon Dritschilo, did his research for his article (in the January 4th issue) before rather than after the outing.

The original scheme was to use snowshoes, but with the rain and thawing of the previous week, boots alone were decided upon. However, given that the cleats on snowshoes would have helped, but that the trail was in places bare, there is no clear answer as to whether snowshoes would have been the better option.

Having put forward the adjectives above, there is not much more to be said, except that "opaque" refers to the view obtained from the summit of Mount Antone, at which time the party was enveloped in mist. A vote on the optimum lunch spot was unanimous in favor of the heat in the Visitor Center.

From the leaders' perspective, it was a positive group whose members took all the vicissitudes of the day and the trail in their strides.

Perhaps the spirit of the day is best summed up by Lynda's comment to the Rutland Herald 'It was between this and doing my

special-ed paperwork. This sounded more exciting. I really live for hiking.'

### **Jockey Hill**

11 January 2004

by Barbara & Barry Griffith, leaders

We awoke at 5 AM wondering whether this trip would be canceled. It was 20 below, the fourth subzero night in a row. We reread the recent newspaper article in which Sue Thomas assured readers that Killington Section hikers go out in all kinds of weather, even subzero temperatures. We put another log in the stove and waited.

The hiking gods were kind. By 10 AM it was 40 degrees warmer. We assembled 14 hikers eager to shake off cabin fever. We headed off to Shrewsbury, and our trailhead by the Tin Shanty Camp. We struck out heading north on an old road, which sees most use these days as a snowmobile trail. The recent cold snap had left it ice-covered. We were alone. Along the way, Jerry Parker and Bill Holt helped us to identify tracks of deer, moose, bobcat, fisher cat, coyote, weasel and more. What an abundance of wildlife!



**The Rock-on-the-Rock**

The snowmobile trail passes around Jockey Hill to the north, coming out at Gov. Clement Shelter. We instead struck out and began a bushwhack to the summit. The snow was compressed, making snowshoe use optional. The climb was not easy, but not that long. We arrived at the



top and our goal -- the rock on the rock.

There are those who believe that the Celts were some of the first settlers in Vermont. Years ago we were told that the 'Rock on the Rock' is one of these ancient sites, and that at the Summer Solstice the sun shines through between the rocks. Taking a compass reading the rocks do point directly north and south.....So, with a stretch of the imagination one can see the sun shining through at the next solstice.

After lunch we headed down to the snowmobile trail below, heading over a slightly alternate route. Back to our vehicles and pictures atop the ice sculpture, then onward home.

### **Eagle Rock**

18 January 2004

Larry Walter and Viv Beebe, leaders

Our destination was Eagle Rock and other mysterious parts in Castleton, Vermont. Eagle Rock is due east of Beebe Pond and Vt.. 30.

Because of prior scheduling conflicts, this was our second attempt to climb Eagle Rock. We were rewarded with favorable weather and a thumbs up from the local land owner.

We had a good turnout of 11 hardy souls. All parties successfully cleared a small logging operation at the starting point and scaled the introductory pitch. The group then patiently waited while their leader located the lookout. Although it was not a crystal clear day, we had a nice view to the west and northwest to Beebe Pond, Echo Lake, and part of Lake Hortonia. Lunchtime was spent watching the ice fisherman and a couple folks on a hand groomed skating rink. A small glitch: Sue failed to feed my addiction to trail brownies.

The next leg involved some cross country hiking to the northeast

with a couple decent vistas, eventually dropping back down though an old Christmas tree farm to Ganson Hill Road, and an old, abandoned camp. All of us, save for four, chose the shorter alternative and returned via the road to our parking spot. Those remaining continued cross-country to the northeast onto a ledge with a nice view to the west. Had we continued on out that ridge, we would have eventually rimmed out with a view over High Pond. It was at this point, however, that an alert member of the bunch (not me) remembered that at least one vehicle had been blocked in by one of our cars. So we sprint/slogged back to the point-of-beginning only to discover that our land-locked companions had somehow managed to fit a full sized automobile through a space the size of a Wal-Mart shopping basket. It was just as well that we headed back a little early, since the sun was getting a bit low in the sky. All told, most everyone had a good time. Our "most inspirational" award goes to Jerry's canine friend, Dickens.

Should anyone wish to access Eagle Rock in the future, your contact is a nice fellow named Phil Marcell at 468-5238, in Castleton.

### **Hike and Wiener Roast**

25 January 2004

by Roma Pulling, leader

What a difference a year makes! On January 25, 2003, we were at Gifford Woods with 19 hikers enjoying ideal snowshoeing conditions at 22 degrees, followed by a fantastic cookout. This year on January 25 we woke up to 13 degrees below zero. Conditions like that could be detrimental to anyone with health problems; so I told several people if they wanted to come to this neighborhood I would show them where to snowshoe and we could have a hot dog roast in the house afterward.

Not really expecting anyone to be waiting for us, we drove to the park in the morning and met one hiker! When we told him the new arrangement, he went along with it. We picked him up after his walk near the old city reservoir and brought him back to our house. We enjoyed sitting by the fireplace and then cooked our hot dogs in the microwave. Serving chips, hot chocolate and cookies to fill out the menu, we had a very pleasant social time.

See you in the spring, or at least in springlike weather.

### **Griffith Lake**

14 February 2004

by Barbara & Barry Griffith, leaders

In the late nineteenth century the hills of Mt. Tabor were the personal fiefdom of Silas Griffith. In his glory days Vermont's first millionaire owned nine sawmills and at least three dozen charcoal kilns, employing more than 600 people. Griffith was an avid trout fisherman. To indulge his passion Griffith erected a 'clubhouse' on the remote pond on the Long Trail which now bears his name. That project included construction of a carriage road, at no little expense, to bring guests and supplies from Danby village to his Griffith Lake summer home.

On Valentine's Day a dozen of us (plus Dickens) assembled to make the 3.5 mile ascent up the old carriage road, now called the Lake Trail. We were pleased to find the parking lot plowed and a snowshoe trail set before us. As we gained elevation we were rewarded by views of the marble quarry on Dorset Mountain to the west, and the Vermont Valley spread out below. By the time we reached McGinn Brook we were breaking our own trail, surprised by the amount of new snow at these higher elevations. We were pleased to have new Section



members Chuck and Gail Helfer join us for their first hike with the Club, and gratefully acknowledge their yeoman trail breaking work! After pausing for lunch, we finally made it over the ridge, joined up with the Long Trail and followed it the short remaining distance to our destination.

Frozen Griffith Lake welcomed us. We scanned the Green Mountains further to the east, identifying Peru and Styles Peaks. We chatted with some amiable riders who had arrived here via the snowmobile corridor which runs north and south through the Big Branch Wilderness. We then bid adieu, comforted by the knowledge that our return trip was downhill, on a well set trail. After seven miles and six hours we arrived back at our vehicles, where we conversed with some other returning hikers before hitting the road. Dickens immediately fell asleep in the car, all

of us tired but satisfied to have spent a good day in the great outdoors!

### **Buckner Preserve**

7 February 2004

by Lynda Hutchins, leader

After some last minute jostling(should we stay or should we go?), and several changes of plan around the mixed bag of precipitation, ten of us stalwart (foolhardy?) snowshoers crammed into two vehicles to brave the minimally-plowed West Haven road leading to the Galick Farm. The trailhead was covered in virgin snow, but not to worry, we put some of our crowd to work shoveling out the parking area.

The 2.5-mile trek through the hills, fields, and forests of the Helen W. Buckner Memorial Preserve at Bald Mountain (at 3,400 acres, the largest and most ecologically-diverse nature preserve The Nature Conservancy owns in Vermont) gave

us commanding views of the peninsula. Though several in our party appeared to be disappointed we did not come upon the likes of the peregrine falcon nor the eastern timber rattlesnake (some of the rare species that can be found at the Preserve, season permitting!), we were able to appreciate how the Poultney River sweeps the peninsula on the east, and Lake Champlain on the west and south.

The weather gods eventually smiled upon us and the sun even graced us with his presence. Although the trip leader had forgotten some of the more challenging aspects of the trail (there were no steep, ice-covered rock masses in the fall!), most of the eager participants managed to return with no other infirmities than wet buttocks.

---

### **Meeting, continued from page 1**

emergencies. From discussion it appeared that there were no strong views pro or con. It was agreed that Herb Ogden will invite Gary Salmon of Vt. Forests, Parks & Recreation to our summer directors' meeting to discuss the matter. Related ideas considered were to place maps on trees adjacent to the Bucklin Trail (which is the route many lost skiers take) and leaving a rescue sled somewhere on, or close to, the trail.

Herb presented the idea of having toolboxes located at certain high elevation points, containing hoes and pry bars in particular. This idea was supported and Herb was requested to look into it further.

Waterbury staff will be

working on the permit for a new shelter between Governor Clement and Cooper Lodge during 2004 (though it is not clear if construction is scheduled for 2005 or later).

There is an open question of whether a bridge should be recommended to the Waterbury HQ for Gould Stream (on the LT between the Upper and Lower Cold River Roads). This point needs further consideration.

Herb will contact Pete Ketchum (Waterbury) to see if the state can be persuaded to dig a drainage trench round the Route 4 LT trailhead parking lot.

**Requirements for Chain Saw use in Appalachian Trail Corridor**

Steve Williams reported from

his attendance at a Waterbury meeting (see below) that it appears that user certification requirements will indeed be in force and that all should be prepared for it. Herb reported that some study is being made of the possibility of a shortened certification process for long time experienced chain saw users.

### **Next Outing Schedule**

Sue Thomas reported that this is well in hand with no shortage of willing outing leaders.

### **Next Smoke & Blazes**

(Pre meeting) Bob Perkins advised that this is well in hand. A request was made to Bob to include the Section's website address on the schedule page.



### Publicity Panel

Post Meeting Note: Andrea McQuade reports that she continues to search for a downtown location for the promotional panels she has prepared and is cautiously optimistic about finding a good location shortly.

### Governor Clement Shelter Update

Norm Cohen and Rebecca Price are working on a draft ordinance to put before the Shrewsbury selectmen. Barry Griffith will contact them to check on progress and, as soon as it is available, provide an opportunity for the directors and others (in the section) interested to review it.

In the longer term, should the ordinance not prove effective, then probably the shelter will have to be abandoned and the trail relocated. In this event a local skimobile club could well take over the shelter.

### Annual General Meeting

Post Meeting Note: The selected date is April 24<sup>th</sup> for which date Sue has reserved the Lutheran Church hall and is also arranging a speaker.

### Report on the GMC Waterbury Directors' January 24 Meeting

Being unable to attend on the revised meeting date Lynda Hutchins presented comprehensive meeting notes. From these Steve highlighted:

The impending GMC budget deficit for 2004/2005 of \$45,000;

The high costs of the new headquarters plan (\$965,000+),

The planned work on the Lamoille bridge during 2004, and

The annual general meeting planned for June 11-13 at Burke Mountain.

### Report on participation in GMC Waterbury Volunteers' Focus Group meeting.

Steve highlighted the following points from the meeting:

Consideration is being given to the formation of specialist teams for certain tasks such as rock clearing and drainage (bridges and shelters being already adequately covered).

Many participants thought that a build-up to work days and the possibility of some socialization before or after is

worthwhile

Several participants reported success with having a representative at EMS club days to be worthwhile. (Based on this observation the section will try to participate on the planned April 24/25 club days).

EMS has been willing to kick in \$500 per project on certain trail days.

### Website

Steve reported that from recent review this appeared to be working well; also that there is a link to the Waterbury website.

### Next Meeting

Annual general meeting will be, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Lutheran Church Hall.

### Other Business

After discussion of the benefits of Rutland Herald publicity, Sue was requested to notify Steve of any outings (e.g. Patch Hollow) where there is a story with either historical or other potentially newsworthy element, whereupon Steve will contact the Herald to see if he can induce coverage of the outing.





## Your Invitation to Join **Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

### ANNUAL DUES:

Individual..... \$30  
Family..... \$40  
Senior/Student/Volunteer..... \$20  
Individual Lifetime..... \$750  
Family Lifetime..... \$1000

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_ trail work, \_\_\_ shelter work, \_\_\_ sign making, \_\_\_ publications, \_\_\_ leading outings, \_\_\_ publicity, \_\_\_ education, \_\_\_ other.

Make check payable to **Killington Section, GMC** and mail with this application to:

Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701





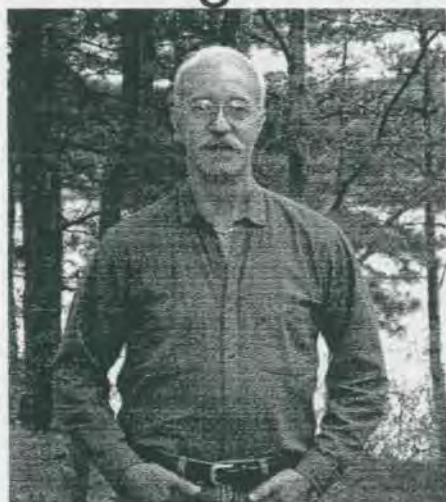
# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 57, Number 2

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

May 2004

## Killington Section elects three new Directors



**John Hale**



**Lynda Hutchins**



**Cynthia Taylor-Miller**

Former Killington Section Directors Bob Perkins, Jake Sherman, and Connie Youngstrom retire due to term limits after six years service. A full report of the April 24<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and potluck supper begins on page 8.

## Rolston Roost razed; replacement to be raised

Located on the Long Trail five miles north of Sherburne Pass, just beyond the area assigned to the Killington Section, Rolston Roost Shelter (aka Rolston Rest), built in 1966, had seen many porcupines and better days. Supervised by Dave Hardy, GMC Director of Field Programs, and coordinated by Marge Fish of the Manchester Section, groups of volunteers demolished the structure and on 21 April applied a torch to the remains.

Later this summer a new shelter will be constructed on the same site. On the weekend of July 30/31 materials will be brought in and the foundation will be laid. The next weekend, August 7/8, Rolston Roost II will be built.

Volunteers are needed. Anyone wishing to help on any of these dates is asked to contact Marge Fish for information and directions. Phone: 802-824-3662 or, as she prefers, email: [tortoise@sover.net](mailto:tortoise@sover.net).



**Dave Hardy monitors the burn**



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

**Librarians, take note:** The February 2004 issue of *Smoke & Blazes* was incorrectly designated as Volume 56. Actually, it is Volume 57, Number 1.

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2005 ..... Barbara Griffith  
" ..... \* Bill Robichaud  
" ..... Steve Williams  
2006 ..... Andrea McQuade  
" ..... Roma Pulling  
" ..... \* Susan Thomas  
2007 ..... John Hale  
" ..... Lynda Hutchins  
" ..... Cynthia Taylor-Miller

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President ..... Steve Williams  
Vice President ..... Barbara Griffith  
Secretary ..... John Hale  
Treasurer ..... Roma Pulling

### Committee Chairs

History ..... Bob Perkins  
Outings ..... Susan Thomas  
Trails & Shelters ..... Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director ..... Lynda Hutchins  
Alternate ..... Alfred Pulling

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor ..... Bob Perkins

### Web Site

Web master ..... Deborah Waggett

## Vermonttrivia

In the February issue we asked:

**Q1. Which crossing of a large brook on a Killington Section trail is where no brook used to be?**

**A1.** The lower crossing of Brewers Brook on the Bucklin Trail. The brook flowed south into Eddy Brook until it was rerouted to provide water for Rutland City. (Herb Ogden).

**Q2. What is the largest (population) American city that shares its name with a Vermont town?**

**A2.** The expected wrong answer was Washington, DC (572,059). One out-of-state reader, not appreciative of the Vermont distinction between town and village, proposed Jacksonville, FL (735,617). Our answer: Baltimore, MD (651,154). (Barry Griffith).

**Q2a. Name two states and four foreign countries that share their names with Vermont towns.**

**A2a.** The states: Washington and Georgia. The countries: Holland, Jamaica, Peru and – *drum roll* – Georgia, a country since 1991.

**Q3. Why was the old Blue Triangle camp so named?**

**A3.** The camp, built about 1932 at a cost of \$550, was a gift of the Blue Triangle Club of the State YMCA whose emblem is based on a blue triangle. Girls clubs from around the state, including one at Rutland's Longfellow School, contributed to the cost. The Blue Triangle was the only GMC shelter seriously damaged by the great hurricane and flood of 1938 and was disassembled soon thereafter.

Here's another trivia question: Vermont's first footpath in the wilderness was the venerable Crown Point Road, carved out during the French & Indian War in 1759 as a supply line between Fort No. 4 (NH) and Crown Point (NY).

**Q4. In what Vermont town does the route of the Crown Point Road intersect the Long Trail? (Barry Griffith).**

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>**

Barbara Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

John Hale, 170 Spooner Point or PO Box 506, Castleton, VT 05735, [john@lighters.com](mailto:john@lighters.com)

Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, [lmhutch@shoreham.net](mailto:lmhutch@shoreham.net)

Andrea McQuade, 36 Morse Place, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-6273, [andrea6273@aol.com](mailto:andrea6273@aol.com)

Herbert Ogden, 20 Birchwood Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, (H)775-1350, (W)775-3368, [hogden@adelphia.net](mailto:hogden@adelphia.net)

Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, [rperkinsvt@aol.com](mailto:rperkinsvt@aol.com)

Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, [ral37@juno.com](mailto:ral37@juno.com)

William Robichaud, 215 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2567

Cynthia Taylor-Miller, 337 Easy St., Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [ctmiller@vermontel.net](mailto:ctmiller@vermontel.net)

Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Deborah Waggett, 21 Academy St., Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, [waggett@aol.com](mailto:waggett@aol.com)

Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, [voorburg@sover.net](mailto:voorburg@sover.net)



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: June – Aug. 2004

Visit our web site: <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Trips leave from Rutland City Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at the times shown unless otherwise stated. Non-members are welcome. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear and dress for weather changes. Distances are approximate round trip; difficulty indicates steepness and footing. For more information about a trip, please call the trip leader listed at the right.

June 5 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>National Trails Day – Upper Elevation Work Party</b> All across the country folks will be out today volunteering their time to maintain hiking trails. Join the Green Mountain Club in out spring cleanup on the Long/Appalachian Trail on Killington and Pico for a day of fun in the woods and worthwhile accomplishments. All welcome. Bring work gloves and sturdy shoes. Tools provided.	Herb Ogden 775-1350
June 6 Sunday 9:30 AM	<b>Amity Pond, Pomfret</b> Hike through woodlands and upland pastures to a small pond and some nice views. Easy to moderate, 3 miles.	Roma & Al Pulling 773-6997
June 11-13 Friday-Sunday	<b>Green Mountain Club Annual Meeting, East Burke</b> Business meeting, entertainment, an early morning bird walk, a mountain bike ride and a variety of hikes to choose from. See your Long Trail News or the club web site for details: <a href="http://greenmountainclub.org">greenmountainclub.org</a>	See your <i>Long Trail News</i>
June 19 Saturday 1:00 PM rain date 6/20	<b>Fourteenth Annual Taconic Mountain Ramble, Hubbardton</b> Massive cliffs, rolling meadows, mountain peaks with views north, south, east, and west, a Japanese garden full of waterfalls, plus other goodies. Wine and cheese afterward. Easy to moderate, ½ to 3 miles. Walkers can leave the group at several points and wait on the lawn for the rest. Bring no lunch.	Kit Davidson 273-2982
June 20 Sunday 10:00 AM	<b>Otter Creek Kayak or Canoe</b> An easy to moderate day on the Creek. Bring lunch, water, and sunscreen. Call leaders for location and more information.	Barb Griffith 492-3573 Lynda Hutchins 948-2770
June 26 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Pico Loop, Killington</b> Hike up to Pico Camp via the “old” Long Trail and descend via the current trail past Churchill Scott Shelter. Moderate, 6 miles with some steep climbing.	Ray Catozzi 773-3006
June 27 Sunday 9:00 AM	<b>Bike Trip, Middlebury</b> Gently rolling terrain for 16.7 miles past waterfalls, covered bridges and the Morgan Horse Farm.	Larry & Viv Walter 775-3855
July 10 Saturday 8:00 AM	<b>Long Trail – Sucker Brook to Mount Horrid, Goshen</b> Follow the Long Trail south along a ridge with many vistas, to Brandon Gap where we hope to see Peregrine Flacons. Moderate, 6.5 miles.	Barb & Barry Griffith 492-3573

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: June – Aug 2004

Schedule continued from previous page.

July 11 Sunday 1:00 PM	<b>Children's Adventure Series</b> A short, easy hike for the entire family.	Jerry Parker 775-6208
July 17 Saturday 8:30 AM Rain date 7/18	<b>Long Trail – Skyline Lodge to Middlebury Gap</b> We'll cross the summits of Battell Mountain, Mt. Boyce, Kirby Peak, and Burnt Hill as we traverse this range in the Breadloaf Wilderness. Moderate, 7.5 miles with some climbing.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
July 24 Saturday 9:00 AM rain date 7/25	<b>Black Mountain, New York</b> We'll go up the main trail from the east that we came down on last year. Then down last year's up trail past two ponds and shelters. Moderate, 5 miles with some steep climbing.	Ray Catozzi 773-3006
July 31 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Long Trail, Mendon</b> Follow the Long and Appalachian Trails in the Deer Leap area. Moderate 4 to 5 miles.	Andrea McQuade 775-5104
August 7 Saturday 10:00 AM	<b>Walk the Old Roads of Bridgewater</b> About 5 miles along abandoned roads near Ragged Hill and Raymond Hill. Some vistas and the parklike remains of an old farm. Moderate.	Herb Ogden 775-1350
August 14 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Otter Creek Kayak or Canoe, Proctor to Florence</b> Float past farmland and covered bridges.	Jerry Parker 775-6208
Aug 21 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Haystack Mountain, Pawlet</b> We'll climb to the summit for a spectacular view of the Mettawee River valley and soaring hawks and falcons, then traverse the historic Tunket Road. Moderate, 4 to 5 miles with some climbing.	Steve & Diana Williams 645-9529
August 29 Sunday 10:00 AM	<b>Tree Identification Hike, Mendon</b> We'll spend the day in the Aitken State Forest with expert Gary Salmon of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation learning to identify native species and discussing natural sequencing and stand replacement. Moderate terrain; some climbing possible.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
September 11 Saturday	<b>Mount Carmel, Pittsfield</b> Joint hike with the Breadloaf Section. We'll hike to the Long Trail from the Pittsfield side, then climb to the summit, site of a former fire tower. Moderate, 6 miles. Some steep climbing on an unmaintained trail. Call leaders for meeting time and place.	Gordon & Helen Cawood 352-4310

**Want to lead a hike?** Our outing schedule is coordinated by Outings Chair Sue Thomas (773-2185). The fall schedule will include September through November. To make a suggestion or to get your favorite outing on the schedule, give Sue a call before August 1. Please don't wait till the last minute.



## Outing Reports

### Tucker-Johnson Shelter

21 February, 2004

By Andrea McQuade, leader

A group of new and veteran club members snowshoed from Route 4 to Tucker-Johnson Lodge on a wintry day. We had to break trail in some places, but overall the snow depth was manageable. After eating lunch at the Lodge, we decided to venture a little further on and headed for a lookout site recommended to us by other hikers we met on the trail. Light snow fell during parts of the trip, and our mascot, Dickens, made sure we kept up a good pace.

### Ice Capades in Mendon

7 March 2004

By Sue Thomas, leader

Mother Nature played a nasty trick on us the week before our early March hike from Tamarack Notch to Brewers Corner – several warm, sunny days followed by a freeze turned the old road we planned to follow into a skating rink. Many a graceful double axel and spin were executed as we made our way up the icy hill, and the thought of the long slide down the other side filled us with dread. Luckily the far side of the hill seemed to be in a different climate zone, and soft snow made the descent uneventful. We stopped for lunch at McLaughlin Falls before joining the Catamount Trail for the final leg to Brewers.



Late winter shadows  
above McLaughlin Falls

### Lake Bomoseen Cookout

21 March 2004

By Roma Pulling, leader

We have fired our weatherman! I mean, after delivering life-threatening cold temperatures the first time we attempted this outing, weren't we due nice sunny, warm conditions? But no, we got rain, sleet and snow. He/she is history. One potential hiker was even driven back home by slippery driving conditions on the mountain.



Al Pulling  
"Doin' what comes naturally"

Nevertheless, seven people turned out and we got on with it. At the state park we occupied a shelter with a nearby grill before starting a hike on the Bomoseen Loop with Jerry and Dickens as leaders. We encountered light rain intermittently but were well bundled and took it in stride. There was some bare ground and a few patches of snow and no need to wear snowshoes. At one point we had a nice view of Glen Lake as we proceeded through the woods.

Back at the shelter, Alfred had a fire started, and we roasted hot dogs and enjoyed a great lunch with the hot cocoa and coffee provided by the Section. As we rested comfortably under the shelter roof, we could

thumb our noses at a sleet storm outside. Our schedule afforded an early return home so that we were able to arrive safely before the snowstorm and slippery roads that occurred later that day.

### Snake Mountain

3 April 2004

By John Hale, leader

We had the Club's oldest associate with us: 98 years old, not many teeth, but four legs and indefatigable, Dickens by name. We also had our share of mud on the old summit carriage road going up Snake Mountain.

It's named Snake Mountain because of the serpentine shape of the ridge rather than its denizens; and we followed the ridge past the tiny Red Rocks Pond to the summit taking our lunch on the foundation remains of the Grand View Hotel (circa. 1870). The view certainly is grand looking west over Lake Champlain, the Adirondacks and Lynda's school in Addison.

It was 1.8 miles up with a 900 foot change in elevation and we made it in about two hours; a very nice day outdoors with friends.

### Grandpas Knob

10 April 2004

By Gordon and Helen Cawood, leaders

Someone on today's hike brought along nice weather. The hike leaders cannot take credit for this. Whoever it was: thank you. Next time make it a little warmer and a little less windy. Some hikers weren't quite prepared for the crisp weather. Seventeen hikers and one pup climbed the service road to the peak of Grandpa's Knob. It is a bald summit with good viewing in all directions except north.

Everyone stood in dutiful attention for a lecture about the



experimental wind turbine that had been erected on this spot during WWII, providing electricity for CVPS for a period of 16 months. Gordon described the equipment failure in which an 8-ton steel blade was tossed 750 feet. All that is left now are 4 concrete pedestals which once supported the 107-foot tower. No-one disputed Gordon's claims. But, since then, Barbara Griffith found a more detailed write-up about the wind turbine at the Rutland Historical Society. Thanks, Barbara.



Killington & Breadloaf hikers  
on Grandpas Knob

For lunch, the group retired to a more sheltered spot where we could examine unusual rock formations. These are two rock outcroppings, the crowns of which were shaped by normal weathering. While the bases had been undercut, presumably, by running glacial icemelt, giving the rocks a top-heavy appearance.

Thanks for coming, all. We enjoyed your company. It made for a very pleasant outing.

### Merck Forest Traverse

18 April 2004

By Larry Walter & Viv Bebee,  
leaders

Initial activities involved spotting cars at the end of Hidden Valley Road on the other side of West Rupert. The weather was beautiful for all 22 of us on our hike up Old Towne Road. We eventually reached Ninorod Cabin via Birch Pond, only to retreat when several dogs made their presence known. A suitable site with a nice view was

settled on for lunch. We then continued on to Bebee Pond and eventually onto Lookout Road and a nice overlook to the south. No bugs and shirtsleeve weather. It doesn't get much better.

We backtracked to Lookout Road and continued southerly to Old Town Road and then southwesterly along the brook to our waiting automobiles. This was arguably the most challenging part of the trip, trying to shoe-horn everyone into our vehicles for the return loop. After much head counting and head scratching we had everyone on board (or at least I think so). This would make a good snow shoe in the reverse direction. Let's keep that in mind.

Our youngest hike leader for a portion of the hike was my workout buddy, Kyle Bizon. Good job Kyle!

### Patch Hollow

25 April 2004

By Barry & Barbara Griffith, leaders

We scheduled and advertised this as an easy Sunday afternoon hike, on the day after our Section's Saturday evening Annual Meeting and in conjunction with EMS Club Days. The thought was to offer members who support the Club by paying dues, and others who might be interested in joining the Green Mountain Club, with a chance to get out with us to enjoy the Great Outdoors, without having to commit to a strenuous trek.

It seems the strategy worked. We assembled 29 hikers. Perhaps a third of these were "regulars." A second component consisted of Killington Section members who often choose not to attempt longer forays. We also greeted a third group of non-members interested in hiking with us for the afternoon. Mission accomplished!

We proceeded to our trailhead at Spring Lake Ranch, and set off on the old wood road south toward our destination. We recalled our last Section hike along this route in 2003 on snowshoes. That required exertion -- especially by those breaking the trail! By comparison, this time the gradual upward ascent along the bare and surprisingly dry trail was easy, as advertised. We had a cleared route before us. We intersected with the AT/LT and continued south to our destination -- Patch Hollow.

This seemingly remote location was inhabited two centuries ago, and was the scene of a noteworthy homicide in 1833. We read the account of this tragedy from the History of Wallingford. Those of you who do not know of the tale are invited on the next hike to this site to learn the details! This was a perfect time of year to look for foundations of old buildings. We located two, and based on measurements concluded one was "the scene of the crime." It was also a great time of the year to look for flora and fauna which we did. The headwaters of Patch Creek, which flows southerly toward Route 140, include beavers as residents. They were annoyed by our presence, and let us know it!



Beaver Lodge near Patch Hollow

Our exploring done, we retraced our steps heading north. Upon reaching the Spring Lake Ranch property border, in lieu of a direct route back we continued along the AT/LT corridor until we arrived at



Minerva Hinchey Shelter. We inspected it, and discussed its history. We signed the journal, thanking Shelter Adopter Mrs. Gorp for her fine maintenance of the site. We then struck out, diverging from the Long Trail, to the east and toward our trailhead.

We were not done. We opted for a final leg which took us to the northerly end of Spring Lake -- finally free of ice! We admired the Lake in the foreground, and the Coolidge Range -- Mendon, Big & Little Killington and Shrewsbury Peaks -- in the background to the north. An excellent view!!

From there, we finally took the road back to our vehicles. Another great afternoon in the Great Outdoors!!!

### **Bristol Bushwhack**

2 May 2004

By Barbara Griffith

We were a party of 8 plus Dickens, leader Jerry's side kick. It was a sunny hot day for early May. We whacked through bushes and the bushes whacked back at us! Several trees along the way were pointed out where moose had gnawed off the bark.

Jerry led us first to the site of a late 1800 logging camp. Foundations for two buildings were identified. We came to the conclusion that one was a mess hall and the other a bunkhouse. Pieces of two stoves were found, one probably to heat and one a cooking stove.

After eating lunch our destination was a large rock that our leader had come upon on another trek. It proved elusive at first but was found and everyone, even Dickens, scrambled aboard for great views to the west. After photo opportunities the group descended via an old donkey trail to a cascading waterfall.

Up the trail once again and our final descent.

It was a great day to be outside.

### **Lowland Work Party**

8 May 2004

By Herb Ogden,

Trails & Shelters Chair

The 13.1 miles of the Long Trail from Wallingford Gulf to Gov. Clement Shelter was in good to excellent condition after the season's first work party, thanks to a dozen or so volunteers.

The sector checker system set up a few years ago again proved its worth. Sector checkers were Cindy Taylor-Miller (Wallingford Gulf to Minerva Hinchey Shelter), Steve and Diana Williams (Minerva Hinchey Shelter to Clarendon Gorge), Connie and Mark Youngstrom (Lottery Road. to Lower Cold River Road.), and Barbara and Barry Griffith (Lower Cold River Road. to Gov. Clement Shelter). They fixed minor problems and told the Trails & Shelters Chair where the bigger ones were and what tools were needed, so the trail crews could focus on them. This is a big improvement over the old scheme of trying to cover all the miles with all the possible tools in one day.

Most of the problems were blowdowns, especially on the Bear Mountain sector and north of the Lottery Road. All were removed, except for a few low ones that should deter wheeled vehicles. Confusing blazes at the Airport Lookout south of Clarendon Gorge were noted and fixed a few days later. Wooden steps north of the Gov. Clement Road crossing were restored and the trail just south of Gov. Clement Shelter was moved a few feet to avoid a wet area and ditched a bit. Even with all that, at least two of the crews finished by mid-afternoon.

Our next work party day is National Trails Day, Saturday 5 June. That is when we will try to spruce up (or, in the case of certain evergreen blowdowns, de-spruce) the remaining 12 miles of Long Trail and all 9.3 miles of side trails. That is a bigger job than the lowland piece, so I hope you come and bring your friends!

### **Wildflower Identification Hike**

16 May 2004

By Barbara & Barry Griffith, leaders

May afforded us a beautiful day and the wildflower display was spectacular. Twenty-four people showed up for this hike (plus Dog Dickens). Our destination was Little Rock Pond in Mt. Tabor. It's an easy, pretty flat 4-mile round trip hike. It's a popular spot and has camping/tenting sites (for a fee). One can walk around the pond. We chose to stop and smell the flowers instead.



Barry & Barb briefing in the park

Flowers found: common strawberry, yellow violets, Jack-in-the-pulpit, false Solomon's seal, smooth Solomon's seal, dwarf ginseng, wild sarsaparilla, Canada Mayflower, painted trillium, purple trillium, partridgeberry, pink, starflower, foamflower, Indian cucumber (some even tasted it's root), Twisted stalk and two or three unidentified. As anyone who enjoys wildflowers knows, each week one will find different flowers in bloom. It was a great day to be outside and a nice group to be with.



# Killington Section Annual Meeting and potluck supper

By Jake Sherman, Secretary

The Killington Section annual meeting was held at the Lutheran Church in Rutland Vermont on April 24, 2004. The meeting was called to order by section president Steve Williams at 7:20 PM. following an excellent potluck supper.

## Section President's Report

Steve reported that everything appeared to be thriving and that good hikes and other programs were taking place every weekend. We are always looking for new members and it is encouraging to find more people showing up at meetings. Steve extended a warm welcome to special guest, Andrew Nuquist, president of the Green Mountain Club, Dave Hardy, GMC Field Supervisor, and our guest speaker, David Wright of Middletown Springs.

## GMC President's Remarks

Andrew Nuquist began his remarks by noting that he has been a member of the Montpelier section since 1970 and therefore knows how dependent the main club is on the work of the sections. He felt communication between Waterbury and the sections had improved in the past few years. In other areas he noted:

A bridge will be built across the Lamoille River this summer, but the Winooski crossing is still an issue and we will need to live with the present situation for awhile.

There are only seven more miles of trail to be protected and the campaign will be winding down; we will focus on being a steward of what we have.

The loss of the South Barn to fire a couple of years ago continues to be keenly felt and a three phase reconstruction plan is underway. The

Centennial Capital Campaign Committee will be assessing fund raising and reporting on it at the September board meeting. There needs to be a plan for maintenance as well. Hopefully, construction can begin in 2005.

The subject of raising dues has been discussed and an increase within the next five years is likely. However, since we don't want to lose members this will be put off as long as possible.

## Secretary's Report

Secretary Jake Sherman summarized the minutes of the 2003 annual meeting as previously printed in *Smoke & Blazes*. The minutes were approved as printed.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Roma Pulling distributed copies of the section's financial status. The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

## Trails and Shelters Report

Herb Ogden reported the following:

The highlight this year has been the bridge over Brewer's Brook on the Bucklin Trail. Barb Griffith and Mark Youngstrom were instrumental in its completion. The new bridge is a sophisticated production and a far cry from the first span built many years ago by Herb's father.

Minerva Hinchey Shelter needs some work

Gov. Clement Shelter is a perpetual problem. We are still pursuing a three-pronged approach in attempting to curtail the activities of rowdies and partiers who have vandalized the shelter and hassled hikers. Getting ordinances in place that make roadside parking up there illegal is seen as a good first step.

We are working with the Shrewsbury selectmen and they are sympathetic.

Cooper Lodge adopter, Peter Decker, has concluded that Cooper is a lost cause. There is continued vandalism and no windows. People continue to trash it and ski off the roof. The GMC Trail Management Committee has therefore voted to close it. The shelter won't be removed but it is likely the walls will be reduced to two feet in height. The previous adopters, Ruth and Sandy Lamb, reluctantly came to the conclusion that it couldn't be saved. It is too bad since the solid CCC-built fully-enclosed structure at the 3800 foot level on Killington's west face has been one of the most attractive shelters on the entire LT. Plans are afoot to build a replacement shelter about two miles north of Gov. Clement just before you get into the softwoods.

Pico Camp is in good shape. A new privy was built there last year. The front windows have also been replaced. The current adopter is Sue Thomas.

Tucker-Johnson looks like it will need some major work. The sill is rotting.

The lower part of the Cauty trail will be relocated on USFS land.

Gary Salmon discovered a road parallel to the Bucklin Trail which could serve the ATVers.

Bill Robichaud was recognized for being a one man trail crew. He puts in a phenomenal number of hours.

## Field Supervisor's Remarks

Dave Hardy, GMC Field Supervisor, reported on the following items:

Cooper Lodge will stay until



there is approval to build a new shelter. Though there is a bear habitat on the south slope of Killington Peak, it shouldn't be too difficult to secure approval for the shelter. Meanwhile, the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) has raised the sleeping deck at Churchill Scott Shelter.

The AT/LT parking lot on Route 4 will have an engineered parking lot put in.

Minerva Hinchey Shelter is not in the federal corridor but is fortunate to have a good neighbor in Spring Lake Ranch. Work is being done with Spring Lake Ranch to get an easement to enable the shelter to stay where it is.

Rolston Rest Shelter, located on the LT five miles north of Route 4, was burned by the GMC on April 21. A replacement shelter will be constructed over the weekend of August 7-8. All materials will be delivered to within 500 feet of the construction site.

Glastenbury Tower – The U.S. Forest Service decided that the tower wasn't safe and removed the bottom two flights of stairs to prevent access. The GMC's goal is to get the tower reopened as soon as possible as it offers some of the most unspoiled panoramas in Vermont.

Lamoille Bridge – Has been

mired in the Act 250 process for three years but construction will at last take place this September. It will be a cable suspension bridge.

### **Smoke and Blazes Report**

Editor Bob Perkins reported that we continue to publish every quarter. Bob thanked the hike leaders for submitting hike reports and encouraged them to get their reports in as soon as possible after the hike.

We have an agreement with the Rutland Historical Society to house our materials.

### **Outings Committee Report**

Sue Thomas, Outings Chair, reiterated the importance of getting hike leaders' plans in early.

### **GMC Director's Report**

Green Mountain Club Director Lynda Hutchins reported the following:

The main club's budget achieved a balanced budget for the upcoming year but with difficulty.

The Wheeler Pond camps in the Northeast Kingdom are doing quite well.

There will be a ballot in the *Long Trail News* on the wilderness and wind power issues

A copy of the new LT map will be given free to anyone who donates

\$50 or more.

Several million dollars will need to be raised to meet the construction program that has been planned.

### **New Business**

Retiring directors Bob Perkins, Jake Sherman, and Connie Youngstrom were thanked for their service.

Elected as new directors were John Hale, Lynda Hutchins, and Cynthia Taylor-Miller.

During a brief recess of the general meeting, the directors elected the following officers:

Steve Williams.....President  
Barbara Griffith.....Vice-President  
John Hale.....Secretary  
Roma Pulling.....Treasurer.

### **Adjournment and Program**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM and was followed by an excellent slide show on the history of the Long Trail Lodge presented by David Wright. The lodge existed on the south side of Sherburne Pass from 1921 until it burned in October of 1968 and for various periods was owned and managed by David's uncle and father. The lodge attracted hikers and vacationers and was the site of many GMC annual meetings up into the 1950s.

## **Thank You, Vermont Country Store!**

By Herb Ogden, Trails & Shelters  
Chair

The Vermont Country Store has sent us \$500 to buy a couple of grub hoes or hazel hoes and wood for some bog bridges. The donation was made at the direction of the Community Action Team at the North Clarendon distribution center.

Section member Kathleen Wood came up with the idea.

This is a good time for such a gift, because we had to take several thousand dollars from the Kirk Trails & Shelters Fund last year to pay for the upper Brewers Brook bridge on the Bucklin Trail. With this generous gift, we can get grub hoes, which are

the best tools to clear out waterbars and ditches. There will be over \$400 left over to buy hemlock for bog bridges on the Long Trail and maybe the bottom of the Canty Trail.

Many thanks to the Vermont Country Store and its local Community Action Team!



## Your Invitation to Join **Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

### ANNUAL DUES:

Individual .....	\$30
Family .....	\$40
Senior/Student/Volunteer .....	\$20
Individual Lifetime .....	\$750
Family Lifetime .....	\$1000

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_\_trail work, \_\_\_\_shelter work, \_\_\_\_sign making, \_\_\_\_publications, \_\_\_\_leading outings, \_\_\_\_publicity, \_\_\_\_education

\*  
Make check payable to Killington Section, GMC and mail with this application to:

Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701





# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 57, Number 3

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

August 2004

## Killington Section outing on the Poultney River

By Lynda Hutchins  
20 June 2004

On a mostly clear, bright Father's Day, nine enthusiastic seafarers (and one mutt of questionable lineage) set forth in kayaks and canoe from the bridge on Book Road down the mighty Poultney. Destination: the bridge near the Galick property, about a mile from the mouth, in which the waterway joins Lake Champlain in its meandering northward journey.

Although it may not be immediately apparent to the casual observer (what, no rapids?), this 40-mile river, which originates in the Taconic Mountains in Tinmouth, is impressive in its own regard, having been declared in June of 1991 an Outstanding Water Resource by the Vermont Water Resources Board for its outstanding natural and cultural resources.

Yes, beneath its calm, gently flowing exterior, the Poultney River is teeming with life and biodiversity, housing 55% of the fish species that live in Vermont (more species than live in any other river in the state). As if that's not enough, the river is home to 12 of Vermont's 17 species of mussels, the greatest



Putting in

Photo by Lynda Hutchins

diversity of freshwater mussels in New England! Not to mention that the Poultney has been a transportation corridor and home to many groups of people throughout the past several thousand years.

Unfortunately, after 7.2 miles of paddling, time and the muscles of the crew gave out, and they were unable to scout for the *Linnet*, a sunken boat from the War of 1812 which is rumored to be visible during low water

near the mouth of the Poultney. However, sightings of wildlife (a doe with fawn, Baltimore orioles, cedar waxwings, bank beaver, great blue herons), remnants of wildlife (was that the skin of a rattlesnake or a black rat snake?), good company, and a bushwhacking visit to the antiquated McFarren cemetery made for a successful voyage.

*Note: Background information provided by The Nature Conservancy Curriculum, 2002*



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2005 .....	Barbara Griffith
" .....	* Bill Robichaud
" .....	Steve Williams
2006 .....	Andrea McQuade
" .....	Roma Pulling
" .....	* Susan Thomas
2007 .....	John Hale
" .....	Lynda Hutchins
" .....	Cynthia Taylor-Miller

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President .....	Steve Williams
Vice President .....	Barbara Griffith
Secretary .....	John Hale
Treasurer .....	Roma Pulling

### Committee Chairs

History .....	Bob Perkins
Outings .....	Susan Thomas
Trails & Shelters .....	Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director .....	Lynda Hutchins
Alternate .....	Alfred Pulling

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor .....

### Web Site

Web master ..... Deborah Waggett

## Vermonttrivia

In the May issue we asked:

### Q4. In what Vermont town does the route of the Crown Point Road intersect the Long Trail?

A4. The Long Trail crosses the Crown Point Road in Shrewsbury, north of Route 103. You will recall that the AT/LT, before its relocation to the west, proceeded north from 103 along an abandoned town highway to Clarendon Shelter (also in Shrewsbury). It is believed that a stretch of that old town highway was a part of the CPR, which then proceeded westerly between Clarendon Gorge to the south (also in Shrewsbury) and the hill rising steeply to the north. We can't say precisely where the current AT/LT crosses the old CPR, but it was along that short stretch of the trail. (Barry Griffith, proud resident of Shrewsbury.)

Barry, so far our most prolific trivialist, has posed another in our Towns of Vermont genre. We all know that the town of Montpelier is the capital of Vermont.

### Q5. Name nine state capitals, in addition to Montpelier, and three national capitals, that share their names with Vermont towns.

We've been watching the Olympic Games in Athens recently where the motto is "Swifter, Higher, Stronger". Most of the hikers I know look with some silent disdain at the compulsive through-hikers and peak-baggers who apply those priorities to our sport. We tend to enjoy the journey rather than covet the destination. One the other hand, it is fun and gratifying to reach a measurable goal. I have my own list of the high points of Rutland County towns. [See *Smoke & Blazes*, February 2002.]

Here's one that should be of special interest to any Long Trail End-to-Enders.

### Q6. Where are the five highest and five lowest elevations on the Long Trail proper?

White blazes only; spur and side trails don't count.

### Contact Information – Web Site – <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Barbara Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

John Hale, 170 Spooner Point or PO Box 506, Castleton, VT 05735, [john@lighters.com](mailto:john@lighters.com)

Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, [lmhutch@shoreham.net](mailto:lmhutch@shoreham.net)

Andrea McQuade, 36 Morse Place, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-6273, [andrea6273@aol.com](mailto:andrea6273@aol.com)

Herbert Ogden, 214 South End Road., Mt. Tabor, VT 05253-9756, (H)293-2510, (W)774-2200, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, [rperkinsvt@aol.com](mailto:rperkinsvt@aol.com)

Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, [pullingra137@aol.com](mailto:pullingra137@aol.com)

William Robichaud, 215 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2567

Cynthia Taylor-Miller, 337 East St., Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [ctmiller@vermontel.net](mailto:ctmiller@vermontel.net)

Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Deborah Waggett, 21 Academy St., Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, [purplejeep99@hotmail.com](mailto:purplejeep99@hotmail.com)

Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, [voorburg@sover.net](mailto:voorburg@sover.net)



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Sept. – Nov. 2004

Visit our web site: <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Trips leave from Rutland City Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at the times shown unless otherwise stated. Non-members are welcome. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear and dress for weather changes. Distances are approximate round trip; difficulty indicates steepness and footing. For more information about a trip, please call the trip leader listed at the right.

September 18 Saturday 10:00 AM	<b>Work Party</b> Join us to place bog bridges (puncheon) on the Sherburne Pass Trail and the Cauty Trail, to help keep hikers' feet dry and protect the terrain. Minimal hiking but we'll be hauling wood about ¼ mile. Tools provided.	Herb Ogden 293-2510
September 19 Sunday 1:00 PM	<b>Glen Lake Overlook, Castleton</b> An easy hike along the lake shore and then a little climb to view the lake from above. Three miles round trip with 200 feet elevation gain.	Bob Perkins 773-0184
September 25 Saturday 8:00 AM	<b>Burnt Rock Mountain, Fayston</b> We'll ascend steeply to the Long Trail via the Hedgehog Brook Trail, then go north past a pothole to the summit. This is a rugged hike with scrambles up rocks and boulders, but the summit provides spectacular views of Camel's Hump and Lake Champlain. (If conditions are wet, call leaders as they may decide against it).	Roma & Al Pulling 773-6997
October 2 Saturday 10:00 AM	<b>Shrewsbury Peak Loop, Shrewsbury</b> We'll go up the Black Swamp Trail from the CCC Road to Shrewsbury Peak and return via the Shrewsbury Peak Trail. Moderate, 4.1 miles, 1300 feet elevation gain..	Barry & Barb Griffith 492-3573
October 9 Saturday 9:00 AM Rain date 10/10	<b>Black Mountain, NY</b> We'll ascend from Pilot's Knob past some water falls to the summit for gorgeous views of Lake George, the Adirondacks, and the Green Mountains. Several brook crossings and a few steep pitches but a moderate 6.6 miles. Possible stop on the return trip for the <u>best</u> soft ice cream.	Sue Thomas 773-2185
October 16 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Blue Ridge Mountain, Mendon</b> Climb the Cauty Trail and enjoy the improvements made by the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, who have spent two summers working on the trail. The Cascades will be gushing and the summit provides a view across the valley to Rutland. Five miles; elevation gain 1,490 feet. Moderate with some steep pitches.	Steve & Diana Williams 645-9529
October 23 Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Little Rock Pond &amp; White Rocks, Wallingford</b> Traverse the Long Trail Past beautiful Little Rock Pond to the cliffs of White Rocks, a peregrine nesting site with views down the talus slopes and across the valley. Descend via the Keewaydin Trail. Moderate, 8 miles.	Andrea McQuade & Tad Tucker 775-5104

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Sept. – Nov. 2004

Schedule continued from previous page.

October 30 Saturday 10:00 AM Rain date 10/31	<b>Susie Peak, Clarendon</b> Up a nice, wide trail to a beautiful lookout over Rutland City and the airport.	Ray Catozzi 773-3006
November 7 Sunday 9:00 AM	<b>Harmon Hill, Bennington</b> A short but steep ascent up stone staircases to the summit overlooking historic Bennington village, the Battle Monument, and Mount Anthony. Moderate, 3.4 miles.	Larry & Viv Walter 775-3855
November 13 Saturday 1:00 PM	<b>Historic Long Trail Lodge, Killington</b> Join historian Dave Wright to explore the site of the old Long Trail Lodge, once owned and operated by the Green Mountain Club. With the aid of old photos and post cards we'll try to pinpoint the location of the Lodge, swimming pool, out buildings and, possibly, the route of the nature trail to Adirondack Lookout. Easy. (Remember, it's hinting season. Wear bright colors!)	Dave Wright 235-2376
November 20 Saturday 6:00 PM	<b>Fall Potluck, Rutland</b> Join us for our annual fall potluck supper and a slide program at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Hillside Avenue in Rutland. Bring plates, utensils, and a dish to share. Hot drinks provided. Nonmembers welcome!	Sue Thomas 773-2185
December 4 Saturday 10:00 AM	<b>Chittenden Brook, Rochester</b> Hike south on the Long Trail from Brandon Gap and down the Chittenden Brook Trail. Moderate, 6 miles, 868 feet elevation gain.	Sue Thomas 773-2185

### Senior Turtle Hikes

Leave from Godnick Adult Center on Thursday at 9:00 AM

September 16	<b>Lake Pleiad:</b> A short, easy hike in to a charming pond with an optional moderate extension to the Silent Cliff vista.	Al & Roma Pulling 773-6997
September 30	<b>Pittsford Recreation Trails:</b> A loop hike on the Pittsford Trails west of Route 7, partly along the bank of Otter Creek. Easy.	Ray Catozzi 773-3006
October 14	<b>Bear Mountain:</b> From Route 140 we climb to near the top of Bear Mountain and then descend to Patch Hollow, site of a grisly murder in 1831. Moderate.	Al & Roma Pulling 773-6997
October 28	<b>Trail Around Middlebury:</b> The TAM completely encircles the town. We'll cover another section to wind up this year's schedule. Easy.	Jean Davies 483-6623



## Twenty-five Years Ago

**By Steve Williams, Section President** (The writer's browse through the Killington Section logbook of 1978-1982)

The 1978-1982 Killington Section logbook reached the writer through the kind offices of Ray Catozzi. And who but Ray himself should be leading the first hike recorded; a 3000-foot ascent to Moosilauke Mountain in New Hampshire. It was the logbook habit of the time to include both publicity notices on hikes and a few notes on the hike itself, this latter tradition now being supplanted by the notes in *Smoke & Blazes*.

It is instructive to read the names of some destinations no longer on our schedules (no criticism to Sue Thomas; we just need someone to come up with them as their chosen destination). Lana Falls/Silver/Lake Moosalamoo Rocks; Lake Pleiad (Middlebury Gap); Cantilever Rock (Mount Mansfield); Mount Philo; Pinney Hollow (Coolidge State Park); Moscow Pond (near Bomoseen State Park); Liberty Hill (?); Quechee Gorge; the Sawmill Ledges overlooking Lake St. Catherine; Lake Ninevah (Mount Holly) to name a few.

"End to end" hikes, which together would make up the entire long trail, appear in a number of instances, for example nineteen miles across the Glastenbury wilderness over a week-end. Sue tells me that there is now little enthusiasm in the Section for overnight outings. Whether this results from the graying of the Section's members, competing activities, or our awaiting some new enthusiasts for "over-nighting" is a point of interest.

On the other hand, other outings have a very familiar ring, for example Snowshoe to Pico; Route 140 to Route 4 on the Long Trail; Baker Peak; Merck Forest; bushwhacking to Mendon Peak; Killington Peak via the Bucklin Trail; Blue Ridge Mountain via the Cauty Trail. Likewise the workdays, both low and high level, and potluck suppers have a familiar ring.

A number of traditions seem to have disappeared. For example the "Annual Valiquette Memorial Hike" when a flag was tied to the tallest tree on East Mountain, to be seen by the residents of Rutland; a "Moonlight Hike" held as close as possible to the nearest full moon to Christmas and an annual "sugar on snow" outing when participants enjoyed maple syrup poured over snow, accompanied by doughnut holes and pickles (that's what the pre-hike publicity says). Perhaps we should ask our historian how such traditions fell by the wayside.

As for familiar names (for someone like the writer who has only been in the region for four years that is), there are surprisingly few; the Pulling family, Bernie Donohue, Jack Crowther, Churchill Scott and, last but not least, Ray Catozzi, comprising the list.

The frequency of hikes, the number of participants and the occasional cancellation for inclement weather all remain relatively unchanged. In conclusion, let's continue the traditions and move forward to enjoy the next twenty-five years of hiking in the extensive "back-yard" we find ourselves graced with!

## Have You Seen Our Stuff?

By Herb Ogden, Trails & Shelters Chair

Most of the Section's over 50 pieces of equipment are accounted for, but some have disappeared over the last couple years. If you've worked on the trail during that time, please check your garage or closet and let me know if you have any of the following:

- Pry bar, regular, 50" long (used for moving rocks), numbered 28.
- Sledge hammer (for rock crushing), numbered 40.
- Anvil lopper, heavy duty, numbered 44.
- Anvil lopper, ratchet, hand, numbered 34.
- Sheath for hand lopper, numbered 36.
- Day pack numbered 27.
- Fanny pack numbered 26.
- First aid kits (we had five but have none now).
- Plastic wedge, numbered 48.

If you or someone you know could give the Section the following, it would be a help:

- Heavy pry bar.
- Come-along.
- Wire basket for moving stones.
- Stone boat.
- Grub hoes (also known as hazel hoes).
- Ax sheaths.
- Bow saw sheaths, various lengths.

My law partner, John Liccardi, has given the Section its first two-man crosscut saw and a 36" one man crosscut. Thanks very much, John!

Contact me at: 293-2510 or [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net).



## Outing Reports

### Pittsford Meadow Loop Trail

29 May 2004

By Ray Catozzi, leader

A fairly large group of fifteen showed up for this easy three-to-four-mile hike with very little climbing. The Meadow Loop and the Cadwell Trail, both components of the Pittsford Trail Network, are mostly in the open so we could enjoy a close look at the meadows and Furnace Brook as well as views of the surrounding mountains.

We started at the Meadow Loop trailhead on Arch Street, across from the Pittsford fire station and proceeded south through the meadow and along the brook. After crossing a small footbridge and winding up a small hill the trail, now the Cadwell Trail, returned to follow the brook to Elm Street and the Cooley covered bridge.

Crossing Elm Street, and still more or less following Furnace Brook, we headed for its confluence with Otter Creek. But in about a quarter of a mile the trail and the adjoining meadow were flooded with over a foot of water from the recent rains.

We retreated to Elm Street and followed it north to its other intersection with the Cadwell Trail. Again we headed for the Creek but this approach, too, was flooded. So again we retreated to high ground and gulped our lunch.

Continuing in the dry direction on the Cadwell Trail, and then again on the Meadow Loop, we returned to our cars. In spite of the high water on part of the trail it was still a wonderful hike.

### Amity Pond Natural Area

6 June 2004

By Roma Pulling, coleader

This could as aptly been called Lost Pond, as we never saw Amity Pond. We hiked first to Amity Pond Shelter, which faces a pond, but *Fifty Hikes in Vermont* describes this as a "temporary pond, part of a water conservation experiment." Amity Pond is shown on a map as being further along the trail, apparently very effectively screened by trees.

We had good weather for our hike with temperatures comfortable but not too hot. What was even better, it was one of our rare dry days. Eight people joined us at the park, and we proceeded in three cars to a small parking spot across Allen Hill Road from the entrance to the area. Leaving the shelter, we hiked an easy trail with easy grades until we reached Sugar Arch Shelter, where we paused for lunch. When the trail came out onto Allen Hill Road some distance from our cars, we followed it back to our start because by continuing on the trail we would have had to cross Broad Brook, very high water due to recent rains.

Along the trail we scared up a small bird, and some bright-eyed hikers discovered an oven bird nest, with its unique construction featuring an opening in the front, with several baby birds inside. I hoped the mother bird would not be discouraged from returning to the nest.

After a very enjoyable hike, we headed west to our home base.

### Pico Mountain Loop

26 June 2004

By Ray Catozzi, leader

The last Saturday of June was a rain-threatening day. I don't like to hike in the rain but ten hikers showed up. We drove up to the new Long Trail crossing on Route 4 west of Sherburne Pass, spotted a car there, and then proceeded up to the Inn at Long Trail at the pass.

Heading south on the old Long Trail, now called the Sherburne Pass Trail, we climbed up and around to the east of the summit cone to the old Pico Shelter, where we had lunch. We then continued south along the ridge between Pico and Killington and soon arrived at Jungle Junction where the new Long Trail joins the old. The new Long Trail heads northwest and north around the other side of the summit.

About half way back to Route 4 we stopped for a break at the new Churchill Scott Shelter, named in honor of a long-time Killington Section member, officer, and hike leader. He was still alive in the fall of 2002 and able to come to the Route 4 parking lot for the dedication of the new shelter. I felt so good that Churchill could still be with us and attend the ceremony in his honor. It doesn't happen that way very often. God bless you, Churchill.

### Weybridge Bicycle Ride

27 June 2004

By: Viv Bebee and Larry Walter, coleaders

We were joined by the Cohen family, (Barry, Jen, Samantha and Lena), along with Dave and Clare Coppock. The weather looked a little ominous on the way up to Middlebury, but it cleared to a beautiful day after the first five miles or so.

We peddled northerly from the footbridge on the north end of Middlebury past the Morgan Horse farm where we turned west and rode through some beautiful countryside to Weybridge Hill, then northerly on a long downhill to Weybridge. We passed a whole boy scout troop peddling up the same route, with a concentration of the older leaders pushing at the tail end.

A hard left at Weybridge brought us by the dam and then up a short, steep pitch to a west-bearing



section over rolling farmland. After an easy climb to Route 17 we headed southerly, crossing Otter Creek and hooking up with Route 23. We had another short, steep pitch out of the river valley onto another nice section of farm land. It didn't look like the corn was going to make it to knee high by the fourth, but the stuff grows pretty fast.

The last climb of the day proved to be the most challenging, with half mile long, 12-percent grade pitch back to Weybridge Hill. This is a wonderful little village, with great views to the west. Samantha, our nine-year old, peddled the whole hill! We were all very proud of her. Our final three or four miles were pretty easy, with a final, steep descent to the foot bridge in downtown Middlebury, and the parking lot.

I'd highly recommend this 17 mile ride to cyclists of just about any persuasion. What hills there are, are fairly short (you can walk them in short order), and the traffic is very light. The scenery is fabulous ---truly representative of pastoral Vermont. We saw several other bikers using the same route.

## Mount Horrid

10 July 2004

By the Editor

For the record: this hike from Goshen over Mt. Horrid to Brandon Gap, ably led as always by Barb and Barry Griffith, went off as scheduled.

*Smoke & Blazes* has chosen not to cover the story because we were scooped by our local competitor, the Sunday Rutland Herald (see the full-page spread on page B8 of their 18 July 2004 edition) and because we anticipate a complete report by President Steve Williams in an upcoming issue of our sister publication *The Long Trail News*.

We've had a chance to preview Steve's *LTN* story. All we'll say here is that it includes mention of the Donner Party and of a hiker locked in a shelter privy.

## Black Mountain, NY

24 July 2004

By Ray Catozzi, leader

Once again very few showed up to drive over to climb Black Mountain. Only nine came, only five were GMC members, and only two were from Rutland. It was a beautiful day and I knew we were going to

have a great view from the top.

The trail up from the east climbed very slowly; level in many places. Half way up we passed the junction with the trail that we would come down on. It went south to the left while we continued up the east trail. Soon it got rough and rocky with many spots of running water from the recent rain.

We all made it to the summit and everybody exclaimed how wonderful the view was looking down on the northern half of beautiful Lake George. We enjoyed watching all the boats going up and down the lake while we consumed our lunch.

After lunch, resting, and viewing Lake George we headed south on our downhill trail. In about one-hundred yards I led the group to an off-trail lookout with a view all the way to Lake George Village.

Farther along we arrived at a high flatland with an open-front shelter and two swampy ponds. Here the trail turned north and completed the loop by joining our up-bound trail. Then back to the cars and a drink of my famous home-made elderberry wine.



"Dickins" Parker (left) spots something of interest from Deer Leap Lookout. Dickins is one of the Killington Section's most loyal hikers, and one of our oldest. He's either 77 or 98, or something in people years.



## Killington Section Directors Meeting

John Hale, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Killington Section Board of Directors was held on 17 June 2004 at the Law Offices of Barry Griffith in Rutland.

Attending Board Members:  
Steve Williams, President  
Barbara Griffith, Vice President  
Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
John Hale, Secretary  
Cynthia Taylor-Miller  
Andrea McQuade  
Lynda Hutchins  
Bill Robichaud

Guests present: Bob Perkins and Al Pulling.

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Williams at 7 PM.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the 10 February 2004 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes as written.

**Treasurer's Report** Roma Pulling reported the following account balances and membership statistics as of 17 June 2004:

**Un-Restricted:**

Checking.....	\$1,850.24
Savings .....	1,124.62
Certificate of Deposit...	1,000.00
To be deposited.....	72.50

**Kirk Fund:**

Savings .....	1,509.85
CDs (3) .....	9,500.00

**Membership:**

Memberships .....	148
Voting Members .....	175

Our Section's share of members' dues is paid to us monthly as the dues are received by Headquarters. There is a natural bunching at the beginning of the year in January and February and a trickling during the rest of the year.

The Bucklin Trail Bridge expenses are fully paid and reflected in the account balances shown above.

The Kirk Fund was donated to the Killington Section in memory of George L. Kirk by his wife Dorothy Kirk in her will. Our use of the funds was restricted, as far as anyone present at the meeting remembers, to our spending only the interest earned on the grant and only spending the interest on trails and shelters. The principal was not to be touched. Anyone with a more complete remembrance of the exact terms of the gift should please contact Roma.

The sum of the three certificates of deposit listed above is the amount of the principal of the original Kirk family donation.

The Vermont Country Store, responding to a solicitation by Herb Ogden, generously donated \$500 which amount was deposited into the Kirk Savings Account at Herb's request.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

**Trails and Shelters** Herb Ogden was unable to be present at the meeting but has sent the following report. "There were ten participants at the low level workday on 8 May. A considerable number of blowdowns were cleared, particularly on the Bear Mountain Sector and north of the Lottery Road, though a few low ones were left to deter wheeled vehicles. Confusing blazes at the Airport Lookout south of Clarendon Gorge were noted and fixed. Wooden steps north of the Gov. Clement Shelter were moved a few feet to avoid a wet area. On 5 June there were nine participants for the upper level workday. Bill

Robichaud and a crew cleared from Cooper Lodge through to Route 4 on the AT/LT while Sue Thomas and Jerry Parker cleared a considerable number of blowdowns and performed other maintenance activities from Gov. Clement Shelter to Shrewsbury Peak. Overall, the Section's trails are now in good shape."

**Cooper Lodge:** The Section received a letter from Ruth Lamb dated 30 May 2004 indicating an interest in supporting the reconstruction of the Cooper Lodge. Steve has discussed the prospect with Headquarters Director of Trails & Shelters, Dave Hardy who indicated a rough probable cost of around \$15,000 for the project. It was agreed that Dave would contact the Lambs to clarify their intentions. Steve sent an acknowledging response to the Lambs and will follow-up with Dave.

**Hike Leader Qualifications:** The Board had a general discussion about hike leaders: what the Section should expect of a leader; how should a leader be qualified; should training be provided; should there be different qualifications for leaders of major hikes. It was agreed that further discussions with Section Outings Chairperson, Sue Thomas could lead to a Killington Section policy about who can lead hikes under what approval mechanism.

**Chain Saw usage:** It was announced that Jerry Parker will soon be certified by the US Forest Service to do trail maintenance with a chainsaw. Jerry joins Larry Walter in this certification and is a happy addition. We really need four or five chainsawers to keep up with our trail maintenance programs.

**Ridge Runner Dinner:** At the end of the summer tour of duty, the



Section Board traditionally has dinner with the Ridge Runner appointed to our Section by Headquarters. This year the Board decided to open the dinner to the entire membership, to make it a pot luck dinner, and to hold it on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening during the first three weeks of September. Bill Robichaud will contact Pico to see if they would allow us to use the Pico Club House for the purpose. Steve will find out who the Ridge Runner is this year and contact him or her.

**Trail Head Notices:** Bill Robichaud will distribute additional trail head notices. Barbara Griffith has the Section's supply of notices.

**Outing Schedule:** It was reported that the next Outing Schedule (for September, October, and November) is shaping up nicely.

**Newsletter:** Bob Perkins said that the Section newsletter, *Smoke & Blazes* will next be published in the last half of August. Bob would like to see a more varied content and asked that people submit articles, pictures, jokes, cartoons or anything of interest. Submissions received by the beginning of August could be included the upcoming issue. Steve and Cindy Taylor-Miller undertook to provide articles.

**Publicity:** Andrea McQuade reported on the success of the Section's publicity display panel put

up at the EMS store in Rutland during their Club Day this April. EMS offers a GMC Club Day twice a year in April and again in October when prices are discounted for Club members.

**Outreach:** Bill suggested that it would be good to promote ourselves especially to younger people who could not only enjoy nature but also help the Section with its trail maintenance mandate. Steve offered to approach the Boys & Girls Club in Rutland and Castleton College to explore ways to gather new members for the Section. Andrea offered to explore a possible tie-in with the Public School's YES (Year End Studies) program.

**Governor Clement Shelter:** The Section has long supported a Shrewsbury town ordinance aimed at deterring vandalism in the Governor Clement Shelter. Herb Ogden is our liaison with attorney Rebecca Rice who, as a private citizen, is drafting a parking ordinance for the town's consideration. Land now used by vandals for parking would be designated as NO PARKING areas in the evening hours and barricaded with boulders; the town constable would be tasked with actively enforcing the ordinance. Steve undertook to check with Herb about his knowledge of progress on this matter.

**Main Club Annual Meeting:** Lynda Hutchins reported on the

Headquarters annual meeting and the main club directors' meeting held at Burke Mountain on 12 June. The fire loss of the headquarters building has resulted in a loss of revenue in addition to the loss of the asset. Rebuilding the structure will cost at least \$700,000 and the practicality of a capital fund raising campaign is being studied in conjunction with a consultant. The Headquarters annual budget is extremely tight primarily because of rising costs for insurance and property taxes. A more detailed report of the directors' meeting can be obtained from Lynda.

**Website:** The Section website address is:

[www.geocities.com/gmckillington](http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington)

The site is managed by member Deb Waggett.

**West Nile Virus:** Barbara Griffith passed on a public health warning about mosquitoes and the possibility of their infecting you with West Nile virus. The Vermont Department of Health recommends the use of insect repellants containing DEET as the most effective.

**Next Board Meeting:** The next Board of Director's meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19 October at 7:00 PM at the Law Offices of Barry Griffith.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

---

## Attention: All Outing Leaders

A big THANK YOU to all who volunteer to lead our outings. Without you our program could not exist.

It does take some time for Outings Chair Sue Thomas to coordinate the quarterly schedule and for Newsletter Editor Bob Perkins to format *Smoke & Blazes* for publication. In order to be sure that the outing schedule reaches members in time, outing leaders should contact Sue to firm up your plans by our deadlines:

February 1 for spring outings (Mar., Apr., May)

August 1 for fall outings (Sep., Oct., Nov.)

May 1 for summer outings (Jun., Jul., Aug.)

November 1 for winter outings (Dec., Jan., Feb.)



Your Invitation to Join  
**Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

**ANNUAL DUES:**

Individual ..... \$30  
Family ..... \$40  
Senior/Student/Volunteer ..... \$20  
Individual Lifetime ..... \$750  
Family Lifetime ..... \$1000

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_trail work, \_\_\_shelter work, \_\_\_sign making, \_\_\_publications, \_\_\_leading outings, \_\_\_publicity, \_\_\_education

Make check payable to Killington Section, GMC and mail with this application to:

Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701





# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 57, Number 4

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

November 2004

## Muddy spots bridged on the Blue Ridge and Pico trails

Hikers on the lower parts of the Cauty Trail to Blue Ridge and of the Sherburne Pass Trail to Pico will have some relief from the mud that has been a problem in those areas for a long time. Using material financed, in part, by a generous grant from The Vermont Country Store, Killington Section Trails and Shelters Chair Herb Ogden and his crew including Marc Brierre, Rich Matteson, Sue Thomas, and Larry Walter, have started installing puncheon. The word rhymes with luncheon and means "a heavy, broad piece of roughly



New puncheon on the Cauty Trail

dressed lumber with one side hewed flat". The operative word here is "heavy". Each unit of bridging consists of two 3-inch by 8-inch hemlock puncheons either six or eight feet long, supported by two 6-inch by 6-inch hemlock sills, each three feet long, and secured by fifty-six 6-inch galvanized spikes.

About a dozen units have been carried in and installed. Herb plans to let the lumber for a dozen or so more units dry for a while to lighten the load, and then to skid it in on the snow

## What's a Peak?

By Bob Perkins

While thinking about the trivia question posed in the last issue it soon became apparent to me that deciding just what is a peak in a given region, is neither obvious nor trivial. Consider Mount Mansfield. Most would agree that the Chin is a peak. What about the Nose? Possibly. The Forehead? Probably not. The Upper and Lower Lips? I don't think so. Yet from each of these points it is downhill in all directions – perhaps the intuitive definition of "a peak".

I was led to an intriguing article, WHAT IS A PEAK? by Gerry Roach in the appendix to his book *Colorado's Fourteeners*. Roach takes a mathematical approach to the question starting with the postulate "Everest is a peak" and proceeding logically through 18 definitions of terms including connecting ridge, relative peak, and neighbor. Along the way he defines not only summit but also sovereign, and monarch. He concludes the exposition at step 18: "If a summit is not a peak, it is a falsie".

Roach points out that even his most simplified algorithm for testing the "peakhood" of a point in the neighborhood of a higher peak depends on the selection of an arbitrary constant, say 200 feet, and requiring that the candidate point be at least 200 feet higher than the saddle between it and its higher neighbor. With that choice, the Nose would be a peak. But if we choose a constant of 250 feet, it would not be.

Clearly, it's in the eye of the peak bagger.



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2005 ..... Barbara Griffith  
"..... \* Bill Robichaud  
"..... Steve Williams  
2006 ..... Andrea McQuade  
"..... Roma Pulling  
"..... \* Susan Thomas  
2007 ..... John Hale  
"..... Lynda Hutchins  
"..... Cindy Taylor-Miller

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.  
Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President ..... Steve Williams  
Vice President..... Barbara Griffith  
Secretary ..... John Hale  
Treasurer..... Roma Pulling

### Committee Chairs

History ..... Bob Perkins  
Outings ..... Susan Thomas  
Trails & Shelters..... Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director..... Lynda Hutchins  
Alternate ..... Alfred Pulling

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor..... Bob Perkins

### Web Site

Web master ..... Deborah Waggett

## Vermonttrivia

In the August issue Barry Griffith asked:

**Q5. Name nine state capitals, in addition to Montpelier, and three national capitals, that share their names with Vermont towns.**

**A5.** I guess this one was too easy. Herb Ogden got it "without looking at an atlas, too!" They are Albany, NY, Charleston, WV, Concord, NH, Dover, DE, Hartford, CT, Lincoln, NE, Montgomery, AL, Richmond, VA, and Springfield, IL. And Athens, Greece; Berlin Germany; and Washington, USA.

In August we also asked:

**Q6. Where are the five highest and five lowest elevations on the Long Trail proper?**

**A6.** This one was a little harder. Herb's five highest were Mt. Mansfield, Mt. Ellen, Camel's Hump, Jay Peak, and Mt. Abraham. On the authority of the *Long Trail Guide* I have Mt. Mansfield (Chin) at 4393 feet; Mt. Ellen and Camels Hump, tied at 4083; Mt. Abraham at 4006; and Stratton at 3936. Jay Peak is sixth at 3858.

For the lowest point, again Herb came close with Winooski River, Lamoille River, Clarendon Gorge, Wallingford Gulf, and Lower Cold River Road. From the *Long Trail Guide* I have the Winooski at 326 feet, the Lamoille at 500, Clarendon Gorge at 800, Route 140 (Wallingford Gulf) at 1160, and Route 9 at 1360. The Lower Cold River Road is at 1400. [See a related article *What's a Peak* on page 1].

Here's one based on a suggestion from Herb Ogden:

**Q7. What two mountains within ten miles of Sherburne Pass has the Long Trail, at one time or another, gone east of and gone west of but never gone over?**

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>**

Barbara Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

John Hale, 170 Spooner Point or PO Box 506, Castleton, VT 05735, [john@lighters.com](mailto:john@lighters.com)

Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, [lmhutch@shoreham.net](mailto:lmhutch@shoreham.net)

Andrea McQuade, 36 Morse Place, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-6273, [andrea6273@aol.com](mailto:andrea6273@aol.com)

Herbert Ogden, 214 South End Road., Mt. Tabor, VT 05253-9756, (H)293-2510, (W)774-2200, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, [rperkinsvt@aol.com](mailto:rperkinsvt@aol.com)

Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, [pullingra137@aol.com](mailto:pullingra137@aol.com)

William Robichaud, 215 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2567

Cindy Taylor-Miller, 337 East St., Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [ctmiller@vermontel.net](mailto:ctmiller@vermontel.net)

Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Deborah Waggett, 21 Academy St., Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, [purplejeep99@hotmail.com](mailto:purplejeep99@hotmail.com)

Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, [voorburg@sover.net](mailto:voorburg@sover.net)



**Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Dec. 2004 – Feb. 2005**

Visit our web site: <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome on our outings. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather, and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont! Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call the leader if you have any questions.

**4 December, Saturday      Chittenden Brook, Rochester      Leader: Sue Thomas, 773-2158**

Hike south on the Long Trail from Brandon Gap and down the Chittenden Brook Trail.

Moderate, 6 miles, 868 feet elevation gain

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM

**11 December, Saturday      Griswold Peak, Hubbardton      Leaders: Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**

The highest point in Hubbardton (2006 feet) now has an official name. We'll pay it a visit. We'll follow logging roads for a time, then bushwhack and scramble to the top.

Moderate, 5 miles, 1300 feet elevation gain.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM

**2 January, Sunday      Mount Tabor Village to South End      Leader: Herb Ogden, 293-2510**

Snowshoe or cross country ski from the U.S. Forest Service Work Center on wood roads east of Otter Creek, past a big beaver pond, and along the edge of the Green Mountains to South End Road. Then enjoy hot beverages and snacks at the Ogdens' new home. (Have lunch beforehand; no lunch stop is planned en route.)

Easy snowshoe or moderate ski, 2 miles, 250 feet elevation gain.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 12:30 PM.

**8 January, Saturday      South Pond, Chittenden      Leaders: Larry & Viv Walter, 775-3855**

Snowshoe or cross country ski from Lefferts Pond to South Pond.

Moderate snowshoe or difficult ski, 5 miles, 850 feet elevation gain.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM

**15 January, Saturday      Mystery Hike      Leaders: Andrea McQuade & Tad Tucker, 775-5104**

Call leader for meeting time and place.

**22 January, Saturday      Shrewsbury Peak, Shrewsbury      Leaders: Connie & Mark Youngstrom, 492-3502**

We'll ski to the base of the mountain, then switch to snowshoes for the steep climb to the summit.

Difficult, 7 miles, 1500 feet elevation gain.

Call leader for meeting time and place.

**29 January, Saturday      Plymbsbury Area, Shrewsbury      Lee Wilson, 492-3542**

Ski on the newly developed trail system in the Plymbsbury area of Shrewsbury. There will be some options for shorter routes or for snowshoeing.

Moderate, 5 miles maximum.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 12:30 PM.

**6 February, Sunday      Hot Dog Roast, Cuttingsville      Leaders: Roma & Al Pulling, 773-6997**

Join us on skis or snowshoes for a short trek into Minerva Hinchey Shelter on the Long Trail for an annual tradition. Bring hot dogs to roast; hot drinks will be provided.

Easy, 0.5 miles, 50 feet elevation gain; more optional.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:30 AM

**Schedule continued on next page.**



# Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Dec. 2004 – Feb. 2005

Schedule continued from previous page.

- 12 February, Saturday      Baker Peak, Mount Tabor      Leaders: Larry & Viv Walter, 775-3855**  
 Snowshoe up the Lake Trail to the summit.  
 Difficult, 6 miles, 2000 feet elevation gain.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM
- 19 February, Saturday      Sugar Hill Reservoir, Ripton      Leaders: Gordon & Helen Cawood, 350-4310**  
 Ski or snowshoe on a level snowmobile route.  
 Easy, 7 miles, mostly level.  
 Call leader for meeting time and place.
- 27 February, Sunday      Military Road, Hubbardton      Leaders: Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
 The Military Road through Hubbardton supplied the Colonial troops at Fort Ticonderoga, and was the site of a Revolutionary War battle. We'll explore a section of the old road on snowshoes or skis.  
 Moderate, 3 miles, some climbing.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 1:00 PM
- 5 March, Saturday      Lily Pond, Bomoseen      Leader: Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
 Snowshoe on "Park Avenue" past beaver dams and otter habitat and see several old slate quarries on the way to a remote pond.  
 Moderate, 4 miles,  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM
- 12 March, Saturday      Mystery Bushwhack, Shrewsbury      Leader: Jerry Parker, 775-6208**  
 Venture off the trails in the Plymbsbury area to explore wildlife habitat and tracks. Moose, fisher, and snowshoe hare are among the species common in the area. Snowshoes required.  
 Moderate, 4 miles.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.

## New trails opened in Rutland's Pine Hill Park

A number of trails in Rutland City's Pine Hill Park have been upgraded recently and several miles of new trails have been built. Volunteers working with Cindy Wight of the city Recreation and Parks Department have lain out, cleared, built, marked, and signed trails and constructed bridges. The trails are multi-use; mountain bikes are allowed on most but a few are reserved for pedestrians.

A full color map, about seven inches square (reproduced, right), can be requested from the Rutland Area Physical Activity Coalition (RAPAC) at 802-353-0037.





## The Spirit of Long Distance Hiking

By Mrs. Gorp, aka Cynthia Taylor-Miller

An old Chinese proverb says that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. My journey on the Appalachian Trail began on May 20, 1977. This is the date I first stood on Springer Mountain in Georgia. That summer I would hike 1,560 miles to Route 11 in Manchester, Vermont where I left the trail to return to my junior year at the University of Connecticut. After two intervening years during which I constantly thought about completing my journey, I eventually returned to Vermont in August of 1979 to begin the final 500 miles of my 2,060-mile hike to the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail in Maine.

I was nervous leaving the trail head on Route 11 in Manchester even though I had 1,560 miles under my belt. I was not in the same rock hard shape I was when I had stopped in 1977, but I was happy to be back on the trail. I knew from experience that I would be able to build up my endurance level within a couple of weeks and I was looking forward to being able to hike thirteen to fifteen miles each day. I knew not to push myself during the first week. Let the endurance build slowly and go with the flow I kept telling myself, but I was somewhat impatient as I started north. After a long day of hiking I settled into a relaxed mode and the fun of the trip began to overtake me. I was finally doing what I had wanted to do for two years. I was going to savor every moment of my hike.

The trail in southern Vermont is blessed with several wonderful swimming holes. I did not pass up the opportunity to swim at Stratton Pond, Griffith Lake, Little Rock Pond and the Clarendon Gorge. My primary gear consisted of an external frame, blaze orange Camprail backpack, Vasque leather boots, cotton and wool clothing, a Svea 123 stove, Eureka Timberline tent, and a Gerry down sleeping bag. I still have the sleeping bag and I might even wash it someday. I'm not in any rush. The stove still works; at least it did three years ago. The boots, now too small for my older, wider feet, are sitting on a rack in the garage. I just can't bring myself to discard them.

In 25 years some of the names of shelters have changed. Sunnyside Camp is now the Minerva Hinchey Shelter and Tamarack Shelter, where I took refuge from an afternoon thunderstorm, no longer exists. I have returned to Springer Mountain three times since 1977 and once to Katahdin in Maine. This past summer I hiked 870 miles on the Appalachian Trail to complete a second re-hike of the entire Appalachian Trail.

Over the years I've seen many changes. The trail has been relocated, fields have grown in, new shelters built, shelters renamed, shelters torn down, more women hikers, and lighter improved gear. However the one thing that remains unchanged is strong spirit of long distance hiking in my soul.

## In The North Woods

By Roma Pulling

As Alfred and I drove into Pittsburg on a recent trip to northern New Hampshire, a large sign loomed in front of us welcoming us to "The North Woods." Before we could get too wrapped up in contemplating breezes in the pines, the fragrance of balsams and the high-pitched whistle of the white-throated sparrow, I noticed a familiar sight down a side street: The Golden Arches.

We had driven to this area in search of the headwaters of the Connecticut River. Years ago we had visited Third Connecticut Lake in the mistaken belief that we had reached the source of the river only to read later that Fourth Connecticut Lake was the actual beginning. So we were there to complete our quest. In order to allow ourselves more time, we spent the night in Pittsburg with plans for an early start the next day.

To reach Number 4 one drives to U. S. Customs at the Canadian border on Route 3. There is a parking lot on the right near a border marker with the trailhead on the left. We arrived early dressed for cold temperatures, which proved to be a wise move. Signs and a brochure informed us that the area was preserved by the Nature Conservancy, which acquired it as a gift from Champion International Corporation. The trail is about a mile long and quite steep, but we felt a sense of accomplishment at finally gazing at the Connecticut's start. The lake is the smallest of the four Connecticut lakes but gives rise to New England's longest river. It consists of two and a half acres and lies at an elevation of 2670 feet. The trail winds in and out of Canada several times with small brass plaques in the ground at each crossing. And no Customs stations!

We spent the afternoon of our first day hiking on the Gore Mountain Trail in the town of Norton and in Avery's Gore but had to turn back because we didn't have time to reach our goal of Gore Mountain. A destination for another trip! We wanted to reach Newport, where we planned to spend the night.

The third day of our trip was the real gem. We planned to meet three hikers as they emerged from the woods on the Long Trail at the Canadian border. One of them was completing his End-to-End that day. Over a period of at least eight years we have helped this gentleman along the way and on the day in question were going to take him and his two companions to their car parked in Hazen's Notch. We wanted to stop on our way up the Journey's End Trail to see the new shelter, Journey's End II. To our surprise, the old shelter, which we had stayed in back in 1983, was still standing. We wished we could stay in the new shelter but had to press on. We did reach the border in time to meet the hikers at the completion of their trek and gave the new End-to-Enders our congratulations.

What a pleasant trip we had! We hope for many more of the same.



## Outing Reports

### Otter Creek, Proctor to Florence

By Barbara Griffith  
14 August 2004

Putting in our vessels just below Sunderland Falls in Proctor the five of us with leader Jerry Parker were rewarded with the unusual cascade of water over the scenic marble ledges. Usually one only encounters this sight in the spring time when snow and ice are melting. A rainy wet summer sure changes things. The seven-mile trip was a fast one with the water coming close to the top of the creek's banks. We were zipping right along. Last year we encountered snags and even had to portage at one point. Not in 2004! No snags were even seen. We soon floated under the newly refurbished Gorham Bridge admiring the workmanship that had gone into it and the rock façade over the concrete abutments. A feature that we were sure would have been missed if we had been viewing from above. Lunch was enjoyed beside Furnace Brook which was roiling out into the Creek. A bench was nicely placed beside one of Pittsford's many trails for our repast.

Onward the flotilla continued, spotting a herd of cows chewing their cud under one of the many massive silver maple trees that line the creek. As we continued our journey we encountered a long legged tall white bird on the shoreline across from the cows. What could it be? Jerry identified it as a cattle egret, rarely spotted in Vermont. (Its

presence was reported to the Rutland Audubon Society). We went over Pitt's Ford noting that it would have been difficult to ford with anything other than a boat today. A side trip was taken a short way up a side creek to the small falls that mark the waterpower site of one of Pittsford's earliest mills. We shot out of that stream back to the creek and finished our trip taking out at the Hammond Covered Bridge in Florence. In the 1927 flood this bridge was lifted off its abutments and carried more than a mile downstream where it came to rest. It survived with the strength of the lattice truss design and was moved back to its original spot the next winter. What a fast river run adventure we had been involved in!

### Haystack and Beyond

22 August 2004

By Steve and Diana Williams,  
leaders

This "Haystack" refers to the one in Pawlet, Vermont, and none of the three other "Haystacks" in the state.

The group comprised Ray Catozzi, Gerry Parker, the leaders, and two friends of theirs, Rob Holbrook and Cyndy Warner. While originally scheduled for Saturday 21 August, it was postponed to Sunday because of rain and limited visibility on Saturday morning.

The outing started on Waite Hill Road in Pawlet; ready parking being available at the foot of the private Tunket Road.

The first stop up the Tunket Road was the home of Philip and Erin Ackerman-Leist where Philip had graciously agreed to

present a little (very) local history. Philip teaches a number of environmentally related subjects at Green Mountain College and recently worked with three students to research some history of the area on behalf of the Nature Conservancy. Amongst the group's findings were that the original settler's route from Pawlet to Castleton was not the current Route 30, presumably because such a route would have passed Lake St. Catherine and exposed travelers to the bad "humors" then associated with such a lake. Philip commented on the local settlement of "Tunket" which is evidenced by some five or six local cellar holes. It would seem that the settlement came to an end in the early twentieth century; a situation Philip is now rectifying by building his own house there.



**Mettawee valley from Haystack**

From a map of 1867 it seems as though the main Pawlet-Castleton route was originally along the Tunket Road, on the east side of Haystack, Middle and Bald Mountains, and could well have been developed from an Abenaki track.

Philip gave two possible meanings of "Tunket"; "the route between two hills" being one, and as a euphemism for hell as the other; "Go to Tunket" having



been a local expression of disfavor.

However, back to hiking which was, after all, the original intent. The route, branching off Tunket Road just below the Ackerman-Leist property, was mostly gently graded, but with one steep pitch which, with the recent rain, was slippery, particularly for the return journey.

The summit provided excellent views of the Mettawee Valley, Lake St. Catherine, the Adirondacks, and the Greens, including Killington and Pico.

About half way down the descent, the day's route left the main trail and joined an old logging road traveling north. With two changes of direction onto new tracks (found by the leaders as a result of talking to Pawlet and Wells residents) and half an hour's walking, an open meadow was found with a fine overlook over East Wells. From there some meadow meanderings led to the leaders' car previously spotted just off the East Wells Road. For the parking spot at his home and permission to cross the meadows thanks are due to Phil Russell, President of the Manchester Section of the Green Mountain Club. In spite of the in-between transitions from one logging track to another, and the apparent disappearance of Tunket Road, the final few hundred yards from Phil's house out on to the East Wells Road was again on "Tunket Road".

The conclusion was wine, lemonade and cheese at the Williams. However, for that to take place, thanks are due to

Gerry Parker for capturing, and removing in a glass jar, a bat, which had elected to rest under the Williams' unfurled sunshade. We hope that the bat is now happily ensconced with Gerry's neighbor who collects his, or her, species.

### **Glen Lake Overlook**

19 September 2004

By Bob Perkins, leader

It was a beautiful early fall day. Nineteen people and two dogs voted approval with their feet (46 to 0) of our scheduling an easy Sunday afternoon walk. We proceeded through the pines along the lake shore and across the bridge at the lake's narrow neck. There the leader, who had previewed the route several months earlier, was mildly embarrassed by a sign indicating that the trail from that point was temporarily closed due to logging operations.

Not to be stymied by this inconvenience, we decided to follow an alternate trail that seemed to start off in approximately the right direction. After a half mile or so, however, our alternate trail turned north while our destination was to our south. As a last resort we followed a logging road south for a short distance until the mud forced us to give up and head for home.

But our story has a happy ending. On the way down chief scout Jerry Parker, noting a huge rock close by, explored off-trail and located an easy route to the top of an out-cropping. We enjoyed a fine view of Glen Lake,

very much like that from the temporarily closed overlook.

### **Burnt Rock Mountain, Fayston**

25 September 2004

By Roma Pulling, leader

Years ago when we had completed hiking the Long Trail and then photographed all the 70-some shelters, we were searching for a new challenge. We decided on hiking as many of the side trails as possible and one day set off for Fayston with a party of KS hikers to hike the Hedgehog Brook Trail. Since then I had had a couple of requests to hike the trail again; so on the above date we met 11 hikers at the park. There was some grumbling about the early hour, but we explained that it was a long drive to the trailhead. We picked up two other people on the way, one in Killington and one in Hancock.

On our first trip we had sauntered easily at the start over two bridges and past a camp and were very disappointed to find that the lower part of the trail had been relocated at the request of the landowner. The route immediately plunged down into a ravine over huge boulders, crossed a rushing stream on wet, slippery rocks, and climbed a rocky bank on the other side. The trail never got much easier.

As Alfred and I are slower than we were on the first trip, our plan was to climb as far as we could, eat our lunch and then head back down in order to be in the parking lot to greet the rest of our group when they returned. We met eight other hikers and nearly as many dogs but were back at



our cars when the summiteers got back. They reported meeting the 81-year-old end-to-ender whose picture was in the paper not long before our hike.

This was not a hike we would usually schedule these days, but we wanted to show that we aim to please.

### **Shrewsbury Peak**

By: Barbara & Barry Griffith,  
leaders

2 October 2004

Iffy weather did not deter a large crowd of trekkers from a walk up to the 3720-foot tall Shrewsbury Peak. Rain gear in packs, we gradually ascended the gated Black Spruce road up to the blue blazed trail. This area is known as black bear habitat with a very large forest of beechnut trees. It's now only 1.4 miles to the summit. Once on the blue blazed trail about halfway up on the left is an overgrown area that in the 1970s one could envision

where the clearing for a ski area stood. The CCC camps built and maintained this area back in the 1930s. We reached the peak for lunch. Soon clouds parted and we were rewarded with beautiful fall colors, good companionship, and crisp clear air. On a good day from several rocky views to the southeast one may see Mt. Ascutney, Mt. Kearsage, and Mt. Monadnock. To the south are Ludlow Mountain, Bromley, and Stratton.

A few hikers descended the same trail while the others moved down the rocky trail to the "chimney" parking lot. This trail descends steeply through dense balsam fir into a sag, then climbs to the summit of Russell Hill (elevation 2540). At the top is a well (unsafe) and a log lean-too. There is then an easy descent back down to the parking lot by the CCC road. We were all glad that doubtful weather didn't discourage this trip!

### **Susie Peak**

30 October 2004

By Ray Catozzi, leader

This would have been a nice climb to the top of Susie Peak in Clarendon with its rocky outcropping on the top looking east toward the Rutland airport, and northeast toward Rutland. But we never made it for two reasons.

First, after we parked at a big red barn on the North Tinmouth Road, I missed the turnoff onto a dirt road that goes right between a farmhouse and barn. We walked south on the North Tinmouth Road for quite a long way before I realized my mistake. We retraced our steps, found the turnoff, and walked west toward the trailhead.

But before we got to the trail we heard continuing gun shots farther up on the mountain. That was the second reason we didn't climb Susie Peak.



**A turtle hiker enjoys the view southwest from the lookout on Bear Mountain**



# Killington Section Directors Meeting, 19 October 2004

By Barbara Griffith, Acting Secretary

**Attendance:** Board members present were Barbara Griffith, Lynda Hutchins, Roma Pulling, Cynthia Taylor-Miller, Sue Thomas, and Steve Williams. Guests present were Barry Griffith, Herb Ogden, Bob Perkins, and Al Pulling.

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Williams.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the 17 June 2004 Directors meeting, as published in the August *Smoke & Blazes*, were amended to indicate that section member Kathleen Woods, a Vermont Country Store employee, was responsible for the \$500 gift from Vermont Country Store. With that correction, the minutes were accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Roma provided the following data:

Checking account .....	\$731.68
Cash on hand .....	\$135.00
Savings .....	\$1126.31
CD .....	\$1396.43
Kirk savings .....	\$1509.85
Kirk CDs .....	\$13,195.27
Memberships .....	91
Voting members .....	145

She noted that the Kirk Fund has increased by \$500 because of the Vermont Country Store donation. The report was accepted.

**Trails & Shelters Report:** Herb reported on the Canty Trail work. More puncheon needs to be added to the muddy section of the trail and perhaps some "turnpiking" will be needed. The extra cost would be \$52.20. A motion was made and passed to fund that amount for the extra puncheon needed. Herb intends to skid stuff in during the winter months.

Herb is looking into the Last Wills of the Kirks to better enable the Club to understand the Kirks' intentions as to spending of the principle or interest from the Kirk Fund.

Herb sends out notices prior to work projects to garner helpers.

Cindy has reported to the Main Club that there are now blazed ATV trails on Bear Mt.

**Governor Clement Shelter Update:** Barbara reported on the continuing efforts to protect the shelter from vandalism.

There is a cost estimate of \$8,000 for a gate including posts, abutments, and barriers. It was suggested that the town supply the labor. Barbara and Barry Griffith will attend the 20 October meeting of the Shrewsbury Select Board at which gating will be discussed. They will report back to our board.

A parking ordinance is still being considered and Forest Service signs of "No Motorized Vehicles" have been offered.

**Outing Attendees:** There has been concern that, for some outings, people show up who do not have the physical condition or level of experience appropriate for that particular event. We discussed whether we should be doing a more thorough job of screening outing participants.

It seems that other GMC Sections do some pre-hike screening and limit the numbers allowed per outing by omitting the starting time and place from the published schedule. This requires the would-be hiker to call the leader in advance and gives the leader a chance to discuss the level of difficulty of the trip and to explore the caller's qualifications.

Some of the hike leaders present liked this approach; others felt that fielding the phone calls would be a burden or that they would be uncomfortable rejecting an applicant. After some discussion the board decided to experiment with the following compromise:

The schedule published in *Smoke & Blazes*, which goes primarily to Section members, will contain starting time and place as at present. However, for the

schedule published in the public media, each hike leader may choose to publish starting time and place or to require potential hikers to call them for the information.

In addition, we should try to provide, both in the schedule and at the meeting location, a more complete hike description including items such as elevation gain, distance, amount of time expected for the outing, and degree of difficulty.

**Publicity:** Our publicity panel will be on display at the upcoming discount day at Eastern Mountain Sports. The panel is currently in the Rutland Free Library.

**Outing Schedule:** Sue reported that the winter schedule is in progress

**Smoke & Blazes-Bob** reminded hike leaders that November first is the deadline for registering winter outing dates with Sue.

Steve will look into the possibility of including advertising in *Smoke & Blazes*. Circulation is about 175 copies per issue including a copy to each GMC section president and newsletter editor.

**GMC Waterbury Directors' Meeting:** Lynda attended the 18 September meeting at Stratton Mountain. Her in depth report of that meeting included the following highlights.

Random membership survey results were discussed.

There is an urgency to get on with fundraising with a \$5 million goal. Feasibility study results were reviewed.

The mission of the GMC needs to be clarified. Maybe the club should get out of some wilderness groups such as Chittenden Bank 2-for-1 deal. The GMC shouldn't back down to political pressure on issues such as ATV use in the wilderness.

**Next meeting:** The next Killington Section Board meeting will be 15 February 2005 (the third Tuesday), at 7:00 PM at Barry Griffith's office



Your Invitation to Join

## Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

### ANNUAL DUES:

Individual ..... \$30  
Family ..... \$40  
Senior/Student/Volunteer ..... \$20  
Individual Lifetime ..... \$750  
Family Lifetime ..... \$1000

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_ trail work, \_\_\_ shelter work, \_\_\_ sign making, \_\_\_ publications, \_\_\_ leading outings, \_\_\_ publicity, \_\_\_ education

Make check payable to Killington Section, GMC and mail with this application to:

Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701





# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 58, Number 1

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

February 2005

## Outing Reports

### Buck Mountain, NY

9 October 2004

by Sue Thomas, leader.

We had a record turnout for the hike up Buck Mountain – almost 200! Well, OK, they weren't all in our group, and we learned a valuable lesson – steer clear of the entire Lake George region on Columbus Day weekend.

The trail begins right at the lake shore, at a large parking lot that was already nearly full. Later arrivals told us they circled like vultures waiting for a spot to open up, and when we left cars were parked down the road for at least a half mile.

We started up the trail a few minutes behind a group of 28 kids and adults from a Schenectady youth organization and soon overtook their tail – two large ladies in inadequate shoes who clearly had no idea what they'd signed up for back at headquarters! They were good natured about it though. We offered some encouraging words and moved on.

The hike up was uncrowded, but not so the summit. We managed to find a patch of rock to call our own, off to one side, shielded from the hoards by a screen of trees, and had a peaceful lunch. It really is a beautiful summit – the rocks are studded with garnet crystals and below stretches Lake George dotted with islands, sailboats and the toney



Killington Section hikers enjoy lunch break at Sunrise Shelter

Sagamore Resort. How often do you get a chance to “look down on” the rich and famous? Across the lake is Tongue Mountain, known for rattlesnakes and behind it the Adirondack High Peaks.

Yes, fewer people would have been nice, but we had a good day. The only down side was the behavior of the youth group – nice kids all when we spoke to them, but apparently no one had ever told them to pack out their trash. We did, and they seemed genuinely bewildered. I hope before their next excursion they'll get some instruction on how to behave in the woods. In the meantime we collected several bags of water bottles in their wake.

Coming down we were surprised to meet the same two ladies, still gamely trudging on. I sincerely hope they made it to the top eventually. They certainly earned it.

The biggest disappointment of the day came when we discovered my favorite ice-cream shop closed – Oh no! We drowned our sorrows with make-your-own sundaes at Stewart's and the day was saved.

### Chittenden Brook

4 December 2004

by Sue Thomas, leader

Surprise, surprise – winter bypassed Rutland and dumped a load of snow right where we planned to hike. Most of us were not as prepared as we might have been, but we managed to slip and slide up the Long Trail from Brandon Gap, arriving at Sunrise Shelter in time for lunch.

With the steepest climbing behind us we could then turn our attention to the beauty of the new snow on the trees – a Christmas card everywhere you looked. Moose were lurking – we saw plenty of tracks



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2005 .....	Barbara Griffith
" .....	* Bill Robichaud
" .....	Steve Williams
2006 .....	Andrea McQuade
" .....	Roma Pulling
" .....	* Susan Thomas
2007 .....	John Hale
" .....	Lynda Hutchins
" .....	Cindy Taylor-Miller

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.  
Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President .....	Steve Williams
Vice President.....	Barbara Griffith
Secretary .....	John Hale
Treasurer.....	Roma Pulling

### Committee Chairs

History .....	Bob Perkins
Outings .....	Susan Thomas
Trails & Shelters.....	Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director.....	Lynda Hutchins
Alternate .....	Alfred Pulling

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor .....	Bob Perkins
--------------	-------------

### Web Site

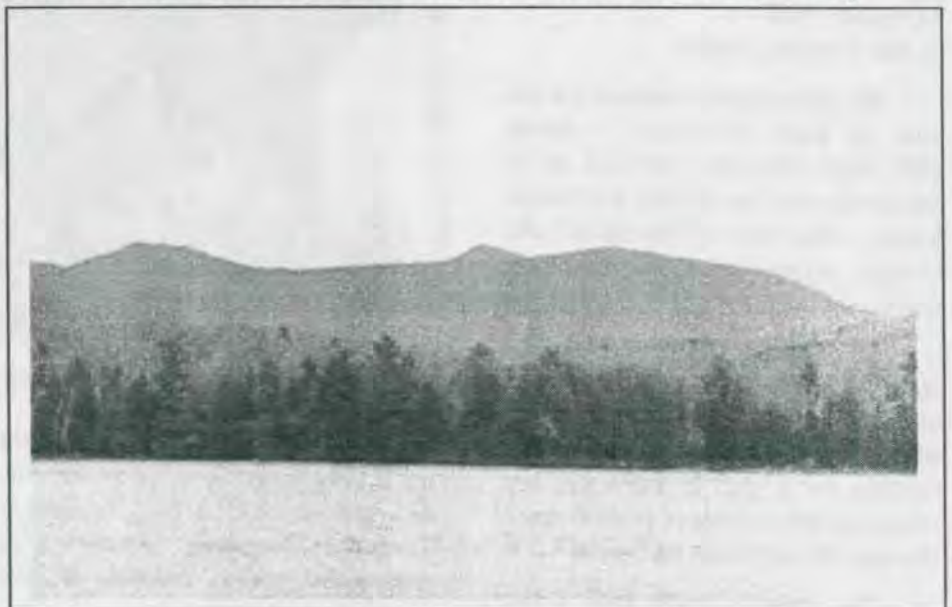
Web master .....	Deborah Waggett
------------------	-----------------

## Vermonttrivia

A question based on a suggestion from Herb Ogden was posed in the November issue:

**Q7. What two mountains within ten miles of Sherburne Pass has the Long Trail, at one time or another, gone east of and gone west of but never gone over?**

**A7.** The Long Trail was west of Deer Leap till about 1969, then east, then west since the recent relocation. The Trail was east of Pico Peak and is now to the west. [Herb originally asked about a three-mile radius. I thought that was too easy and changed it to the ten-mile radius. After all, how many mountains are there within three miles of the Pass? Ed.]



**View of the Coolidge Range looking over Spring Lake**

**Q8.** What was the former name for Spring Lake?

### Contact Information – Web Site – <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Barbara Griffith, 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)  
John Hale, 170 Spooner Point or PO Box 506, Castleton, VT 05735, 273-2293, [john@lighters.com](mailto:john@lighters.com)  
Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, [lmhutch@shoreham.net](mailto:lmhutch@shoreham.net)  
Andrea McQuade, 2 Jan Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5104, [andreamcquade@adelphia.net](mailto:andreamcquade@adelphia.net)  
Herbert Ogden, 214 South End Road., Mt. Tabor, VT 05253-9756, (H)293-2510, (W)774-2200, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, [rperkinsvt@aol.com](mailto:rperkinsvt@aol.com)  
Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, [pullingra137@aol.com](mailto:pullingra137@aol.com)  
William Robichaud, 215 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-2567  
Cindy Taylor-Miller, 337 East St., Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [ctmiller@vermontel.net](mailto:ctmiller@vermontel.net)  
Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185  
Deborah Waggett, 21 Academy St., Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, [purplejeep99@hotmail.com](mailto:purplejeep99@hotmail.com)  
Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, [voorborg@sover.net](mailto:voorborg@sover.net)



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: March – May 2005

Visit our web site: <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome on our outings. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather, and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont! Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call the leader if you have any questions.

- 5 March, Saturday      Lily Pond, Bomoseen      Leader: Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
Snowshoe on "Park Avenue" past beaver dams and otter habitat and see several old slate quarries on the way to a remote pond.  
Moderate, 4 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.
- 12 March, Saturday      Mystery Bushwhack, Shrewsbury      Leader: Jerry Parker, 775-6208**  
Venture off the trails in the Plymbsbury area to explore wildlife habitat and tracks. Moose, fisher, and snowshoe hare are among the species common in the area. Snowshoes required.  
Moderate, 4 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.
- 20 March, Sunday      Herrick Mountain, Ira      Leaders: Viv & Larry Walter, 775-3855**  
Some bushwhacking and steep climbing, rewarded with a view from the top of this 2726-foot mountain.  
Difficult, 6 to 7 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 26 March, Saturday      Griswold Peak, Hubbardton      Leaders: Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
The highest point in Hubbardton (2006 feet) now has an official name. We'll pay it a visit. We'll follow logging roads for a time, then bushwhack and scramble to the top.  
Moderate, 5 miles, 1300 feet elevation gain.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 2 April, Saturday      Sugar Hill Reservoir, Ripton      Leaders: Gordon & Helen Cawood, 352-4310**  
Easy, 5 miles, mostly level.  
Call leader for meeting time and place.
- 9 April, Saturday      Pond Woods Wildlife Refuge, Orwell      Leader: Bill Holt, 537-4227**  
Early wildflowers. A lake and three ponds along the way. Wear appropriate foot gear for wet conditions.  
Rain date: 10 April.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 16 April, Saturday      Birding at West Rutland Marsh      Leader: Roy Pilcher, 459-2851**  
A joint trip with Rutland County Audubon Society to identify the returning spring birds with local experts. Bring binoculars.  
Easy, 3.5 miles, about 4 hours.  
Leave from the West Rutland Price Chopper parking lot at 7:00 AM.
- 23 April, Saturday      Section Potluck & Annual Meeting      Leader: Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
Bring utensils and a dish to share. Potluck begins at 6:00 PM followed by a short business meeting and election of directors, then a slide program. Nonmembers welcome!  
Join us at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Hillside Avenue, Rutland at 6:00 PM.

Schedule continued on next page.



**Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: March – May 2005**

Schedule continued from previous page.

- 24 April, Sunday**                      **Split Rock Mt., Westport, NY**                      **Leaders: Viv & Larry Walter, 775-3855**  
Views of Lake Champlain, Giant Mountain, and the Dix Range.  
Moderate. 3.5 to 5.5 miles, elevation gain 670 feet.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM
- 7 May, Saturday**                      **Appalachian Trail, Killington**                      **Leader: Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
Follow the AT from Sherburne Pass up Deer Lead for a quick view, then east thru Gifford Woods, along Kent Pond and past a beautiful cascading waterfall. Steep up Deer Leap; then easy.  
Moderate. 4.5 to 5 miles, elevation gain 400 feet.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM
- 14 May, Saturday**                      **Lower Elevation Work Party**                      **Leader: Herb Ogden, 293-2510**  
Join us for a day of spring cleaning on the Appalachian/Long Trail. Tools provided or bring your own.  
Wear sturdy foot gear and bring along lunch and bug repellent.  
Easy to moderate tasks available.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM
- 15 May, Sunday**                      **Wildflower Identification**                      **Leader: Connie Youngstrom, 492-3502**  
Leader will choose location depending on conditions.  
Probably easy. We'll stop to smell the flowers.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM
- 21 May, Saturday**                      **Buck Mt., Lake George, NY**                      **Leader: Steve Williams, 645-9529**  
Beautiful summit overlooking Lake George and the Adirondacks.  
Moderate, 4.6 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM
- 25 May, Wednesday**                      **Sunset Hike, Pine Hill, Park, Rutland** **Leaders: Roma & Al Pulling, 773-6997**  
An easy hike with some short climbs in Pine Hill Park. Bring musical instruments for a sing along, and supper if you'd like.  
Easy.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 5:30 PM
- 4 June, Saturday**                      **National Trails Day Work Party**                      **Leader: Herb Ogden, 293-2510**  
All around the country folks will be out doing maintenance on trails in preparation for the hiking season. Join the Killington Section in spring cleanup on the higher elevations of the Appalachian/Long Trail in Killington and Mendon. Tools provided or bring your own. Wear sturdy foot gear and bring along lunch and bug repellent.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM
- 11 June, Saturday**                      **Mount Equinox, Manchester**                      **Leader: Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
A steep climb to the 3825-foot summit, the highest peak in the Taconic Range. Visit the memorial to Mr. Barbo, probably the only summit monument to a dog. Stay at Lookout Rock for peace and quiet, or continue on to the top of the auto road to see vintage sports cars taking part in the annual Equinox Hill Climb. Some date back to before World War One.  
Difficult, 6.5 to 7 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM



## The Killington Section remembers Diana Williams 1938 – 2005

By Sue Thomas

A few years back when Herb retired as Killington Section President we faced a bit of a dilemma. The annual meeting loomed, and no one willing to take up the reins could be found. What to do? Then salvation – Steve and Diana Williams made the colossal error of not attending the meeting and, not there to defend himself, Steve was duly elected. Blissfully unaware, they joined us for a hike in Dorset the next weekend, and truly thought we were joking when we said "Oh, by the way,....". When we finally succeeded in convincing Steve that he was in fact the President of the Killington Section,

Diana was bemused. "I guess that makes me the First Lady," she remarked.



That gentle good humor was one of the gifts she brought to enrich our outings, along with a great appreciation for the outdoors, curiosity about the flora, fauna, and history of the region, and a good natured determination to keep on, no

matter the steepness of the hill.

Last year the hill got very steep. Throughout most of 2004, while Diana struggled through the ups and downs of chemotherapy and endless hospital visits, she remained a presence on our hikes and never out of mind. We kept tabs on her progress and hoped our good wishes would help speed her recovery and return her to us on the trails.

In fact, she is very much with us these days as we think of her often when we slog up the hills, enjoy a beautiful view, examine animal tracks in the snow, and laugh at Dickens' stylish wardrobe. I'm sure I speak for the entire Killington Section in extending our condolences to the Williams family, and our appreciation for the time she spent with us. She will be missed

## The Golden Years

by Roma Pulling

Nearly everyone has heard this euphemism [ha!]. Of course the younger generation puts it another way: We're "over the hill" or "older than dirt." [Blunt, but closer to the truth.] And then there are those who ask, "But what do you **DO???**" [Now I'm beginning to get annoyed.] So from all us golden-aged, over-the-hill delinquents, here is one way we keep occupied.

We have been asked how hikers who do a one-way hike get back to their cars. That's where we and a few others come in. They call us for help, and we meet them at the end of their trek and take them back to the beginning and their parked car. Or we meet them where their car is parked and take them where they want to start their hike. Here are a few examples of aid we have given:

In 1995 a gentleman called from Tampa, Florida, about a hike he and others wanted to do in October. We were pleased to do so, but the day they planned to fly into Albany airport was a day when the fringes of a hurricane crossed through this area. It seemed unlikely anyone could fly to Albany in that kind of weather or that anyone would want to hike in it, but we had promised to be there to meet them and they hadn't canceled. So we drove to our meeting place, and as we thought, no one was there. But we decided to wait a while, and an hour later they showed up. We took them to their trailhead over a Class 4 road in the rain, dark and fog. As we let them out of the car, I heard one say to the other: "I'll get you for this, Rich."

In 1997 we received a request for assistance from a hiker in New Jersey who wanted to be picked up in Glencoff, New Hampshire, and

brought back to Sherburne [this was before the recent silliness]. We don't usually drive such distances, but the end of the trip was near home, wasn't it? So we were at the meeting place at the appointed time. We had time for a short hike on the AT. It was a really remote area, and it began to get dark. And I began to get nervous. We locked all the windows and doors and settled down for a long wait. In an unusually short time, considering their drive from New Jersey, the two gentlemen showed up and were transported back here.

My last example is about a gentleman from Georgia who has been hiking in Vermont every year but one since 1996. We look forward to his call every year now. This year he completed his End to End, and we were there for him. This is one way for the Over-the-Hill Gang to keep occupied.



## Outing Reports

*Continued from page 1*

and rubbed trees, but they didn't seem interested in socializing and never showed themselves.

From a gap in the trees we were treated to a beautiful panoramic view of the very white White Mountains just as a large flock of geese flew across the valley in the foreground. No doubt they also had been startled by winter's sudden appearance and were hurrying to their condo in Miami.

We descended the Chittenden Brook Trail as gracefully as possible under the circumstances, awarding extra points for style, and emerged just at dusk.

### Brooklyn to South End

2 January 2005

by Herb Ogden, leader

We may have set a statistical record on this hike. Nearly 1.5 per cent of the population of one town turned out for it. That was three people from Mount Tabor, my home town since July 2004. If the same thing happened in Rutland City, we'd have about 250 hikers! Of course, I don't mean to slight the participation of the rest of the dozen hikers and two dogs who showed up on a cool, gray afternoon with freezing rain in the forecast, either.

We began at the U.S. Forest Service work camp in Mt. Tabor Village, otherwise known as Brooklyn. The new building is well underway. It replaces one used by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression. Jerry Parker brought along a book of photos of CCC projects and people, and it was much appreciated. The two Brooklynites explained a further aspect of the CCC work: the two structures with tiny windows, massive cement walls, and thick

metal doors just south of the work camp were used to store explosives.

After climbing up onto a plateau past a split boulder that one Danby hiker remembered playing on as a child, we reached the end of the passable road, managed a tricky brook ford, and followed a woodroad along the east side of a beautiful beaver pond. Near the marshy south end of the beaver pond, at the foot of the Green Mountains, I pointed out a stone log landing. This was the northern end of the Emporium Lumber Company Railroad, built in 1906 to haul logs to a mill between South End Road and Otter Creek, then on to the Rutland Railroad at the South End of Mt. Tabor. Continuing south on the woodroad, I pointed out the railroad grade running through a grove of red pine. Since it was abandoned in 1916, parts of the grade are hard to make out. We headed west from the railroad grade and woodroad to explore an area of many stone walls and a possible esker. If I had known, we could have gone a little farther west to a cellarhole and a small cemetery. As it was, we returned to the woodroad and railroad grade, heading south. Soon after we crossed a causeway with a stone culvert (pretty substantial for a logging railroad), I pointed out a switchback. Three more of these used to bring the rails down to the level of Otter Creek. We took the higher woodroad, passed a cellarhole, and climbed over a little ridge to see the icy, spectacular cascade of McGinn Brook. Following the brook down, we saw the ruins of a water powered mill, and Jerry found a piece of old machinery. By this time, the freezing rain had begun, and we were happy to reach my house on Casey Hill, overlooking South End, where hot beverages and goodies awaited us.

### South Pond, Chittenden

8 January 2005

by Viv Bebee & Larry Walter, leaders

We had a good turnout for this one, with 14 heads counted at the trailhead. The weather was agreeable, with some snow showers on the hill and some windy conditions by the Pond. The route is a retracement of an abandoned side trail of the Long Trail, running easterly from Lefferts Pond just over the ridge to South Pond.

The majority of the trail falls within the National Forest, but near the top of the ridge it enters private property, owned by Bob Ashton. (603-643-1851). If you want to hike to South Pond, Mr. Ashton only asks that you let him know you'll be up that way. He does not allow ATV's or Snowmobiles on his property.

The route has not been blazed for years, so you have to really watch for old, blue paint, especially on the upper section. Dave Coppock kept us on course where things got steep and ill-defined. Anyone using this trail in the winter would be well advised to wear snowshoes with crampons or some other traction device, as it gets a little dicey towards the top. (There is an alternate route up an old timber road which branches off of the trail and crosses the brook, but warm weather had eliminated the ice bridges which had been available last week.)

The pond itself sits in a nicely cleared area, just below Bob's place. He and his caretaker came down to visit while we were eating lunch on the leeward side of a utility building. This is a nice hike through some large maple, ash and birch, with evidence of moose activity (we followed some tracks near the bottom). I had rated this hike as moderate, but in winter it probably should be listed as difficult.



## Pine Hill Park

15 January 2005

by Andrea McQuade  
& Tad Tucker, leaders

A group of 13 hikers enjoyed a six-mile outing in the Pine Hill Park area, which is located in Rutland City. The trails were snow covered enough for hiking boots, but not enough for snowshoes or skis. The hike on this trail system was far easier than getting across the parking lot, which was sheer ice. Our group saw quite a variety of trees and other vegetation, as well as a splendid view of mountains to the north, including Blue Ridge and Pico.

## Hot Dogs at Minerva Hinchey

6 February 2005

by Roma Pulling, leader

What a great day we had! After last year's struggle with cold temperatures, sleet and drizzle, the sunshine and ideal snow conditions seemed almost miraculous. We left the park with ten people and were met at Spring Lake Ranch in Shrewsbury by four more people and one dog. And oh yes, by two flocks of turkeys, which make the ranch their home.

Piling the fire wood and food items we had taken with us on two plastic toboggans, we donned snowshoes and started up the trail to Minerva Hinchey Shelter. While Alfred and one of the Toms built a fire in the fireplace in front of the shelter, Dickens and his owner took a large group on a hike down the Long Trail and via a loop, back to the shelter in time for lunch. Jean and I took a shorter hike north on the trail. Accompanying the roasted dogs were potato chips, mustard, ketchup, rolls, cookies, hot chocolate and coffee.

As we wound down the lunch phase of our outing, I heard a challenge: "Let's build a snowman!" Soon several of us were at work on

what? It started as a snowman but acquired ears and a tail, more like a snow rabbit. The next hikers are probably still scratching their heads.

As we put out the fire and packed our supplies for the return trip to the cars, Sue told us of ice cutting at Spring Lake. We were off to see this operation, which I hadn't seen since I was a child. It was being done in the old way with hand saws, nary a chain saw in sight. Several chunks were lying around that we could examine, but no workers were there on Sunday.

We had a wonderful day and were pleased to share it with such a fine group.

## Baker Peak, Mt. Tabor

12 February 2005

by Viv Bebee  
& Larry Walter, leaders

The weather cooperated nicely with a fresh eight-inch layer of new snow, on what would otherwise have been a pretty icy trudge. A dozen souls made the hike today. The weather was near perfect, at just below freezing, with hardly anyone wearing hats on the way up.

The trail head is accessed from a small, plowed lot off of South End Road (a couple miles south of Danby). The route runs up some beautiful old stands of White Pine and along a brook, which you eventually cross. We easily crossed the brook, which was at low flow.

About half of the trail is routed along an old carriage road used in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to access a tourist lodge built by lumber baron, John Griffith. The inn is long since gone, but the old road grade survives surprisingly intact.

Once the trail switches back to the north, you cross into wilderness just before you walk under a large conifer windfall. We caught glimpses of the Danby Mine on the

opposite side of the valley and crossed a nicely built foot bridge which is anchored on the west of a rock face. You can still see the pieces of solid bar-stock cemented into the rock which supported a much larger bridge for the carriages.

There is a nice lookout above this rock face that is accessible with a brief scramble from the road. Herb Ogden managed to sneak in a brief side trip to the lookout on our return from the peak. The first major view from the road occurs at a sharp bend around a second rock face, which is visible from Route 7, especially in the winter. To this point, we had encountered fox and coyote tracks, among others, in the fresh snow.

The old road then turns up a major ravine. If you pay attention, there is at least one spot where the old pull-outs and dammed livestock watering pools are still evident. At the head of the ravine, you cross the creek, leaving the old carriage road behind and climbing northeasterly, with a moderate grade, on old logging roads.

There is one spot where the trail makes a sharp, and very poorly marked right turn (at a big yellow birch), straight up the hill about 500 feet to another old road where it continues back to the left. It's a shame this section could not be better marked, wilderness or not. I plan to ask the Forest Service for permission to do so.

When you near the exposed, rocky final ascent, there is a sign marking the bad-weather by-pass which swings you to the right of and eventually to the back side of the summit. We took that route on the way back down, where we paused for lunch.

As far as difficulty ratings, this trail should be marked difficult when there's only ice on the rocks, or when the runoff levels are high.



# Killington Section Directors Meeting, 15 February 2005

By: John Hale, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Williams at 7:00 PM in the law offices of Barry Griffith.

## Board Members present:

Steve Williams, President  
Barbara Griffith, Vice President  
Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
John Hale, Secretary

Lynda Hutchins, Delegate to GMC  
Cynthia Taylor-Miller  
Bill Robichaud  
Sue Thomas

## Others present:

Barry Griffith  
Herb Ogden  
Bob Perkins  
Al Pulling

The **minutes of the 19 October 2004, Board of Director's meeting** were considered. A motion was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the minutes as written by Barbara Griffith.

**Treasurer's Report** Roma Pulling reported the following account balances and membership statistics as of 2/15/05:

Unrestricted:		Kirk Fund:		Membership:	
Checking	\$2,135.71	Savings	\$571.35	Memberships	158
Petty Cash	150.00	Cert. of Dep.	13,378.24	Voting Members	191
Savings	1,127.16		\$13,949.59		
Cert. of Dep.	1,602.01				
	<u>\$5,014.88</u>				

A motion was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

The **Governor Clement Shelter** was discussed. Herb Ogden said the Green Mountain Club (GMC) Trail Management Committee has met and decided that if the Town of Shrewsbury does not improve its policing of the shelter to reduce the incidence of vandalism, the Club will be forced to remove the Governor Clement Shelter and build a new one further up the trail between Clement and Cooper. Herb asked the Committee to postpone its decision until our Section and possibly the Town of Shrewsbury, could respond.

Barbara and Barry Griffith told us that incidentally, the Town of Shrewsbury is equally concerned about the vandalism at the shelter and environs and has a remediation plan under consideration. The cost of the plan is already proposed in the Town budget for the coming year.

The Town's plan involves the Sheriff and his deputies patrolling the area with specific frequency during the summer months from Memorial Day to Columbus Day.

At Herb's request, it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously that President Williams should write a letter to the GMC Trail Management Committee requesting them to postpone their final consideration and any decision about the Governor Clement Shelter until the fall of 2006. That would give the Town of Shrewsbury two full summer seasons to apply their new plan and would give all parties opportunity to evaluate the plan's effectiveness.

Herb told us that plans for the **bridge over Gould Brook** are well advanced. The site will be scouted this summer and the bridge will most likely be built next summer.

Herb said the **Cooper Lodge** will be torn down by the GMC, likely some time next summer. Those who care for the Lodge cannot keep up with the vandalism; the drug use at the Lodge is a significant issue; and the Lodge is so close to the ski trail as to be an attractive nuisance for skiers who go off the trail from there and get lost. A new tent platform (later to be joined by a new shelter) will be constructed about two miles south of the existing site prior to demolition. The foundation will be preserved enough to show future generations where the Lodge was.

This summer's **trail work days** will be held on Saturdays, 14 May and 4 June.

Herb asked for another **Section Checker volunteer** to help monitor the trail from Cooper Lodge to Jungle Junction to Route 4. Bill Robichaud does that section now all by himself.



Herb reported that the GMC Headquarters has asked our Section for ideas and suggestions about **how to disable the old Route 4 parking lot access** and how to re-vegetate the area. After some discussion, the Board indicated a preference for large boulders at the roadside but is quite comfortable leaving the final decision to Headquarters in conjunction with the VT Highway Department.

The Section policy of **screening hike participants** was discussed. The Board has empowered each hike leader to decide whether to put the time of meeting in the Rutland Herald announcement. If a leader chooses not to put the time in the paper, participants must call the listed number and speak with the leader who will determine the person's suitability for the planned hike. Leaders may choose alternatively, to include the meeting time rather than be available for telephone calls. The policy is in place and the Board decided to keep it under continued review.

President Williams reached out to Mr. Steve Lulek of the **Rutland Rock Climbing Center** to explore any natural connections between our two organizations. The Section cannot offer a commercial endorsement of the for-profit Center but our Publicity Panel is currently at the Center and Bob Perkins sends the Center our newsletter. Bob offered to assure that outing schedule section of our current newsletter is publicly posted at the Center.

Our **Publicity Panel** is a bulletin board which displays Section and Club information. It is a traveling signboard that Andrea McQuade manages.

President Williams, Lynda Hutchins and John Hale will meet with Kate White, **Capital Campaign Director**. Ms. White is looking for suggestions about how best to approach potential donors in the Rutland area.

The **Killington Section notices** will be posted at all trailheads after the Annual General Meeting.

The **Section's Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Rutland Lutheran Church on Saturday, 23 April. At that meeting, the Board will nominate Barry Griffith to be a new Board Director and will re-nominate Steve Williams and Barbara Griffith as Directors. Bill Robichaud was thanked for his term of service on the Board; he has served two three year terms and must retire from the Board according to the bylaws.

Roma Pulling has a copy of the **Section's Bylaws** and will make copies available to any interested party.

Lynda Hutchins reported on her attendance at the **Headquarters Directors Meeting** held on 22 January. Some of the topics are:

\*The Club will likely meet its financial budget this year although expenses are currently over budget by about \$20,000.

\*The Club contracted with Demont and Associates to manage the upcoming capital campaign. The campaign has been extensively thought through and will be executed over the next two years.

\*Annual Club dues will be increased in the various categories: individual memberships for example, will increase \$5 from \$30 to \$35 per year.

A more complete presentation of Lynda's observations, the formal dues increase proposal, and the details of the capital campaign are available upon request. **Rutland High School will offer a hiking program** as an extra curricular activity for students and has requested that a Killington Section representative address the students to explain our club and its activities. Bill Robichaud and Steve Williams volunteered.

Bill Robichaud told us that a **representative of the Green Mountain Forrest** approached him asking to be invited to address the Section about their programs and plans. A time and place for this speaker will be determined.

Sue Thomas reported that the next **Outing Schedule** is mostly done; and Bob Perkins said that publication of the next issue of *Smoke & Blazes* is well in hand. Cindy Taylor-Miller said the **Section's website** is working well.

The **next Board meeting** will be at the Annual General Meeting on 23 April at the Lutheran Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.



Your Invitation to Join

## Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

### ANNUAL DUES:

Individual ..... \$30  
Family ..... \$40  
Senior/Student/Volunteer ..... \$20  
Individual Lifetime ..... \$750  
Family Lifetime ..... \$1000

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_ trail work, \_\_\_ shelter work, \_\_\_ sign making, \_\_\_ publications, \_\_\_ leading outings, \_\_\_ publicity, \_\_\_ education

\*  
Make check payable to Killington Section, GMC and mail with this application to:

Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701





# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 58, Number 2

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

May 2005

## Barry Griffith Elected Killington Section President

Frequent hike leader Barry Griffith was elected Director and Section President on 23 April at the Killington Section annual meeting. Barry takes over from Steve Williams who will continue as a director after completing three successful years in the top spot.

Barry also replaces Bill Robichaud who retires from the board due to our six-year term limit rule. Thanks to Bill for his many hours of trail work, which no doubt will continue.

Barbara Griffith, John Hale, and Roma Pulling were reelected as Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer respectively.

[See page 8 for a full report of the annual meeting.]



Outgoing Killington Section President Steve Williams (above, right) Passes Baton to New Director and President Barry Griffith

## Apology To The Sector Checker For Route 103 To Lottery Road

Herb Ogden, Trails & Shelters Chair

In the fall of two thousand and four  
We needed one sec-checker more.

You spoke for this sector  
And went out and checked her  
And sent your report furthermore.

With thanks I received it  
And away I did file it  
In my cyber file oh so secure.

But there it expired!  
My computer'd acquired  
A lot of spy junk on its disk.  
I had it removed  
By an expert approved,  
But one thing did put me at risk.

No one made a backup  
Before he did hack up  
The info that lived on that disk.

So now you may take me to task if  
you wish,  
Yet still I must ask you --  
Who are you, and what's your  
address?  
And how is your sector?  
And has it been checked o'er?  
And if 'twas a mess  
Send to my address  
A report, and the mess we'll redress.



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2006 .....	Andrea McQuade
" .....	Roma Pulling
" .....	* Susan Thomas
2007 .....	John Hale
" .....	Lynda Hutchins
" .....	Cindy Taylor-Miller
2008 .....	* Barbara Griffith
" .....	Barry Griffith
" .....	* Steve Williams

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President .....	Barry Griffith
Vice President .....	Barbara Griffith
Secretary .....	John Hale
Treasurer .....	Roma Pulling

### Committee Chairs

History .....	Bob Perkins
Outings .....	Susan Thomas
Trails & Shelters .....	Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director .....	Lynda Hutchins
Alternate .....	Alfred Pulling

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor .....	Bob Perkins
--------------	-------------

### Web Site

Web master .....	Deborah Waggett
------------------	-----------------

## Vermonttrivia

Our trivia question in February was:

### Q8. What was the former name for Spring Lake?

A8. Spring Lake used to be known as Shrewsbury Pond, after its town.

This raises the question as to the difference between a lake and a pond. My dictionary was of little help: *Lake*: an inland body of water larger than a pond and *Pond*: a body of water smaller than a lake. A cursory internet search produced a couple of additional suggestions. A lake is large enough to have a wind-swept beach. A pond is shallow enough to maintain fairly even top-to-bottom temperature, and to support rooted plants, even away from shore.

Clearly, Vermonters don't feel constrained, even by the dictionary definitions. There are plenty of small lakes and large ponds. Consult your Vermont atlas and compare, for example, the sizes of Lake Elfin (Wallingford), Lake Madeleine (Sandgate), and Lake Pleiad (on the Long Trail in Hancock) with the sizes of Great Avriil Pond (Avrill), Island Pond (Brighton), or Joes Pond (Cabot).

Apparently *Lake* has a desirable connotation that *Pond* lacks. Not only did Shrewsbury Pond become Spring Lake but Dog Pond (Woodbury) became Valley Lake, and Ray Pond (Wilmington) is now Lake Raponda.

Here are two more posers for your consideration:

Q9. What Long Trail shelter, not far from Rutland, once featured the only piped-in running water shower bath on the Trail?

Q10. What three Long Trail shelters were named after former secretaries/clerks of the Green Mountain Club?

### Contact Information – Web Site – <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Barbara & Barry Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

John Hale, 170 Spooner Point or PO Box 506, Castleton, VT 05735, 273-2293, [john@lighters.com](mailto:john@lighters.com)

Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, [lmhutch@shoreham.net](mailto:lmhutch@shoreham.net)

Andrea McQuade, 2 Jan Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5104, [andreamcquade@adelphia.net](mailto:andreamcquade@adelphia.net)

Herbert Ogden, 214 South End Road., Mt. Tabor, VT 05253-9756, (H)293-2510, (W)774-2200, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, [rperkinsvt@aol.com](mailto:rperkinsvt@aol.com)

Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, [pullingra137@aol.com](mailto:pullingra137@aol.com)

Cindy Taylor-Miller, 337 East St., Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [ctmiller@vermontel.net](mailto:ctmiller@vermontel.net)

Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Deborah Waggett, 21 Academy St., Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, [purplejeep99@hotmail.com](mailto:purplejeep99@hotmail.com)

Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, [voorborg@sover.net](mailto:voorborg@sover.net)



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: June – August 2005

Visit our web site: <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome on our outings. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather, and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont! Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call the leader if you have any questions.

- 4 June, Saturday**                      **National Trails Day Work Party**                      **Leader: Herb Ogden, 293-2510**  
All around the country folks will be out doing maintenance on trails in preparation for the hiking season. Join the Killington Section in spring cleanup on the higher elevations of the Appalachian/Long Trail in Killington and Mendon. Tools provided or bring your own. Wear sturdy foot gear and bring along lunch and bug repellent.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 11 June, Saturday**                      **Mount Equinox, Manchester**                      **Leader: Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
A steep climb to the 3825-foot summit, the highest peak in the Taconic Range. Visit the memorial to Mr. Barbo, probably the only summit monument to a dog. Stay at Lookout Rock for peace and quiet, or continue on to the top of the auto road to see vintage sports cars taking part in the annual Equinox Hill Climb. Some date back to before World War One.  
Difficult, 6.5 to 7 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 18 June, Saturday**                      **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Taconic Mt. Ramble, Hubbardton**                      **Leader, Kit Davidson, 273-2982**  
Massive cliffs; rolling meadows; mountain peaks with views north, south, east, and west; a Japanese garden full of waterfalls; plus other goodies. Wine and cheese afterward; bring no lunch. Walkers can leave the group at several points and relax on the lawn.  
Easy half mile, or moderate 3 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 1:00 PM. Rain date: 6/19.
- 19 June, Sunday**                      **Paddle Otter Creek**                      **Leaders: Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
Bring lunch, a sense of adventure, and the hardy water vessel of your choice. We'll paddle northwest on Otter Creek and explore its history, ecology, and environment. Plan to be out for the day.  
Moderate. Mileage to be determined.  
Leave from Sears parking lot at the Diamond Run Mall at 9:00 AM.
- 25 June, Saturday**                      **Deer Leap & Long Trail, Killington**                      **Leader: John Hale, 273-2293**  
We'll ascend Deer Leap to enjoy the view and then continue north on the Long Trail. Some climbing.  
Moderate. Mileage to be determined.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 2 July, Saturday**                      **Bird Mountain, Castleton**                      **Leaders: Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
We'll hike for the views. Steep climb at the end. Then for those wishing for more, we'll hike around the extended top. Maybe we'll find remnants of the old Mason's Monument. Plan to be out for the day. Bring lunch, sturdy shoes, bug repellent and a sense for history.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 6 July, Wednesday**                      **Trails & Shelter Work Party**                      **Leader: Cindy Taylor-Miller, 446-2288**  
Call leader for project plans and for meeting time and place
- 7 July, Thursday**                      **End-to-Enders' Reunion**                      **Leaders: Roma & Al Pulling, 773-6997**  
End-to-Enders (and serious wannabees!) bring pictures to pass around, favorite trail snacks, and stories. Beverages will be provided, and possibly slides.  
Real easy.  
Meet at the Pullings home, Route 4 East, across from Dexter Shoes, at 6:00 PM.
- 10 July, Sunday**                      **Paddle Otter Creek, Proctor to Florence**                      **Leader: Jerry Parker, 775-6280**  
Paddle your canoe or kayak past farms and covered bridges.  
Easy, 5 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: June – August 2005

Schedule continued from previous page

- 16 July, Saturday**                      **Robert Frost Mountain, Ripton**                      **Leaders: Gordon & Helen Cawood, 352-4310**  
 Joint hike with the Breadloaf Section via snowmobile trail from the Ripton-Lincoln Road. .  
 Moderate, 5-mile round trip.  
 Call leaders for project plans and for meeting time and place.
- 17 July, Sunday**                      **Trails & Shelter Work Party**                      **Leader: Cindy Taylor-Miller, 446-2288**  
 Call leader for project plans and for meeting time and place
- 24 July, Sunday**                      **Bike Ride, Castleton**                      **Leader: Bill Holt, 537-4227**  
 Cycle on dirt roads and an abandoned railroad line. All-terrain tires recommended; helmets required.  
 Moderate, 15 miles.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 27 July, Wednesday**                      **Trails & Shelter Work Party**                      **Leader: Cindy Taylor-Miller, 446-2288**  
 Call leader for project plans and for meeting time and place
- 31 July, Sunday**                      **Mount Ascutney, Brownsville**                      **Leader: Herb Ogden, 293-2510**  
 We'll ascend the Windsor Trail and come down the Futures Trail to Ascutney State Park. Views from the tower on this monadnock are spectacular in all directions. Steep but rewarding.  
 Difficult, 7.3 miles. Elevation gain of 2520 feet.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 6 August, Saturday**                      **Okemo Mountain, Mount Holly**                      **Leaders: Andrea McQuade & Tad Tucker, 775-5104**  
 Take the Healdville Trail to the fire tower on the summit for views in all directions.  
 Moderate, 6 miles. Elevation gain of 1900 feet.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 7 August, Sunday**                      **Trails & Shelter Work Party**                      **Leader: Cindy Taylor-Miller, 446-2288**  
 Call leader for project plans and for meeting time and place
- 13 August, Saturday**                      **Bald Mountain, Mendon**                      **Leader: Tom Copps, 770-9394**  
 This loop hike offers several vistas including the Coolidge Range, the Cold River, and Rutland.  
 Moderate, 4 miles. Elevation gain of 1130 feet.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 17 August, Wednesday**                      **Trails & Shelter Work Party**                      **Leader: Cindy Taylor-Miller, 446-2288**  
 Call leader for project plans and for meeting time and place
- 21 August, Sunday**                      **Paddle Grafton Pond, NH**                      **Leaders: Viv & Larry Walter, 775-3855**  
 Canoe or kayak in a beautiful spot with islands and inlets to explore.  
 Easy.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 8:00 AM.
- 27 August, Saturday**                      **Branch Pond to Stratton Pond, Arlington**                      **Leader: Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
 We'll follow the Branch Pond and Lye Brook Trails into the Lye Brook Wilderness passing Bourn Pond as well. Loons, beaver, bears, and moose are often seen in this remote area.  
 Moderate, 9 miles.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 8:30 AM. Rain date: 8/28.
- 28 August, Sunday**                      **Trails & Shelter Work Party**                      **Leader: Cindy Taylor-Miller, 446-2288**  
 Call leader for project plans and for meeting time and place
- 10 September, Saturday**                      **Merck Forest & Mount Antone, Rupert**                      **Leader: Steve Williams, 645-9529**  
 Hike in the Merck Forest and Farmland Center in the Taconic Mountains, climbing to the 2610-foot summit of Mount Antone.  
 Moderate, 6 miles. Elevation gain of 820 feet.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.



## Outing Reports

### Shrewsbury to Lake Ninevah

19 February 2005

By Barbara & Barry Griffith

The hike to Sugar Hill Reservoir in Ripton, scheduled for this day, was cancelled due to cold, windy, blustery conditions. However, nine people showed up for the early start of the hike and decided: "What the Heck? Let's go somewhere". Where to go? All were dressed appropriately for the weather with multiple layers, had food, and a desire to press on. The default leaders proposed a snowshoe outing retracing a segment of the old Crown Point Road visiting old cemetery sites along the way.

Following an abandoned town road off the Tabor Road in Shrewsbury, we stopped to pay our respects at the Woodward-Wilder Cemetery in Eastham. According to the Vermont Old Cemetery Association this cemetery has 18 graves, was first used in 1827, and last used in 1874. A lot of work has been done here to upright markers and fence the burial ground against domestic animals pastured nearby.

Eventually the trail joined a VAST trail bringing the group to the northeast end of Lake Ninevah where we then visited a newly found old cemetery with Wilder family markers. Lastly, before the return trip we explored the site of an unknown Revolutionary War soldier's grave and nearby encampment. This grave is near the top of a fairly steep knoll, with a DAR flag and marker.

Returning to our vehicles we agreed the lesson in history was enjoyable.

### Military Road, Hubbardton

27 February 2005

By Barry & Barb Griffith, leaders

As the American Revolution began in the spring of 1775, Ethan

Allen and the Green Mountain Boys staged a surprise attack, capturing Fort Ticonderoga. A crude road was thereafter cut from the Fort through Hubbardton to the older Crown Point Road and Rutland. Soldiers and supplies passed over this road from New England to the American garrison. Troops retreating from Fort Ti in July 1777 fought a rear-guard action on this road – the only Revolutionary War battle fought on what is now Vermont soil.

Some 230 years later, thirteen of us gathered on a mild February morning to retrace a portion of the old Military Road. We convened at the Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site. The Visitors Center is closed in winter, but the parking lot is plowed. On snowshoes and one pair of skis, we descended the short but steep hill to the East Hubbardton Cemetery, where some of the town's earliest settlers are buried.

We headed in the direction of Fort Ti, proceeding northerly across Sucker Brook, then climbing and turning westerly through a saddle below Sargent Hill. It is a natural route, and is used by local snowmobilers, so we had a well-set trail to follow. At the height of land, we ate lunch, and tried to catch a glimpse of Lake Bomoseen and what lies beyond.

It was time to retrace our steps to the Battlefield. We marveled at how the troops had managed to advance up the steep hill under fire, in wool uniforms and with heavy packs on a hot July day. We inspected nearby Pittsford Ridge, and reviewed how the remaining American forces withdrew from the area to fight another day. We then withdrew ourselves, having enjoyed a good day in good company.

### Shrewsbury Bushwhack

12 March 2005

By Barbara Griffith

Undeterred by an ongoing blustery snowstorm seven snowshoers braved the conditions to venture out into the wilderness with their leader, Jerry Parker, exploring wildlife habitats and tracks. Parking was abundant at the vacant Plymbsbury Wildlife Management area parking lot. We ventured high and low in our search, being rewarded with animal tracks and the freshest of moose signs. Relentless in our pursuit, the moose was even more evasive! As soon as fresh signs of animals were deposited these signs were hidden beneath the falling snow.

One track resembled a giant trough in the snow. Perhaps a giant snow snake some ventured? Alas, not so. Per our guide, this was an otter trail. The slide impression made by the locomotion of the paws in pushing and/or pulling it along. This trail was quite impressive to see.

Our picnic lunch was enjoyed in cover beneath a canopy of evergreens. Returning to our vehicles we bade a safe trip to those returning to Rutland on very snow-covered roads.

All agreed the day out in the elements was most enjoyable. What better way to spend a snowy, blustery day, inside the warmth of one's home or outside romping around in the cold?

### Herrick Mountain

20 March 2005

By Larry Walter, leader

Luck was with us on this one, with beautiful weather and nine brave souls willing to traipse off through the uncharted (Kinda...Tom had his GPS) woods. Early spring is



a good time to go, with most of the motorized traffic back in the garage, leaving still decent snow and warm temperatures. We did have some icing problems with some of the aluminum snowshoe parts. I'll try to remember to pack some vegetable oil spray next time. It took about two hours of northward shoeing to reach the best view point, which is actually about a mile south of the peak. We had lunch there and enjoyed views of the back side of Bird Mountain and Grandpa's Knob, plus Marcy and Giant in the Adirondacks. Three of our party turned back at this point with the rest of us forging onto Herrick. Most of the remaining route was along an existing sled trail, making things easier, despite my faulty memory resulting in an unnecessary ascent of a steep little bluff. (We took the easier route on the way back.). A couple of us chose to turn back at the base of the final climb with the remaining four making a surprisingly quick run to the top. We had regrouped on the return trip when we were passed by a couple of sleds moving at a respectful rate. They lost some of their cargo on the trail (a chainsaw). We alerted them to their loss when we met up at the lunch spot. Nice fellows, who seemed to be having a good time, but I think I'd still rather go motor-less. After leaving the lunch spot, the majority of the hike is predominantly down hill with plenty of nice views along the way to the east and west. We saw plenty of evidence of a couple of resident porcupines along the way. The Spruce Knob Road to the "trail" head can get a little rutted in March, as it was this time. Please contact Carolyn Kenny (802-235-2727) should you wish to hike from the end of this road, as well as John Wilfert (802-457-3567) upon whose land you'll spend a considerable amount of time. John's land is bounded by a yellow-painted, blazed line.

## Griswold Peak, Hubbardton

26 March 2005

By Barry & Barb Griffith, leaders

This was a hike inspired by a newspaper article. We read that the highest point in Hubbardton had its name officially approved by the State of Vermont. We have hiked many places over the years, but never to Griswold Peak. We had to pay it a visit!

Thirteen of us (plus Dickens) joined in the adventure. Scheduling a hike in late March is always a challenge. We found that there was still ample snow in the higher elevations of the Taconics, so we made good use of our snowshoes for the last time this season.

There is no trail to Griswold Peak. Consulting topographical maps, we organized on the East Hubbardton Road and struck out easterly toward our destination. We ascended logging roads early, surprised at how deep the snow was when we attempted a short cut! As we climbed we found evidence of a recent logging operation, near the Castleton town line.

When we approached the crest of the ridge, it was time to start bushwhacking to the north toward our goal. We scrambled up a challenging rise. We were eventually rewarded by a nice view of Lake Bomoseen and the Adirondacks to the west. We ate and took in the scenery. Then, after consulting GPS readings, we continued our climb.

After another half-hour, we arrived at the summit. The view from the top was worth the climb. In addition to the view to the west, we could now see in all directions. We identified peaks all along the Green Mountain range, and had spectacular views of the Otter Creek valley below. We celebrated our accomplishment.

The trip back down was uneventful. We took a more northerly route for variety, and were pleased to come out where we expected. Tired but with a feeling of achievement, we returned home and slept well.

## Pond Woods Refuge, Orwell

9 April 2005

By Bill Holt, leader

Joan and I just started hiking with the Killington Section about a year ago. We have had some wonderful experiences on all of these hikes, so we thought it was time we led a hike ourselves. Adjoining our property are 2,111 acres of state land used mostly by the critters who live there and the occasional hiker, hunter, or fisherman.

The day of the hike, April 9th, was all blue skies with just the right temperature for a ramble in the woods. Twelve hikers and Dickens started out around midmorning following a faint trail through a mixed forest of hardwoods and conifers. Soon we came onto an old logging road which made the walking very easy. After about a half a mile we came to Mud Pond.

The pond is about ten acres including the swampy end that we came out on. The pond is very tranquil and is surrounded on the east and west sides by steep hills rising a hundred feet or so above the waters edge. We made our way along the west side of the pond following an animal trail. Underneath a hemlock someone spotted a bunch of chewed up twigs littering the ground. Sitting twenty feet up the tree was a bashful porcupine hoping that we would think he was just a bump on the branch. The area we were in had many hemlocks, a favorite food for the sloth like pincushions.

Throughout the day we went up many slopes that led to dry oak and



hop hornbeam areas surrounded by sedge grasses. Then down we would go again into the ravines where the hemlocks were more prevalent. We soon came upon a five-acre beaver pond where a painted turtle was reluctant to leave its warm log. Just then, Jerry caught a ribbon snake which promptly bit his hand. He hung on until we all got a good look. Then it started to exude that special snake oil smell and we set him free.

We had a nice lunch beside a larger body of water known as Spruce Pond, although we've never seen a spruce anywhere near it. While eating we spotted a couple of blue herons and a hawk flying over. After lunch we started a slow climb up another ridge rising to a height of 950 feet above sea level. That's about as large as the hills get over here before succumbing to the Champlain Valley. From this perch we were able to see Bird Mountain and some of the Green Mountains beyond.

From here we went down and around yet another pond, called Doughty Pond. We followed a very narrow deer trail through a thick hemlock woods near the edge of the water. There was around a 15-degree temperature drop in these woods compared to the ridge we were just on. Up and down we continued. Then we came upon a large red oak with a gaping hole near the base. Coming out of this hole was a pile of porcupine scat three feet high and wide. We knock on the hollow tree but no one was home at the time.

Nearing the end of our hike we passed through another ravine that brought us to the shores of Lake Sunset. A couple of the hikers recognized the spot where we came out as the place where they were certified for scuba diving. We followed the shore along another old logging run to finish our hike. We probably covered seven miles in all,

and from the beginning to the end it was much fun.

### Lowland Work Party

14 May 2005

By Herb Ogden, Trails & Shelters Chair

A good turnout of a baker's dozen allowed us to do almost everything that was needed in the south half of our section of the Long Trail, between Wallingford Gulf and Gov. Clement Shelter. Four people worked north from Wallingford Gulf to north of Patch Hollow, sawing small blowdowns and digging out waterbars. Seven dug a four foot deep hole for the privy at Minerva Hinchey, moved the privy about 15 feet to the new site, surveyed the bad sill situation at the shelter, and dug out some waterbars working south to meet the above party. Two folks sawed a big blowdown and cleared waterbars between Clarendon Shelter and Hermit Spring, north of the Lottery Road.

The rest of this part of the trail was already in good shape, thanks to Sector Checkers and Tom Shanahan, a freelance volunteer who is good with an ax. Much of this stretch does need to have the blazes repainted. Indeed, most of our Section does. I hope some of the summer work parties described elsewhere in this issue can accomplish that. Care is needed to blaze according to standards, so it is better to learn from someone experienced.

We now have a better way to move privies. We have two eight-foot long two by fours with several 3/8" holes about two feet in from the ends. Lag screws go through the holes and attach the 2x4s horizontally to opposite sides of the privy at about waist height. It is then a simple matter for four people to pick up the privy like a sedan chair, carry it to the hole, and position it exactly. This sure beats tipping the

privy on its side and then tipping it back up at the new site while hoping it will be positioned right, and it takes fewer people.



"All together now, 1...2...3..."

### Buck Mt., NY via Hogtown

21 May 2005

By Steve Williams, leader

A Rutland contingent having been ably led there by Sue Thomas, the Fair Haven Visitor Center was the assembly point for eleven Eastern Adirondack enthusiasts and two dogs, whose later actions suggested that they too were enthusiasts. The Hogtown route to Buck Mountain provided a follow-up to the climb from Lake George where Sue Thomas led us last year. Perhaps it should be called "Buck Mountain Lite", as the elevation gain is only 1100 feet as opposed to 2000 feet via the Lake George route.

From Fort Ann one follows County Road 26 almost to the village of South Bay through a pretty valley reminiscent of the "Hidden Valley" of salad dressing fame. Four miles of wooded and steadily climbing unpaved Hogtown Road and another 1.7 miles of unpaved Shelving Rock Road follow.

From the trailhead the well-blazed trail undulates in three dimensions for approximately one and a half miles before becoming



steeper and heading for the summit. From the summit, on the east side of Lake George, about one third of the length from the southern end, there are great views of much of Lake George and the Adirondacks, including a number of the high peaks.

Upon the return to the trailhead, Sue Thomas offered to lead the party to Shelving Rock Falls; falls which Sue found after diligent searching of a large number of streams which flow beneath Shelving Rock Road. The majority of the group then made the two-mile drive and half mile walk in to the falls which, with a

cascading drop approaching 150 feet, are well worth a visit.

With a day when the temperature was up and the black flies down, the outing appeared to be a success.

## Killington Section Annual Meeting

By Barbara Griffith,  
Acting Secretary

The annual spring meeting of the Killington Section was called to order on Saturday, 23 April 2005 by President Steve Williams. A welcome was extended to members and guests. Those assembled were entertained by statistics that Steve had compiled from the past year's hikes. According to Steve's report the average hike elevation gain was 666 feet, the total elevation gain was a hike up Mount McKinley and the total mileage was equivalent to a jaunt from Brattleboro to St. Albans. Dog Dickens was given honorable mention for logging most doggie miles.

GMC President, Andrew Nuquist spoke about the presentation of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pin to former Governor and End-to-End Howard Dean. Andrew spoke of the Headquarters budgeting process. The Club is now in the "quiet phase" of a capital campaign. The GMC Club is now 95 years old and looking forward to it's second century.

Field Supervisor Greg Western addressed current issues, "sprucing up" the new parking lot on Route 4 and re-vegetating the old lot so that it will no longer be feasible to park there. In this process seeds and hay are available to work with and there are plans to relocate trees from the nearby forest to the old lot. A time line for this is this spring. Greg is

looking for volunteers for this project. The new lot is designed to accommodate 30 cars.

Treasurer Roma Pulling reported on the Section's General Fund and Kirk Fund.

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports were approved.

Trails and Shelters Chair Herb Ogden reported that he is contacting sector checkers. Primary goals for 2005 will be the Minerva Hinchey privy relocation, Minerva Hinchey Shelter repairs, and puncheon for the Canty Trail.

*[Note: According to the By-Laws: "The activities of the section shall be managed by a Board of Directors, consisting of nine members. The Directors shall be nominated from the floor and elected at the Annual Meeting. The terms of office of the Directors shall be three years, with three Directors elected each year. A Director who has served two full consecutive terms may not be re-elected until one year has passed".]*

Elections were held to fill three three-year terms on the section board of directors. Barbara Griffith and Steve Williams were nominated and reelected to second terms. Barry Griffith was nominated and elected to fill the vacancy created by the expiring second term of Bill Robichaud.

The Board now consists of the following: Directors and their terms:

Director	Term expires
Andrea McQuade .....	2006
Roma Puling.....	2006
Sue Thomas.....	*2006
John Hale.....	2007
Lynda Hutchins .....	2007
Cindy Taylor-Miller.....	2007
Barbara Griffith.....	*2008
Barry Griffith .....	2008
Steve Williams .....	*2008

\*Second consecutive 3-year term not eligible for re-election

The Directors then met and elected the following officers for the coming year: and reported the results to the Section.

President:.....Barry Griffith  
Vice President .... Barbara Griffith  
Secretary: ..... John Hale  
Treasurer: ..... Roma Pulling  
GMC Director: ...Lynda Hutchins

Barry assumes the gavel and, on behalf of the Section, extended a Thank You to out going President Steve Williams for all of his hard work and dedication.

Meeting was adjourned followed by a slide show presentation by Paul Pilcher.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, 21 June 2005 at Barry Griffith's office, 98 Merchants Row.



## The Intersectionals

By Roma Pulling

This word is probably a mystery to our newer members, but when I joined the club it was the highlight of the GMC year. When I first read about them in *Long Trail News*, I thought they sounded like a lot of fun; and I was able to take part in several of them. For a week every year ending on Labor Day, campers from every section got together somewhere in Vermont for a week of hiking and other outdoor activities. A former Killington Section member recalls that these campouts started in earnest at the time of the Green Mountain Club's 50th anniversary, although shorter ones had taken place even before.

The golden anniversary was held in 1960 at Mt. Norris [Eden]. I participated at Camp Plymouth, Camp Sunrise [Orwell] and Camp Thorpe [Goshen]. I have been told about ones at Tamarack Notch, Grout Pond [Stratton], Camp Ondawa [Sunderland], Twin Hills Girl Scout Camp ["the Wind Tunnel"] in southern Vermont and even one in Massachusetts.

My favorite activity was the evening bonfire and sing-along. The leader for this event was "Frenchy" Garfield from Sudbury, Massachusetts. He was a real spark plug and wasn't allowed to get away until he had led us in the song "Alouette," his specialty. Second on my list of favorites was the Saturday night supper. Other events included the auction with Frenchy as the auctioneer and sometimes a square dance with a real caller.

Several things probably killed the Intersectional. A group of campers started to get together in the fall for a weekend, and others preferred to come for the annual meeting, which used to take place on Memorial Day weekend. A few diehards came to Vermont even after the Intersectional was officially out of existence and enjoyed time in the Green Mountain State together, but even that eventually came to an end.

The Intersectionals probably never will be resurrected, but those of us lucky enough to have been there will never forget them.

## Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association



An event similar in spirit to the lamented GMC Intersectional is the Gathering of the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association. This year's Gathering will take place on 7, 8, and 9 October at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. The ALDHA is a nonprofit group, open to all fellow hikers who've shared experiences on the Appalachian and other Trails. Check the web site at [www.ALDHA.org](http://www.ALDHA.org). Ray Catozzi has said the Gathering is an event not to be missed.

## Pitch In This Summer

By Herb Ogden, Trails & Shelters

Our list of things that would improve our trails and shelters is so long that we cannot do it all on the May and June walk-throughs. We have projects great and small. Here is a sampling:

Various stretches of the Long Trail need their white blazes renewed. Directional arrows are needed here and there. Waterbars and ditches should be cleaned out or added in several areas, notably between Vermont Route 103 and the Lower Cold River Road and in the Killington-Pico saddle. The bog

bridging project on the Cauty Trail up Blue Ridge Mountain should be completed. Minerva Hinchey Shelter needs one or more sills replaced and a new roof. Privies there and at Clarendon Shelter should be moved to new pits. Gov. Clement Shelter needs new roof shingles, especially around the chimney and bottom eave. Pico Camp needs window latches and an eaves trough in back. Finally, while Cooper Lodge and Tucker-Johnson Shelter are not our Section's responsibility, plenty of work can be done there if people are available.

To reduce our backlog and to accommodate folks who couldn't

make the traditional May and June work parties, Cindy Taylor-Miller suggested that we plan some July and August work parties – some on Wednesdays and some on weekend days that wouldn't conflict with other outings. (See the Outing Schedule on pages 3 and 4).

If these don't fit your schedule or if you prefer to work alone, we can still accommodate you. Just contact me, Herb Ogden, at 293-2510 or [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net) and I can tell you what still needs doing and get you the right tools or supplies.



Your Invitation to Join  
**Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

**ANNUAL DUES:**

Individual ..... \$35  
Family ..... \$45  
Senior/Student/Volunteer ..... \$20

Contact us for information on life memberships and categories for giving at a higher level.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_ trail work, \_\_\_ shelter work, \_\_\_ sign making, \_\_\_ publications, \_\_\_ leading outings, \_\_\_ publicity, \_\_\_ education

\*  
Make check payable to Killington Section, GMC and mail with this application to:

Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701





# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 58, Number 3

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

August 2005

## Club members heed the *Call of the Wild*

By Lynda Hutchins

On 29 June 2005, six intrepid members of the Green Mountain Club set out to relive the stampede's 1897-1898 Klondike quest for gold, following in Jack London's illustrious footsteps. Expedition members were Lynda Hutchins (Killington Section), Paul Houchens, Phil Hazen, and Kathy Adams (Burlington Section), and Dave Blumenthal and Lexi Shear (Montpelier Section). Boarding a shuttle from Skagway, AK, to Dyea, the enthusiastic group embarked upon the Chilkoot Trail, a 33-mile trek, teeming with archeological artifacts and spectacular scenery, leading up over the Chilkoot Pass into Canada. The trail, which terminates at Bennett Lake, British Columbia, passes through multiple climate zones, including lush coastal rainforest, subalpine, alpine, subalpine boreal forest, and dry forest/sand dunes.

Undaunted by the 45-degree angle of the unrelenting "golden stairs" and several false summits of the Chilkoot, the group was relieved that their 40-plus-pound backpacks came nowhere near the 100-plus-pound packs the stampede's lugged. (This was in compliance with the Canadian government's directive to pack a "ton of goods" per person to Dawson City, mostly accomplished through multiple trips to the summit, where goods were stockpiled until



Heading for the Yukon. Killington Section's Lynda Hutchins, left.

fully assembled and then carted by boat or make-shift raft to Dawson -- if they were not swamped en route).

Arriving on foot at Bennett Lake, the GMC group claimed canoes and equipment, and previously mailed drop-off boxes (delivered by an outfitter via the White Pass rail), and began the 550-mile paddle to Dawson City in the Yukon Territory. A series of waterways presented, including Bennett Lake, Nares River, Nares Lake, Tagish Lake, Tagish River, Marsh Lake and, of course, the mighty Yukon!

The adventuresome group, with

its fledgling sailing skills, decided to enlist Mother Nature's assist in harnessing waves and wind power over the lakes, erecting a makeshift sail for the three lashed canoes, with tarp, ropes, logs, and paddles, using a third paddle for a rudder. The system worked rather efficiently (notwithstanding rudimentary ship-building skills!), with a top speed of 5 mph attained, many of the crew lulled to sleep with the reciting of Robert Service poetry (i.e. *The Cremation of Sam McGee*). Mother Nature further bestowed the benefit of a strong current on the Yukon, often making paddling a sweet

See Yukon page 9



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2006 .....	Andrea McQuade
" .....	Roma Pulling
" .....	* Susan Thomas
2007 .....	John Hale
" .....	Lynda Hutchins
" .....	Cindy Taylor-Miller
2008 .....	* Barbara Griffith
" .....	Barry Griffith
" .....	* Steve Williams

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President .....	Barry Griffith
Vice President .....	Barbara Griffith
Secretary .....	John Hale
Treasurer .....	Roma Pulling

### Committee Chairs

History .....	Bob Perkins
Outings .....	Susan Thomas
Trails & Shelters .....	Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director .....	Lynda Hutchins
Alternate .....	Alfred Pulling

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor .....	Bob Perkins
--------------	-------------

### Web Site

Web master .....	Deborah Waggett
------------------	-----------------

## Vermonttrivia

Our first trivia question in May was:

**Q9. What Long Trail shelter, not far from Rutland, once featured the only piped-in running water shower bath on the Trail?**

**A9:** Pico Shelter was an open-faced structure built on the Long Trail in the mid 1920s. (It was replaced in 1959 on the same site by the current Pico Camp, now on the Sherburne Pass Trail). The spring is about 100 feet north of the site. I remember that in the early 1940s there was a rustic, open-topped, enclosure to the east of, and downhill from, the spring. A series of carefully placed, grooved logs directed spring water to the top of the enclosure providing, as far as I know, the only shower bath on the Long Trail. Was it invigorating? YES!

The other question from May was:

**Q10. What three Long Trail shelters were named after former secretaries/clerks of the Green Mountain Club?**

**A10:** Minerva Hinchey Shelter, near Spring Lake in Shrewsbury, and well known to Killington Section members, was named in honor of Miss Hinchey, who served as Corresponding Secretary of the statewide Green Mountain Club for 22 years from 1955 to 1977.

Lula Tye Shelter, near Little Rock Pond in Wallingford, was named in honor of Miss Tye, who preceded Miss Hinchey as Corresponding Secretary for 29 years from 1926 to 1955.

Willis Ross Camp, built on Stratton Pond in 1929, burned in 1972. It was named in honor of Willis Ross, a leader in the construction of the original Long Trail south from Killington to Prospect Rock, and who served for a number of years as Clerk (Recording Secretary) of the statewide club.

In posing this question I overlooked a fourth answer. The Willis Ross Annex, built across the bay from Willis Ross Camp in 1934, burned in 1952, was rebuilt in 1953, and dismantled in 1961.

It's interesting to note that all three of these honorees were Rutlanders.

### Contact Information – Web Site – <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Barbara & Barry Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

John Hale, 170 Spooner Point or PO Box 506, Castleton, VT 05735, 273-2293, [john@lighters.com](mailto:john@lighters.com)

Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, [lmhutch@shoreham.net](mailto:lmhutch@shoreham.net)

Andrea McQuade, 2 Jan Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5104, [andreamcquade@adelphia.net](mailto:andreamcquade@adelphia.net)

Herbert Ogden, 214 South End Road., Mt. Tabor, VT 05253-9756, (H)293-2510, (W)774-2200,

[hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, [rperkinsvt@aol.com](mailto:rperkinsvt@aol.com)

Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, [pullingr137@aol.com](mailto:pullingr137@aol.com)

Cindy Taylor-Miller, 337 East St., Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [ctmiller@vermontel.net](mailto:ctmiller@vermontel.net)

Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Deborah Waggett, 21 Academy St., Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, [purplejeep99@hotmail.com](mailto:purplejeep99@hotmail.com)

Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, [voorborg@sover.net](mailto:voorborg@sover.net)



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Sept. – November 2005

Visit our web site: <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome on our outings. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather, and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont! Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call the leader if you have any questions.

- 10 September, Saturday**      **Merck Forest & Mount Antone, Rupert**      **Leader: Steve Williams, 645-9529**  
 Hike in the Merck Forest and Farmland Center in the Taconic Mountains, climbing to the 2610-foot summit of Mount Antone.  
 Moderate, 6 miles. Elevation gain of 820 feet.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 18 September, Sunday**      **Moonlit Bike Ride, Castleton – Poultney**      **Leaders: Bill Holt & Joan Davidson, 537-4227**  
 Leave the CSC campus at dusk on the D&H Rail-Trail; return on the same path from Poultney under a full moon. Bring helmet and some sort of bike light. All-terrain tires recommended.  
 Easy, 14 miles. Elevation gain of 50 feet.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 5:30 PM.
- 24 September, Saturday**      **Otter Creek Canoe/Kayak, Florence – Brandon**      **Leader: Jerry Parker, 775-6208**  
 Put in by historic Hammond Covered Bridge and paddle north to Route 73. Bring lunch and canoe or kayak.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 25 September, Sunday**      **Senior Shuffle – Wallingford Pond**      **Leaders: Roma & Al Pulling, 773-6997**  
 Follow an old road to the largest pond in town. It was once named Lake Hiram and is sometimes called Spectacle Pond.  
 Easy, 1.6 miles. Elevation gain of 50 feet.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 2 October, Sunday**      **Split Rock Mountain, Westport, NY**      **Leaders: Larry & Viv Walter, 775-3855**  
 Views of Lake Champlain, Grant Mountain, and the Dix Range.  
 Moderate, 5.5 miles. Elevation gain of 670 feet.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:30 AM.
- 8 October, Saturday**      **Saltash Mountain, Plymouth**      **Leaders: Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
 Hike to the southern sentinel of the Coolidge Range. Some bushwhacking required to reach the 3286 foot summit.  
 Difficult, 5 miles. Elevation gain of 1200 feet.  
 Call leaders for meeting time and place.
- 15 October, Saturday**      **Haystack Mountain, Pawlet**      **Leader: Steve Williams, 645-9529**  
 Spectacular views of the Mettawee River Valley and the Taconic Range from the summit. Some steep pitches.  
 Moderate, 3 miles. Elevation gain of 1000 feet.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 22 October, Saturday**      **"Put the Trail to Bed" Work Party**      **Leader: Herb Ogden, 293-2510**  
 Location to be determined. Bring lunch, sturdy shoes, and work gloves if you have them. Tools will be provided.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 23 October, Sunday**      **Long Trail Lodge History Outing**      **Leaders: Reidun & Andrew Nuquist, 223-3550**  
 A joint venture with the Montpelier Section to explore the site of the Green Mountain Club's Long Trail Lodge with historian David Wright. David will share historic photos, and we'll bushwhack to Adirondack Lookout. After lunch hikers may climb Deer Leap if they wish.  
 Easy, 0.3 miles. Elevation gain of 50 feet. Deer Leap option; add 2.4 miles and elevation gain of 430 feet.  
 Call leaders for meeting time and place. Or, locally, call Sue Thomas, 773-2185
- 29 October, Saturday**      **Cardigan Mountain, Canaan, NH**      **Leaders: Andrea McQuade & Tad Tucker, 775-5104**  
 A short but rugged climb to a spectacular bare rock summit with a fire tower. Summit is exposed and windy; bring a jacket.  
 Difficult, 3.5 miles.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 8:30 AM.

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Sept. – November 2005

Schedule continued from previous page

- 5 November, Saturday**      **Little Rock Pond – Green Mt. Loop**      **Leaders: Connie & Mark Youngstrom, 492-3502**  
 Easy walk in to beautiful Little Rock Pond with return over Green Mountain to view the Pond from above.  
 Moderate, 7 miles. Elevation gain of 800 feet.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 12 November, Saturday**      **Saratoga Battlefield, Stillwater, NY**      **Leader: Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
 Explore the site of a decisive battle of the Revolutionary War, where Benedict Arnold distinguished himself as a hero and Burgoyne surrendered, turning the tide. Visitors center will be open; no fee. If time permits we may also visit Saratoga Spa State Park or the U. S. Grant Cottage.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 8:30 AM.
- 19 November, Saturday**      **Annual Fall Potluck**      **Leader: Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
 Join us for our annual fall potluck supper and a slide program by Herb Ogden and Cathy Thomas on their recent trip to Newfoundland. Bring plates, utensils, and a dish to share; hot drinks provided. Nonmembers welcome!  
 Meet and eat at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Hillside Avenue in Rutland at 6:00 PM.
- 27 November, Sunday**      **Great Hawk Colony Road Walk, Rochester**      **Leaders: Gorgon & Helen Cawood, 352-4310**  
 Joint trip with the Breadloaf Section on a dirt road lined with No Hunting signs, but wear bright colors.  
 Easy, 4.4 miles.  
 Call leaders for meeting time and place.
- 3 December, Saturday**      **Moscow Pond, Hubbardton**      **Leader: Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
 Hike in to a small, remote beaver pond west of Lake Bomoseen. Our route will be determined by weather conditions.  
 Moderate, 3.5 miles.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.
- 10 December, Saturday**      **Pine Hill Trails, Rutland**      **Leader: Tom Copps, 770-9394**  
 Explore the extensive new trail system, through woodlands with cliffs and ponds, in Rutland City's Pine Hill Park.  
 Moderate. Route, mileage, and elevation gain to be determined.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.

## Turtle Outing Schedule September – October 2005

The Rutland Recreation and Parks Department sponsors a series of "Turtle" hikes for seniors and others who wish to enjoy their outings at a somewhat slow and easy pace. The outings typically cover two to four miles, involve limited elevation gain, and try to avoid treacherous footing. Bring water and a lunch, wear sturdy footwear, and be prepared for Vermont weather. Meet to car pool on **Thursdays at 9 AM** from the Godnick Adult Center on Deer Street off Woodstock Avenue. We return in early to mid-afternoon. Call leaders listed at the right below if you have questions. All are welcome.

- |              |   |                                  |
|--------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 8 September  | <b>Mt Tom, Woodstock</b><br>Moderate. Follow carriage roads and trails in the Marsh Billings National Park to Mt. Tom overlooking Woodstock village.              | Bob & Thelma Perkins<br>773-0184 |
| 22 September | <b>Rocky &amp; Muddy Ponds, Rutland City</b><br>Moderate. Loop through Rutland City's Pine Hill Park passing the old stone crusher site and two good-sized ponds. | Ray Catozzi<br>773-3006          |
| 6 October    | <b>Back of Blue Ridge, Mendon - Chittenden</b><br>Moderate. Walk up old Turnpike Road, past the beaver dam (if the water is not too high), and down Wildcat Road. | Bob & Thelma Perkins<br>773-0184 |
| 20 October   | <b>Chaffee Falls, Pittsford</b><br>Moderate. This walk in the woods culminates beside a lovely waterfall on Furnace Brook.  | Jean Davies<br>483-6623          |



# Outing Reports

## Sunset Hike, Pine Hill, Rutland

25 May 2005

By Roma Pulling, leader

The musical sound of the melodica rang over Pine Hill as we sang "Red Sails in the Sunset" and "You Are My Sunshine," but it had no effect on the weather. When we finished our short concert, the skies were still cloudy and threatening. No sunset that night!

Five of us had gone to Pine Hill in a hopeful mood and had stopped halfway into the hike for light refreshments. By that time it seemed unlikely we would see the sun that evening, whereas if we hurried back to town we could perhaps get to the library in time to watch a slide show about hiking which, without our knowledge, had been scheduled on the evening of our hike.

It seems to me this outing is worth scheduling again, another time, and perhaps in another place. Stay tuned.

## Otter Creek, Clarendon-Rutland

19 June 2005

By Barbara Griffith, co-leader

Rivers and streams swollen with recent heavy rains, roads washed out, and news reports of calamities had us all wondering about this trip. This section of Otter Creek from the Creek Road in Clarendon to Park Street in Rutland, a stretch of about 13 miles, had been beckoning to me for some time. As a responsible leader I had an alternate trip planned. However Otter Creek crested during the night and had receded to what all participants agreed was a safe "Club" adventure. One thing about high water on the Creek – it eliminates most "snags" which we call those stringers or walls of refuse that can occur across any narrowing body of

water. They consist of trees, trunks, junk, rubbish, basketballs, and at times have sand and mud involved with vegetation growing abundantly.

One such snag portage was necessary in the 13 miles – not bad at all! Silver maples lined the banks. There were multitudes of nesting birds greeting us, or warning us off. Kingfishers were plentiful as were a variety of ducks. Cliff swallows nesting in the high creek banks came swooping at us. There were king birds and oh, so many more.

There are no falls or rapids in this area of the Creek. It meanders through farm country, alongside corn and hay fields. If you trace it as the crow flies from our put in to take out on a topographical map it is a bit over six miles. So you can imagine all the twists and convoluted turns involved. Abutments of several bridges from long ago line the banks. A number of these appear in the middle of nowhere.

Please come with me on our trip. I'll denote mileage from our launching to some locations when I can in parenthesis.

Donning personal flotation devices, checking supplies of insect repellent, lunches, water, sunscreen, and cameras, off we paddle heading north on the "Indian Road". Mill River flows in just before our launching site. We paddle upstream a bit, but the current is strong. So with the current we go. The Creek Road looms up above the bank to our left, or west, as we rush by heading north. Sand banks are spotted on our right with sand pipers abundant. The creek swings away from the Creek Road (1.25 miles) and wanders east before crossing under the Walker Mt. Road bridge (2 miles). Just past this bridge

is the site of an old ford from pre-revolutionary days but, as we zip by, the water is too high for us to see any evidence of the ford. From here it seems as though we do loop-de-loops as we twist hither and yon. Around a corner we turn and hear rushing water. "What's that?" we wonder as there are no rapids on our agenda. It's a massive snag with volumes of water rushing over and under. Discretion being the better part of valor, we pull our kayaks out and notice that others have done so before. We pulled and carried the five kayaks around on land and put in safely on the other side.

Who knows where lunch was enjoyed? It was on a sandbank somewhere on the Creek. We passed in back of Mill River High School (6 miles), and made our closest approach to the railroad tracks since Walker Mt. Road. The Crown Point Military Road forded the Creek somewhere near this location. Just beyond Otter Valley Supply Lumber Company, several brooks rush into the Creek. We keep paddling! Soon, or not so soon (8 miles), the Alfrecha Road Bridge greets us. Barry quips "We are more than *halfway* there!" Hmmm, "Perhaps we should have spotted a 'get away' vehicle here." I retort.

Onwards we paddle seeing the Creek Road once again (10 miles) before encountering the Cold River as it rushes into the Creek. At this point the volume of water does increase, but the Creek also widens. Here the Creek bends back almost upon itself; we go directly west, take a sharp turn and go back to the east-north-east!

What's that up ahead? It's the four-lane Route 4 Bridge. We must



be nearing out destination! Another old bridge abutment reminding us of covered bridges from the past, and a prior crossing marks the place where we parked our vehicles many hours before (12 miles).

A great day; a trip completed. With sore, tired muscles, we take out, bid each other adieu and leave with a feeling of good companionship and a sense of a day well spent.

### Deer Leap Mt., Killington

25 June 2005

By John Hale, leader

The new parking lot on Route 4 had been finished only the week before when we ten (humans, plus Dickens) met there for our Saturday hike up to Deer Leap Overlook. It was warm in the sun but we enjoyed a breeze even in the forest.

The trail from Maine Junction would have taken us on to Katahdin but after a quick vote, we continued toward the Leap. We quickly separated into two speed groups and the five leaders (and the GPS) were out of hearing when the trail unexpectedly started (and continued) going down. The second five commented, deliberated, back-tracked and then re-tracked (correctly) down the trail finding the fore five after their lunch at the Leap, ready to start home.



Viewing Pico from Deer Leap

We agreed to separate and four headed down the mountain, while six lunched and enjoyed the view of Pico and the valley before starting down

(with the GPS) back around Deer Leap Mountain on the Appalachian Trail finding the Maine Junction again before descending to the parking lot, energized and grinning.

Some of us had gone 2.8 miles, going up and down about 550 feet of elevation; some about a mile farther and a couple hundred feet more elevation change.

### Bird Mountain

2 July 2005

By Barbara Griffith, co-leader

Bird Mountain, in the Taconic Range, has a prominent 2216 foot rock outcrop. Barry and I gleaned some historical information about Bird Mountain, or Birdseye as some locals call it. Tidbits of our research are:

- From the *History of Rutland County*: Colonel Bird spent an unscheduled night "on the summit of a precipitous mountain" circa 1767, thus the name Bird Mountain. Some say he woke up and had a "Birdseye View" of the panorama below.
- From the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department website: The Department now oversees the Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area (BMWMA) which has 175 acres in Ira, 115 acres in Castleton and 350 acres in Poultney.
- From the *History of Bird's Mountain Masonic Monument*: the Masons erected a monument on the top on August 27, of 1886. When the corner stone was laid there was a great ceremony with over 2,000 participants. This Masonic Monument was later struck and demolished by a bolt of lightning. We have it from a local mason that many of the bricks were retrieved and used in parts of the construction of the Castleton Masonic Lodge.

For this trek the weather was near perfect with a group of all ages out for the trip to the top. There is no

blazed trail to the peak and this leader can get you there, but I can't give you navigable verbal directions. "Just do it" we say in our family. You drive about three miles up the Bird Mt. Road to the gated road and kiosk with maps and information at the BMWMA. As you journey up the old overgrown road the mountain looms up ahead with precipitous ledges abundant on its southern slope.



Bird Mountain from the south

Our group made its way to the easterly slope and a spring with cold water that flows out of the caverns and crevices of the rocks. Just past the spring on the left there is a trail up quite a steep scramble through a notch. This narrow, precipitous path is built into the notch upon a rock bed. I find it difficult to describe the trail otherwise. A lot of hard labor went into its construction and for that we were grateful.

At the top of this steep ascent the group followed the path as it tracked along the ridge, now rising more leisurely, southwesterly toward the summit.

Amidst "Oh's" and "Ah's" all enjoyed the breathtaking views: to the east the Rutland airport, West Rutland, and the Coolidge Range with Pico, Killington, Mendon, and Shrewsbury; to the south the Taconics with Herrick Mountain, and Lake St. Catherine; to the west Lake Bomoseen, Castleton, Fair Haven, and the Adirondacks; and to the north Hubbardton; and many more I cannot remember.



Granola bars, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, yogurt and such abounded. Our five-star lunch overshadowed any restaurant in the valleys below.

Taking our time down the steep terrain we soon enjoyed the wildflowers of summer, even chancing upon an orange wood lily. Biding adieu to one and all after a walk into the nearby cemeteries we all agreed the day was extraordinary!

### **End-To-End Reunion**

7 July 2005

By Roma Pulling, hostess

Several months ago it occurred to me someone should get End-to-Enders together to reminisce and perhaps inspire others to walk the same course. Pretty soon a second thought occurred: Instead of waiting for it to happen, why not do it myself?

On the evening of 7 July six people gathered at our house and brought trail snacks and pictures to share. They first entered our dinette and signed our guest book on a table displaying hiking books, including some of my favorites: three by Colin Fletcher and one of Earl Shaffer. Nearby on a room divider was a collection of ancient backpacking gear [from a couple of ancient backpackers].

We proceeded from there to the porch, where the snack items were assembled. We had a choice of veggies, trail mix, banana chips, peanuts, ham sandwiches and cheese. The beverages were iced lemonade and elderberry wine [guess who?]. While we snacked, we recalled experiences on the trail and poured over pictures of our treks.

Cindy brought a computer disc, which we hoped to enjoy to cap off the evening. Being nearly a computer illiterate, I put Cindy in charge, and she soon discovered one of the

limitations of a seven-year-old computer. Anyway, thanks for trying! The only thing that would have made the evening more complete was to have some aspiring End-to-Enders take part. They missed a great opportunity.

### **Killington Work Trip**

9 July 2005

By Cynthia Taylor-Miller, leader

Three workers with tools rode the Gondola to the summit of Killington. We cleared the section of trail from Cooper Lodge to Jungle Junction of six blow downs, leaving one large white birch, approximately 14 inches in diameter, located 100 feet south of the southernmost puncheon in the Killington-Pico saddle. Hikers can walk over this obstacle, but if someone with a chainsaw removed this one, this section of the trail would then be clear of all blow downs. We also cleared the water bars and cut back brush with loppers and clippers.

The white blazes need to be freshened up along this entire section and the blue blazes on the LT/AT north of Cooper should be made white as far as the intersection with the properly blue blazed Bucklin Trail. I knew I was on the right trail, but hikers traveling north might be confused as to why they were seeing blue blazes when they were looking for white blazes only.

We walked out via the Sherburne Pass Trail where we removed two more blow downs and two leaners, and carted out a large bag of trash from both Pico Camp and Cooper Lodge. Bill Robichaud found the privy in good shape but he didn't like the "flimsy" latch.

### **Otter Creek, Proctor-Pittsford**

10 July 2005

By Barbara Griffith

To put a boat in below Sunderland Falls in Proctor one

accesses the site by seemingly vanishing down a dirt road by the waste water treatment plant. It's easily accessible and a beautiful place to launch. This launching was rewarded with a large volume of water cascading over the scenic marble ledges. Recent rains had once again put Otter Creek at higher than normal summer levels.

Along this seven-mile trip one paddles below the creek bank levels isolated from the busy world above. The party was rewarded with various water fowl including great blue herons, and multitudes of king fishers.

After lunch, which was enjoyed alongside one of Pittsford's scenic hiking trails, these kayakers decided to venture up Furnace Brook, a route not always maneuverable due to low water and snags. We made it all the way to the Cooley covered bridge before returning to continue down Otter Creek.

We approached "Pitt's Ford" noting that it would have been difficult to ford with anything other than a boat today. Another short side trip was taken up a stream to the small falls that mark the waterpower site of one of Pittsford's earliest mills.

We shot out of that stream back to the Creek and finished our trip by taking out at the Hammond covered bridge in Florence. In the 1927 flood this bridge was lifted off its abutments and carried more than a mile downstream where it came to rest. It survived with the strength of its lattice truss design and now sits across the Creek with memories of earlier times.

Taking out was a bit tricky with fast moving deep water. With Jerry Parker's leadership, and with teamwork and assistance, we all made it safely to paddle another day.



**Robert Frost Mountain**

16 July 2005

By Gordon Cawood, leader

Five members of the Bread Loaf and four from the Killington Sections were joined by a diminishing infestation of mosquitoes on a hike from Ripton-Lincoln Road in Ripton to the peak of Robert Frost Mountain along a VAST snowmobile trail. Since this trail is not maintained for foot traffic, the intrepid hikers pushed their way through mud in some places and tall grass in others. The trail was nevertheless easily followable. We all enjoyed lunch at the peak.

Unfortunately there were no views because of so much haze. We could not even see the Omya quarries down in Middlebury. Thus it made no sense to continue to the lower viewpoint looking eastward.

On the return trip we had the pleasure of meeting Claire and Norm Groleau, who own the property at the trail crossing on North Branch Road. It turns out that the Groleaus and Debbie Ramsdell had been friends in Charlotte before the Groleaus moved to their new home. They graciously gave us a tour of their house and offered us refreshments.

**Castleton Bike Ride**

24 July 2005

By Bill Holt, leader

On a bright Sunday seven GMC bikers came out for a ride. We met near the firehouse in Rutland and headed west to Castleton State College. After discussing where we would be riding, two of the riders decided to ride just on the D&H Rail-Trail. They called later that night to say they had a wonderful ride all the way to Poultney and back.

The rest of us headed to Staso Road, which turned to dirt after a mile. We climbed a couple of steep

grades before leveling off at Pond Hill Ranch. While taking a break from the hill one of the riders decided to head back to Castleton as she was a little pooped out after the climb.

We were now four. As we started zooming down the backside of Pond Hill Ranch we had to stop abruptly when we encountered about ten riders on horseback coming up the hill. The lead rider on his white horse was almost thrown when the horse couldn't figure out just what we were. We had come to a complete stop 50 yards before the horses, but this one horse still was acting as though he had never seen a bicycle. Finally the cowboy straightened the horse around and they all passed without further ado. We continued on down the hill just coasting for a mile or so through the dappled light of maples and pines.

We were in Poultney now, turning onto Watkins Hill Road, which is rough gravel and about 15 feet wide. As we went along we passed a steep gorge on our left that dropped off 50 or 60 feet from the edge of the road. On we went, past farmer's fields and shady groves, to Gorhamtown Town Road.; past a corn field all tasseled out and ready to eat. And no, we didn't grab a few ears along the way. It was mostly cow corn anyway.

We then turned left and south onto Lewis Road, which was fairly flat all the way to Hannon Road, and across Route 30, where we hooked up with the Rail-Trail. We took this non-motorized trail all the way back to the college. The only thing left of this old rail road bed is the cinders on which it had been built. Because railroads rarely exceed a six-percent grade, it feels as if you are riding on level ground. So we each found a comfortable gear and cruised along through the colorful wild flowers that is Vermont in midsummer.

The whole trip of 15.3 miles took us only two hours in real time. For me though, I noticed that time had slowed way down, like those summer days when, as a kid, the days went on for ever. So if you're interested in experiencing a time warp come with us next time and see if you can be that young again.

**Okemo Mountain, Mount Holly**

6 August 2005

By Andrea McQuade, leader

Nine hikers and two faithful canine companions enjoyed a break in the summer heat and humidity to climb the Healdville Trail to the summit of Okemo Mountain. Before we got onto the trail, we heard a presentation by Dennis Devereux from the Mount Holly Historical Association about this area that once was part of Ludlow and the site of a mill, train station and post office.

**Okemo Fire Tower**

We just about had the trail to ourselves going up and coming down. At the top, we enjoyed views of Ludlow and surrounding mountain peaks from the top of a ski lift and a fire tower. Back at our cars, we were refreshed with watermelon slices before heading back to Rutland.



**Yukon** *continued from page 1*

endeavor with speeds up to 11 mph. Several towns along the way provided culture and relief from sea legs. Carcross, with a population of 300, is not an altogether thriving community at 7 AM, but come the tour buses, it becomes a booming metropolis (or so it appeared to the weary crew, who, having set off at 4 AM that morning, proceeded to engorge, once the town awakened, on fried dough, pie, fresh coffee, ice cream, and all things not re-hydrated).

The Whitehorse dam presented the only portage challenge of the 550-mile waterway stretch, providing a ready excuse for disembarking and spending three days touring the capital of the Yukon. Favorites were the steamboat S.S. Klondike, the Beringia Museum of the ecology during the land bridge era, and the Transportation Museum. An acquaintance of one of the crew, a member of the venerable Royal

Canadian Mounted Police, supplied the group with tent space, showers (!), cooking facilities, and use of vehicles – a 4-star stay in the midst of the heretofore primitive camping.

The Five Finger Rapids proved to be the most formidable barrier en route. The fearless captain of one canoe, cognizant that some had met their maker at this particular juncture determined it best to “take the waves head on”, resulting in a net gain of 12 inches of water and a thorough cleansing of all items on board. Once bailing had been completed, equipment and gear were shiny and bright, and about as good as new.

Although there were limited close and personal encounters with wildlife, there were sightings of a black bear (ferrying across the Yukon to the opposite shore), moose, Dall sheep, beavers, ground squirrels (mighty aggressive!), peregrine falcons, and too-many-to-count bald eagles.

On 27 July the ecstatic group

reached its destination of Dawson City (where it is rumored “The men mined the gold and the women mined the men.”). Camp was set up at a rustic hostel located across the river. A ferry running nonstop provided access to the local flavor and events, including the Palace Grand (with featured performances and silent movies), Robert Service's cabin, Goldtooth Gertie's (modern-day gambling hall), and a local saloon which highlighted the Sour Toe Cocktail (extracted from a hapless native during a bout with frostbite). As luck would have it, the group arrived in time for the annual music festival; with attendees numbering 400, this was touted as the biggest event of the year.

A bike trip to the goldfields and retired dredges outside of Dawson City provided an opportunity to pan for the elusive gem but alas, to the woe of the would-be stampeders, netted no profit. Bust in their quest for gold (as were 99 percent of their predecessors), they were successful in their Klondike voyage!

## Killington Section meets with Rutland High School Hikers

By Steve Williams

On 27 May, Bill Robichaud and Steve Williams met at Rutland High School with a group of student hikers who were participating in an option of the “YES” program. The group had already climbed Black Mountain and Okemo with Pico, Little Rock Pond, and Mounts Ascutney and Equinox on their schedule.

Bill and Steve related the history of the Green Mountain Club and the Killington Section and then went on to describe our outings and trails and shelters maintenance work.

Bill and Steve then joined four hike leaders and forty-five students in a foggy journey to Sherburne

Pass. A quick bit of organizing and the group was off. Pico summit was reached via the ski trails in about 90 minutes. By this time the mist had cleared and lower level landmarks became at least partially visible.

After a lunch break the party descended to Pico camp, where an assembly was held to ensure that no one was lost. As the party set off, Steve attempted to stay with the first group. A mistake! A group of fit 15 to 18 year olds does not have much difficulty tiring an only moderately fit 67 year old. At Jungle Junction, sanity returned and from there on Steve held to a more moderate speed.

On the way down, one of the students described his experience

last year with the Vermont YCC which had worked on this portion of the trail. He pointed out some of the water bars, embankments, and steps that he had worked on.

In two hours the group was at the trailhead. This represented a pace which would have caused a rebellion on a Killington Section hike, but which was readily handled by the students.

This meeting seemed to be a great way to interface with some very fit and interested youthful hikers. It would be appropriate for the Section to repeat this interface in future years. An invitation has already been extended.

[This story edited to fit space. Ed.]



Your Invitation to Join  
**Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

**ANNUAL DUES:**

Individual..... \$35  
Family..... \$45  
Senior/Student/Volunteer..... \$20

Contact us for information on life memberships and categories for giving at a higher level.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_ trail work, \_\_\_ shelter work, \_\_\_ sign making, \_\_\_ publications, \_\_\_ leading outings, \_\_\_ publicity, \_\_\_ education

Make check payable to Killington Section, GMC and mail with this application to:

Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701







Volume 58, Number 4

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

November 2005

## Killington Section to Host GMC Annual Meeting in 2006

By Barry Griffith

The Green Mountain Club's 2006 Annual Meeting is being scheduled for the first weekend in June, at the Long Trail Brewery in Bridgewater Corners. The Killington Section, through its Board of Directors, has agreed to host the event. Much planning has taken place already. Those plans will be summarized here.

The Annual Meeting will begin with a Friday evening presentation at the Long Trail Brewery on June 2, 2006. Historian David Wright will present a program on the original Long Trail Lodge, on the south side of Sherburne Pass. The "Clubhouse" was constructed for and donated to the Green Mountain Club by its President, Mortimer Proctor in 1923. Most Killington members know that the Long Trail actually passed through this Lodge, until it was tragically destroyed by fire in 1968. This Friday program will give us the opportunity to share this interesting history with attending members from other Sections.

GMC Annual Meeting activities will begin in earnest on Saturday morning, June 3, 2006. Killington Section volunteers will

be needed to assist with registration. The Club's annual business meeting will begin at 9 a.m., and take up the morning.

As host of the meeting, the Killington Section is responsible for organizing and leading Saturday afternoon hikes and outings in the area. Sue Thomas has been busy putting together a variety of outing options for that afternoon. If you are interested in leading a hike or otherwise assisting, please let Sue know.

Saturday evening will begin with a social hour and dinner at the Long Trail Brewery. While the main Club has not yet confirmed the identity of its keynote speaker for the evening, we have every reason to believe that the program will be noteworthy and well-received.

For those who remain in the area and interested, Sunday outings will also be provided. Once again, Sue Thomas is working to finalize this list. Call Sue with suggestions or offers to help.

In our hosting capacity the Killington Section also plans to sponsor a raffle, to provide merchandise or gift certificates for those attending the annual

meeting, while at the same time raising funds for the Club. The contact person for the raffle is Cindy Taylor-Miller. The raffle will require solicitation of local businesses for donations. If you are interested in helping with this endeavor, or perhaps have an item of your own to donate, please let Cindy know.

Your Board of Directors approached this hosting role cautiously, having in mind our Section's limited budget. We were delighted to learn that the Long Trail Brewery has generously agreed to underwrite the food and drink to be provided at the annual meeting. This means that the financial obligation of the Section will be minimal. Our primary hosting obligation will be to provide helpful and knowledgeable volunteers to assist. The Killington Section is blessed with members we can count on to contribute!

There will be an official notice and more information regarding the 2006 Annual Meeting in the next edition of the *Long Trail News*. I wanted to share this news with Killington Section members now. See you on the trails this winter – and in Bridgewater Corners next June!



**Smoke & Blazes**

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

**Killington Section Directors**

Term expires in:

2006 .....	Andrea McQuade
" .....	Roma Pulling
" .....	* Susan Thomas
2007 .....	John Hale
" .....	Lynda Hutchins
" .....	Cindy Taylor-Miller
2008 .....	* Barbara Griffith
" .....	Barry Griffith
" .....	* Steve Williams

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

**Killington Section Officers**

President.....	Barry Griffith
Vice President.....	Barbara Griffith
Secretary.....	John Hale
Treasurer.....	Roma Pulling

**Committee Chairs**

History .....	Bob Perkins
Outings .....	Susan Thomas
Trails & Shelters.....	Herb Ogden

**Delegates to GMC Board**

Director.....	Lynda Hutchins
Alternate .....	Alfred Pulling

**Smoke & Blazes**

Editor .....	Bob Perkins
--------------	-------------

**Web Site**

Web master .....	Deborah Waggett
------------------	-----------------

# Letter to the Editor

## Long Trail End-to-End, Anyone?

From discussions with a number of hikers during the section's outings, I have become aware that there are a number of section members who have an interest in doing the entire Long Trail "in bits and pieces".

Cindy Taylor-Miller has used her knowledge of the Long Trail, and of its trailheads in particular, to develop a possible approach, showing thirty separate hikes. With this in mind an objective of doing all thirty hikes in a two or three years would appear to be practical.

At this point no one, neither Cindy nor the writer, has stepped forward to offer to be an overall leader, coordinator, or anything else. However, I believe that with sufficient members interested, and with some flexibility, the development of a mode of undertaking the project should be possible.

My suggestion is that, if there are sufficient members (or non members) interested, we have an evening meeting at, say, the Rutland Public Library, to discuss how we might put a plan together.

Those interested are asked to call or e-mail me if they would be interested in participating in such a meeting. It would be helpful if callers would indicate any (weekday) evening, such as Wednesdays or second Tuesdays, when they would not be available.

Stephen T. Williams  
802 645 9529  
voorburg@sover.net

## Contact Information – Web Site – <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Barbara & Barry Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

John Hale, 170 Spooner Point or PO Box 506, Castleton, VT 05735, 273-2293, [john@lighters.com](mailto:john@lighters.com)

Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, [lmhutch@shoreham.net](mailto:lmhutch@shoreham.net)

Andrea McQuade, 2 Jan Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5104, [andreamcquade@adelphia.net](mailto:andreamcquade@adelphia.net)

Herbert Ogden, 214 South End Road., Mt. Tabor, VT 05253-9756, (H)293-2510, (W)774-2200, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, [rperkinsvt@aol.com](mailto:rperkinsvt@aol.com)

Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, [pullingra137@aol.com](mailto:pullingra137@aol.com)

Cindy Taylor-Miller, 337 East St., Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [ctmiller@vermontel.net](mailto:ctmiller@vermontel.net)

Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Deborah Waggett, 21 Academy St., Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, [purplejeep99@hotmail.com](mailto:purplejeep99@hotmail.com)

Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, [voorburg@sover.net](mailto:voorburg@sover.net)



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Dec. 2005 – Feb. 2006

Visit our web site: <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome on our outings. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather, and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont! Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call the leader if you have any questions.

**3 December, Saturday      Moscow Pond, Hubbardton      Leader, Sue Thomas, 773-2185**

Hike in to a small, remote beaver pond west of Lake Bomoseen. Our route will be determined by weather conditions.

Moderate, 3.5 miles.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.

**10 December, Saturday      Pine Hill Trails, Rutland      Leader: Tom Copps, 770-9394**

Explore the extensive new trail system, through woodlands with cliffs and ponds, in Rutland City's Pine Hill Park.

Moderate. Route, mileage, and elevation gain to be determined.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.

**7 January, Saturday      Buckner Preserve, West Haven      Leader: Herb Ogden, 293-2510**

X-country ski at the Nature Conservancy's preserve including the scenic ruins of a farm overlooking Lake Champlain and the historic Galick Cemetery.

Moderate, 3 to 4 miles.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.

**15 January, Sunday      Pond Woods State Forest, Orwell      Leaders: Bill Holt & Joan Davidson, 537-4227**

Bushwhack and/or snowshoe. Depending on conditions we will snowshoe over or around several ponds and through mixed woods. Dress in layers.

Moderate, 4 to 6 miles.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.

**21 January, Saturday      Mystery Snowshoe      Leader: Tom Copps, 770-9394**

Location to be determined. Call leader for more information or just come for the surprise.

Moderate. Distance: only the leader knows, for sure.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.

**29 January, Sunday      Shareheat Skiathon, Peru      Leader: Connie Youngstrom, 492-3502**

The Killington Section will participate in the Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council's annual Skiathon to raise money for the Shareheat program. Shareheat provides assistance to low-income Vermonters who have difficulty paying heating bills through the winter. This year, due to skyrocketing fuel prices and shrinking public assistance, the need will be greater than ever. So join us for a fun day of x-country skiing at Wild Wings in Peru as we support a worthy cause. When they become available, pledge forms can be picked up from our log book on any hike. If you can't come ski with us, signup to sponsor someone.

Call leader for further details and for meeting time and place.

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Dec. 2005 – Feb. 2006

Schedule continued from previous page

- 4 February, Saturday      Hot Dog Roast      Leaders: Roma & Al Pulling, 773-6997**  
There's nothing like a roaring campfire on a cold winter day! This outing has become an anticipated tradition with a short snowshoe excursion to whet the appetite. Bring hot dogs to roast; hot drinks will be provided.  
Easy. Distance: your choice.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.
- 11 February, Saturday      Mount Philo, Charlotte      Leader: Steve Williams, 645-9529**  
Climb this 980-foot mountain for sweeping views of the Adirondack Mountains and nearly the entire length of Lake Champlain.  
Moderate, 2 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 19 February, Sunday      Sugar Hill Reservoir, Ripton      Leaders: Gordon & Helen Cawood, 352-4310**  
Ski or snowshoe on a mostly level snowmobile route.  
Easy, 5 miles.  
Call leaders for meeting time and place.
- 26 February, Sunday      High Pond, Brandon      Leaders: Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
The Nature Conservancy recently blazed a trail to remote High Pond. We'll show you the trail, and the pond. Snowshoes recommended.  
Moderate, 4 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.
- 4 March, Saturday      Stowe Pinnacle, Stowe      Leaders: Viv & Larry Walter, 775-3855**  
Enjoy excellent views of Mount Mansfield from this 2,651-foot spur on the side of Hogback Mountain. Some steep climbing.  
Moderate, 3 miles, 1,520-foot ascent.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 12 March, Sunday      Valcour Island, NY\*      Leader: Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
Walk on water (frozen Lake Champlain, that is) out to historic Valcour Island and tour the Bluff Point Lighthouse, built in 1874 and operated until 1929. The Clinton County Historical Society will be on hand with displays. Bring snowshoes or skis to explore the island's trails and visit the site of a pivotal Revolutionary War battle.  
Easy, 1.5 miles, more optional.  
\* If the Lake is not safe, we'll substitute another snowshoe trip.  
Call leader for meeting time and place.
- 19 March, Sunday      Shrewsbury Snowshoe      Leader: Jerry Parker, 775-6208**  
Bushwhacking in the woods.  
Moderate, 2 to 3 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.



## Killington Section Directors Meeting

27 September 2006

By John Hale, Secretary

The Killington Section directors met at the Law Offices of Barry Griffith, 98 Merchant's Row, Rutland, VT

### Attendance:

Board Members: Barry Griffith, Barbara Griffith, Roma Pulling, John Hale, Steve Williams, Cynthia Taylor-Miller, Sue Thomas, Andrea McQuade, and Lynda Hutchins

Guests: Al Pulling and Bob Perkins

The meeting was called to order by President Griffith at 5:10 PM.

### Treasurer's Report

Roma Pulling reported the following account balances and membership statistics as of 9/27/05:

Un-Restricted:	
Checking	\$ 787.46
Check not Deposited	48.75
Savings	1,129.70
Cert. of Deposit	<u>1,602.01</u>
	\$3,567.92
Kirk Fund:	
Savings	\$ 1,804.98
Cert. of Deposit	<u>13,378.24</u>
	\$15,183.22
Membership:	
Memberships	158
Voting Members	189

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

### Smoke & Blazes Editor's Report

After being commended by President Griffith for his fine efforts, Editor Perkins reported that there was nothing new to be considered with the publication; the next edition will be sent out at the end of November.

### Trails & Shelters Report

Gov. Clement shelter was better managed this summer with only one small incident; the new town police patrol seems to have helped control the misuse seen in past seasons.

In the recent past however, the US Park Service has wanted the town to close the access road to the shelter, actually threatening to tear down the shelter if the road was not closed. This position seems to have been taken even after the town instituted

the additional police patrols in that area. It was not clear what more the Killington Section could do to dissuade the Park Service. Barry G. will circulate Herb's (Ogden) email to generate further discussion at the next Board meeting.

Construction of replacement shelters for both Cooper and Clement are scheduled for next year (2006); sites have already been identified.

### Report from the Main Club

Our representative, Lynda Hutchins, reported on her attendance at the Headquarter Club Directors Meeting held on 17 September. Some of the topics were:

\* A new version of the waterproof Long Trail map is now available.

\* The Capital Campaign is meeting its optimistic goals so far: 100% participation from the Board of Directors; significant contributions or pledges from employees and committee members. Awareness Meetings are being hosted around the state. The name of the Capital Campaign Committee was changed to the "Steering Committee to the Second Century".

\* The Headquarters Club organization's 2005 financial books received a clean audit report. A few recommendations were made by the auditors (McSoley McCoy and Co.) which were taken under consideration.

\* There are still 12 full time paid employees, although there have been some departures and hires, as well as shifts in responsibilities.

\* There have been new developments in the Winooski River Crossing plans. The Club is re-thinking the location after a significant donor has apparently come forward. This is an important project, involving, as it does, more than one third of the as yet unprotected land.

\* Board members will now receive part of their pre-meeting information packages electronically. However, the decision was made not to allow electronic access to meeting minutes for confidentiality reasons.

President Griffith and all present thanked Lynda again for her selfless involvement at the Club meetings.

### GMC 2006 Annual Meeting

Killington Section has been asked to consider acting as host for next year's Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Long Trail Brewery. There was an extensive discussion of whether our Section should or could host the meeting. Numerous volunteers will be required to spend a good bit of time organizing and then actually running the event.

There was a general consensus that our section cannot afford to be financially responsible for any costs: no outright contribution of funds to defray costs can be considered and no financial or contractual obligation can be undertaken on behalf of the Headquarters Club; the Club would have to be principal in any financial arrangements. There was every willingness however, to volunteer time and take responsibilities as agents for the Club.

Cynthia T-M agreed to speak with the Club's point person in this issue, Ms. Kerry Foster to find out what they would expect of our section if we were to agree to be hosts.

Mr. Dave Wright, who is shooting a video about the old Long Trail Lodge, was mentioned as a possible speaker at the Annual Meeting.

We all agreed to meet again on Tuesday 18 October at 6:15 PM at Barry's office to discuss this issue. Cynthia is to invite Keri Foster from the Waterbury office to attend.

### Outing Schedule

The next schedule, for December, January, and February, is filling in nicely.

### Other Business

Former President Williams and Cynthia have discussed the idea of segmenting the entire Long Trail into day hikes such that interested people could complete their end-to-end journey in that way. A general discussion ensued revolving around perceived practical difficulties and possible scheduling conflicts. Steve W. will write a letter to Smoke & Blazes requesting email feed-back and indications of interest; he will report back to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM.



## Killington Section Directors Meeting

18 October 2006

By John Hale, Secretary

The Killington Section directors met at Sabby's Restaurant, Center Street, Rutland, VT

### Attendance:

Board Members: Barry Griffith, Barbara Griffith, Roma Pulling, John Hale, Steve Williams, Cynthia Taylor-Miller, Sue Thomas, Andrea McQuade, and Lynda Hutchins

Guests: Al Pulling and Bob Perkins

Special Guest: Keri Foster, GMC Headquarters Staff

The meeting was called to order by President Griffith at 5:40 PM.

### Secretary's Report

The Minutes of the 27 September 2005, board meeting were read, discussed and amended in the *Trails & Shelters Report* section in the first paragraph "Gov. Clement shelter was better managed this summer with only one small incident that was reported to us." (underlined words added); and in the third paragraph of that section rewritten to read "Construction of a replacement shelter is scheduled for next year (2006); the site chosen is two miles north of Clement and about two miles south of Cooper."; and in the *GMC 2006 Annual Meeting* section, the spelling of Ms. Foster's first name was corrected to "Keri".

A motion was made to accept the amended minutes, seconded and passed unanimously.

### The 2006 Annual GMC Meeting

Keri Foster spoke to us about the 2006 Annual Meeting. Ben Rose would like to have been able to attend but had a significant conflict and sent his greetings instead. She was in attendance to answer our questions, allay our fears, and encourage us to decide to host the Meeting.

Each year different Sections of the Club act as hosts for the Annual

Meeting. The meeting in 2006 will be held on 2 and 3 June and the parent club has already made a number of arrangements: the venue will be the Long Trail Brewery in Killington; and the Saturday night meal and speaker have been contracted. Food for Friday night is still under consideration.

The Club has agreed that the Killington Section would not have any financial responsibility for the event.

**Killington Section would be responsible** for volunteers and management of the following areas:

- \* Identify hikes and leaders for day hikes for Saturday in enough variety to interest all possible participants and run the hikes.
- \* Arrange for a speaker for Friday night's event (the parent Club agrees to cover the cost of any honorarium); and coordinate donation of desserts for the evening.
- \* Organize and run any extra events such as a Gear Swap, a Raffle of local business products and services, a 50/50 money raffle, and/or private homes offered for lodging.
- \* Detail availability and location of camp sites/grounds, hotels, motels and other overnight accommodations in the environs.
- \* Prepare a map and written travel directions to the various venues.
- \* Write a formal Introduction to the event.
- \* Prepare a Schedule of Events once all details are settled and provide it to the Club for dissemination.
- \* Register participants on Saturday (seven to ten volunteers will be needed.)

A motion that our Killington Section host the 2006 Green Mountain Club annual meeting was made, seconded and passed unanimously. A Committee of the

Whole was formed to manage the process and volunteers were accepted for the various tasks:

- \* Sue Thomas offered to detail the hike and outing schedule with leaders, and to manage that process.
- \* Cynthia Taylor-Miller offered to scout out and list all overnight accommodations in the immediate area.
- \* Barry Griffith will prepare a map and write travel directions.
- \* Steve Williams is to write the Introduction paper with the assistance of Bob Perkins.
- \* Lynda Hutchins proposed to coordinate Section members' dessert contributions and their presentation at the Friday night event.
- \* John Hale and Cynthia Taylor-Miller will organize and run the Raffles (Gear Swap, Products & Services Raffle, and 50/50 Raffle.)
- \* Barry Griffith will be the central coordination point for all activities.

Ben Rose and Keri Foster will meet with the Long Trail Brewery people on Tuesday 15 November at 12:30 PM to iron out details of the event. Barry Griffith will also attend.

Our own annual pot luck dinner meeting will be held on 19 November and our participation in the 2006 Annual Meeting will be presented and discussed. We will hope to generate more volunteers and possible homes offered for participant lodging. Barbara Griffith plans to set up easels to facilitate the sign-ups.

The next meeting of the Committee of the Whole will be on Tuesday, 15 November at 5:30 PM at Barry Griffith's office at 98 Merchants Row in Rutland.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 PM.



# Outing Reports

## Mount Equinox, Manchester

11 June 2005

By Sue Thomas, leader

About two years ago I climbed Mount Equinox by myself and at the summit stumbled into the midst of the annual "Hill Climb", a race up the auto road for antique sports cars. I thought it would be fun to bring the club up to see it, so this year I scheduled a hike to coincide with the race. Imagine my surprise when a few days beforehand I got a call from the silent order of monks, who own much of the mountain. (When I reported this on the hike, someone asked the obvious question: "Why do they even have a phone?") It seemed their insurance company was requiring that no one be anywhere on the mountain during the race. I convinced the monk that we couldn't possibly be injured over at the lookout, a half mile across the ridge. By the time we finished commiserating about the idiocy of insurance companies, he said to go on to the top and ask the guards if we could watch from the porch of the defunct hotel. So that's what we did and no one objected. We made certain to control Dickens. I had visions of him claiming a vintage Austin-Healy by jumping in and refusing to budge!

The little cars are just his size. Some date back to World War I, and a few of the drivers looked as if they did too. We'd hear them long before they shot, one by one, over the crest of the hill and into the parking lot. Two of our hikers knew a lot about cars and were able to identify each one, not unlike our spring wildflower walks.

We, of course, paused to pay tribute to Mr. Barbo. I think it's safe to say that his is the only mountaintop memorial to a dog around. Passing hikers leave offerings there: little piles of stones, acorns, wildflowers, and coins. Dickens appeared to be unmoved.

**WARNING:** The rest of this hike report contains graphic material that may be upsetting to the squeamish. Caution is advised.

In addition to the auto race this hike also, unfortunately, coincided with the height of the tent caterpillar invasion. The moment we got out of the cars we could hear a sound like raindrops in the leaves although the sky was bright blue. Caterpillar poop was falling like rain all around us. As we headed up the trail the varmints themselves hung from threads in our path, forcing us to dip and dodge in a peculiar dance as we made our way thru the gauntlet. It was our own GMC version of "Fear Factor", though as far as I

know no one actually ate one – at least not on purpose. Luckily they were confined to the lower elevations so we eventually left them behind, but it caused us to start back down the trail after lunch with much trepidation.

It all would have been very interesting viewed on the Nature Channel – we saw tree trunks completely covered with caterpillars and the ground was carpeted with bits of chewed leaves. Quite a different story when you're picking them out of your hair though! My complements to those hikers who valiantly battled thru the worms without complaint, and with the acceptance that sometimes Nature is just plain disgusting!

## Mount. Ascutney

31 July 2005

by Herb Ogden, Leader

Even though my late father and I were the first two members of the Ascutney Trails Association, the group that revived the Mt. Ascutney trails beginning in 1966, I had never hiked the Futures Trail up Vermont's highest monadnock. My trail work on Ascutney pretty much ended in the 60s, and the Futures Trail was not built till 1983. The best way to make sure I got around to exploring it was to agree to lead a hike over it. Now I can say from personal experience that there are four good ways up Ascutney: the Weathersfield Trail from the south, the Brownsville Trail from the north, the Windsor Trail from the northeast, and the Futures Trail from the east. Back when we were laying out or rediscovering trails in the late 60s, I also experienced some not so good ways up. One, an old wood road that we followed downhill from the Weathersfield Trail, mysteriously petered out at a high elevation on the west side. There was no more road until much lower. Only later did we find out that there was a long log chute on that side of the mountain. Of course, it had vanished without a trace by the 60s, and where it used to be was a heck of a bushwhack.

The Futures Trail contrasts with all the other routes up the mountain in that it actually goes up and down significantly. The Brownsville and Windsor Trails are pretty much an unrelenting climb, and the Weathersfield Trail has at best some level stretches. As it follows the long, undulating east ridge, however, the Futures Trail seems a bit more like the Long Trail than the other Ascutney trails do. At 4.6 miles from the State Park to the summit, it is also by far the longest Ascutney trail.

Our small Killington Section group saved the Futures Trail for the second part of our hike, opting for a gradual descent. Climbing up the Windsor Trail, we noted unusually low water at Gerry Falls, though the summer had not been especially dry. Ascutney's unusually dense granite slows the percolation rate so much that springs on the mountain tend to reflect the rainfall of the previous summer more than that of the current summer. Just south of the Log Shelter, we helped a hiker who, while trying to climb to the top, was about to head back down, thanks to her confusion about the 1903 and 1857 routes. We admired the wood floor that the Ascutney Trails Association had just put in the shelter, and then headed to the top after a detour to Castle Rock for a good view of Windsor. Lunch at the top was a calmer event than the last time I led a hike up there, when one participant insisted that the observation tower was the best place to be in the face of an oncoming thunderstorm.

We saved a little mileage by using the shortcut from the Slot Trail to the Futures Trail and by forgoing the side trail to the Steam Donkey (No, a steam donkey has nothing to do with riled-up Democrats. It's a stationery steam engine, used on Ascutney to winch logs.) Just below that side trail, we marveled at a wide flume that is not even mentioned in the guidebook. It's an impressive sight. Farther down, we enjoyed a stop at the picnic area across from where the trail touches but does not cross the motor road. The shelter is a grand old CCC type building, and the view is good. We enjoyed a final view from a knoll about a mile from the bottom, among pines and oaks that are unlike most of Ascutney's forest. This was a long outing, but well worth the trip.

## Mount Antone and Beyond

10 September 2005

By Steve Williams, leader

Most club trips to Mount Antone return either by Mount Antone Road, or via Beebe Pond. This trip aimed at returning on a loop via the southern end of Merck Forest. Consequently, after lunch at the summit, with an excellent view of much of the eastern Adirondacks, the nine-hiker party set off down Lookout Road (the latter being a misnomer; in many places the "road" is barely discernable). The objective was Lookout Point, which looks south over the valley leading east from West Rupert and towards the ridges associated with Equinox Mountain. In an attempt to follow club traditions, the leader there provided the party with a post-lunch snack of zucchini bread.



The leader was most gratified that this was well received as, prior to the morning of the hike, he had never baked a loaf of bread in his life, zucchini or otherwise.

From Lookout Point, Lookout Road improves and, via a number of switchbacks, leads the hiker down to Old Town Road, while losing more than the 850 vertical feet ascended on the way up to Mount Antone. This gives rise to a one-hour uphill stretch before the loop is completed at the junction with Mount Antone Road. En route the group visited the so called Sugar Shack shelter, which is in excellent shape, with a capacity of ten or more and Birch Pond, a pleasant enough small pond, but not too inviting for swimming because of its limited depth and very muddy bottom.

All told, a welcome day in the big outdoors with a group with high conversation skills; at each resting point, the leader had to use all his cajolery skills to re-start onward motion!

#### **Moonlight Bike Ride, Castleton**

18 September 2005

By Bill Holt, leader

On a late Sunday afternoon six bicyclists met in Castleton near the abandoned rail road bed. All day had been cloudy and cool, but just before we started out the weather started changing for the better. We took off just as the sun dropped off the western horizon. The railroad bed was dry despite rain the day before and we cruised along at a steady pace. The trail was wide enough so we could ride two abreast allowing us to converse along the way. We passed fields, swamps, and woods without having to deal with vehicle traffic and arrived in Poultney at dark. We all gobbled down a snack on Main Street while swapping stories of close encounters with bears. Now that we were thoroughly versed on what could happen out there in the boondocks we started our ride back to Castleton in total darkness. Our bike lights cut a feeble path of light through a tunnel of black. I could see fifteen to twenty feet ahead of me while leading the way, but when a cottontail dashed across in front of me it still was startling. Not far out of town the moon, full of orange, peeked over the eastern horizon. Some the bikers now howling like coyotes greeted the majestic sight. As we rode through open areas we were coated with a refreshing dampness as the dew was settling in. We arrived back in Castleton under a white moon and just slightly chilled. We hope to ride again under the light of the moon, perhaps next spring.

#### **Sr. Shuffle to Wallingford Pond**

25 September 2005

By Roma Pulling

Immense potholes – some large enough to lose your car in – were what I remembered from earlier hikes to Wallingford Pond. They were still there – the same holes and (probably) some of the same water. Brown, dirty water surrounded by brown, dirty mud. But in each instance we were able to make our way around these obstructions without getting our feet wet.

There were seven of us on this outing under cloudy skies, but the threatened showers never occurred. Driving two cars up Sugar Hill Road off Route 140 in Wallingford, we followed Wallingford Pond Road to a parking lot 1.9 miles in. There were two other cars there but no other hikers. But someone had pitched a tent nearby and, we presume, was inside because his shoes were placed neatly beside the tent flap while his roll of paper towels hung on a tree branch in lieu of a more traditional hanger.

There were signs that vehicles had been driven to the pond, perhaps in order to launch boats. As mud was everywhere, we decided to check for other approaches that would provide drier places to enjoy our lunch; but finding nothing that looked promising we headed back to our cars. One hiker suggested that nearby White Rocks picnic area would be a good lunch spot, and we all agreed enthusiastically. [Thanks, Esther]. There were many cars there but apparently for the hiking trails as we were the only people eating there. It was their loss.

Watch for our next "shuffle." Remember, no one said fun should be reserved for the young.

#### **Rupert-West Rupert Loop**

2 October 2005

By Vivian Bebee, leader

The planned Split Rock hike was postponed for a second time. Larry Walter, my co-leader, was in Mississippi as a volunteer in the hurricane relief efforts. When Larry and I hiked Split Rock last spring, it was not well-signed at the time, so I opted to lead a hike in more familiar territory. I grew up in West Rupert.

Anyway, we had a warm and sunny day (75-plus degrees) for the six individuals (all female) that arrived for the hike. We parked our cars by the old Delaware & Hudson railroad bed on Route 153 (between West Pawlet and Rupert). We started our hike with freshly baked chocolate-chip cookies for sustenance and walked along the railroad bed for about two miles to West Rupert. Leaving the railroad bed, we walked along the Mill Road to the home of Georgia Bebee, who kindly allowed us to use "the facilities." From there on pavement up East Street, we walked about a mile, passing the old two-

room schoolhouse, which served the Town of Rupert for grades 3-6 for many, many years and now is used as the Town Clerk's office. Turning left onto the Lang Road, we left pavement for a sleepy dirt road. Along the Lang Road, we stopped for lunch in a meadow and then continued on, passing three homes at the far end. As we passed the second home, the elderly owner inquired if we would assist in pushing a stalled vehicle from her garage to enable her neighbor (a young lady) to jump-start it with her car that was parked out on the road. During the course of our task, it was discovered that the friend was the wife of someone I babysat when I was a teenager, a very young teenager of course. We continued on, bearing left on Youlin Road (dirt as well), which led us to Route 315. Turning left on pavement and a short walk to a right on Route 153 brought us back to our cars, where more chocolate-chip cookies were consumed by all. For those of you who are still not quite sure where we were, turning right on Route 315 and traveling a couple of miles would bring you to the top of Rupert Mountain and Merck Foundation.

The hike was a pleasant 5 ½ miles due to gorgeous weather, good company and sleepy, less-traveled roads.

#### **Haystack Mountain, Pawlet**

15 October 2005

By Steve Williams, leader

The leader was not totally surprised when, at 9:10 AM, he received a call from his trusty Rutland liaison, Sue Thomas, to say that, given the prevailing weather conditions in Rutland, there were no takers for the hike, including herself. From the leader's viewpoint this was somewhat disappointing as he had looked at his local weather situation at 6:00 AM, 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM, and on none of these occasions had it been raining (though, admittedly, only an extreme optimist could have declared it to be a fine sky). Further, he had once again stretched his baking skills to produce brownies as bonus sustenance for the hike, of which more anon.

In spite of this setback, the leader still had some hopes for the day, as Bob Boutwell, who had several times indicated an interest in ascending Haystack, had said that he needed to come to Pawlet anyway, and that the two of us had agreed to make the outing unless the weather was totally beyond the pale. After a coffee and taste of the aforementioned brownies, they headed for the front door, by which time it was indeed raining. This continued for the short drive to the trailhead, at which point the leader, in no way wishing to overplay his leadership role,



gave Bob every opportunity to back out there and then, or later, if he so elected.



Steve's photo of the rest of his group

At the first point on the trail where the Haystack summit should have been visible it certainly was not, and the rain continued in a downpour of varying intensity. From periodic solicitations from the leader to Bob about his wish to continue, it became apparent that Bob is a veteran of many long hikes with overnight stays; many of them in much wetter circumstances than currently being experienced.

Some twenty minutes later the east slope, though not the summit, came into view, and the steeper part of the ascent commenced. Curiously enough, this was no worse than on many non-raining days when the rocks had not yet dried out, except that water was by now gushing down the trail, which is not blessed with water-bars. Shortly after the leader's traditional fourth recital of the mantra "we're almost there", the summit was apparently reached, as measured by there seeming to be lower ground all around. But then, after ten minutes of the leader telling Bob what he would see under better circumstances, persistence was rewarded, and glimpses of the floor of the Mettawee Valley and of the adjoining peak (Middle Mountain) miraculously appeared. Two of Bob's excellent Cortland apples were consumed to celebrate.

After such a sight, the trip down was necessarily anti-climactic, except for the stream near the trailhead which was rather more challenging than on the ascent. In summary, a damp, but not unpleasing, trip to the woods!

The brownies found their way to the church school. The recipients expressed no regrets about the circumstances that brought them there.

#### Canty Trail Work Party

22 October 2005

By Herb Ogden, leader

I was delighted to have ten people show up for the fall work party on 22 October though the weather was not

particularly inviting. In only about an hour, they managed to carry eighteen hemlock planks (each six feet long by two inches thick), and twenty hemlock sills (each three feet long and six inches square) about a half a mile up the Canty Trail. The task was made easier by summer hikers who had lugged some of the supplies part or even all of the way. Thank you, whoever you are! Meanwhile, I used the new Killington Section Timber Trundler to wheel two eight foot long planks to the work site. Once everything was in place, we split into a couple of crews to level out spaces for the sills and then fasten the planks to them with six inch spikes. We had more workers than we needed for this final phase, so half the party had time to work south on the Sherburne Pass Trail hoeing leaves and debris out of the waterbars, putting the trail to bed for the winter. The result: 68 feet of new puncheon on the muddiest remaining spots on the trail up Blue Ridge Mountain, and waterbars that will once again take the water off the trail instead of overflowing down the trail.



This last spike ought to do it

Until the waterbars freeze solid, if you take a hike on one of our more drainage-intensive stretches of trail, like the upper part of the Canty Trail, the Long Trail north or south of US 4, the Sherburne Pass Trail (above where our party stopped), the Long Trail between Snowdon Peak and Consultation Point, the upper Bucklin Trail, the Long Trail between the Lottery Road and Clarendon Shelter, or the Long Trail south of Bear Mountain, please consider taking along a hoe to clear out the waterbars. If they get plugged up, water can wash out the trail and negate many hours of work by trail builders. I have Killington Section hoes to lend if anybody needs one.

#### Saratoga Battlefield, NY

12 November

By Sue Thomas, leader

Our day started with scraping ice off our cars in Vermont, but by the time we'd driven the scenic route along the Champlain Canal, watched a movie at the Visitors Center, and enjoyed our lunch on the patio

overlooking the farmland and the Hudson River the sun had done its job. We set off on the four and a half-mile hiking trail, shedding layers like molting snakes. The trail is very pretty, passing through fields and woods with frequent points of interest where significant things happened and just enough hills to give us a workout. We spent most of the day in enemy territory, signified by red-tipped posts that mark the location of the British lines, but managed to come through unscathed. I suspect our red hunting season clothes may have caused some confusion.

We stopped to admire a monument dedicated to Benedict Arnold's leg, one of the more unusual tributes I've seen. Arnold was the big hero of the battle and, had his leg wound proved fatal, we'd be seeing signs claiming that he'd slept in every old inn across New England. Well, we all know how his story turned out. People should just quit when they're ahead.

We'd also passed a monument on the drive down dedicated to Jane McCrae. Barry cheerfully read us her story out of a history book, and a lovely tale it is. Poor Jane was a settler with long red hair who was killed and scalped by the Indians and rolled into a ditch. If there's one thing I've learned it's that having a monument in your honor is probably a very bad thing.

After cookies in the parking lot most of us went on to see the Neilson House, the only surviving building from the time of the battle and our first glimpse of, at last, blue-tipped posts, signifying that we had finally reached the American lines. Relief was short lived however, in listening to farmer Neilson's account in an audio display, we learned that our naughty troops had trampled Ma's garden when they used the house as a headquarters.



The big wheels of Saratoga

By now it was dusk and the fields began to fill with deer - there for the same reason we were as hunting is not permitted in the National Park. Like most battlefields I've visited, Saratoga is now a serene and beautiful place, making it difficult to think about the thousands who fought and died there.



Your Invitation to Join  
**Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

**ANNUAL DUES:**

Individual..... \$35  
Family..... \$45  
Senior/Student/Volunteer ..... \$20

Contact us for information on life memberships and categories for giving at a higher level.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_trail work, \_\_\_shelter work, \_\_\_sign making, \_\_\_publications, \_\_\_leading outings, \_\_\_publicity, \_\_\_education

Make check payable to Killington Section, GMC and mail with this application to:

Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701





# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 59, Number 1

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

February 2006

## Gov. Clement Shelter – Are Its Days Numbered?

By Barry Griffith, President  
Killington Section

The most venerable structure on the AT/LT maintained by the Killington Section is Governor Clement Shelter in Shrewsbury. Most Section members are aware of the history of problems at the site, which stem from its location near a town highway. This has allowed non-hikers easy access to the site in motorized vehicles, where they can disturb those trying to enjoy the shelter as intended. The good news is that a new shelter will be built on Little Killington in 2007, approximately two miles to the north of Governor Clement and safely distant from roads. This is about halfway between Clarendon Shelter and Churchill Scott Shelter, and will provide an excellent additional overnight option for hikers.

What happens then to Governor Clement? For the past several years the Green Mountain Club and its partners have urged Shrewsbury to abandon the Town Highway leading to Governor Clement, to allow a gate to exclude motorized vehicles to be erected by the Forest Service. Up to now, the Shrewsbury Select Board has been unwilling to abandon the road. The Town did authorize funds for a Sheriff's patrol, and only one incident was reported in 2005. However, that report – of a motor vehicle narrowly missing a tent with



campers inside at the Shelter site – is a reminder that even one such incident could lead to tragic consequences.

In January 2006, GMC's Trail Management Committee concluded that hiker safety cannot be assured while vehicles can still be driven there, and recommended that Governor Clement Shelter be removed if Shrewsbury does not abandon the road for gating. A letter summarizing the history and setting forth the resolution has been sent to the Shrewsbury Select Board. The Town has been asked for a favorable response by March 31, 2007. If not

received, the erection of the Little Killington Shelter could be followed by the removal of Governor Clement. As expressed in a previous issue of *Smoke & Blazes*, what a shame that would be.

I understand that the Shrewsbury Select Board intends to schedule a hearing to consider the matter later this year. I will find out when that hearing will be, will notify interested members, and will attend. If you want to be included on my list of interested members to notify, let me know! Time is running out for the Governor.



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2006 .....	Andrea McQuade
" .....	Roma Pulling
" .....	* Susan Thomas
2007 .....	John Hale
" .....	Lynda Hutchins
" .....	Cindy Taylor-Miller
2008 .....	* Barbara Griffith
" .....	Barry Griffith
" .....	* Steve Williams

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President .....	Barry Griffith
Vice President.....	Barbara Griffith
Secretary .....	John Hale
Treasurer.....	Roma Pulling

### Committee Chairs

History .....	Bob Perkins
Outings .....	Susan Thomas
Trails & Shelters.....	Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director.....	Lynda Hutchins
Alternate .....	Alfred Pulling

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor .....	Bob Perkins
--------------	-------------

### Web Site

Web master .....	Deborah Waggett
------------------	-----------------

# Heard on the trail

(mostly from hike leaders)

By Steve Williams

"Not much more than five minutes."

"Another hour."

"Another two hours."

"The summit is just around the corner."

"We'll soon see the summit."

"There was a good view before the trees got so big."

"If you climb out on that fallen-over fire tower you just might see something."

"This stream didn't look like that last time I was here."

"The fog should lift any time now."

"Only one more bit of climbing."

"That was the last steep bit."

"Yes, you often have to go down before you can go up."

"Did your cardiologist really say that you could do this?"

"The weather forecast didn't say anything about it raining all day."

"It's just a bit muddier than when I was here last."

"Personally, I'd shoot the ATV drivers."

"Great view if we didn't have the clouds."

### Contact Information – Web Site – <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Barbara & Barry Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, Griff2VT@Vermontel.net

John Hale, 170 Spooner Point or PO Box 506, Castleton, VT 05735, 273-2293, john@lighters.com

Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, lmhutch@shoreham.net

Andrea McQuade, 2 Jan Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5104, andreamcquade@adelphia.net

Herbert Ogden, 214 South End Road., Mt. Tabor, VT 05253-9756, (H)293-2510, (W)774-2200, hogden@vermontel.net

Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, rperkinsvt@aol.com

Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, pullingra137@aol.com

Cindy Taylor-Miller, 337 East St., Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, ctmiller@vermontel.net

Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Deborah Waggett, 21 Academy St., Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, purplejeep99@hotmail.com

Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, voorburg@sover.net



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Dec. 2005 – Feb. 2006

Visit our web site: <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome on our outings. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather, and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont! Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call the leader if you have any questions.

- 4 March, Saturday**                      **Stowe Pinnacle, Stowe**                      **Leaders: Viv & Larry Walter, 775-3855**  
Enjoy excellent views of Mount Mansfield from this 2,651-foot spur on the side of Hogback Mountain.  
Some steep climbing.  
Moderate, 3 miles, 1,520-foot ascent.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 12 March, Sunday**                      **Valcour Island, NY\***                      **Leader: Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
Walk on water (frozen Lake Champlain, that is) out to historic Valcour Island and tour the Bluff Point Lighthouse, built in 1874 and operated until 1929. The Clinton County Historical Society will be on hand with displays. Bring snowshoes or skis to explore the island's trails and visit the site of a pivotal Revolutionary War battle.  
Easy, 1.5 miles, more optional.  
\* If the Lake is not safe, we'll substitute another snowshoe trip.  
Call leader for meeting time and place.
- 19 March, Sunday**                      **Shrewsbury Snowshoe**                      **Leader: Jerry Parker, 775-6208**  
Bushwhacking in the woods.  
Moderate, 2 to 3 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.
- 26 March, Sunday**                      **Mt. Moosalamoo, Salisbury**                      **Gordon & Helen Cawood, 352-4310**  
Hike or snowshoe on the trails of Mt. Moosalamoo from Ethan Allen Cave to Burnt Mountain.  
Moderate, 5 miles.  
Call leaders for meeting time and place.
- 2 April, Sunday**                      **Okemo Mountain, Mount Holly**                      **Bill Holt & Joan Davidson, 537-4227**  
Hike the back side to a fire tower on the summit for sweeping views in all directions.  
Moderate, 5.8 miles, elevation gain 1900 feet, steep.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 8:30 AM.
- 8 April, Saturday**                      **Killington Section Annual Meeting, Rutland**                      **Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
Bring a dish to share and your own place setting for a pot luck supper followed by a short business meeting and election of officers. All are welcome!  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Hillside Avenue in Rutland at 6:00 PM.
- 9 April, Sunday**                      **Old Roads of Shrewsbury**                      **Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
We'll explore several of the old wood roads of the town of Shrewsbury.  
Moderate, 6 to 7 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 15 April, Saturday**                      **Grandpa's Knob, Castleton**                      **Tom Copps, 770-9394**  
Climb to the site, in the 1940s, of the first municipal wind turbine. Views in all directions of the Greens, the Adirondacks, and the Taconics.  
Moderate, 3 miles, elevation gain 1000 feet.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Dec. 2005 – Feb. 2006

Schedule continued from previous page

- 22 April, Saturday**                      **Lye Brook Falls, Manchester**                      **Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
Climb gradually to one of Vermont's highest waterfalls, in the Lye Brook Wilderness.  
Moderate, 4.5 miles. (Rain date: 4/23.)  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 29 April, Saturday**                      **Long Trail Spring Cleaning**                      **Herb Ogden, 293-2510**  
All are welcome to join us for our annual cleanup and maintenance, preparing the trail for the summer hiking season. We'll clear water bars, trim brush, and cut blowdowns on the lower elevations. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and lunch. Tools provided. Have fun while doing a good deed. Rain date: 4/30.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 1 May, Monday**                      **End-to-Enders' Reunion, Rutland**                      **Roma & Al Pulling, 773-6997**  
Long Trail End-to-Enders (and serious wannabees) bring pictures to pass around, favorite trail snacks, and stories. Beverages will be provided, and possibly slides.  
Real easy.  
Meet at Pullings' home, Route 4 East, across from Dexter Shoes at 6:30 PM. Call for directions.
- 6 May, Saturday**                      **Little Killington Shelter Site, Mendon**                      **Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
Join Dave Hardy, GMC Director of Field Programs, for a look at the site chosen for our newest Long Trail shelter on the south slope of Little Killington. Snow shoes may be needed.  
Moderate, 5.5 miles, rough terrain and very wet.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:30 AM  
or from the Shrewsbury Town Office at 10:00 AM.
- 13 May, Saturday**                      **Old Brandon Town Site, Brandon**                      **Roma & AL Pulling, 773-6997**  
A short walk to the site of the original village of Brandon and the Hawk Hill Cemetery, resting place of the earliest settlers.  
Easy to moderate.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.
- 20 May, Saturday**                      **Split Rock Mountain, Westport, NY**                      **Viv & Larry Walter, 775-3855**  
Gorgeous views of Lake Champlain, Grant Mountain, and the Dix Range.  
Moderate, 5.5 miles, elevation gain 670 feet.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 27 May, Saturday**                      **Appalachian Trail, Pomfret**                      **Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
Follow the trail east from Route 12 to Cloudland Shelter over hills and pastures with sweeping views of the valley and mountains.  
Moderate, 6.5 miles, up and down.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 2 – 4 June, Fri. – Sun.**                      **Green Mountain Club Annual Meeting, Bridgewater Corners**  
The Killington Section will be hosting this year's Annual Meeting. See articles in *Smoke & Blazes* and *Long Trail News* for details, or check the website: [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org). There will be several hikes, especially on Saturday. We'll need volunteers to help out. Call any Killington Section Board member if you can donate some time.



# Outing Reports

## Cardigan Mountain, NH

29 October 2005

By Andrea McQuade, leader

We had 12 people in our group and we hiked in snow! The day was clear and sunny, but the trail was snow covered all the way to the top. The views at the summit were beautiful and we were joined by an enthusiastic group of students from Kimball Union Academy who passed us in both directions. We met a few other hikers along the trail who were also out enjoying a late-fall/early-winter day.

## Austin Hill, Rochester

20 November 2005

By Gordon & Helen Cawood, leaders

This was a joint outing of the Killington and Breadloaf Sections. It being hunting season, the six of us stuck to the roads up Austin Hill in Rochester, where there are plenty of "No Hunting" signs. Austin Hill is the location of the Great Hawk Colony, an association which owns some very attractive homes. We saw nice views of the Green Mountains and had lunch at the association's swim pond. Lunch was well deserved after a short hike with an elevation gain of 1200 feet.

## Buckner Preserve, West Haven Ski, Snowshoe and Slog

7 January 2006

By Herb Ogden, Leader

Ha! I was right! I told them the cross country skiing would be fine, and I'd even checked it out a couple days earlier, before the last snow. But did they believe me? No! Most brought boring snowshoes. There was no Snowshoe Hare, however, because Ruth Hare did bring her skis all the way down from Montpelier. Now, I will admit that the snow depth was low enough so that Jerry

Parker's little dog Dickens had no problems, and that none of those without skis or snowshoes had to posthole through monstrous drifts. Still, the skiing was fine because we were mostly on hayfields and old pastures, and we two skiers left everyone behind on the final glide down to the former Galick Farm.

The Nature Conservancy's Helen W. Buckner Memorial Preserve was our playground on this fine day. Visitors' vehicles are not permitted beyond the summer trailhead, so we left the cars there and walked through the small village of houses, barns, and outbuildings accumulated by the old Galick brothers before they stopped farming and the Nature Conservancy got this beautiful land. Until we began the descent to the inlet of the Drowned Lands, we went first west and then east of the old road shown on the USGS map. That part is overgrown, so we could not actually use it. From there on north, we followed the road across old hayfields or pastures to a little plateau where a woodroad comes in from Bald Mountain on the east. At that point, though there is no longer any obvious road to the west, one simply heads west to the edge of the plateau, and there's the road again, leading down to a sizable house that has fallen down in the last six years. We battled our way through burdock to the foundation so we could have a resting place for lunch. Wisely, Jerry did not join in this endeavor, for Dickens would have resembled a large self-propelled barking burdock burr by the end of it. Everyone enjoyed the panorama from South Bay up the narrow part of Lake Champlain, and most explored the foundations of a large barn just north of the house. No public highway map shows a road to

this house, though it is on the 1869 Beers Atlas of Rutland County, so we wondered whether the farmer did most of his trading across the very narrow lake in New York.

Before driving back east into New York (think about that, "east"), we toured three cemeteries. A couple hundred feet from the trailhead is the abandoned Galick Cemetery, with some large slate gravestones going back to 1813. Lying flat near their bases in brushy woods just south of the Tim's Trail parking lot, about 100 feet west of an old power pole, are the big headstones of Charles and Betsey Stewart, who died in 1873 and 1876, aged 87 and 83 respectively. Our last visit was to the Adams Cemetery at The Elbow, the only one that looks like a real cemetery with graves in rows. Over the last three years, the Youth Group of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rutland has cleared away the prickly ash that was once so thick that you couldn't see from one end to the other. They also have re-erected a number of stones and unearthed more. In the 8 inches of soil that used to cover one large headstone from 1906, the group found a piece of casket hardware and a human collarbone. Our theory is that the substantial headstone led robbers to think the deceased probably had been buried with valuable rings or jewelry. They probably unearthed the casket, robbed it, and then found the quickest way to fill in the hole was to topple the headstone into it and then throw some of what they had dug up onto the stone. This happened too late to be a corpse stealing for the old Castleton Medical School. Any other ideas?



**Pond Woods, Orwell**

15 January 2005

By Bill Holt, leader

This outing was cancelled due to weather conditions.

**Shareheat Skiathon, Peru**

29 January 2006

By Connie Youngstrom, leader

It was hard to imagine that there would be enough snow to ski on at WildWings Cross-Country Center in Peru, but there was. Mark and I enjoyed spring-like conditions on their gently rolling terrain, some of which followed a brook and was quite lovely. The weather was damp and temps were in the high 30s making for tricky waxing. I was glad for my nowax bases. We were later told that the event raised well over \$20,000 in pledges to assist local folks with their heating expenses. Mark and I thank you for your pledges. If you have never skied WildWings do plan on joining us next year. You will find great skiing at this low-key relaxing place and will help to raise money for a very worthwhile cause.

**Gifford Woods Hot Dog Roast**

4 February 2006

By Roma Pulling, leader

Given the choice of leading this hike on Saturday, February 4, or

Sunday, February 5, purely by luck we took the better of the two days. It was even better than forecast with mostly sunny skies. Eleven people left the park, where the ground was bare, and arrived at Gifford to find about four inches of snow on the ground. Still, no one saw the need to use snow shoes.

After we had loaded supplies on a plastic toboggan and pulled it to one of the log shelters, Alfred busied himself building a good fire in the metal fireplace ring. As a hike leader I have come to rely on, Jerry Parker with his assistant, Dickens, and eight of the hikers went for a walk on the hill west of the shelter. (Jerry would insist that Dickens was the leader because he went first.) After they left, I took a shorter walk, following in their foot steps.

When we had reassembled at the shelter, Alfred had water boiling for hot beverages. Two of the men cut hot dog sticks, which we used to cook our main course, which was accompanied by rolls, chips, condiments and cookies. Sue brought her delicious brownies with a candle on one to celebrate Barb's birthday. (If you want to know how many birthdays, ask her.)

These winter cookouts are a lot of fun. Try it sometime!

**Philo in February**

By Steve Williams, leader

11 February 2006

In *Smoke & Blazes* would-be participants were offered "Sweeping views of the Adirondack Mountains and nearly the entire length of Lake Champlain". This indeed is precisely what was seen, though the snow-shoeing originally envisaged was, due either to the quirks of a New England winter, or as a result of global warming, a non starter. Three section members, plus a guest of the leader from Boston, were on hand to ascend 980 feet high Mount Philo, some eight miles north of Vergennes. There is a very decent well-blazed trail which corkscrews its way up to the summit. There was a light snow covering which masked a few icy patches where those with yak traks, boot stabilizers or other anti slip attachments definitely had the advantage. The summit was at an ideal temperature for lunching, with the view described above. The descent was made via the road.

This was not the Section's longest hike, nor the one with the greatest elevation gain, but a very satisfying one for a bright and clear Saturday morning.

## The Long Trail in Bits & Pieces

Former Section President Steve Williams is spearheading an ambitious group who intend to earn their Long Trail End-to-End patches by section-hiking all 272 plus miles of the trail in bits and pieces over the next couple of seasons. Already ten folks have expressed interest and an exploratory meeting is scheduled



for 6:00 PM, Monday 20 March at Barry Griffith's office, 98 Merchants Row.

Steve invites all who think they might be interested in joining the group to attend the meeting, or to contact him for more information at Steve Williams, phone 802-645-9529 or internet [voorburg@sover.net](mailto:voorburg@sover.net).



## Section Directors Meet

By John Hale, Secretary

A meeting of the Killington Section Board of Directors was called to order by President Barry Griffith at 7:10 PM on 24 January 2006 at his law offices at 98 Merchants Row, Rutland, VT.

### Board Members Attending:

Barry Griffith      Barbara Griffith  
Roma Pulling      John Hale  
Steve Williams      Sue Thomas  
Lynda Hutchins      Andrea McQuade  
Cynthia Taylor-Miller

### Others Attending:

Al Pulling      Bob Perkins

**Secretary's Report** The Minutes of the October 18, 2005, Board meeting were read and considered. A motion was made to accept the minutes as read, seconded and passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report** Roma Pulling reported the following account balances:

#### Un-Restricted:

Checking.....	\$ 971.30
Checks not Dep. ....	203.75
Savings .....	1,129.70
Cert. of Dep. ....	<u>1,414.51</u>
.....	\$ 3,719.26

#### Kirk Fund:

Savings .....	\$ 1,832.75
Cert. of Dep. ....	<u>13,345.27</u>
.....	\$15,178.02

**Little Killington Shelter** The planned new shelter was discussed. Sue T. will speak with Herb Ogden to discover whether the Killington Section will be expected to contribute to the cost of the new shelter.

**The GMC Annual Meeting** Lynda H. mentioned that this June event may be the occasion for the parent club's kick-off of the fund raising campaign. That decision has not yet been made.

Cynthia T-M announced that she will be hiking the AT again at the time of the Annual Meeting and has asked John H. to head up the raffle:

\* Tickets for sale at one for \$1 and six for \$5

\* Put one or more tickets in the container in front of the item you particularly want; increase your odds for being drawn by putting more tickets in the container.

\* Some raffle items have already been donated; more will be collected.

### Smoke and Blazes

Bob P. reminded us that February is coming and he has received no articles for that issue yet, suggesting that it would be nice if someone were to write an article on the Governor Clement shelter situation. (Barry G. offered to write a synopsis. See below)

**Outing Schedule** Sue T. mentioned that she needs hike leaders.

The date of our semi-annual meeting and pot luck dinner was set for Saturday, 8 April this year. Sue T. will double check with the church to assure its availability.

**Governor Clement Shelter** This continuing situation has taken another turn. Barry G. reported that the Parent Club has written a letter to the Shrewsbury Select Board supporting the National Forest Service's request that Town Highway 13 be abandoned from just north of the northernmost private camp on that road, and that a gate installed, which could be unlocked during the winter and hunting seasons. It is the Forest Service's position that continued motorized access to Governor Clement Shelter threatens the safety of hikers camping at the shelter and that this past year's increased police monitoring has not produced the desired result. If the road is not abandoned by the Town, the Forest

Service will be obliged to remove the shelter. (Copy of the Parent Club's letter, penned by Dave Hardy, GMC Director of Field Programs is available from your Secretary. Also available is a copy of the Shrewsbury Clement Shelter Committee chairperson, David Rice's memo to his committee, undated but after November, 2005)

Director Hardy's letter was read to the Board and found to be acceptable in tone and content. The consensus of the Board was that we need not take a formal position. Barry G. offered to write a synopsis of the circumstances surrounding this issue for the next issue of Smoke and Blazes.

**Trails** Cynthia T-M pointed out that there have been a significant number of blow-downs on most of the trails for which we are responsible, that some work seems to have been done but that much remains to be done. She also reported that vandalism is still a problem at all of our trail heads especially with overnight parking.

**Main Club** Lynda H reported on the Parent Club's meeting of 17 September 2005.

A copy of her report is available from your Secretary.

It was suggested that an award for Bill Robichaud from the Parent Club recognizing Bill's long service to the Club might be in order. Herb Ogden will be asked to follow through.

**End-to-End** Steve W. brought the Board's attention to the "Long Trail in Bits and Pieces" project. He said that the project is still alive and of interest to a number of people but that no progress has been made recently. He called for interested parties to attend a meeting on the project on Monday, 20 March, at 6:00 PM at Barry Griffith's office.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.



Your Invitation to Join  
**Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

**ANNUAL DUES:**

Individual ..... \$35  
Family ..... \$45  
Senior/Student/Volunteer ..... \$20

Contact us for information on life memberships and categories for giving at a higher level.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_trail work, \_\_\_shelter work, \_\_\_sign making, \_\_\_publications, \_\_\_leading outings, \_\_\_publicity, \_\_\_education

Make check payable to Killington Section, GMC and mail with this application to:

Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701





# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 59, Number 2

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

May 2006

## Killington Section Annual Meeting

By John Hale, Secretary

The annual meeting of the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club was held on 8 April 2006 at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Rutland.

### Attending:

#### Board members:

Barry Griffith.....President  
Barbara Griffith..... VP  
Roma Pulling..... Treasurer  
John Hale..... Secretary  
Steve Williams  
Sue Thomas  
Lynda Hutchins  
Andrea McQuade

#### Guests:

Dave Hardy.....Director of  
Field Programs, GMC  
Paul Pilcher. Guest Speaker

#### Others:

About 20 other people attended

**Pot Luck Dinner:** Our pot luck dinner began about 6:00 PM and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. President Barry Griffith brought the business meeting to order at about 7:00 PM.

**Minutes:** The meeting minutes of the 2005 annual meeting as printed in the May 2005 *Smoke & Blazes* were accepted as printed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Roma Pulling reported on the 2005 year's income

## Wayne Krevetski is New Director



Wayne (trail name: Madhatter) Krevetski, who was elected to the Killington Section board in April, is new to the Green Mountain Club and to Rutland but certainly not to hiking, trail work, and the outdoor life in general.

Wayne is a ski instructor, a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, worked on a shelter construction project in Tennessee, and was, for fifteen years, a Scout Master. His interests also include rock

## Main Club to Meet at Brewery

Most Killington Section members are aware that we are a local chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club (GMC), commonly referred to as "The Main Club". Reading the quarterly *Long Trail News* is the only interaction most members have with the Main Club.

This weekend, 2 to 4 June, we have the rare opportunity to take part in GMC activities close to home. Our section is hosting the GMC annual meeting at the Long Trail Brewery (no relation) in Bridgewater Corners, on Route 4, only about 25 miles east of Rutland.

A social hour on Friday at 7:30 PM will be followed by David Wright's slide show on the history of the Long Trail Lodge.

Saturday's 9:00 AM business meeting will give you a chance to meet club leaders and hear about what's going on in the club and on the Long Trail statewide.

Saturday afternoon offers you a choice from nearly a dozen different hikes ranging from an easy half-mile in Eshqua Bog to a challenging 5.8 miles to Okemo Mountain. Meet at the Brewery at 1:00 PM.

More Hikes on Sunday. Meet at 9:00 AM and choose Mount

See **Meeting** page 9

See **Krevetski** page 8

See **Brewery** page 9



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2007 ..... John Hale  
"..... Lynda Hutchins  
"..... Cindy Taylor-Miller  
2008 ..... \* Barbara Griffith  
"..... Barry Griffith  
"..... \* Steve Williams  
2009 ..... Wayne Krevetski  
"..... \* Andrea McQuade  
"..... \* Roma Pulling

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President ..... Barry Griffith  
Vice President..... Barbara Griffith  
Secretary ..... John Hale  
Treasurer..... Roma Pulling

### Committee Chairs

History ..... Bob Perkins  
Outings ..... Susan Thomas  
Trails & Shelters..... Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director..... Lynda Hutchins  
Alternate ..... Alfred Pulling

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor ..... Bob Perkins

### Web Site

Web master ..... Deborah Waggett

## *It was the best of times, it was the worst of times-*

Dickens



**Dickens Parker enjoying a hike to South Pond**

By Sue Thomas

The Killington Section recently lost one of its most enthusiastic hikers. Dickens Parker was a fixture on our hikes, summer and winter, cheerfully handling terrain that made his human companions growl. His little legs carried him up sizable mountains, thru snowbanks twice his height, and thru brush and mud, all at an age when most of us will be hobbling around with canes and walkers!

We'll miss him; he was one of a kind.

### Contact Information – Web Site – <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Barbara & Barry Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

John Hale, 170 Spooner Point or PO Box 506, Castleton, VT 05735, 273-2293, [john@lighters.com](mailto:john@lighters.com)

Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, [lmhutch@shoreham.net](mailto:lmhutch@shoreham.net)

Wayne Krevetski 22 Roberts Ave., Rutland, VT 05701 282-2237 [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)

Andrea McQuade, 2 Jan Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5104, [andreamcquade@adelphia.net](mailto:andreamcquade@adelphia.net)

Cindy Taylor-Miller, 337 East St., Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [ctmiller@vermontel.net](mailto:ctmiller@vermontel.net)

Herbert Ogden, 214 South End Road., Mt. Tabor, VT 05253-9756, (H)293-2510, (W)774-2200, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, [RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu](mailto:RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu)

Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, [pullingra137@aol.com](mailto:pullingra137@aol.com)

Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Deborah Waggett, 21 Academy St., Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, [purplejeep99@hotmail.com](mailto:purplejeep99@hotmail.com)

Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, [voorburg@sover.net](mailto:voorburg@sover.net)



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: June – August 2006

Visit our web site: <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome on our outings. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather, and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont! Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call the leader if you have any questions.

### **2 – 4 June, Friday – Sunday GMC Annual Meeting, Bridgewater Corners See your Long Trail News**

The Killington Section is hosting this year's Annual Meeting of the state-wide club. See articles in *Smoke & Blazes* and *Long Trail News* for details, and check the website: [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org) for the latest information. There will be several hikes, especially on Saturday. We can use volunteers to help out. Call any Killington Section Board member if you can donate some time.

### **10 June, Saturday Upper Elevation Work Party Herb Ogden, 293-2510**

Join us for our spring cleanup on the higher portions of the Long/Appalachian Trail on Killington and Pico. Fun in the woods and worthwhile accomplishments! Bring work gloves, lunch, and sturdy shoes. Tools provided. Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.

### **17 June, Saturday Canoe/Kayak – Otter Creek, Proctor/Pittsford Jerry Parker, 775-6208**

A scenic paddle from Proctor to Florence past farms and covered bridges.

Easy, 5 miles

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.

### **24 June, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Taconic Mountain Ramble, Hubbardton Kit Davidson, 273-2982**

Featured in *Vermont Life* magazine! Massive cliffs; rolling meadows; mountain peaks with views north, south, east, and west; a Japanese garden full of waterfalls; plus other goodies. Wine and cheese afterward; bring no lunch. Walkers can leave the group at several points and relax on the lawn.

Easy half mile or moderate 3 miles.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 1:00 PM.

### **1 July, Saturday Pico Peak, Killington Tom Copps, 770-9394**

Climb to the 3959-foot summit via the Sherburne Pass Trail. Along the way see the sinkhole, an interesting geological oddity, and Pico Camp.

Moderate, steep, 6 miles, 1807 feet elevation gain.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.

### **8 July, Saturday Bike Trek, Castleton-Poultney Bill Holt, 537-4227**

Bike on an old railroad bed and dirt roads in the Castleton-Poultney area. Helmet required.

Moderate, 10 to 15 miles. Rain date 9 July.

Call leader for meeting place and time.

### **15 July, Saturday Montcalm Point, Lake George, NY Sue Thomas, 773-2185**

Follow the Northwest Bay Trail along the shore of the lake for many scenic views, cascading streams, and shaded hemlock glens. Swimming is an option.

Moderate, 10.8 miles. Rain date 16 July.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 8:00 AM.

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: June -- August 2006

Schedule continued from previous page

- 23 July, Sunday**                      **Canoe/Kayak, Grafton Pond, NH**                      **Viv & Larry Walter, 775-3855**  
A beautiful spot with islands and inlets to explore.  
Easy.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 8:30 AM.
- 29 July, Saturday**                      **Dorset Peak, Danby**                      **Steve Williams, 645-9529**  
Climb to the wooded 3730-foot summit via the Dorset Hollow Trail.  
Difficult, 6.8 miles, 2320-foot elevation gain.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 6 August, Sunday**                      **Paddle the Poultney River**                      **Jerry Parker, 775-6208**  
A relaxing paddle along the scenic Vermont/New York border.  
Easy, 5 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 12 August, Saturday**                      **Trail Work Party**                      **Herb Ogden, 293-2510**  
There's always work to be done to keep the Long Trail spiffy! Call leader for details or just come and lend a hand.  
Bring work gloves and sturdy shoes. Tools provided.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 19 August, Saturday**                      **A bit of End-to-End, MA & VT**                      **Steve Williams, 645-9529**  
Join the Killington Section's End-to-End group for the southernmost piece of the Long Trail. Begin at the Pine Cobble Trail in Massachusetts and hike across the border to the County Road in Vermont.  
Moderate, 6.4 miles  
Call leader **no later than 9 August** for meeting time and place.
- 26 August, Saturday**                      **Canoe/Kayak – Otter Creek, Rutland Area**                      **Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
Paddle scenic Otter Creek in the Rutland region.  
Moderate, 7 miles or opt to go the 11 mile distance.  
Meet in the Diamond Run Mall Parking lot in front of Sears at 8:00 AM.
- 10 September, Sunday**                      **Senior Shuffle – Quechee Gorge, Hartford**                      **Roma & Al Pulling, 773-6997**  
Enjoy one of Vermont's scenic wonders at a leisurely pace. All welcome.  
Easy.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.
- 16 September, Saturday**                      **Silver Lake, Leicester**                      **Bill Holt & Joan Davidson, 537-4227**  
Hike around Silver Lake via the Chandler Ridge Trail  
Moderate, 8 miles.  
Call leaders for meeting time and place.
- 23 September, Saturday**                      **Split Rock Mountain, Westport, NY**                      **Viv & Larry Walter, 775-3855**  
Gorgeous views of Lake Champlain, the Green Mountains, and the Dix Range.  
Moderate, 5.5 miles, elevation gain 670 feet.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.



# Outing Reports

## High Pond, Sudbury

26 February 2006

By Barry & Barbara Griffith, leaders

The snow storm didn't deter this outing, but made parking in the snow plow turnaround site a challenge. Luckily we were forewarned by a neighbor to bundle the cars tightly together.

The Nature Conservancy trailhead to High Pond Preserve is on Ganson Hill Road in Hubbardton. High Pond is in Sudbury. The hiking trail was constructed by the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps in July 2005. The trail is well marked and quite easy to navigate, with a touch of the Corps' artistic flavor.

Conservationist Douglas Burden started buying parcels of land in the 1930s. Eventually these lands came under TNC's care in the early 1980s. These lands now cover an area of nearly three thousand acres with territory in Hubbardton, Brandon, Pittsford and Sudbury. There is quite a history about the site; if you wish to learn more let the Griffith's know and we will forward the information to you. For history buffs: there is evidence that an old military road passed by the Pond.

After sliding in on a snowy trail we were able to walk along the ice on the shoreline of the Pond. We enjoyed lunch sheltered from the wind in a sunny spot. Tom Copps captured the entire jaunt on GPS for anyone who would like exact guidelines. We were reminded of evidence of the Taconic Mountains with shale and slate outcroppings here and there. Vermont has such diverse geological terrain.

On return to Rutland we managed to drive over the High Pond Road and stopped to view the site of

the old High Pond Ski Area. There are old buildings still existing with remains of trails and ski tows. One can go online on New England Old Ski Area Preservation site (*nelsap*) and read about the spot from the 1940s to the 1980s.

For those who couldn't join us because of the snow or because of it being a Sunday I would recommend a jaunt in.

## Stowe Pinnacle

4 March 2006

By Viv Bebee and Larry Walter

After about a two hour drive from Rutland we pooled for a combined eight person count at the parking lot. The weather was a little stormy, with a fresh, 12-inch layer of new snow. The new white stuff actually helped dampen the effects of some pretty nasty ice chutes that Viv and I had encountered on our earlier recon' hike.

The trail has been re-located in recent years to avoid a housing subdivision to the south. The new trail location goes nearly straight up the eastern slope, resulting in some 'otter-slides' on some of the upper sections. We helped each other up a few slippery stretches, to a main saddle where the grades improve. A couple folks with decent crampons and a general disregard for skeletal integrity skittered out to a nice little overlook on the eastern face.

From the first overlook, the trail gently descends along the southeastern slope and then climbs on an easy grade through some conifer thickets to a very nice, open summit. Although we couldn't see the ski resort across the valley, the closer peaks were visible through a screen of light snow. We decided to retreat from the wind to a more

sheltered view on the south flank for lunch. Sue Thomas produced a candle and some stubborn matches to celebrate Larry's 53<sup>rd</sup> plus-one-day birthday (said candle was ceremoniously poked into a whole-wheat with cheddar sandwich).

The return trip was accented by some unintended slides on our backsides on some of the now-exposed ice. One old fool attempted to keep up with our 15 year old member, luckily unscathed. At the urging of Peter (the 15 year old) and others, we stopped at the Ben & Jerry's factory off of Route 100 and replenished our calorie counts. This is a relatively short hike with a great view at the summit. We'll be sure to return in the future, but probably while on-route to destinations north.

## Goshen Peak Bushwhack

19 March 2006

By Barbara Griffith

We slid into the parking lot at Brandon Gap (elevation 2183 feet) remarking on our third such hike out in one of our winter's scarce snowstorms. Undeterred, we surged ahead for one of leader Jerry Parker's tracking bushwhacks. Unfortunately the billowing snow covered most of the critter tracks making identification a challenge at the least.

Moose rubbings on trees were abundant. We wandered hither and yon with the hobble bush living up to its name as we tottered, tripped, and staggered trying to stay upright. Hobblebush is a member of the honeysuckle family that one stumbles upon in Vermont's cool, moist woods. It serves as a food and cover for wildlife such as moose, deer, rabbits and small rodents. Hiking critters found a challenge in slogging around in its tangled masses.



Our climb lived up to its true name of "bushwhack". We peaked eventually onto a plateau and searched this way and that for one of those canisters that the Appalachian Trail Conservancy puts atop some 3000 footers. Falling repeatedly into large pot holes left by very hefty moose hooves we eventually slogged along to another peak. A forward search team ventured ahead and returned to the pack reporting "just over the next rise and up the embankment we found our destination". The group followed our leader scrambling over more hobblebush. The ATC canister was located, and all signed in. Another peak conquered or did it conquer us?

The sun parted to allow views from the top of Goshen Peak, (3292 feet). Silence ensued as we gazed out over the Greens, sun shining through swirling snow. First we saw the other mountains. Then we didn't. Agreeing words were not enough to describe the views each trekker shot a memory. You just had to be there.

### **Mt. Moosalamoo, Salisbury**

26 March 2006

by Gordon Cawood, leader

This was a joint Bread Loaf/Killington Section hike starting at the campground at Branbury State Park in Salisbury. The Ethan Allen Trail brought us to Ethan Allen Cave, rumored to have been used by Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys during the War of Independence. The story was convincing enough to the DAR to have recognition of the event inscribed over the cave opening. Here Tom Copps took some neat photos and printed a map which he was kind enough to post to me (and perhaps others) via email. Thanks, Tom! Barbara Griffith is seen crawling out of the cave, her floppy hat almost concealing her identity.

We followed Ethan Allen Trail to its northern end and picked up Bear Pond Trail, which led to the Cold Spring Trail. From there we climbed up to Pat's Pad. Pat's Pad is an open shelter owned by Keewaydin Camp. But we all chose to have lunch in the sun on the exposed bedrock.

After lunch we hiked down the Iroquois Trail and followed Burnt Mountain Trail. The section of trail that climbed Burnt Mountain was poorly maintained and suffered much winter storm damage. (The same was true of most of Ethan Allen Trail.)

We had the option of foregoing the mountain and walking out to Upper Plains Road where a van had been spotted. However, every one chose to climb the mountain. The climb was well worth it. It proved the only real distance viewing to the west over the Champlain Valley and, from another viewpoint to the east and south, over the Greens and Lake Dunmore.

### **Okemo Mountain, Mount Holly**

2 April 2006

Bill Holt, leader

Six hikers and Dickens showed up the day after Fools' Day to hike Okemo from the north side. We started up the Healdville trail midmorning under a sunny sky. The trail climbs up steadily for a 1900-foot elevation gain, but is not strenuously steep. Despite the sun the air was cool from the north, just right for an up hill climb. As we got closer to the summit we started to encounter ice on the trail. The ice increased the higher we went so we had to be very careful of our foot placement while at the same time looking for hand holds. We soon were surrounded by thick conifers and rock so the going was very slow for a while as we negotiated the ice. We made it to the summit unscathed, but a little

concerned about returning the same way.

We were now standing underneath the fire tower and through the trees we could catch glimpses of skiers and snowboarders coming off the ski lift. As we went up the tower the wind and cold increased. By the time we reached the top of the tower the wind was gusting over 50 miles per hour and the chill factor was below zero. The views were spectacular despite the cold. We could see individual peaks and mountain ranges in all directions in the crisp blue air. My face started to numb and my eyes water after around ten minutes. The tower was very stable and safe considering the wind that was assaulting it.

After lunch as we started back down the Healdville trail, Jerry and Dickens decided to do a little bushwhacking to avoid some of the ice. Luckily the ice became tackier and less slippery on our way down. We met up with Jerry and Dickens after a short time. He had found a service road that ran parallel to our trail for the first half mile, but the ice was melting now so we decided to stick with the trail. Soon, we were legging it out unencumbered down to the parking lot. The day wrapped up with a drive over to a series of wonderful cascading falls, know as Buttermilk Falls.

### **Overgrown Roads of Shrewsbury**

9 April 2006

By Barbara Griffith, co-leader

Springtime hiking guidelines advise us to keep off the trails in higher elevations until these trails dry out. This keeps the trails from eroding and keeps our feet from becoming waterlogged. Out in rural Vermont there are long-abandoned roads that one only needs to have the time to wander around on and explore. Thus we decided to wander



around in "Plymsbury", along the Plymouth-Shrewsbury corridor. My expression is "I'm going for a walkabout."

Our weather was perfect for a stroll through Plymsbury on roads both past and present. We started at the parking lot on the Old Plymouth Road. Friend Lee Wilson led us up through a side road and path to join with the route wished-for, passing by old cellar holes and what was speculated to have been a livestock holding pen. Perhaps it corralled oxen or work horses for one of the logging operations from yesteryear.

We did end up on the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) Road heading north for a short distance before slogging down to the right on a logging road/VAST (Vermont Association of Snow Travelers) trail. (Gate closed). The CCC Road was remarkably drivable for this time of year. No snow.

Heading north-northeast, and crossing a dilapidated bridge, we intersected a very overgrown northbound lane. After clambering over trees downed and grown in this questionable pathway we ended up on Grouse Hill Road

Eventually a sunny spot was found where fine lunches were enjoyed, feet were rested, and stories were exchanged.

We followed the Grouse Hill Road back to the Old Plymouth Road. Walking back towards the parking lot we stopped to view the site of an old sawmill. Local history cites this as one of Burditt's sawmills. Although the mill was in Plymouth the logging operation took place in Shrewsbury. Across the way, barely discernable anymore, are the remnants of the schoolhouse foundation for School District 13.

Back on our trek we wandered off to the north again up a side road

to another cellar hole. A well is marked with a stick there to save one from plunging in. We wandered up the hillside to view stone stacks and to speculate on their purpose. A few theories abounded. Of course we enjoyed the "Celtic origin" theory the most. However the more scientific and historical minds of the group speculated that a barn was built on this site with the piles of stone being the under-pillar foundation holding the barn. Livestock would have been housed underneath with hay and such on the upper floor.

Onwards we wandered, amazingly coming back to the Old Plymouth Road having "walked about" exactly 6.94 miles according to Tom Cops' GPS mapping. Please call me if you want to "walk-about". There's not much I enjoy doing more than that or bushwhacking.

### **Lowland Trail Party**

29 April 2006

By Herb Ogden,  
Trails & Shelters Chair

About a dozen people turned out on a beautiful spring day to work on the Long Trail between Wallingford Gulf and the Lottery Road in Shrewsbury. The Griffiths and Jerry Parker had agreed to remove blowdowns between the Lottery Road and Gov. Clement Shelter, and reported that part of the trail was otherwise in good shape, so we didn't send parties up there. Instead, we had a party working between Wallingford Gulf and Patch Hollow, a party working south from Vt. 103, and a party clearing and waterbarring from Vt. 103 to the Lottery Road. All were successful.

The party that started from Wallingford Gulf had the most work, because three large trees had fallen up on Bear Mountain. We had no certified chain sawyer, so we used the Section's recently bought one man crosscut saw, but as a two man

saw with a handle on the small end. We began with two people who knew how to use a crosscut and a wedge, and ended with four or five, so this was an accomplishment in itself. We also did get through all the blowdowns and cleaned out numerous waterbars.

ATVs have made a track just south of the high point on Bear Mountain. They come in from Button Hill, though Patch Hollow, and then up the west side of Bear Mountain till they strike the Long Trail near the top. They are damaging the footway. If you see one, please note its license plate number and tell me or Kim Kinville, the Forest Service's law enforcement person in this area

### **End-to-End Reunion**

1 May 2006

By Roma Pulling, hostess

It seemed like a good idea to move our party to the library (more room, central location), but we couldn't reserve any of the dates that interested us. So, as we have in the past, we welcomed people to our house. No. '45 was pleased. No packing up supplies and transporting them to another location.

As you came through our door, the first thing you saw was a table with the hiker's log, our two End-to-End certificates, old backpacking gear, albums of pictures, and my collection of hiking books including three Colin Fletchers, Earl Shaffer's "Walking With Spring" Robert Macfarlane's "Mountains of the Mind" and various trail guides. We sat in the living room, chatting about our experiences while waiting for everyone to get here, and then adjourned to the dining room. There we continued to reminisce while munching on trail snacks of gorp, pretzels and peanuts, crackers and cheese and trail bars. These were



accompanied by a large pitcher of ice-cold lemonade.

A good time was had by all.

### Old Brandon

13 May 2006

By Roma Pulling co-leader

It could be said that this hike brought us good and bad luck. I'll leave the bad for later. Early in the day we looked at the sky often, also checked Channel 31 on TV, and the weather didn't look good. But it wasn't raining by time to leave for the park; so we packed up and drove down. We found twelve people besides ourselves! And there was no rain until we were inside our car ready to return home and driving south toward Rutland.

Because we planned to spot cars, we left Rutland with six and planned to leave three at Otter Valley School. It didn't quite work out that way, but we drove to the north end of Old Brandon Road and left the remaining cars there. Several signs on our way indicated this was school property. As we hiked along, I was pleased to leave the lead to younger people while I served as sweep in the rear. We saw several spring wildflowers: red trillium, foam flower, and ginseng among others. Red eft's were common.

Jerry pointed out an old cellar hole, and the old Hawk Hill cemetery was interesting. This was the earliest part of present-day Brandon to be settled by white men, the first being

Amos Cutler, who came from Hampton, Connecticut, in 1772. In 1773 he was joined by David June and his father-in-law, John Ambler. These two men are buried here. From the cemetery it is a short, downhill walk back to the school parking lot.

It was at this point, when we were nearly ready to leave, that Jerry suffered a very sad loss when his dog and companion, Dickens, wandered into the road and was killed by a car. We thought he was with us, and no one saw him put himself in danger. Everyone knew him and enjoyed having him join us on hikes. He will be greatly missed.

## Long Trail End-to-End in Bits and Pieces

Section members who are not regular participants in the "end to end" group are welcome to join these outings, subject to their fitness and the availability of travel space. Those interested should call the designated coordinator at least ten days before the outing to determine the meeting time and place.

## 2006 Schedule

Date	From	To	Miles	Coordinator	Phone #
29 May	Vt. Route 140	Upper Cold River Road	11.7	Tom Cops	770-9394
17 June	Upper Cold River Rd	US Route 4	12.0	Tom Shanahan	775-5371
08 July	US Route 4	New Boston Trail to USFS 99	13.9	Chuck Helfer	287-9190
22 July	New Boston Trail to USFS 99	Vt. Route 73	8.4	B&B Griffith	492-3573
05 August	Vt. Route 73	Vt. Route 125	9.9	Cindy Oas-Kirk	775-7646
19 August	Pine Cobble Road	County Road	6.4	Steve Williams	645-9529
09 September	USFS 10	Vt. Route 140	8.3	Tom Shanahan	775-5371
23 September	Lake Mansfield Trail to Nebraska Valley Road	Vt. Route 108 Smugglers Notch	10.3	Chuck Helfer	287-9190
07 October	Mad Tom Notch Rd USFS 21	USFS 10	12.3	TBD	
21 October	Forest City Trail to Camels Hump Road	Duxbury Road	10.3	TBD	
04 November	Old Rootville Road	Mad Tom Notch Rd USFS 21	11.9	TBD	

### Krevetski continued from page 1

climbing and white-water paddling. Thirty-five years ago a younger "Madhatter" hitch-hiked all the way across Canada and back across the United States.

Born in New Jersey, and a longtime resident and employee of the State of Connecticut, Wayne and his wife Kathy moved to Rutland last year. They have two grown sons no longer living at home.

Wayne completed an Appalachian Trail thru hike from April to September 2004. He has covered the Long Trail as far as Middlebury Gap and looks forward to pushing on to Journey's End.



**Meeting continued from page 1**

and expenses and the current balances for both the Section and the Kirk Fund accounts. The reports were accepted as presented.

**Killington Section Income**

25% share of dues ... \$1,112.50  
Other ..... 394.48  
Total ..... \$1,506.98

**Killington Section Expenses**

Newsletter ..... \$ 519.44  
Trails & Shelters ..... 236.85  
Hall rental ..... 118.00  
Xfer to Kirk Fund ..... 1,373.94  
Other ..... 394.41  
Total ..... \$2,642.64

**Kirk Fund Income**

Xfer from Section .... \$1,373.94  
Other ..... 7.69  
Total ..... \$1,381.63

**Kirk Fund Expenses**

Miscellaneous ..... \$120.23  
Total ..... \$120.23

**Killington Section Balances  
(as of 31 December 2005)**

Checking ..... \$ 971.30  
Savings ..... 1,129.70  
Cert. of Deposit ..... 1,650.28  
Total ..... \$3,751.28

**Kirk Fund Balances  
(as of 31 December 2005)**

Savings ..... \$ 1,832.75  
Cert. of Deposit ..... 13,345.27  
Total ..... \$15,178.02

**Membership counts**

Memberships ..... 152  
Voting members ..... 187

A member asked about the restrictions, if any, on the Kirk Fund balances: wondered about what the original mandate was. It was agreed that this topic would be discussed further at the next Board meeting.

Roma was thanked for her service.

**Smoke & Blazes:** Editor Bob Perkins was unable to attend this evening but was roundly thanked for his service.

**Web Site:** Public thanks were also offered to our website designer, Deb Waggett.  
(www.geocities.com/gmckillington)

**Main Club Directors:** Lynda Hutchens reported on her attendance at the latest parent club directors meeting. Lynda was thanked for selfless involvement.

**Trails and Shelters:** Herb Ogden reported that there were many blow-downs but that most have been cleared. He mentioned that we are looking for another Sector Checker to replace Bill Robichaud.

Dave Hardy, Director of Field Programs at the parent club, spoke about the situation with Governor Clement Shelter in Shrewsbury and the Cooper Lodge replacement by the planned Little Killington shelter.

**Finance Campaign:** Mr. Hardy also spoke about the parent club's fund raising Second Century Finance Campaign. The amount to be raised is from \$5 to \$9 million, \$2 million of which will be used to acquire title to more of the Long Trail in Vermont and \$1.5 million of which will be used for trail maintenance. The campaign has not officially been begun because the organizers want to reach more than half of the goal privately from large donors (as a sign of strength) before opening it up to the general public.

**End-to-End:** Steve Williams reported on the development of the "Long Trail in Bits and Pieces" project. It is expected to take three hiking seasons to complete the 29 sections identified. Day hikes are planned but there may have to be one overnight.

**Parent Club Meeting:** The GMC Annual Membership Meeting will be held on the weekend of June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> at the Long Trail Brewery in Bridgewater Corners. Killington Section will be host and volunteers were sought.

**Board Election:** President Griffith opened the meeting to nominations for Board members. Director terms are staggered; three being elected each year for a three-year term with a two-consecutive-term limit.

This year Andrea McQuade and Roma Pulling each completed a term and Sue Thomas completed a second consecutive term. Andrea, Roma, and Wayne Krevetski were nominated and elected as directors to serve to 2009.

Continuing directors are Barbara and Barry Griffith and Steve Williams (to 2008); and John Hale, Lynda Hutchens, and Cindy Taylor-Miller (to 2007).

**Election of Officers:** The new board met and re-elected the following officers for the coming year

Barry Griffith ..... President  
Barbara Griffith ..... Vice P.  
Roma Pulling ..... Treasurer  
Secretary ..... John Hale

The next Board meeting was set for 6:00 PM, Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Barry's office: 98 Merchants Row in Rutland.

**Program:** The business meeting was adjourned at about 8:00 PM and Paul Pilcher presented a slide show of his trip to the Rocky Mountains, which was enjoyed by all.

**Brewery continued from page 1**

Ascutney, Killington, or a portion of the Appalachian Trail in Barnard. Or bring your canoe or kayak and paddle around Woodward reservoir.



Your Invitation to Join  
**Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

**ANNUAL DUES:**

Individual ..... \$35  
Family..... \$45  
Senior/Student/Volunteer ..... \$20

Contact us for information on life memberships and categories for giving at a higher level.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_trail work, \_\_\_shelter work, \_\_\_sign making, \_\_\_publications, \_\_\_leading outings, \_\_\_publicity, \_\_\_education

Make check payable to Killington Section, GMC and mail with this application to:

Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701







Volume 59, Number 3

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

August 2006

## Outing Reports

### Little Killington Work Party

18 June 2006

By Herb Ogden, Trails & Shelters  
Chair

Despite a forecast of temperatures around 90F, about a dozen people showed up to clean up the mess that the fall and winter storms had left on Little Killington. Larry Walter, Dave Coppock and Tom Copps had already sawed through enough of the tangle so that hikers could get through, but much more needed to be done to restore last summer's hiking conditions. By the end of the day, that had been accomplished from Gov. Clement Shelter to Cooper Lodge. We also cut back brush and cleared waterbars.

By far the worst stretch was about half a mile on either side of Shrewsbury Peak Junction. Trees had fallen on the trail every few feet, sometimes in great piles, so multiple trunks had to be cut to clear the trail fully. In places, the tangle alongside the trail was so dense that it was hard to find a place to throw the cut wood. The last task was to saw the fallen mess out of a number of waterbars so they could be cleared!

### LT End-to-End in Bits & Pieces

LT miles	LT miles
Hiked	to Go
<b>56.6</b>	<b>216.1</b>

*See stories on pane 6*

### Dorset Peak, Danby

29 July 2006

By Steve Williams, Leader

The trail, actually an old logging road, starts at the east end of Dorset Hollow. It is of a distinctly convex nature, gradually becoming steeper and steeper until it levels out at a notch, with views to the northeast over the Otter Valley, some three quarters of a mile from the summit. The process is then repeated on the way to the SW summit, where, by climbing on the remains of an old observation tower, more views of the Otter Valley are obtained.

After lunching at the SW summit, and at the encouragement of Sue Thomas, we went on over to the NE peak, which Sue pointed out was only thirty feet higher and was one of New England's highest 100 peaks (number 98 for those who are

statistically minded). The route did include some modest descent before re-ascending and a surprising bog at such an elevation, but did take us to the unprepossessing forest bound NE summit, which had the redeeming features of a geological survey canister and an opportunity to record our arrival in the records book

Some of the party thought that the second trail leading down from the NE peak would curve to the west and join the logging road from the notch to the SW summit. After a very democratic debate on the matter we decided to try it for a short distance and reconsider if it did not seem to be working out. It did not: the trail seemed to be very faint and going downhill east too much. We therefore returned back over the NE summit, headed for the SW summit and then turned right on the road to the notch.

While the weather was merely hot and humid on the way up, the party was treated to direct precipitation on the way down. Overall, not the greatest payoff for a peak (the ratio of view divided by effort), but the company was enjoyable, and the participants have now added an ascent number 98 of New England's highest peaks to their hiking accomplishments.



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2007 ..... John Hale  
"..... Lynda Hutchins  
"..... Cindy Taylor-Miller  
2008 ..... \* Barbara Griffith  
"..... Barry Griffith  
"..... \* Steve Williams  
2009 ..... Wayne Krevetski  
"..... \* Andrea McQuade  
"..... \* Roma Pulling

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President ..... Barry Griffith  
Vice President..... Barbara Griffith  
Secretary ..... John Hale  
Treasurer..... Roma Pulling

### Committee Chairs

History ..... Bob Perkins  
Outings ..... Susan Thomas  
Trails & Shelters..... Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director..... Lynda Hutchins  
Alternate ..... Alfred Pulling

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor..... Bob Perkins

### Web Site

Web master ..... Deborah Waggett

Contact Information – Web Site – <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Barbara & Barry Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

John Hale, 170 Spooner Point or PO Box 506, Castleton, VT 05735, 273-2293, [john@lighters.com](mailto:john@lighters.com)

Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, [lrhutch@shoreham.net](mailto:lrhutch@shoreham.net)

Wayne Krevetski 22 Roberts Ave., Rutland, VT 05701 282-2237 [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)

Andrea McQuade, 2 Jan Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5104, [andreamcquade@adelphia.net](mailto:andreamcquade@adelphia.net)

Cindy Taylor-Miller, 337 East St., Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [ctmiller@vermontel.net](mailto:ctmiller@vermontel.net)

Herbert Ogden, 214 South End Road., Mt. Tabor, VT 05253-9756, (H)293-2510, (W)774-2200, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, [RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu](mailto:RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu)

Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, [pullingra137@aol.com](mailto:pullingra137@aol.com)

Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Deborah Waggett, 21 Academy St., Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, [purplejeep99@hotmail.com](mailto:purplejeep99@hotmail.com)

Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, [voorborg@sover.net](mailto:voorborg@sover.net)

## Minerva's Genealogy

[The following paragraph was moved here from Herb Ogden's story "Minerva Hinchey Shelter Goes South" (page 9) Ed.]

This open front shelter was built in 1969 by Louis Stare and members of the Killington Section. Originally a closed camp with a stove, it was converted to an open shelter in 1982 to reduce the threat of vandalism and fire. It replaced Sunnyside Camp, a building of similar design with big double front doors that had been built by the Killington Section in 1955 but had burned. That in turn had replaced Spring Lake Camp, erected in 1951 by the Killington Section 0.6 miles north at what is now Spring Lake Clearing. I heard somewhere that Spring Lake Camp began life as Blue Triangle Camp, which used to stand near Gov. Clement Shelter near the brook bank, but, unlike the rest of the above, I have not been able to verify it by consulting old guide books.

[The following paragraph is copied from an April 1999 Smoke & Blazes article "50 Years Ago in Smoke and Blazes", which reviewed items originally reported in S&B during 1949, its first full year of publication. Ed.]

The major trails and shelters project for the year was the relocation of the old Blue Triangle Camp from its site next to the brook near Gov. Clement to its new home above Spring Lake. On a January work party the shelter was cut into sections and trucked to the south shore of the lake. At least seven more work parties at Spring Lake were reported during the year. The camp sections were tobogganed across the lake ice, carried up through what was then an open pasture, and reassembled high on the hill.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Sept. – November 2006

Visit our web site: <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome on our outings. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather, and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont! Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call the leader if you have any questions.

- 10 September, Sunday**      **Senior Shuffle – Quechee Gorge, Hartford**      **Roma & Al Pulling, 773-6997**  
Enjoy one of Vermont's scenic wonders at a leisurely pace. All welcome.  
Easy.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.
- 16 September, Saturday**      **Silver Lake, Leicester**      **Bill Holt & Joan Davidson, 537-4227**  
Hike around Silver Lake via the Chandler Ridge Trail  
Moderate, 8 miles.  
Call leaders for meeting time and place.
- 23 September, Saturday**      **Split Rock Mountain, Westport, NY**      **Viv & Larry Walter, 775-3855**  
Gorgeous views of Lake Champlain, the Green Mountains, and the Dix Range.  
Moderate, 5.5 miles, elevation gain 670 feet.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 1 October, Sunday**      **Moose Mountain, Hanover, NH**      **Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
Climb to the 2300-foot summit on the Appalachian Trail for excellent views of Mounts Cardigan and Kearsage.  
The south peak is the site of a 1968 plane crash. After a side trip to Moose Mountain Shelter we'll descend via a 1772 road cut by order of Governor Benning Wentworth so that he could attend Dartmouth's first commencement.  
Moderate, 4.5 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 7 October, Saturday**      **Fall Bike Trip**      **Bill Holt & Joan Davidson, 537-4227**  
Enjoy the fall foliage while pedaling. Ninety percent will be on dirt or gravel roads.  
Moderately difficult, 15 to 20 miles. (Rain date: 10/8).  
Call leaders for meeting time and place.
- 14 October, Saturday**      **Stratton Mountain, Stratton**      **Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
Climb to the summit where the Long Trail was born! Spectacular views of Somerset Reservoir, the Taconics, and New Hampshire from the fire tower.  
Moderate, 7.6 miles; steep, 1910-foot elevation gain. (Option for an 11-mile loop). (Rain date: 15 October).  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 8:30 AM.
- 22 October, Sunday**      **Senior Shuffle: Proctor Ledge, Proctor**      **Roma & Al Pulling, 773-6997**  
Climb to a view point above the village.  
Easy to moderate, 3 miles  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 10:30 AM.
- 28 October, Saturday**      **Picnic Rock, Shrewsbury**      **Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
A bushwhack thru the woods to the biggest rock in Shrewsbury.  
Moderate, 5 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Sept. -- November 2006

Schedule continued from previous page

- 4 November, Saturday      Work Party      Herb Ogden, 293-2510**  
 Help us finish up our Long Trail maintenance chores for the year. Tools provided; bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and lunch.  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 11 November, Saturday      Hope Cemetery, Barre      Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
 Famous worldwide for its unusual, beautiful, and sometimes bizarre memorials carved from Barre granite by skilled artisans. Established in 1895, the cemetery covers 65 acres. If time and weather permit we'll add a walk on country roads in the area or a visit to the new Vermont Historical Society Building.  
 Easy. (Rain date; 12 November).  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 18 November, Saturday      Fall Potluck, Rutland      Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
 All are welcome to join us for our annual Hunting Season feast. Bring plates, utensils, and food to share; hot beverages provided. Slide program will follow.  
 Meet at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church fellowship hall, Hillside Road, Rutland at 5:30 PM.

**Attention All Hike Leaders:** Our outing schedule is compiled each quarter by Sue Thomas, 773-2185. In order for us to publish the schedule on time we would greatly appreciate it if you would try to comply with the following time table:

S & B publication date	February 20	May 20	August 20	November 20
Covers outings for	Mar., Apr., May	June, July, Aug.	Sept., Oct., Nov.	Dec., Jan., Feb.
Commitments to Sue by	January 31	April 30	July 31	October 31

### Appalachian Trail Hike in Pomfret, 27 May 2006

by Sue Thomas

The Appalachian Trail segment from Route 12 to Cloudland Road is an especially pretty one in the spring and well worth what can only be called "lumpy" terrain. It's certainly easy to picture those famed Vermont cows, reputed to have shorter legs on one side than the other, endlessly circling the steep hillside pastures which we trekked up and down and up and down. No one of the hills was very high, but Tom's GPS reported a quite respectable total elevation gain for the day, which justified some sore muscles.

We may not have spotted any of these malformed cows, but nature rewarded us with lovely views of the valleys, mountains, and hill farms at

many places along the way. We were treated to a patch of rare showy orchis in bloom, and a porcupine ambled along the trail ahead of us and climbed a tree. Farther along a mother killdeer tried to protect her nest, foolishly built in the trail. When puffing up to look her most fearsome failed to intimidate us, she tried dragging a wing to lure us away to an easy meal. As it happened we'd already had lunch, so we admired her handiwork instead – the nest neatly made of woodchips piled on the ground and filled with four beautiful speckled eggs, which blended in so well we didn't see them immediately. She really should speak to her Realtor though – location, location, location.

Killdeer have no corner on bad judgment however. Most of the group struggled across a rain swollen stream before it was discovered that there was a bridge a short distance away!

We admired some of the most impressive stonewalls we'd seen in the woods, evidence that people had once farmed that challenging terrain. I don't know if the cows really did limp, but one AT hiker surely did. We found his discarded swiss-cheese-like boots hanging from a tree – a testament to different generations of Vermonters tackling the same piece of Vermont.



## Section Leaders Honored with GMC Life Memberships



At the recent annual meeting of the Green Mountain Club two Killington Section members were awarded honorary life memberships in recognition of their outstanding and long time service to the club. The citations that accompanied Bill's and Herb's plaques are reproduced below.

### Bill Robichaud

In the early 1990's, Bill Robichaud joined the Killington Section because he wanted to hike. Although he was already retired, most of the section members couldn't keep up with him. He subsequently took up trail work with remarkable fervor. In the late 1990's, he spent hours helping to build Long Trail relocations over Bear Mountain north of Wallingford Gulf and around the west side of Pico Peak. He served for several years as co-chair of the Section's Trails and Shelters Committee, while continuing to be one of the most faithful participants on work parties. From 1993 to 2005, he came out for 30. At the same time, Bill began putting in long hours on his own or with a few other volunteers. In 2003 alone, he worked over 80 hours "unofficially." He also serves the Club as Sector Checker for the Long Trail between Cooper Lodge and Tucker Johnson Shelter, hiking that stretch at least twice a year and alerting the Committee of any problems requiring a work crew.

According to fellow Section member Herb Ogden, "I am sure there is no part of the Long Trail System in the Killington Section on which Bill has not worked. He has also worked on GMC trails outside our area. He is a meticulous trail clearer, but his specialty is erosion control, which is even more important with heavy use of steep trails.

### Herb Ogden

It could be said that the GMC is in Herb Ogden's blood. His father, Herbert senior, was a long-time Club volunteer who introduced his son to the Long Trail. Herb Jr. became an end-to-ender in 1964 and, with his father, helped build the shelter on Mt. Ascutney and acquired the two-hole privy at Governor Clement Shelter (There must be a story here). In addition to regularly volunteering as a Killington Section trip leader, Herb served as Section President from 1996 to 2002. As the Section Trails and Shelters Chair, he runs frequent work outings and, as importantly, coordinates the Club's responses to local trail issues in the Rutland area. From 1992 to 1996, he was secretary to the GMC Board of Directors and has been a member of the Trails and Shelters Committee since 2001.

When asked about Herb's nomination, Breadloaf Section volunteer Anne Hoover wrote, "I think Herb is an excellent choice to be nominated for Honorary Life Membership. I read the Rutland Herald regularly and occasionally see a good letter from him on some relevant issue. I remember Herb (as Chair of the Committee on Long Range Planning) as a quiet, but determined leader. He was an excellent chair and a good listener and, at the time, I thought we got a lot done."



## Long Trail End-to-End in Bits and Pieces (The Saga Begins)

Tom Copps & Steve Williams

We are pleased to report that the "Long Trail End to End in Bits and Pieces" project is finding its way forward.... in bits and pieces. To date six sections have been completed (from Route 140 to Middlebury Gap, and a 3.1-mile bit at the Massachusetts border) with participation varying from 6 to 9. Having cars spotted early at the destination trailhead and an early start at the initiating trailhead have turned out to be key to the timely completion of hikes. This will become more difficult as we move further away from "home", but we're learning as we go. We have successfully reconnoitered the route to the Long Trail one mile north of Glastenbury Peak for next year.

### *Reports of Bits and Pieces*

#### **Upper Cold River Road to Wallingford Gulf Road**

29 May 2006, Leg 1

By Steve Williams

Monday, May 29, 2006 was the big day, the very first hike by the Killington Section end-to-enders group. We intend to hike the Long Trail in bits and pieces as day hikes over the next two years or so.

We assembled at the Upper Cold River Road trailhead right on schedule. Our roster included Rich and Lindy Brown, Tom Copps, Mike Farrell, John Hale, Robert and Bonnie Lucas, Steve Williams and Cindy Oas-Kirk. Lynda Hutchins and her friend Gene had intended to join us but had to opt out the night before. Barb and Barry Griffith were present for shuttle service but they could not join us either.

Steve Williams had pre-positioned his car at Route 140 earlier and was kindly driven back to the trailhead by Barry Griffith. The nine of us started out for Gould Brook and what lay beyond, many of us in sandals. The previous Wednesday I had checked trail and discovered the brook to be high and running fast. Fortunately it was much lower so we all were able to get across, some in sandals, some in over their boots. Mike Farrell waded across the brook barefoot. We continued on to Kieffer Road, the

very first waypoint for the end-to-enders!

Feeling good about ourselves we set out for Lottery Road and beyond. Enjoying our great adventure we continued over Beacon Hill and down to Clarendon Shelter for lunch. On the previous Wednesday there had been a person without any gear staying there; however he was gone when we arrived. After lunch and a short group meeting we set out for Route 103 and the swinging bridge across Upper Clarendon Gorge.

Everybody was quite surprised at the steep rocky, boulder-strewn descent from Clarendon lookout to Route 103. We all agreed that it is better to be going down this pitch than to be going up. We crossed Route 103 and the swinging bridge and started up the bank towards airport lookout. As we climbed the hill Bob and Bonnie Lucas decided that blisters developing from their wet stocks would preclude them from completing the trip this day so they turned back. This slope, although steep, is one of the prettiest parts of the whole trip. It is made up of ledge rock so wide that you have to watch carefully for blazes to make sure that you haven't lost the track. Soon we achieved airport lookout and everybody was glad to have another climb behind us. We all agreed that yes indeed, it certainly

was a handsome airport and we were still making good time. But we still had a lot of climbing to do, so after a few moments we set out for the high points above Spring Lake and then down to Minerva Hinchey Shelter.

In due time we reached the shelter and sat ourselves down for a good long restorative rest. Mike Farrell decided at this point that he really did not want to climb Bear Mountain on this particular day. He bid us good luck and set out for the Spring Lake Ranch and the road down the hill to Route 103 where we promised we would pick him up in a couple of hours. After our rest we continued on up to Patch Hollow where several of us pitched in with an attenuated version of the Patch Hollow Legend. Of course it was nowhere near as lucid and entertaining as Barry Griffith's version but those who had never heard it were duly impressed.

Continuing on up Bear Mountain we climbed the last long steep climb. When we reached the top we were all satisfied that we had done what we set out to do and so what still lay ahead of us took us by surprise. We were not prepared for how long it would seem to take us to travel from the north peak of Bear Mountain to the south peak and then down the long switchbacks to Route 140. Even after we could see the roofs of horse barns on Sugar Hill



Road below us we still had miles to go before we slept so to speak. Of course everything comes to an end, even a great trip like this, and finally we all broke out into the parking lot at 140 more or less together with great whoops and hollers because we had actually done it! We had completed the first leg of the end-to-enders great trek! And a wonderful hike it was.

We had started at 9:40 AM and were finished by 6:11 PM, for a time on the trail of 8 hours and 31 minutes. The trip was 10.8 miles giving a speed of approximately 1.3 mph. The Long Trail handbook estimates one half hour per mile plus one half hour per thousand feet. Since we had climbed 3027 feet according to DeLorme, the trip should have taken us to 6.9 hours for a speed of 1.6 mph. They may not consider us up to snuff but we sure do.

### **Sherburne Pass to Upper Cold River Road**

17 June 2006, Leg 2  
By Tom Shanahan

Besides the leader, this twelve mile section was completed by Tom Copps, Linda Hutchins, Cindy Oas-Kirk and Steve Williams who spotted a car at the Upper Cold River Road. The group then car-pooled to the Route 4 AT/LT crossing at approximately 08:30 AM. The hike was completed at approximately 4:00 PM.

The weather was cloudy and cool. The trail between Route 4 and Cooper Lodge was in good shape. There were many blow-downs on the trail in the area about a half mile on either side of the Shrewsbury Peak Trail. The rest of the trail to the Cold River road was in good shape.

### **Sherburne Pass to New Boston Trail**

8 July 2006, Leg 3  
By Steve Williams

This 13.3-mile section with vertical ascent of 2653 feet was completed by Rich and Lindy Brown, Tom Copps, Linda Hutchins, Allie Norton, Tom Shanahan, and Steve Williams.

After the gentle climb from Route 4 to Maine Junction, the trail meandered past the Tucker Johnson Shelter (this name represents two people, not one) to the Elbow Road crossing. With very restricted views and frequent direction changes, the intent of the original trail blazers was at times far from clear. The next landmark was the recently rebuilt and handsome looking Rolston Rest Shelter

More oscillations and undulations brought us to the ledges close to North Pond, from where there is a fine view over Chittenden Reservoir, and which proved to be an ideal lunch spot. En route, our GPS master Tom Copps was mystified by a stream flowing from left to right across our path in a location where we were shown to be on the west side of the ridge. Could it be that the Long Trail map is not as accurate as we thought? (Subsequent checking by Tom proved this to be the case).

From there it was over the hump to the curiously named "Telephone Gap". One participant suggested that was because cell phones don't work there. However, as that situation applies to much of Vermont, further explanation is still being sought.

A final pitch of 0.8 miles on the Long Trail brought us to a skimobile trail heading west, which provided a gentle downhill amble to be joined by the New Boston Trail from the Mount Carmel direction and then on to US Forest Service Road 99 and short hike to the leader's Jeep.

### **Brandon Gap to New Boston Trail**

22 July 2006, Leg 4  
By Tom Shanahan

Besides leader Tom Shanahan, this 9.8 mile section was completed by Tom Copps, Linda Hutchins, Cindy Oas-Kirk, Carol Wright and Steve Williams. The starting time was 8:30 AM; the hike was completed at 2:30 PM.

The weather was warm and cloudy. The last two hours of the hike were conducted during a heavy soaking rain. This last factor made all the hikers happy that Steve had been able to spot his car at the intersection of the New Boston Trail and USFS 99.

### **Brandon Gap to Middlebury Gap**

5 August 2006, Leg 5  
By Cindy Oas-Kirk

It was a beautiful day for a hike – neither too hot nor humid. The Hikers were Tom Bassett (O Section), Richard and Lindy Brown, Tom Copps, Lynda Hutchins, Cindy Oas-Kirk, Tom Shanahan, Dorothy Sullivan (O Section), and Steve Williams. The elevation gains of the five mountains would rise the temperature, but at that point, we would turn a corner and be relieved by a cool breeze.

We had two fine view points – Great Cliff, which is a protected area from 15 April to 1 August for nesting peregrine falcons, and Cape Lookoff Mountain. The other two hoped-for views, South Worth and Monastery Lookouts, were grown in. We lunched at Sucker Brook Shelter, which was about midpoint in our 9.9 mile trek.

Nine people started in at Brandon Gap at 8:40 AM and nine people arrived at Middlebury Gap at 4:30 PM – and they were the same nine. Another piece of the Long Trail and a great time.



## **Pine Cobble & Mass. State Line to Country Road**

19 August 2006, Leg 6

By Tom Copps

The Killington Section End-to-Enders Group hikes the start of the Long Trail

On August 19 the end-to-end group of the Green Mountain Club's Killington Section hiked the Long Trail from the Pine Cobble Trail in Williamstown Massachusetts to County Road in Stamford Vermont. Our group included Lindy and Rich Brown, Tom Copps, Barb and Barry Griffith, Cindy Kirk, Tom Shanahan and Carol Wright. We were also joined at the trailhead by R.J. Hyden and Dylan Keenan. This pair had read of our adventure and come over from Troy NY to join us. Dylan is an environmental engineer with the state of NY where R.J. also works. R.J. is a powerful wide shouldered 270 pound ex-athlete with a very bad hip that needs replacement and a knee that is also due for an operation. Nevertheless, he sets a fast pace and

quickly took the lead up the Pine Cobble Trail. Soon we were at Pine Cobble lookout. The Cobble is covered with a pretty forest of red oak. It has a fine view to the southwest over Williamstown and another to the east of North Adams. Barb Griffith pointed out that there seems to be only one pine tree on Pine Cobble. Since we were running late and it was already noon we decided to have our lunch right where we sat.

After lunch we made our way over the top of East Mountain to the Vermont line. East Mountain is an easy hill strewn with granite boulders. It has limited views, made even more limited by the weather, which was now closing in on us. Of course when we reached the Vermont border we stopped to take group pictures. Although the signs introducing people to Massachusetts were bright and clear those on the Vermont side were old, faded and difficult to read. At this point we had covered 3.3 miles with 3.3 miles

still to go. The hiking was easy although the trail was sometimes muddy and slippery. The showers and drizzle that we had encountered in Bennington finally caught up with us and the rest of the trip was done in the damp.

Soon we crossed Risky Ranch Road at 5.8 miles and arrived at Seth Warner shelter at 6.2 miles. The shelter was in good shape with little sign of vandalism or graffiti. This marked our last waypoint with only half a mile left to go. Soon we crossed a power line and arrived at the County Road trailhead.

Although it had been a long drive for a relatively short hike we were pleased to have introduced ourselves to the Long Trail at mile 0. We had also introduced ourselves to the difficult logistics of spotting cars so far away on unfamiliar roads. R.J. promised to do the next leg for us and report on conditions so I guess he didn't find his new companions too slow and boring after all. As always a good time with head by all!

## *The Next Five Legs*

Below is the slightly revised schedule for this fall: Hikers with long distance experience are invited to call a coordinator to discuss their possible participation.

Date	From	To	Miles	Coordinator	Phone #
9 September	USFS Road 10	Vt. Route 140	8.3	Tom Shanahan	775-5371
24 September	Lake Mansfield Trail (Nebraska Valley Road)	Smugglers Notch	10.3	Tom Copps	770-9394
7 October	Old Rootville Road	Mad Tom Notch	11.9	Tom Copps	770-9394
21 October	Forest City Trail (Camels Hump Road)	Duxbury Road	10.3	Steve Williams	645-9529
4 November	Mad Tom Notch	USFS Road 10	11.9	Steve Williams	645-9529



## Minerva Hinchey Shelter Goes South

By Herb Ogden, Section Trails & Shelters Chair

Minerva Hinchey Shelter has a new foundation, new sills, and a new location about a dozen feet farther south. The present shelter, once also called Sunnyside Camp was renamed in honor of Minerva Hinchey, who was GMC Corresponding Secretary from 1955-77, back in the days when the Club had only one year-round employee.

To be sure, the present shelter had only been there for 37 years, but it was showing its age. The rear sill was rotten. There were at least two causes. First, there had been years of failing provide for drainage in the rear, including when I had been Trails & Shelters Chair. Second, the builders had rested the sill only on a string of cinder blocks, and they had been heading slowly toward China for years. Consequently, even the floor joists were resting on the ground. Furthermore, the old asphalt shingle roof leaked.

Preparations for renovation began last year, when GMC Field Supervisor Kate Fish, Spring Lake Ranch representative Becki Bates, and a few of us Killington Section members sized up the problem and came up with a list of materials. Then, in July, with our own Jerry Parker in charge, most of the new foundation was laid. In one long day, Jerry, helped by Barry and Barbara Griffith, dug holes for three Sonotubes and poured four of the six footings. This involved moving some rocks that probably weigh a quarter ton.

The next stage began on 12 August, when Jerry led six other local GMC folks, five GMC staff, and one through hiker who decided to stay and help. Jerry Parker, Larry Walter, and GMC Field Supervisor Kate Darakjy deserve special credit,

because they were on the site from 8 AM to 8 PM. Spring Lake Ranch folks moved the wood up to the work site for us in their amazing six wheel antique. The 20-foot long 8x8 pressure treated sills took eight people to move. We sawed out part of the old sill and dug out around the back of the shelter to accommodate jacks, laboriously jacked up the shelter, and put it on cribbing mostly donated by Spring Lake Ranch. Using two come-alongs simultaneously, we inched it about 15 feet south so the front rested on one of the new sills and the rear rested on cribbing. Meanwhile, others gathered up trash and pried the old nails out of the discarded sill and siding pieces so they made safe kindling wood. The die-hard evening crew, consisting of Jerry Parker, Larry Walker, and GMC Field Supervisor Kate Darakjy at least, dug two more 4-foot holes for the remaining Sonotubes and poured Sakrete mixed with Portland cement in them before going home.

About a dozen of us put in another full day on Sunday, 13 August. We drilled the remaining sill to fit the Sonotube bolts, put the sill onto the Sonotubes, and moved the shelter a couple feet west. (The westward move was necessary because the crew had poured as many Sonotubes as possible in July, including the west most one of the rear three, so of course the rear one had to be a couple feet from the original shelter location.) We improved our moving technique by using small logs as rollers this time, so it was possible to move a couple feet in perhaps twenty minutes, much faster than the day before, when sliding the joists over the cribbing often threatened to collapse the cribbing. We then rolled the shelter

back onto the rear sill. Meanwhile, a couple of us had filled in the holes and done a little light landscaping. Others replaced the bottom course of rotten siding and sawed off the excess sill at either end. (The shelter is 16 feet long.) Last tasks for the day were to nail metal roofing over the bottom of the shelter front where it had been heavily gnawed and to build temporary rock steps on the same side. That task involved three people with rock bars and one or two others to shove the huge rocks into place.



There's more to do. The main task is to remove the old asphalt shingle roof and replace it with green metal that currently resides under the shelter. Remaining carpentry includes adding four corner board sets and probably building some steps for the front of the shelter, which is now a good deal higher than it used to be. It would also be nice to finish the landscaping, replace the table, which looks as if folks have built fires on it, and restore the fourth window. Please check the Outing Schedule elsewhere in this issue for the date of a September work party to finish up this big job.

Special thanks are due to head carpenters and planners Jerry Parker and Larry Walter and to Spring Lake Ranch for helping with people, materials, and a vehicle, and for allowing us to keep the shelter on its land.



Your Invitation to Join

## Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

ANNUAL DUES:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual ..... \$35  
Family ..... \$45  
Senior/Student/Volunteer ..... \$20

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact us for information on life memberships and categories for giving at a higher level.

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_ trail work, \_\_\_ shelter work, \_\_\_ sign making, \_\_\_ publications, \_\_\_ leading outings, \_\_\_ publicity, \_\_\_ education

Make check payable to Killington Section, GMC and mail with this application to:

Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701







Volume 59, Number 4

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

November 2006

## Long Trail End-to-Enders' Quest Continues Bits & Pieces Start to Add Up

### Mad Tom Notch to Prospect Rock

21 October 2006, Leg 8  
by Allison Norton

With several cancellations in previous weeks due to scheduling difficulties and horribly rainy weather, the participants, Tom Copps, Allison Norton, Cindy Oas-Kirk, Tom Shanahan and Steve Williams, were thrilled to wake up to a clear day following the first bit of snow for the season in our area. There was no snow on the ground in downtown Rutland, but the higher elevations got a dusting. The sunny drive from the rendezvous point in Rutland to the Manchester area was absolutely gorgeous, with sparkling snow on all of the peaks bordering Route 7. Even with a pit stop for coffee and doughnuts in Manchester we got to the trailhead at Mad Tom Notch pretty early. Thanks Steve and Tom for planning ahead and spotting a car at the other end by the time the rest of us arrived. (I guess we should have brought them some doughnuts too).

For the first few miles we were hiking in several inches of snow. The trail was icy in some spots and like a waterfall in others. We saw an interesting phenomenon of stringy-looking ice along the edges of the

### L T End-to-End in Bits & Pieces

LT miles Hiked	LT miles to Go
<b>87.3</b>	<b>185.4</b>

trail, which someone said was hoarfrost. Killington section members sure are knowledgeable! Being well-behaved hikers and wanting to establish good leave-no-trace karma, we tried to walk on the wet parts of the trail rather than going around. At one point someone suggested that we were actually doing double the mileage by zigzagging back and forth across the trail! Unfortunately the wet trail resulted in at least three wet boots in our party within the first hour.

Bromley Mountain was cold, icy, and windy, but beautiful in the snow. We liked the idea of feeling like we were Bromley's first visitors of the ski season. We climbed the lookout tower which was even colder, icier, and windier. We also went in the ski patrol cabin at the peak. On the way down from Bromley, a few of us checked out Bromley shelter. Even though it is a

*See Leg 8 page 9*

### Mad Tom Notch to USFS Road 10

4 November 2006, Leg 9  
by Steve Williams

The last leg write-up is a hard act to follow, but here is a humble offering. For this final leg of the first season of "End to Ending" in bits and pieces, the participants were Cindy Oas-Kirk, Tom Copps, Tom Shanahan and Steve Williams. Based on two past experiences of the LT at high elevations with fresh snow, which had indicated just how hard white blazes can be to follow, Steve decided to take a look at the trail on the previous day, and did in fact ascend the first (Styles) Peak. From Mad Tom Notch to the peak snow depths varied from about two inches to maybe four or five. Contrary to Steve's concerns, this was not enough to make finding the trail difficult. There were two significant blow-downs just before Styles Peak, which raised another concern: Did the remaining ten miles of Saturday's hike have a similar problem?

After meeting at the USFS Route 10 trailhead at 7.15 AM to spot a car, the group traveled the seventeen miles over USFS 10 and

*See Leg 9 page 9*



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2007 ..... John Hale  
"..... Lynda Hutchins  
"..... Cindy Taylor-Miller  
2008 ..... \* Barbara Griffith  
"..... Barry Griffith  
"..... \* Steve Williams  
2009 ..... Wayne Krevetski  
"..... \*Andrea McQuade  
"..... \*Roma Pulling  
\*Second consecutive 3-year term.  
Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President..... Barry Griffith  
Vice President..... Barbara Griffith  
Secretary..... John Hale  
Treasurer..... Roma Pulling

### Committee Chairs

History..... Bob Perkins  
Outings..... Susan Thomas  
Trails & Shelters..... Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director..... Lynda Hutchins  
Alternate..... Alfred Pulling

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor..... Bob Perkins

### Web Site

Web master ..... Deborah Waggett

Contact Information – Web Site – <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Barbara & Barry Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)  
John Hale, 170 Spooner Point or PO Box 506, Castleton, VT 05735, 273-2293, [john@lighters.com](mailto:john@lighters.com)  
Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, [lmhutch@shoreham.net](mailto:lmhutch@shoreham.net)  
Wayne Krevetski 22 Roberts Ave., Rutland, VT 05701 282-2237 [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)  
Andrea McQuade, 2 Jan Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5104, [andreamequade@adelphia.net](mailto:andreamequade@adelphia.net)  
Cindy Taylor-Miller, 337 East St., Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [ctmiller@vermontel.net](mailto:ctmiller@vermontel.net)  
Herbert Ogden, 214 South End Road., Mt. Tabor, VT 05253-9756, (H)293-2510, (W)774-2200, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)  
Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, [RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu](mailto:RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu)  
Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, [pullingra137@aol.com](mailto:pullingra137@aol.com)  
Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185  
Deborah Waggett, 21 Academy St., Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, [purplejeep99@hotmail.com](mailto:purplejeep99@hotmail.com)  
Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, [voorborg@sover.net](mailto:voorborg@sover.net)

## What Color is Summer?

At a recent Killington Section board meeting we asked for suggestions on ways to spice up *Smoke and Blazes*. One of the first responses was "What about color?" A good idea!

My challenge then became – what color? We publish quarterly, by the seasons. The color for fall was an easy choice. It had to be orange – the color of fall foliage, of pumpkins, and of Halloween.

For winter we want the coolest color – blue. There is even a shade called ice blue. That's appropriate.

In spring the grass, the leaves, and almost everything else outdoors turns verdant green (which actually means "green green"). And we are, after all, the Green Mountain Club. So we have pretty obvious colors for three of the seasons.

But summer! What color is summer? Why was I stuck on this one when the other three were so easy? July conjures up red, white and blue but that wouldn't be practical for our one-color production process. After much thought the best I've been able to come up with is – yes – hot pink.

Help! Can anyone rationalize a better choice?

Thinking about colors and writing in this space, which is sometimes used for *Vermontivia*, sent me to one of my favorite references: Ester Munroe Smith's *Vermont Place Names*. Did you know the Vermont has 3 Green Mountains, a Green Peak, and a Green Hill (not counting the range, itself); 2 Black Mountains and 3 Black Hills; 2 White Rocks Mountains and a White Hill; a Red Mountain, a Grays Mountain, a Browns Mountain, a Blue Mountain, and our own Blue Ridge?.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Dec. 2006 – Feb. 2007

Visit our web site: <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome on our outings. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather, and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont! Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Each outing leader is required to deny participation, in a given outing, to anyone whom the leader believes might become a safety hazard to themselves or an undue burden on the group. Call the leader if you have any questions.

### **2 December, Saturday                      Picnic Rock, Shrewsbury                      Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**

A bushwhack thru the woods to the biggest rock in Shrewsbury. This trip was rained out in October so we're trying again. We may need snowshoes this time.

Moderate, 5 miles.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.

### **9 December, Saturday                      Deer Leap, Killington                      Tom Cops, 770-9394**

Via Willard Gap to the overlook. Mileage and route subject to conditions. Snowshoes may be needed.

Moderate with some climbing.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 8:30 AM.

### **6 January, Saturday                      Masters' Trail, Merck Forest, Rupert                      Viv & Larry Walter, 775-3855**

Some steep climbing. Snowshoes may be needed.

Moderate to difficult, 6 or 7 miles

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.

### **14 January, Sunday                      Minerva Hinchey Shelter, Cuttingsville                      Roma & AL Pulling, 773-6997**

Join us for our traditional winter hotdog roast, and inspect the recent renovations at the shelter. Bring hotdogs; we'll furnish hot drinks. After lunch we'll venture out for an easy snowshoe or ski.

Easy, less than a half mile.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:30 AM.

### **20 January, Saturday                      AT, River Road to Quimby, Killington                      Herb Ogden, 293-2510**

Follow the Appalachian Trail to Woodard Cemetery and an unusual view of the Coolidge Range.

Snowshoes may be needed.

Moderate, 4 miles, 1100-foot elevation gain, steep.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.

### **27 January, Saturday                      Pond Woods State Forest, Orwell Bill Holt & Joan Davidson, 537-4227**

Snowshoe around and over ponds and streams. Some bushwhacking.

Moderate, 4 to 5 miles.

(Bad weather date: 1/28.)

Call leaders for meeting time and place.

### **3 February, Saturday                      Merck Forest, Rupert                      Steve Williams, 645-9529**

Snowshoe on old wood roads and trails in this unique preserve.

Moderate, 4 to 5 miles

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Dec. 2006 – Feb. 2007

Schedule continued from previous page

- 10 February, Saturday**                      **Lily Pond to Half Moon, Bomoseen**                      **Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
 Explore beaver, mink, and other habitat on snowshoes.  
 Moderate, 4 to 5 miles.  
 (Bad weather date: 2/11.)  
 Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:30 AM.
- 18 February, Sunday**                      **Sugar Hill Reservoir, Ripton**                      **Gordon & Helen Cawood, 350-4310**  
 Ski or snowshoe on a mostly level snowmobile route.  
 Easy to moderate, 5 miles.  
 Call leaders for meeting time and place.
- 24 February**                      **Chittenden Brook, Rochester**                      **Bill Holt & Joan Davidson, 537-4227**  
 Snowshoe south on the Long Trail from Brandon Gap, a steady climb, and then down the Chittenden Brook Trail.  
 Moderate, 6 miles. 868-foot elevation gain.  
 Meet at Brandon Gap Long Trail parking lot at 10:00 AM.
- 4 March, Sunday**                      **Valcour Island, NY**                      **Sue Thomas, 775-6208**  
 Walk on water (frozen Lake Champlain, that it) out to Valcour Island and tour the Bluff Point Lighthouse, built in 1874 and operated until 1929. The Clinton County Historical Society will be on hand with displays. Bring snowshoes or skis to explore the island's trails and visit the site of a pivotal Revolutionary War battle.  
 Easy, 1.5 miles. More optional.  
 (If the Lake is not safe we'll substitute another trip.)  
 Call the leader for meeting time and place.
- 10 March, Saturday**                      **Leader's Choice Bushwhack**                      **Jerry Parker, 775-6208**  
 Snowshoe trek thru the woods to look for winter tracks and signs of wildlife.  
 Moderate, 3 to 5 miles.

[The following was inspired by an unusual encounter on a Section outing to Montcalm Point last summer. Ed.]

### Rattlesnake's Lament

by Sue Thomas

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen.  
 I was minding my business down by the stream  
 When out of the blue came a blood-curdling scream.  
 Oh, sorrow and woe.

By the lake they call George my friends and I dwell.  
 We like it just fine; the scenery's swell.  
 Then the Killington Section turned our heaven to hell."  
 Oh, sorrow and woe.

Later that day I told my friend Jake:  
 "Even now when I think of it I start to shake!  
 That boot coming toward me was too much to take!"  
 Oh, sorrow and woe.

"By God, it was awful; I'll tell you no lie.  
 That skinny one looked me right in the eye!  
 It was chilling, I tell you; I thought I would die!"  
 Oh, sorrow and woe.

"That's nothing," said he, "just wait till you hear --  
 I nearly wound up on the point of a spear!  
 That one they call Barb is a menace, I fear!"  
 Oh, sorrow and woe.

So we hope that you hikers will give us a break,  
 And if you come back to our home by the lake,  
 Leave Barb and her stick in the car for God's sake!  
 Oh, sorrow and woe.



## Outing Reports

### Quechee Gorge, Hartford

10 September 2006

by Roma Pulling, co-leader

Each of the five hikers who headed for Quechee on a cool but sunny Sunday morning had experienced the Gorge in some way, either walking into it or perhaps just riding over it; but each of us was able to add a new facet to the adventure.



Most of us had visited the area before development of the state park and found it very different. Instead of walking under Route 4 from the north side on an unimproved gravel road, we now parked in the new paved parking lot in front of the new Visitor's Center, both on the south side of the road. We started our hike by descending steps at the right of the Center to a new path which followed a series of switchbacks to the location of the old gravel road. In place of the old road was a thoroughly groomed version with a high metal fence on the side toward the gorge.

After the gradual descent we scrambled down onto the ledges and sat beside the Ottauquechee River to eat our lunch. The climb back to Route 4 was slightly more strenuous

but not unpleasantly so, and we were soon on the trail under the road and on our way to view the falls near the site of the former Dewey's Mills. We continued on the trail, enjoying views from different angles, and discovered that instead of coming to an end it continued on as a wide swath through head-high goldenrod. There was much speculation about where the path was leading us, but no one suggested turning back.

At the end of a leisurely and very pleasant walk which was soon bordered by a body of water, we encountered another road and people enjoying water pursuits, including canoeing. A sign identified the site as Dewey's Pond State Recreation Area. Across the road I recognized Quechee Inn, which was formerly known as Marshland, the home of Joseph Marsh, Vermont's first lieutenant governor. In the '40s it was acquired by my cousin, Kathleen Robinson Goodwin, and her husband and operated very successfully as a dairy farm until they left under pressure from the state and the Quechee Lakes development. Alfred and I and the children enjoyed many visits to the farm.

Recognizing that it was time to leave, we retraced our steps but took time to walk across the 163-foot-high bridge over the gorge with a hiker who had never had that pleasure. Thus ended a familiar, but still different, visit to one of Vermont's natural wonders.

### Silver Lake, Leicester

16 September. 16, 2006

by Bill Holt, leader

Six hikers arrived at the Minnie Baker trailhead at 9AM. The Minnie Baker heads east from Route 53 just south of Lake Dunmore. The trail is a very gradual up hill climb for about a half mile before leveling out. After another half mile the trail descends to the Leicester Hollow trail. We headed north on the Leicester

Hollow trail for just a couple hundred yards before taking a turn to the left up the Chandler Ridge trail.

The day started out humid and somewhat heavy, but the moisture was welcomed by all the colorful mushrooms. They were most plentiful among the hardwood forest running along the spine of the Chandler Ridge trail. We hiked north on the Chandler Ridge trail, slightly uphill at first then mostly level for about three miles, before descending to Silver Lake.

There were quite a few people enjoying the lake when we arrived. One guy was swimming across a very narrow section of the lake near the dam holding his boots up in the air with one hand while swimming with the other. We crossed the dam and met the Silver Lake caretaker. He has a camper and is at the lake all summer, although many nights he goes home because he lives close by. We found a picnic table in the sun and had our lunch.

The roads leading into Silver Lake are gated -- no vehicular traffic. So if you come here to enjoy the lake for a day or to camp overnight you have to hike in a little over a half mile down hill. Coming back out is fairly steep, especially if you are carrying anything, and can seem much longer than going in.

After lunch we took the Leicester Hollow trail, a very gradual down slope for around three miles. This trail follows a meandering brook which begins its journey at the outlet of Silver Lake. Much of the Leicester Hollow trail is bordered by steep woods, large boulders, and moss. It is a wonderfully beautiful trail most often, but when the mosquitoes have hatched you'd better have protection. They can be fierce! We finished our hike by rejoining the Minnie Baker trail on which we started



The only disappointment was that we forgot to bring a snack to share See ya next time.

### **Bike Hike, Castleton**

7 October 2006

Joan Davidson, leader

It was a cool clear morning when four of us bikers met across from the old Ft. Warren drive-in. We put on plenty of layers because it was going to feel even cooler once we started our ride down the "rails to trails" through Castleton State College. Once we got going, the ride was invigorating and full of fun and good conversation as we straddled the bike trail in two's. Half way to Poultney, we stopped and took a few layers off because the air temperature was rising as well as our own body temperatures from all the peddling.

Upon arriving at Main Street in Poultney, we were surprised to see a town-wide yard sale everywhere. Many people were meandering up and down the street looking for a deal as well as enjoying each others company. As we were taking a break, we had a nice talk with a couple who have been on another section of the "rails to trails" that goes to Rupert. That will have to be a trip for another day for us, because this is where we got off the trail and headed east down Main St. Once we rode by the congested store fronts, we slowly made our way down into the historical village of East Poultney. At the town green we took a left onto a dirt road that would bring us in a northerly direction back toward Castleton.

The back roads that we traveled had spectacular foliage with charming old farms and homesteads. During our lunch break, we had a few good laughs as we took photos of each other and experimented with the timer on the camera. Just before the biking group began its ascent up a steep hillside I left, due to lower back issues and proceeded back to

the cars by a shorter less strenuous route. I later learned that the threesome saw tremendous views at Pond Hill Ranch before descending back into the village of Castleton. All in all, we had a beautiful day for our bike ride and wished you all could have been there too. Maybe next year?

### **Proctor High Ledge**

22 October 2006

by Roma Pulling

You won't find West Mountain, Proctor, popularly known as "High Ledge," on any list of Vermont's 100 highest peaks; but when you arrive at the top you are in a very special place. You can pause to admire a view of Otter Valley.

I had made several trips to the lookout, including ones with friends and a few with a group of Senior Citizens, but the scariest was in the back seat of a jeep, an experience I don't care to repeat.

Leaving the park in Rutland we were a group of 19 hikers from ages 17 to 81. We drove to Proctor village via the West Proctor Road in four cars, which we parked at a wide spot across from Proctor Gas and started our hike there. We first retraced our route a short distance up the West Proctor Road to Cain Street, followed that street for some distance to where we could hike to our right and kept to our right at each trail junction until our destination was reached. Except that our teenager took a more direct route, climbing up the steep face of the bluff. No one else was tempted to follow him.

After eating our lunch while taking in the view, including what appeared to be a wildfire, we made our way back to our cars by the same route.

### **Putting the Trail to Bed**

4 November 2006

by Herb Ogden, Trails & Shelters

Eight people did the best we could to get our thirty-plus miles of trail ready for winter, but we covered only about a tenth of the total mileage. No, that doesn't mean we'd need ten times the volunteers (eighty) to do the job right. There are considerable stretches that have few waterbars and side ditches, and they don't need attention after all the leaves fall. For example, there's not much to do between Patch Hollow and Route 103 and between the Lower and Upper Cold River Roads on the Long Trail, and on the lower two miles of the Bucklin Trail. Still, the statistics do mean we sure could use more help to clear out the waterbars and ditches in the late fall so they can do their job in the spring and keep the water off the trail. Otherwise our "Footpath in the Wilderness" turns into a "Footbath in the Wilderness."

We eight began at US 4 and covered from Willard Gap on the north to Churchill Scott Shelter on the south. Two went north with a hoe and loppers, and the rest went south, armed with hoes, loppers, and a chainsaw. Countless waterbars and side ditches were cleared of silt and leaves, and this is by far not the first time since the trail was built. Things silt up fast. It's hard to remember that all the original waterbars and ditches were dug only about eight years ago when the trail was relocated from the present Sherburne Pass Trail to its present location.

If you have some time after hunting season, or even before that if you wear blaze orange and make noise, and if the ground isn't frozen yet, please consider calling me at 293-2510 to volunteer to spend at least a few hours with a hoe, clearing more waterbars and ditches so the water will stay where it belongs.



## Killington Section Directors Meeting

by John Hale, Secretary

The Killington Section Board of Directors met at 6:00 PM, on 17 October 2006 at the Back Home Again Café in Rutland.

### Attendance

Board members present: Barry Griffith, President; Barbara Griffith, Vice President; Roma Pulling, Treasurer; John Hale, Secretary; Lynda Hutchins; Steve Williams; and Wayne Krevetski.

Others present: Al Pulling, Bob Perkins, and Thelma Perkins

### Secretary's Minutes

The minutes for the 23 May Board Meeting were reviewed. The spelling of Al Pulling's name was corrected and, in the Treasurer's report, the Restricted funds were corrected to show the Certificate of Deposit amount to be \$13,345.27 and the Savings Account balance to be \$1,832.75 rather than the *vice versa* amounts mistakenly presented. The revised minutes were then accepted with thanks to John.

### Treasurer's Report

Roma Pulling reported on the Section's bank balances as of 10/17/06:

#### Un-Restricted:

Checking .....	\$ 1,449.02
Savings .....	1,133.09
Checks not deposited .....	96.25
Certificate of Deposit .....	1414.51
	<u>\$ 4,092.87</u>

#### Restricted:

Savings	\$ 1,804.98
Certificate of Deposit	13,345.27
	<u>\$15,150.25</u>

**Total..... \$19,243.12**

These balances represent a \$196.02 reduction from the total reported on 5/23/06. The Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

President Barry led a discussion about a \$500 authorization of expenditure from the Kirk Fund (Restricted) to support the Minerva Hinchey shelter renovation. The Main Club has not requested us to disburse these funds and it was decided to await such a request. Treasurer Pulling was, however, directed to reimburse the Griffiths for the \$50 they spent from the \$500 authorization.

### Main Club Board Meeting

Lynda reported on the Main Club Board Meeting of 30 September 2006. Some highlights are:

- Financially the GMC is running slightly behind last year's bad performance. It is, however, more of a cash flow problem than a fiscal crisis; the year will probably come close to breaking even with the \$1.3 million budget.

- The Second Century Campaign is advancing but slowly. Pledges for \$2.4 million of the \$5.25 million goal have been received. The Campaign will be formally announced when \$3.0 million in pledges is in hand.

- The Main Club needs specific sections to host presentations of the Taylor Lecture Series in March or April.

Lynda's detailed report is available from the Secretary.

### Taylor Lecture Series

A general discussion ensued about the Main Club's Taylor Series program. Apparently the lectures in Rutland were embarrassingly poorly attended in the past. Some questioned whether we should offer to host. Lynda will find out the subjects of the lectures; the sense being that if some subject/speaker were really interesting, we might offer to host.

### Trails & Shelters

#### • Minerva Hinchey Shelter

President Barry detailed how much work went into the recent renovation of the Minerva Hinchey shelter, especially the extraordinary involvement of Jerry Parker who put in an estimated 100 hours of effort. Others involved were Larry Walter, Wayne Krevetski, many of the Spring Lake organization personnel and the Griffiths.

#### • Governor Clement Shelter

There has been no response, formal or otherwise from the Shrewsbury Select Board who were to be looking into various tactics. In the meantime, there are anecdotal reports of another recent beating assault on a hiker.

#### • Little Killington Shelter

The Main Club has decided not to accept the cash donation offered in exchange for naming the New Little Killington shelter "Four Bears"; no new name has been established.

Herb Ogden has offered a gift of up to \$1,000 in dollar-for-dollar matching of other donations received for the cause of building the New Little Killington Shelter.

While Herb is willing to continue as the Chairperson of the Trails and Shelters committee, he would appreciate sharing the effort with a new co-chair and would be happy to turn the job over to anyone who would like it. The Board discussed this situation.

### Smoke & Blazes

Bob P. reported that delays in his receiving the hiking schedule are still a problem for him in getting out the newsletter. The last issue was two weeks late. President Barry will address this problem. Bob and Thelma send out about 200 copies.

### The Long Trail in Bits and Pieces

Steve W. reported that this project is still very much alive with



six to ten participants for each leg. Management has fallen back to himself and Tom Copps.

#### **Outings Leadership**

A general discussion ensued about whether a hike leader can/should turn away a prospective hiker. This point has been discussed at past Board meetings and we again confirmed the Killington Section policy that a hike leader has absolute authority to decide whether a person can participate in any given hike based on safety considerations of the individual and of the group at large. We also decided that a general statement of this policy should be included in the appropriate section of the "Smoke and Blazes" newsletter.

Barry and Bob will generate the wording.

#### **Long Trail Festival**

Wayne detailed his ideas about his Long Trail Festival to be held next year on 17 to 20 August 2007 at the Rutland County Fair Grounds. He is now forming a steering committee and establishing a budget. More complete details can be found at [www.longtrailfestivalvt.com](http://www.longtrailfestivalvt.com).

#### **Appreciation of Jerry Parker**

We all thought some token of appreciation is in order for Jerry Parker for all his selfless involvement in Killington Section projects: suggestions included a Proclamation, a Plaque (whether or not attached to Minerva Hinchey

shelter), and Publication of the honors.

#### **Ben Rose to Visit Area**

Steve W. will host a special hike for Main Club Executive Director Ben Rose starting at Steve's house next Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM: destination - Haystack.

#### **Pot Luck Supper**

The Killington Section fall pot luck supper will be held on 18 November.

#### **Next Board Meeting**

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, 6 February 2007, at 6:00 PM and will involve food.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.



View looking northwest from Killington Peak. Pico in the foreground and then Blue Ridge



**Leg 8** *continued from page 1*

three-sided affair, it is a palace of a lean-to! It has a large overhang and a sleeping loft.

The next several miles of our hike had less snow but a lot of stream crossings. Tom C. took several opportunities to politely recommend the investment of waterproof boots. Luckily the good LT karma from walking directly in the water and the mud on the trail prevented any of us from falling in any of the streams. Well, no one fell all the way in, anyway. After a treacherous crossing of routes 11 and 30, we had a lunch break by yet another water crossing (this one at least had a bridge). We took a spur trail up Spruce Peak to check out the views (and, of course, to say we'd done it). The spur trail involved some rock scrambling.

We then went on to Spruce Peak shelter, which is an enclosed cabin. One member of our group looked inside and found a taciturn non-hiker staying there. On our way back to the trail we mentioned the man to some hikers going toward the shelter, and they said that he had been there the day before as well. A general discussion of safety and shelter usage ensued. (Steve's post trip note: this was reported to Waterbury who in turn contacted the Forest Service. By the time someone went back to the shelter, the "resident" had moved on). Toward the end of the hike we found Prospect Rock. The views from the cliff were pretty nice with mist rising from the valley. The end of our hike was an easy walk down Old Rootville Road. Steve's Jeep came into view way too soon.

**Leg 9** *continued from page 1*

connecting roads to reach Mad Tom Notch. (This road had been closed two weeks before because of washed away culvert. Fortunately the Forest Service had been speedy in fixing the problem, thus saving the group the necessity of driving around via Routes 7, 11 and 30 and then the Peru back roads).

As the hike started, conditions were misty, a situation that prevailed until about mid-day. On Friday, Styles Peak had provided views to the East; on Saturday there was just the occasional glimpse of something from time to time. The group then passed over Peru Peak, which is notable for having no view whatsoever, and seems to be such an insignificant landmark that there is even no marker at the summit. The descent to Griffith Lake was the steepest and snowiest part of the day, but fortunately without the major blow-downs previously envisaged by Steve. All took some tumbles of one sort or another, fortunately without damage. Lunch was taken at the Peru Peak shelter, after which it was a short distance to the LT Expressway, aka the puncheons around Griffith Lake.

Shortly after the lake, we had our first encounter of the day with other hikers – a family who had come up the Old Job trail. They were last seen following our group towards Baker Peak, which provided its own reward of no mist and fine views over the Otter Valley. Then began the long and steady five-mile descent toward USFS 10. In about a mile the end of snow was reached, thus giving eight miles of snow and four of a very wet trail for the day's conditions. Apart from a slight irritation from the general wetness of the trail, the descent was actually a very pleasant amble in the woods.

Our second encounter with another hiker occurred at the Big Branch Shelter. A woman from Connecticut was just trying out her new overnight camping equipment. She appeared to be equipped with all necessities, except for a map. Thus the group was able to be the good guys and identify just where she was, upon which she decided that was the right place for the night. All bade their farewells and trundled off to the trailhead and the drive back to Mad Tom Notch.

### **It's Not Work If You're having Fun**

Our Section is responsible for maintaining about 25 miles of the Long Trail and several miles of side trails. In his 2006 annual report to the main club in Waterbury, Herb Ogden, Section Trails and Shelters Chair, recently submitted some interesting Killington Section trail work statistics for the year.

37....number of volunteers  
381...hours of trail work  
69....hours of travel time  
25....hours of white collar work

Why not consider becoming a statistic for 2007?

### **The First Annual Long Trail Festival**

Mark Your Calendars

17 – 20 August 2007

Friday through Monday

Vermont State Fair Grounds  
Rutland, Vermont

Free Admission. Free Camping

For more information  
Check the Festival website

**Longtrailfestivalvt.com**

Volunteers

Please contact Section members  
Wayne & Kathy Krevetski  
802-282-2237

# GMC



Your Invitation to Join  
**Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

**ANNUAL DUES:**

Individual ..... \$35  
Family ..... \$45  
Senior/Student/Volunteer ..... \$20

Contact us for information on life memberships and categories for giving at a higher level.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_trail work, \_\_\_shelter work, \_\_\_sign making, \_\_\_publications, \_\_\_leading outings, \_\_\_publicity, \_\_\_education

Make check payable to Killington Section, GMC and mail with this application to:

Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701





# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 60, Number 1

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

February 2007

## How To Do Good Deeds While Enjoying A Hike

by Herb Ogden, Sections Trails & Shelters Chair

For several years, a few people have made our work parties much more efficient by checking sectors of our trails ahead of time and reporting what needs to be done. That way, we no longer need to send work parties over the whole 33.4 miles of Long Trail and side trails we are responsible for.

Sector Checkers periodically visit their sectors, perform any maintenance they feel comfortable doing (which may be none if they are so inclined), and report to the Section Trails & Shelters Chair on the condition of the trail and the need for major work where help is needed. Tools and guidance by experienced trail workers are provided as needed. Typical maintenance by Sector Checkers or full-blown Section work parties includes pruning trailside foliage, trimming weeds and brush, hoeing out waterbars and trailside ditches, removing blowdowns, repairing or replacing signs, and repainting blazes. To become a Sector Checker or to be put on a list of volunteers to call when a need arises, please contact Trails & Shelters Chair Herb Ogden at 293-2510 or [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net).

Two of our Sector Checkers have retired, Bill Robichaud for health reasons and John Horchner because he has moved away. The Section thanks them for their years of service. Their sectors, marked VACANT below, are open for new checkers.

## Sixty Years Ago in Smoke & Blazes



See story on page 2

## Killington Section Sector Checkers from south to north

Cynthia Taylor-Miller	3.6 mi.	LT from Vt. 140 to Minerva Hinchey Shelter
Steve Williams	2.7 mi.	LT from Minerva Hinchey Shelter to Vt. 103
Tom Shanahan	1.9 mi.	LT from Vt. 103 to Lottery Road
Connie and Mark Youngstrom	2.0 mi.	LT from Lottery Road, to Lower Cold River Road
Barbara and Barry Griffith	1.9 mi.	LT from Lower Cold River Road, to Gov. Clement Shelter
VACANT	4.3 mi.	LT from Gov. Clement Shelter to Cooper Lodge
VACANT	2.5 mi.	LT from Cooper Lodge to Jungle Jct.
VACANT	1.9 mi.	LT from Jungle Jct. to Churchill Scott Shelter
Connie Youngstrom	1.9 mi.	LT from Churchill Scott Shelter to US 4
Vivian Beebe (Walter)	1.4 mi.	LT from US 4 to Tucker-Johnson Shelter
Deb Waggett	3.3 mi.	Bucklin Trail (up Killington)
VACANT	0.2 mi.	Killington Spur
Sue Thomas	3.4 mi.	Sherburne Pass Trail south of US 4 and Pico Link
Herb Ogden	2.4 mi.	Canty Trail (up Blue Ridge Mountain)



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2007 ..... John Hale  
" ..... Lynda Hutchins  
" ..... Cindy Taylor-Miller  
2008 ..... \* Barbara Griffith  
" ..... Barry Griffith  
" ..... \* Steve Williams  
2009 ..... Wayne Krevetski  
" ..... \* Andrea McQuade  
" ..... \* Roma Pulling

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President ..... Barry Griffith  
Vice President ..... Barbara Griffith  
Secretary ..... John Hale  
Treasurer ..... Roma Pulling

### Committee Chairs

History ..... Bob Perkins  
Outings ..... Susan Thomas  
Trails & Shelters ..... Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director ..... Lynda Hutchins  
Alternate ..... Alfred Pulling

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor ..... Bob Perkins

### Web Site

Web master ..... Deborah Waggett

Contact Information – Web Site – <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Barbara & Barry Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)  
John Hale, 170 Spooner Point or PO Box 506, Castleton, VT 05735, 273-2293, [john@lighters.com](mailto:john@lighters.com)  
Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, [lmhutch@shoreham.net](mailto:lmhutch@shoreham.net)  
Wayne Krevetski 22 Roberts Ave., Rutland, VT 05701 282-2237 [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)  
Andrea McQuade, 2 Jan Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5104, [andreamcquade@adelphia.net](mailto:andreamcquade@adelphia.net)  
Cindy Taylor-Miller, 337 East St., Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [ctmiller@vermontel.net](mailto:ctmiller@vermontel.net)  
Herbert Ogden, 214 South End Road., Mt. Tabor, VT 05253-9756, (H)293-2510, (W)774-2200, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)  
Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, [RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu](mailto:RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu)  
Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, [pullingra137@aol.com](mailto:pullingra137@aol.com)  
Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185  
Deborah Waggett, 21 Academy St., Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, [purplejeep99@hotmail.com](mailto:purplejeep99@hotmail.com)  
Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, [voorburg@sover.net](mailto:voorburg@sover.net)

## Smoke & Blazes to Turn 60

This issue, Volume 60, Number 1, marks the beginning of the 60th year of publication of *Smoke & Blazes*. The Killington Section newsletter is believed to be the oldest of all Green Mountain Club section newsletters in continuous publication. Volume 1, Number 1, pictured on page 1, appeared in September, 1948.

The lead article explains that "someone had an idea" that "we have a monthly news sheet for the Killington Section". Almost apologetically it makes clear that "at present it is in the experimental stage" and that "the question of continuing the project after January will be presented at the annual meeting".

Well, the annual meeting voted its approval and the rest, as they say, is history – in more ways than one. For six decades *Smoke & Blazes* has chronicled and recorded the activities of the Section and its members – the day hikes and overnights, the paddling and pedaling, the spaghetti suppers and sugar-on-snow, the committee meetings and slide shows, and the blazes painted, the water-bars cleared, and the shelters built.

The other front page story on that first issue, for example, reported on the Intersectional held that August at the Monroe Farm at the foot of Camel's Hump. For many years the Green Mountain Club held annual, week-long campouts that were well attended by folks from all of the sections.

Fortunately, a couple of pack-rats retained copies of every issue of *Smoke & Blazes* and they are now available in the library of the Vermont Historical Society in Barre and at the Rutland Historical Society.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: March – May 2007

Visit our web site: <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome on our outings. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather, and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont! Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Each outing leader is required to deny participation, in a given outing, to anyone whom the leader believes might become a safety hazard to themselves or an undue burden on the group. Call the leader if you have any questions.

- 4 March, Sunday** **Valcour Island, NY** **Sue Thomas, 775-6208**  
Walk on water (frozen Lake Champlain, that is) out to Valcour Island and tour the Bluff Point Lighthouse, built in 1874 and operated until 1929. The Clinton County Historical Society will be on hand with displays. Bring snowshoes or skis to explore the island's trails and visit the site of a pivotal Revolutionary War battle.  
Easy, 1.5 miles. More optional.  
(If the Lake is not safe we'll substitute another trip.)  
Call the leader for meeting time and place.
- 10 March, Saturday** **Leader's Choice Bushwhack** **Jerry Parker, 775-6208**  
Snowshoe trek thru the woods to look for winter tracks and signs of wildlife.  
Moderate, 3 to 5 miles.  
Call the leaders for meeting time and place.
- 17 March, Saturday** **Northam Trails, Connie & Mark O'Youngstrom, 492-3502**  
St. Patrick's Day ski on Shrewsbury's Northam trails. Appropriate Irish-ware mandatory! If conditions warrant we'll snowshoe instead.  
Moderate, 5 miles.  
Call the leaders for meeting time and place.
- 24 March, Saturday** **Merck Forest, Rupert** **Steve Williams, 645-9529**  
Snowshoe on old wood roads and trails in this unique preserve. Sweeping views from atop Mt. Antone.  
Moderate, 4 to 5 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 31 March, Saturday** **Killington Section Annual Meeting Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
Bring a dish to share and your own place setting for a pot luck supper followed by a short business meeting and election of officers. All are welcome.  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Hillside Avenue in Rutland, 5:30 PM.
- 7 April, Saturday** **Mystery Hike** **Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
Only the leaders know for sure what the destination will be. Come see for yourself and enjoy a day in the great outdoors.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.
- 14 April, Saturday** **Another Mystery Hike** **Tom Copps, 770-9394**  
Leader's choice again. Sure to be a great trip wherever we end up.  
Call leader for approximate distance and difficulty.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: March – May 2007

Schedule continued from previous page

- 21 April, Saturday** **Mt. Hanley, West Rutland** **Tom Copps, 770-9394**  
You see it every day from Rutland. Join us for a climb to the top. Some steep climbing, a little bushwhacking, and great views.  
Moderate, 4 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.~
- 29 April, Sunday** **North Pond, Bristol** **Jerry Parker, 775-6208**  
Some bushwhacking to reach a remote pond in the Bristol Cliffs Wilderness.  
Moderate, 4 to 5 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 6 May, Sunday** **Saltash Mountain, Plymouth** **Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
Bushwhack to the top of this trailless peak, the highest in Plymouth, where the AMC has placed a canister log to sign. Some steep climbing.  
Moderate, 5 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 12 May, Saturday** **Senior Shuffle – Chittenden Brook,** **Roma & Al Pulling, 773-6997**  
Ramble along a stream to a beaver pond. Spring wildflowers should be abundant.  
Easy, 3 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.
- 19 May, Saturday** (Rain date 5/20) **Long Trail Spring Cleaning** **Herb Ogden, 293-2510**  
All are welcome to join us for our annual cleanup and maintenance, preparing the trail for the summer hiking season. We'll clear waterbars, trim brush, and cut blowdowns on the lower elevation stretches. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and lunch; tools will be provided. Have fun while doing a good deed.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 20 May, Sunday** **Bike Trek** **Bill Holt & Joan Davidson, 537-4227**  
Pedal along dirt roads and Rails-to-Trails.  
Moderate, 15 to 20 miles (less is an option).  
Call the leaders for meeting time and place.
- 27 May, Sunday** **Lake St. Catherine, Wells** **Viv & Larry Walter, 775-3855**  
Explore the ridge above the lake with great views and interesting terrain.  
Easy.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 2 June, Saturday** (Rain date 6/3) **Upper Elevation Trail Maintenance, Killington** **Herb Ogden, 293-2510**  
On National Trails Day volunteers all over the country will be out clearing brush and waterbars, cutting blowdowns and painting blazes, readying the trails for the summer hiking season. Join us to work on our local treasure, the Long/Appalachian Trail. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and lunch; tools will be provided.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 8 – 10 June, Friday – Sunday** **GMC Annual Meeting, Manchester**  
Centered around Hildene in Manchester with many activities, meals, and hikes planned in addition to the meeting itself. For details and registration information see the Long Trail News or check the website [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org).



## Outing Reports

### Otter Creek Paddle

26 August 2006

by Barbara & Barry Griffith, leaders

Hauling the kayaks back into the barn to hang 'em back up off the rafters hauled out the memory of our last kayak for the club on Otter Crick....it was so much different than the '05 trip. This time the water was LOW. So I pulled out the old report and will excerpt it here:

One thing about high water on the Creek, it eliminates most "snags" as we refer to those stringers or walls of refuse that can occur across any narrowing body of water. They consist of trees, trunks, junk, rubbish, basketballs, and at times have sand and mud involved with vegetation growing abundantly.

An auspicious start with two participants dumping head over heels into the crick left us using Jerry's new pump to bail them out. Since the water was sooooo low, no one really wanted to get mired knee deep into the mucky muddy clay of the crick banks. So instead, different launch methods were applied to start the voyage. As you gather, they were apparently unsuccessful attempts. Well, the mud got its hold on certain kayaks and was reluctant to release its hold. You had to be there to have appreciated it

Low water we're coming around....Not too much grumbling once everyone was "remounted" and on their way. Must say the two were good sportsmen about their unscheduled swim. This was one way to cement the group together with camaraderie.

Along comes the first stringer to challenge the group. We manage to get all kayaks across without dumping (barely) and are on our way again. Then comes the 2nd., 3rd., 4th., 5th., 6th., 7th., ...well, we lost count somewhere along the way after lunch. One big portage had us wondering what the dickens we had gotten ourselves into. Two other groups came along to the same portage. We were delighted to encounter others out using the crick along with us.

I'll tell you this, the last log jam I had to haul my kayak up and over - my arms were about done in. We really couldn't have done the trip without the cooperation of the group. Kayaks back on the vehicles, exchanges of how great a trip it was (really) and this person was more than relieved to make it home and collapse into a chair.

Hope to see more brave souls on the waters of Otter Crick next year. It truly is a beautiful place to spend the day.

### USFS Road 10 to, Wallingford Gulf Road

9 September 2006, Leg 7

by Tom Copps, leader

On Sept. 9 the Long Trail end to end group hiked leg7 from FS 10 to VT 140. Cindy Kirk, Allison Norton, Tom Shanahan and Tom Copps made up the group with Tom Shanahan leading. As we were leaving the parking lot a bus full of young people pulled in. They were trail runners out for a training loop around the pond. The weather was threatening but comfortable for the moment at least. Within a mile the faster runners overtook us; we weren't in any hurry anyway. When we reached Little Rock Pond we found many of the runners already swimming and jousting with each other. The weather wasn't getting any better so we continued on toward Little Rock Pond Shelter. Presently a couple of the runners came down the trail obviously going in the wrong direction. They thought they were on the loop trail around the pond even though they were quite a ways below pond level. So we turned them around and sent them back up the trail. If we had not stopped them who knows; they might still be going.

Soon we reached the old Aldrichville site at the head of Homer Stone Brook. Quite a few artifacts still remain so we explored a bit and had a brief snack. However, with an eye on the sky we were soon moving again. We made our way comfortably up White Rock Mountain and across the top to the Rock Sculpture Garden. Unfortunately, a great number of the rock sculptures have been tipped over. We debated whether this was caused by vandals or the weather. We chose the weather. By now everybody was hungry (again) so we went down to the top of White Rock cliff for a leisurely lunch in spite of the sky.

Soon however we were hurrying down the trail past the Greenwall Shelter to where the Long Trail leaves the Keewaydin Trail and drops down to cross Bully Brook. Finally the rain found us and we picked up the pace again. Immediately we were drenched in a real downpour. As we continued down to Sugar Hill Road a bolt of lightning struck right next to us. It was so close that it left all of us quite shaken. We hurriedly crossed Sugar Hill Road then Route 140 to the parking lot. We were soaked but warm enough and happy as we hurriedly got into the cars. It really was a great hike, a little unusual but great!

### Stratton Mountain

14 October 2006

by Sue Thomas, leader

I suppose that Stratton Mountain really ought to be approached with some reverence - after all it is considered to be the birthplace of the Long and Appalachian Trails. Green Mountain Club founder, James Taylor, came up with the idea for the Long Trail while hiking there, and Benton MacKaye thought up the Appalachian Trail from the summit. As I led the Killington Section up the trail on a picture-perfect fall day, I expected some such life-changing inspiration to strike me too, but it was not to be. Oh well, I'll settle for a beautiful fall day in Vermont, good company, and a sweeping view from a lofty fire tower, and leave lofty ambitions to others.

On the summit a plaque tells the history of the mountain, and from the tower Somerset Reservoir, Mt. Snow, Glastonbury, Equinox, Ascutney, Killington, and Grand Monadnock were all visible.

Given the significance of this spot to the Club, perhaps we should make the climb a yearly pilgrimage. We might even sacrifice some ritual trail mix on the summit, dance around and chant...no, maybe not!

On the way home we stopped to see the nearby Daniel Webster monument commemorating the spot where the orator spoke to a crowd of 1600 at a Whig Party rally in 1840.

### Masters Trail, Rupert

6 January, 2007

by Larry Walter and Viv Bebee, leaders

Others along for the walk in Merck Forest: Sue Thomas, Herb Ogden, Tom Copps, Mark and Connie Youngstrom, Steve Williams, Woody and Phoebe. (We were briefly introduced to Jerry Parker's 13-week-old Cairn terrier, Burdock, in the morning).

Access is southerly and then easterly from West Rupert. There's a place to park by the Merck gate, as long as you're not in the path of the bus or in the snow plow turnaround. Jeff Harvey and I had cleared the trail a couple weeks back, so it's a nice unencumbered grade up about 25 switchbacks or so, and then up the main southerly ridge from Mt. Antone.

We had a pleasant lunch at the lookout, just off the north side of the summit, where I managed to pick up a tick. It was windy and probably in the mid 50s - really weird stuff for January. Just when we headed back to the



south, a pretty good rain squall hit us as we made our way down Beebe Pond Trail.

I was ahead a little bit, looking for things to clear off of the trail, when I heard a loud WHUMP and one of the dogs yelp. I looked back up the trail to see Connie standing next to a freshly fallen, 12-inch-diameter, 35-foot-long snag. It had chosen that time (it was a bit windy) to fall as close as possible to our little band, without actually hurting anyone.

Phoebe recovered almost immediately, and we all scurried off the hill and dropped down the Wade Lot Road to Old Town Road, and southwesterly by the brook to our cars. Tom and I used Barb and Barry's trusty 3-foot bucking saw to remove a couple of windfalls along the way. Everyone counted their fingers and toes and climbed into our heated transportation devices.

### Minerva Hinchey Shelter Hot Dog Roast

14 January 2007

By Roma Pulling, leader

On the day of our hike, my brother called me and asked me to call him "if" we got back! Another person asked if we were going to call it off because of the weather. There was light snow with the possibility of freezing rain, but the main roads were clear and the road from Route 103 to Spring Lake Ranch had been well sanded. By the time we all got together, there were 16 of us making our way to Minerva Hinchey Shelter for our winter cookout.

This outing turned into a team effort, starting with my co-leader, my husband, Alfred. Two people, Larry and Viv Walter, contributed wood for our fire. As there wasn't enough snow to make using a toboggan for delivering supplies to the shelter practical, several people pitched in and carried supplies in for us. And hikers who knew the area of the shelter well acted as hike leaders. Thanks to all of these people.

While Alfred built a fire in the outdoor fireplace and heated water for hot beverages, I set out supplies inside the shelter for lunch. The hikers headed south on the Long Trail and were back in time for our meal. I took a short walk on the trail myself. What a wonderfully peaceful experience compared to my home on the main road! The cookout was fun, too. We used to cook out more often in the old days. At that time there were fewer restrictions about where fires could be built.

We were honored on this outing to have four Killington Section Presidents – three former Presidents: Rob Carey (1984-91), Sue Carey (1993-95), and Steve Williams (2002-04), and our current

President, Barry Griffith (2005 to date). When we all were full, we packed up what was left of our supplies and walked back to our cars after a short but very satisfying activity.

### Quimby Mountain, Killington

20 January 2007

by Herb Ogden, leader

This outing taught us several lessons. First, don't believe me when it's noon but I suggest a better place for lunch because it's only about half an hour further along. Second, there can be a great difference in snow depth between the 1000-foot and 2500-foot elevations. Third, some forests recover remarkably rapidly after logging operations. Fourth, it's better to ride in Jerry Parker's jacket than to try to walk through snow that's deeper than you are tall. This applies only to the sole canine participant, however.

A beautiful sunny, crisp morning saw eight of us, including two guests who were new to us but obviously not new to hiking, gather at Main Street Park. There were actually nine of us if you count Jerry's amazingly cute and friendly terrier puppy, Burdock. Jerry says he chose the name because the dog has a rough coat the color of burdock. I think it's also because the dog should stick with him. Burdock hiked along happily at first, because the snow was only a couple inches deep. When the depth doubled as we climbed up the Appalachian Trail from the River Road in Killington, however, Burdock got a cozy ride in Jerry's jacket. By the time we reached the first (unnamed) peak, some 1,500 feet above where we began, the snow was about 15 inches deep, but it was fluffy and pretty easy going even without snowshoes.

That was where we should have had lunch, since it was noon. Fearless Leader, however, thought it might be too windy and urged continuing on to the old Woodard cellarhole in Quimby, where the walls would shelter us from the wind. I thought it would take about half an hour. Nearly two hours later, the first of our party arrived there. The snow along the ridge was denser than it was on the west slope, and that slowed us up some. Then I missed the overgrown turn from off the logging superhighway that runs south from Notown, crosses East Mountain, and ends up on Stockbridge South Hill near Pittsfield. Consequently, we had to follow it maybe half a mile farther south than usual and then climb back northeast up a somewhat overgrown logging road. Part way along it, there was a lunch mutiny, so only half the party reached the old Woodard place and no one reached the Woodard Cemetery.

We returned as planned down the Quimby Road. It has been closed to ATVs

and snowmobiles and was pristine. A couple of us wished we had our skis. Even so, the hike down the beautiful steep sided Quimby Brook valley took only about an hour, and we were back at the Killington Town Offices by quarter past three.

Who was Quimby? I have tried to find out, but all I know is that the 1869 Beers *Atlas of Rutland County* shows an "R. Quimby" house on the ridge of East Mountain and a rough road leading to it, not up Quimby Brook but south of it. While the Beers Atlas did not always locate rough roads precisely, it usually did a pretty good job, and the "R. Quimby" location is so far from the Woodard cellarhole that I don't think they can be the same thing. No Quimby shows up in the town land records of the time, so he must have been a renter, not an owner. Madeline Fleming, who wrote a history in the 1960s, located one person whose grandfather had known him. Now a mountain, a brook, and a locality bear his name.

Who were Asa and Mary Woodard, who lie buried all by themselves in a little plot surrounded by a stone wall, high on the west slope of East Mountain? Mary died in February 1845, aged 72, and Asa died that July, aged 74. I surmise they were the last occupants of a large two story house about a quarter mile north of the cemetery. It must have disappeared by 1869, because the Beers Atlas doesn't show it. Nevertheless, its ruins are still impressive. The dry-masonry cellarhole is still some seven feet deep. It is roughly square, a good forty feet on each side. In the middle is a huge chimney pile, about ten feet on each side. The only likely reason for such a big chimney base would be to support flues serving multiple fireplaces on at least two floors. It must have been built some time after April 1812, because that is the date of the earliest deed to a Woodard in Killington (Asa, Sr.) and the deed says nothing about a dwelling.

Asa came from Stockbridge, legally and probably physically too. Building anything like a decent road from the River Road in Killington up Quimby Brook was probably impractical with nineteenth century techniques. Madeline Fleming's *History of Sherburne* (Killington's name for most of its existence) says International Paper built the present Quimby Road in the 1940s. I guess that, to reach Asa's place by road, one went south from Notown in Stockbridge on the old road to Little Sherburne, then headed over East Mountain by more or less the route of the present logging superhighway, and headed back north more or less on a contour. Fifteen years ago or so, before the last logging operation, a jeep road followed the route of the present logging superhighway south from the Appalachian Trail crossing.



passed just west of the Woodard cellarhole, passed about 150 feet west of the Woodard Cemetery, passed just a few feet west of a very small cellarhole, and continued on south. Perhaps it followed the original road.

Asa began with 100 acres in 1812 and bought more land on East Mountain in 1824, 1829, 1833 and 1834. Half a year after his death in 1845, what may have been his seven children deeded their interests in one lot to another Asa, presumably his son. What happened to the home lot is not clear, because the volume of the town land records that probably showed it was destroyed in a fire. It appears, however, that all the Woodards had sold out by the 1850s. Unless the big house burned down, my guess is that old Asa was its last occupant, no one kept it up after he died, and the roof caved in by 1869 so it was not shown on the Beers Atlas of that year. Probably no one has farmed the west side of East Mountain for over 160 years since the death of old Asa, the original homesteader.

### **Pond Woods State Forest**

27 January 2007

by Bill Holt & Joan Davidson, leaders

Around ten in the morning, eleven hikers started walking into the woods from Sunset Lake Road in Orwell. We were supposed to be snowshoeing but there were only a couple of inches of fresh snow atop a measly crust. It still felt like winter weather though, because the air was nippy.

We started bushwhacking up hill through hardwoods until we reached a trail used mostly by animals. The trail soon became steep and ledgy requiring careful footing in some spots. Soon, we got to the top of the ledge which had many scraggly pines, oaks, and blue berries trying to survive on a thin layer of soil. The ledge provided good views of Mud Pond directly below us. We could also see Lakes Sunrise and Sunset further off, but because it was overcast and snowing slightly we could only see for about five miles.

After leaving the ledge, we descended into a hemlock forest where the chill that we lost with the climb was back again. We kept up a brisk pace for the next mile until we reached the marshy end of Mud Pond. Mud

Pond, until four months ago, was accessible by four wheel drive vehicles, but it is now gated a mile from the pond because some nitwit decided to dump a whole truck load of household garbage right near the pond. Very few people ever drove up there anyway, so thank you nitwit for keeping Mud Pond free of vehicles.

We left the pond and did a little more bushwhacking through a mixed forest. We soon reached another body of water created by beavers. Since the pond didn't have a name, Larry dubbed it Joanie Pond. The ice seemed thick enough and we got across without losing anyone. Soon we reached a larger body of water known as Spruce Pond, although, I have never seen a spruce tree anywhere near the pond. Maybe there was at one time, but now the only conifers around the pond are hemlocks and white pines. We decided to stop for a bite to eat, but it was so cold that we didn't stop for very long.

After a good thirty minutes of legging it out with some elevation gain, we reached the top of Oak Hill, where there were red, white and chestnut oaks around. We then descended down to the back side of Doughty Pond. After going through a large grove of hemlocks we skirted the edge of the pond across the ice. We found some pitcher plants from last year popping out from the vegetation near shore.

We left Doughty Pond behind as we cut through mixed woods across a brook and were soon standing next to a porcupine tree. There was no doubt it was the home of a porcupine, because of the huge pile of scat at the bottom of the tree hole. We knocked and sure enough we could hear some scrabbling inside the tree.

After hiking for another mile we reached Sunset Lake where ice fishermen were trying their luck. They got a late start this year, and this was the first weekend we had seen anyone on Lake Sunset. After another mile of easy walking we ended our hike with Joan's pumpkin muffins.

See ya next time.

### **Lily Pond to Half Moon, Hubbardton**

10 February 2007

by Sue Thomas, leader

"I see an ant leg!" exclaimed Barb, as she carefully dissected the scat of a pileated woodpecker to see what he'd had for dinner. (Does Killington Section know how to have fun on a hike, or what?) I decided to pass, not out of squeamishness but, due to poor eyesight — I don't think I'd be able to see an ant leg. So I contented myself with examining the very large hole in the tree from which the bird had extracted the yummy treat. Even taking into account the size of a pileated, the hole was impressive.

We'd set out for Lily Pond hoping to see signs of nature and, fortunately, the rest of our finds were much larger. Beavers had created a new pond which was formerly the trail. These are ambitious "Keep up with the Joneses" beavers. In addition to the usual large dam and lodge they'd taken out a second mortgage and built two smaller dams alongside, creating a kiddy pool and perhaps a hot tub.

The trail next passes small quarries where hefty cables are still anchored to boulders and huge piles of scrap slate. In other years with more snow I've seen otter slides on these piles. If I were them I'd contract with the beavers to construct a T-bar rope tow. This year (before the big blizzard) the snow barely covered the rocks, but we did find a slide a little farther up the trail. Tracks were plentiful — deer, porcupines, mice, grouse, rabbits, turkey, and a large wing print where a turkey had taken flight.

Lunch was a more formal affair than our usual. We dined in style at a "sidewalk café" along the trail complete with candles on the tables and a floor show, provided by the section's smallest (and by far cutest) member, Burdock Parker. Sporting a natty new sweater with leopard-print collars and cuffs, he prepared to show off a few tricks, but developed a sudden case of stage fright, which was entertaining also!

From Lily Pond we set off through the woods and managed to stumble on to Half Moon Pond, which was fortunate since that's where we'd parked the cars. We had a snack and bravely set off across the ice, which was, alarmingly, covered with water in places. Safe, but a bit frightened to be sure, terra firma was a relief.

## **Don't Forget**

### **Killington Section Annual Meeting and Potluck**

**Everyone is welcome**

**5:30 PM Saturday 31 March**

**Bring a dish to share**

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Hillside Avenue, Rutland**



# Killington Section Directors Meeting

by John Hale, Secretary

The Killington Section Board of Directors met at 6:00 pm on 6 February 2007 at the Back Home Again Café in Rutland.

## Attendance

Board Members present: President Barry Griffith, Vice President Barbara Griffith, Secretary John Hale, Secretary Roma Pulling, Lynda Hutchins, Wayne Krevetski, Andrea McQuade, and Steve Williams.

Others present: Bob Perkins, Thelma Perkins, and Al Pulling.

Special guests: GMC Development Officer Shawn Keeley and Montpelier Section Member Andrew Nuquist.

## Secretary's Minutes

The minutes for the 17 October 2006 Board Meeting were corrected on page three (... the Main Club's Taylor Series Services program.) and a typographical error on page four, then accepted as corrected with thanks to John.

## Treasurer's Report

Roma Pulling reported on the Section's bank balances as of 6 February 2007.

Un-Restricted:	
Checking	\$ 1,559.89
Savings	1,133.94
Cash/checks on Hand	311.25
Cert. of Deposit	1,454.36
	\$ 4,459.44
Restricted:	
Kirk Savings	\$ 1,985.02
Cert. of Deposit	13,574.72
	\$15,559.74
Total	\$20,019.18
Memberships:	(not reported)

These balances represent a \$776.06 increase from the total reported on 17 October 2006. The Treasurer's report was approved as presented with thanks to Roma.

Roma mentioned that the **\$500 expenditure from the Kirk Fund** authorized by the Board at the 17 October meeting last year to be paid to the Main Club has not yet been requested and so not paid. Because representatives of the Main Club were present, Roma cut a check in the appropriate amount and gave it to Shawn Keeley for delivery.

Roma reported that Ms. Ellen Russell has died leaving one fifth of a life insurance policy valued at \$9,305 to the Killington Section. Roma has received a letter from the estate and is now awaiting settlement. Ms. Russell was a long time member of the Club.

## GMC Capital Campaign

Shawn Keeley and Andrew Nuquist made a presentation of the Main Club's Capital Campaign:

We are two years into the Campaign the purposes of which are 1) to provide an endowment with current income for Long Trail maintenance; 2) to protect the entire length of the Long Trail and assure public access (i.e. no dependence on private owners of trail land); and 3) to rebuild the burned barn at the Waterbury headquarters.

The focus of the Campaign started with the Main Club Board of Directors and staff, both of which groups have registered 100% participation. The second phase, just begun in Montpelier, Burlington and Ottauquechee Sections, is for each Club Section to approach its own members and the At-Large members living in that Section's geographic area.

The process for a section is to 1) assemble a team; 2) attend an orientation session provided by the Main Club; 3) attend a training session provided by the Main Club to learn how to solicit effectively and comfortably for money; 4) set up a program, make appointments and visit prospective contributors; and 5) participate in Report-Back sessions with representatives of the Main Club.

Andrew shared some of the Montpelier Section's experience. Their committee of eight people had to overcome their natural hesitancy and awkwardness in asking people for money. It was discouraging at the beginning but eventually all members found personal rewards in the effort beyond their successes in generating funds for the Club.

Note: There is a one million dollar challenge grant on offer which must be matched by the end of 2007 which is also the expected end of the Killington Section's fund raising efforts.

John Hale, and Lynda Hutchins both offered to participate in the Section's efforts; but neither could commit to heading up the group.

## Main Club Board Meeting

Delegate Lynda Hutchins reported the following highlights of the Main Club Board Meeting of 20 January 2007:

The Capital Campaign has raised \$2.9 million toward a revised goal of about \$6 million.

The preliminary 2008 fiscal year budget was presented showing an \$80,000 shortfall. Expenses have already been cut to

the bone and staff is being stretched to their limits. On the other hand, we generate good income from publications and membership is growing. The Capital Campaign must succeed to put the Club on solid financial ground.

An official GMC logo is being researched; a larger emphasis on the Long Trail is wanted.

The Club is purchasing green lumber harvested under the Vermont Family forest program for use in the Head Quarters rebuilding project. This is a money saver and fosters sustainable lumbering.

Lynda's detailed report is available from the Secretary.

## Trails and Shelters

Barry Griffith, reported that the Shrewsbury Select Board appears unwilling to "throw up" the road to Governor Clement Shelter and is seeking other alternatives for controlling hooligan misuse of the shelter. That board's position letter to the Main Club is expected shortly. The Main Club committee will then decide how to respond.

Construction of the new Little Killington Shelter, designed to replace Governor Clement Shelter, has been rescheduled to 2008, probably because of money concerns. The Clarendon Gorge area was recently cleaned of trash.

## Smoke & Blazes

Bob Perkins was proud to announce that we are now printing in color. The next issue will come out at the end of February.

## The Long Trail in Bits and Pieces

Steve Williams reported that the **Long Trail in Bits and Pieces** group is still going strong, planning for next season's hikes.

## Long Trail Festival

Wayne Krevetski reported that the Long Trail Festival is making progress. The City of Rutland, through the Recreation Department, has agreed to cover liability insurance costs for the event. The City has agreed to the terms of the contract for use of the Fair Grounds and that document is expected to be formally signed shortly.

## Section Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be a pot luck supper again this year to be held on a Saturday, either 14 or 21 April, depending upon which best suits the Church. Sue Thomas will make the reservation.

## Service Award

Steve Williams was presented with the Long Trail Service Award in recognition of



his many contributions to the Club.  
Congratulations to Steve.

**Next Board Meeting**

The next Killington Section Board meeting will be at the Annual Meeting in March.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

## Late Breaking News! The Governor is Reprieved at least temporarily



### **Governor Clement Shelter on the Long/Appalachian Trail, (1929 – 20??)**

As we, somewhat belatedly, go to press *Smoke & Blazes* has learned that the voters of Shrewsbury in town meeting have indicated by a vote of 190 to 89 that they would be willing to throw up and gate Clement Shelter Road rather than see the historic shelter dismantled. The next move is up to the Shrewsbury Select Board. Watch these pages for further developments.



Your Invitation to Join  
**Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

**ANNUAL DUES:**

Individual ..... \$35  
Family ..... \$45  
Senior/Student/Volunteer ..... \$20

Contact us for information on life memberships and categories for giving at a higher level.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_trail work, \_\_\_shelter work, \_\_\_sign making, \_\_\_publications, \_\_\_leading outings, \_\_\_publicity, \_\_\_education

Make check payable to Killington Section, GMC and mail with this application to:

Roma Pulling, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
883 US 4 East  
Rutland, VT 05701







Volume 60, Number 2

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

May 2007

## Rutland to Host First Annual Long Trail Festival

By Wayne & Kathy Krevetski, organizers

The First Annual Rutland Long Trail Festival, a celebratory gathering to inspire individuals to participate in the outdoors, is scheduled for Friday thru Monday, 17 – 20 August 2007 at the Vermont State Fairgrounds, in Rutland. Admission is FREE and free camping will be available at the fairgrounds

The festivities start Friday night with music by Drum Journeys of the Earth, and others.

Saturday will be filled with exhibits and presentations including:

- *Leave No Trace Principles*
- *Hiking Nepal*, slide presentation and discussion
- *An Ordinary Wanderer: Long Trail End to End Hike*, slide presentation and discussion by author and hiker Jan "Liteshoe" Leitschuh,
- *History of the Long Trail Lodge*, slide presentation, by Dave Wright
- *Long Distance Hiking*, panel discussion and Q&A by those who have and are doing it.
- *Questing/Geo Caching Adventures*, presentation with opportunities for local questing adventures.

- Films moderated by Robert "Red Wolf" Croyle  
*Recovering A Species – The Red Wolf*,  
*Arctic Dance – The Mardy Murie Story*,  
*Wilderness and Spirit – A Mountain Called Katahdin*
- *Yoga Salutation to the Sun and Tai Chi For the Athlete*
- *Backpackers kitchen – Eating well on the trail*
- Rutland Historical Society Long Trail Video Project
- *Hiking/Trail Etiquette*
- Plus fun filled activities for the Kids
- As well as music by Local Musicians

The Key Note Speaker on Saturday Night will be noted writer and radio commentator Willem Lange. There will also be music by the likes of Gypsy Reel and others.

Sunday will continue with presentations and exhibits but the Big Event for the Day will be guided hikes of our local trails.

Monday will be set as a trail Work Day.

So come on out and join us for an educational, fun filled weekend.





## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2008 ..... \* Barbara Griffith  
" ..... Barry Griffith  
" ..... \* Steve Williams  
2009 ..... Wayne Krevetski  
" ..... \* Andrea McQuade  
" ..... \* Roma Pulling  
2010 ..... \* John Hale  
" ..... \* Lynda Hutchins  
" ..... \* Cindy Taylor-Miller

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President ..... Barry Griffith  
Vice President ..... Barbara Griffith  
Secretary/Treasurer ..... John Hale

### Committee Chairs

History ..... Bob Perkins  
Outings ..... Susan Thomas  
Trails & Shelters ..... Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director ..... Lynda Hutchins  
Alternate ..... Alfred Pulling

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor ..... Bob Perkins

### Web Site

Web master ..... Deborah Waggett

## Latest News from the Governor

The Forest Service, with concurrence of the Killington Section and other interested parties, has advised the Shrewsbury Select Board that Governor Clement Shelter will be razed unless the town takes steps this summer to permit gating the access road. In a recent nonbinding vote, townspeople indicated by a good majority that they preferred the shelter to the road, and there are indications that the Selectmen may be willing to along.



**Governor Clement Shelter, circa 1930**

Unwelcome partiers, often with alcohol and firearms, have made the shelter unappealing, and possibly unsafe, for hikers. All previous attempts to control the situation have been unsuccessful. Several legal steps are required in order to "throw up" the road so that it can be gated, but hopes are rising again that what may be the oldest Long Trail shelter still in use may be saved.

Stay tuned.

### Contact Information – Web Site – <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillingtonStay>

Barbara & Barry Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, Griff2VT@Vermontel.net

John Hale, 170 Spooner Point or PO Box 506, Castleton, VT 05735, 273-2293, john@lighters.com

Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, lmhutch@shoreham.net

Wayne Krevetski 22 Roberts Ave., Rutland, VT 05701 282-2237 wkrevetski@hotmail.com

Andrea McQuade, 2 Jan Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5104, andreamequade@adelphia.net

Cindy Taylor-Miller, 337 East St., Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, ctmiller@vermontel.net

Herbert Ogden, 214 South End Road., Mt. Tabor, VT 05253-9756, (H)293-2510, (W)774-2200,

hogden@vermontel.net

Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu

Roma & Alfred Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, pullingra137@aol.com

Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Deborah Waggett, 21 Academy St., Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, purplejeep99@hotmail.com

Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, voorburg@sover.net



## WORK PARTIES READY THE TRAILS FOR THE SEASON

By Herb Ogden,  
Section Trails & Shelter Chair

First, the Honor Roll. Here are the people who sawed trees, dug out waterbars, pruned back brush, and generally got our part of the Long Trail in shape for the hiking season.

Greg [Badger?]  
Rich Brown  
Dave Coppock  
Tom Cops (2)  
Barbara Griffith  
Barry Griffith  
Wayne Krevetski\*  
Roland Marx  
Allison Norton  
Cindy Oas-Kirk  
Herb Ogden (2)  
Jerry Parker (2)\*  
Tom Shanahan  
Wayne [Soros?]  
Larry Walter\*

Sorry. A couple of last names in the register were hard to read. Those with a (2) after their name came out for both work parties. Those with asterisks lugged chain saws.

On 19 May, eight volunteers showed up despite threatening weather. Two cleared brush and dug drainage ditches between Minerva Hinchey Shelter and the hilltop south of the Airport Lookout. Three cleared brush and many blowdowns between the Lottery Road and the Keiffer Road, and another three cleared brush and waterbars and several blowdowns between the Upper Cold River Road and Gov. Clement Shelter. Most of the rest of our section between the

Wallingford Gulf Road (Vt. 140) and the Upper Cold River Road had already been cleared by a one man crew named Tom Shanahan. Thanks very much, Tom! Thanks also to Sector Checkers Connie and Mark Youngstrom, Tom Shanahan and Steve Williams for reporting on their sectors so we could send the crews where they would do the most good.

We do still have some problems on the lowland part of our trails. ATVs have been on the trail north of Bear Mountain. Minerva Hinchey Shelter needs metal edges on the table to foil porcupines that have gnawed it. Wet stretches north of the Lottery Road need bog bridging or relocation. Last but definitely not least, Gould Brook needs bridging. We may have help from a General Electric group on this.

On 2 June, National Trails Day, ten volunteers provided meals for black flies, chiggers and mosquitoes while looking out for thunderstorms. Rich Brown took two crews up the work road to the Killington Peak top station, courtesy of Killington, Ltd. A chain-sawyer and a brush lopper/swamper headed south to Gov. Clement Shelter, meeting three people with loppers heading north. Another chain-sawyer and a brush lopper/swamper headed north to Sherburne Pass, meeting three people with an ax-mattock, hoes, and a lopper heading south. The result was that the entire LT from Gov. Clement to Jungle Jct. and the Sherburne Pass Trail are

properly cleared. Also, the Sherburne Pass Trail is better drained than it has been since at least the 1960s. We cleared or built some 52 waterbars, including a couple substantial new ones. Jerry Parker's little dog Burdock even pitched in on a couple of the waterbars!

Many thanks to the crew listed above and to Sector Checkers Larry Walter, Dave Coppock, Cindy Oas-Kirk, Allison Norton, and Deb Waggett. Many of the Sector Checkers not only reported where work was needed but also did some maintenance before the work party. In fact, by the time of the work day, the Bucklin Trail was already in good condition and needed no crew.

More work remains, however. We lacked crews to cover the Long Trail from Jungle Jct. to Tucker-Johnson Shelter, the Pico Spur, and the Cauty Trail up Blue Ridge Mountain. Several blowdowns are reported south of Churchill Scott Shelter, the shelter privy door blew off and must be replaced, the nettles north of Route 4 need scything, and ditches and waterbars south of Tucker-Johnson Shelter need cleaning. The Cauty Trail was cleared of blowdowns in early winter, but it probably needs attention again. If you have time, we have work for you! Tools are available. Please call Herb Ogden at 293-2510 or email [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net).



## Notes from the Road

By Cindy Taylor-Miller

*[Mrs. Gorp has switched travel modes this year and embarked on a cross country bike ride. Smoke & Blazes has received the following communiqués, Ed.:]*

**Wallingford, VT, April 3:** One last email before I head south to Yorktown, VA this morning to begin my TransAmerican Bike Ride to Astoria, OR.

**Charlottesville, VA April 5:** I have gone 186 miles since Sunday when I left Yorktown, VA and am currently in Charlottesville right at the University of VA. It's a brisk morning. Have a 5 mile UPHILL to Rockfish Gap this afternoon to reach the Blue Ridge Parkway.

All is well, feeling fine, and the bike, my Cannondale T2000 is running smooth.

**Chester, IL, April 26:** Hello from Chester, IL, home of Popeye the sailor man! Been on the TransAm route since April 1st and have covered 1,168 miles. Have had snow, broiling sun, strong headwinds, and today it rained for a brief bit, but for the most part the weather has been

perfect for riding. The Appalachians were tough and hilly. Now the terrain has mellowed out a bit, averaging about 60 miles a day. My biggest mileage day so far has been 76 miles and the smallest 36 miles.

Had my Cannondale T2000 tuned up yesterday in Carbondale, IL. The bike has been flawless. I haven't even had a flat tire (shhhhhhhhhhh I don't want to jinx myself).

Back in Elkhorn City, KY, I waited out two days of pouring rain, snow showers and 35 degree temps. When I hit finally hit the road west again, I came upon a house in the middle of Rte 611. A mud slide had washed it downhill the evening before. One of the salvage workers helped me carry my bike around the mess to higher, dryer, less muddy ground and back to the blacktop.

All is well. I've had a shower every night and am eating well. I think Long Distance Bike Riding beats LD Hiking ;-).

**Dubois, WY, May 19:** Hello! I am alive and well and in Dubois WY. Survived the tornadoes in

Kansas and tomorrow enter Yellowstone National Park. 2,775 miles and NO Flats!!!

Riding into Lander, WY the wind was so strong I had to pedal my bike going downhill a 6% grade. It made for a very long a tiring 128 mile day.

**Baker City, OR June 1:** Hello. Here in Baker City, Oregon. It's a hot day. By Sunday they're predicting a high of near 100\*. I'm on slow bake.

There wasn't a welcome to Oregon sign when I crossed the ID/OR border near Oxbow. Instead, it felt like welcome to Hell's Canyon. Turn up the heat! I'm sorry I fretted the frozen toes back in Yellowstone.

The Oregon Trail passed through here in Baker City.

I should be touching the front wheel of my bike in the Pacific in about 5 to 6 days, depends on the heat and if I can ride in the afternoons. I need my nap when it gets too hot.

3,660 miles on the TransAm !

## The Long Trail in Bits & Pieces

A group of Killington Section GMC hikers has set out to hike the entire 272.7 miles of the Long Trail from end-to-end in bits and pieces. Starting in 2006 the group has covered 87.3 miles of the Long Trail plus approach trail miles. Listed below are the next several legs planned by the group.

Date	Miles	From	To	Coordinator	Phone
Mon., 28 May	11.2	County Road	Vt. Route 9	Rich Brown	802 948-2966
Sat., 23 June	14.4	Stratton-Arlington Road	Old Rootville Road	Steve Williams	802-645-9529
Sat., 7 July	10.4	Vt. Route 125	USFS Road 201	Allison Norton	802-775-1627
Sat., 21 July	13.9	USFS Road 201	Lincoln Gap Road	Tom Copps	802-773-9394
Sat., 4 August	11.6	Lincoln Gap Road	Vt. Route 17	Cindy Oas-Kirk	802-775-7646
Sat., 25 August	12.8	Vt. Route 17	Camels Hump Road	t.b.d.	t.b.d.

Most of the pieces are long, and sometimes difficult, day hikes requiring extra planning and effort. Occasionally there are overnights. Hikers who have been on a few of our section's regular scheduled hikes are welcome to call the bits and pieces hike coordinator to discuss details. It is the coordinator's prerogative to accept additional hikers for any particular hike.



## **Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: June – August 2007**

Visit our web site: <http://www.geocities.com/gmckillington>

Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome on our outings. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather, and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont! Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call the leader if you have any questions.

### **2 June, Saturday                      Upper Elevation Trail Maintenance, Killington                      Herb Ogden, 293-2510**

On National Trails Day volunteers all over the country will be out clearing brush and waterbars, cutting blowdowns and painting blazes, readying the trails for the summer hiking season. Join us to work on our local treasure, the Long/Appalachian Trail. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and lunch; tools will be provided.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.

[Rain date 3 June.]

### **8 – 10 June, Friday – Sunday                      GMC Annual Meeting, Manchester**

Centered around Hildene in Manchester with many activities, meals, and hikes planned in addition to the meeting itself. For details and registration information see the Long Trail News or check the website [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org).

### **16 June Saturday                      Paddle Otter Creek, Proctor to Florence                      Jerry Parker, 775-6208**

Paddle your canoe or kayak past farms and covered bridges.

Easy, 5 miles.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.

[Rain date 17 June.]

### **23 June, Saturday                      17th Annual Taconic Mountain. Ramble, Hubbardton                      Kit Davidson, 273-2982**

Featured in Vermont Life magazine! Massive cliffs, rolling meadows, mountain peaks with views north, south, east, and west, a Japanese garden full of waterfalls, plus other goodies. Wine and cheese afterward; bring no lunch. Walkers can leave the group at several points and relax on the lawn.

Easy half mile or moderate 3 miles.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 1:00 PM.

[Rain date 24 June. Call leader if in doubt.]

### **30 June, Saturday                      Sunset Paddle, Glen Lake, Castleton                      Viv & Larry Walter, 775-3855**

Canoe or kayak into the sunset at Glen Lake in Bomoseen, and swim if weather permits. Bring food for supper. A hotdog roast may be possible. Call leaders for information. If you don't have a boat join us for a ride.

Leave from West Rutland Price Chopper (east end of parking lot) at 6:00 PM.

### **8 July, Sunday                      Paddle the Poultney, Fair Haven                      Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**

A relaxing paddle for kayaks or canoes along the scenic Vermont/New York border.

Easy, 5 miles.

Leave from Diamond Run Mall parking lot (near Sears) at 9:30 AM.

### **14 July, Saturday                      Black Mountain, Whitehall, NY                      Alison Norton, 775-1627**

Beautiful views of Lake George and the Adirondacks from the 2,646 foot summit of the highest peak in the Lake George region.

Moderate, 5 miles. Elevation gain 1,046 feet with some steep places. Option for a longer loop.

Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: June – August 2007

Schedule continued from previous page.

- 22 July, Sunday**                                      **Senior Shuffle, Pine Hill, Rutland**                                      **Bob Perkins, 773-0184**  
We'll try a few of the new trails in our city park and view Rocky Pond from above.  
Easy, 4 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 1:00 PM.
- 28 July, Saturday**                                      **East Mountain, Rutland**                                      **Tom Copps, 770-9394**  
Bushwhack to the ridge top at 2,386 feet and explore this local landmark.  
Difficult, 5 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 4 August, Saturday**                                      **Delectable Mountain, Barnard**                                      **Herb Ogden, 293-2510**  
Hike from the White River to Notown along the west flank of Mount Hunger and Delectable Mountain in eastern Stockbridge and western Barnard, including abandoned Barnard District No. 2. Unusual views of the Coolidge Range, hill farms abandoned 150 years ago, mysterious stone piles, and deep backwoods. Mostly on woodroads and old highways but some bushwhacking. Bring plenty of water or a water filter.  
Moderate to difficult, 8 miles. Elevation gain 1,900 feet.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 11 August, Saturday**                                      **Mount Grant, Lincoln**                                      **Larry Walter, 775-3855**  
Follow the Cooley Glen Trail to the Long Trail, then up to the 3,523-foot summit. We'll bushwhack back to some open views.  
Difficult, 8.5 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 18 August, Saturday**                                      **Haystack Mountain, Pawlet**                                      **Diane Bargiel, (413) 687-1109**  
Climb via the Nature Conservancy trail to an open summit with spectacular views of the Green Mountains and the Mettawee Valley.  
Moderate, 3 miles with a steep pitch at the top. Elevation gain 1,000 feet.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:15 AM.  
Or meet us at Williams Hardware on Main Street in Poultney at 10:00 AM.
- 25 August, Saturday**                                      **Mystery Bike Raid**                                      **Bill Holt & Joan Davidson, 537-4227**  
Explore back roads.  
Moderate.  
Call leaders for details and for meeting time and place.  
[Rain date 26 August.]
- 8 September, Saturday**                                      **North Pond, Chittenden**                                      **Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
Climb the ridge above the reservoir to a remote, high elevation beaver pond on what was once the main route to Pittsfield. Keep an eye out for moose which frequent the area and enjoy views of the lake and mountains.  
Difficult, 9 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.  
[Rain date September 9.]



## Outing Reports

### Chittenden Brook

24 February 2007

By Joan Davidson, co-leader

This snowshoe trip was a little daunting due to the cold blustery day, as well as the enormous amount of snow that we had received the week before on Valentine's Day. We began the trek from the top of Brandon Gap, heading south on the Long Trail. Previous snowshoers and cross country skiers had already packed much of the trail down so the initial going wasn't too bad. After about an hour, we came upon moose tracks that were interesting to see, but made snowshoeing a little tricky, because you could easily get your shoe caught down one of the deep moose track holes. The views on the trail were spectacular of the Braintree range east of us, as well as the frost that glistened on the branches above our heads.

Once we reached the trail junction we ate our lunch, and then began our descent in an easterly direction toward Chittenden Brook campground. This trail had not been used by anyone, so it was slow going in the very deep snow. Also, the trail was hard to see in places and at one point we had to search around to find our markers. By the time we reached our vehicles at the front parking lot of Chittenden Brook, we all seemed pretty tired and happy to take off our snowshoes and gobble down our snack of oatmeal cookies.

### Mount Antone II

24 March 2007

By Steve Williams, leader

Mount Antone I, ably led by Larry and Viv Walter from the Rupert side earlier this year, with its tree falling episode, was a hard act to follow. However, twelve Merck Forest enthusiasts arrived to join Steve on this "Mount Antone II" hike on a bright and sunny morning. The first concern was mud on the access road; two of the party wisely left their cars adjacent to Route 315, though the road itself was not as bad as Steve had anticipated from his scouting visit the day before. The Old Town Road section of the trail was easy enough with just a little ice thrown in to merit attention. Shortly after taking the side trail towards Clark's Clearing there was a blow-down across the trail. At this juncture we were fortunate to have with us Sawman and Axeman (aka Larry Walter and his protégée, Peter) fully equipped with their tools of choice) who enthusiastically removed the offending tree.

Upon reaching Clark's Clearing, snowshoes were donned until shortly before the summit, where the southern exposure led to mostly bare ground. En route the principal diversion was the discovery by Jerry Parker's dog Burdock of a number of chipmunks in a tree. Burdock, being of a breed bred to chase and catch rodents, anticipated great sport. However, in the art of tree climbing the chipmunks demonstrated a definite superiority, and in fact it was they who had the better sport.

At the summit we celebrated the birthday of Diane Bergiel, at which point the well equipped Cindy impressively produced a candle and a match. Congratulations on the birthday, Diane! Jerry Parker followed up this act by finding an owl pellet and pointed out the knee

and other bones of a mouse which had moved on to the lunch stage of its life, unfortunately that of the owl.

On the way back to the visitors center, the group stopped by at the sugar house (equipped with a new reverse osmosis unit as well as a conventional evaporator) where many sampled some of the syrup samples available and some went for the pancakes on offer. Not too much later the rain started. Good timing!

### Chittenden Brook Trail

12 May 2007

By Roma Pulling, leader

Carpets of delicate spring beauties interspersed with dog tooth violets, wood anemones and Dutchman's britches delighted the nature lovers in our group. The trip could have been billed as a wildflower hike!

Our group of fourteen people and one dog left the park in Rutland with five cars which we parked by Route 73 at the beginning of the road to the Chittenden Brook Campground in Rochester. Due to the fact that the gate was still closed, it added a mile to our usual 3.5-mile walk; but I didn't hear any complaints.

It is a road walk with only gentle uphill.

At the junction marked #4 on our map, where the main trail continues on to the Long Trail, we stopped for a lunch break and to wait for part of our group to catch up. Then we took a side trail to the beaver pond, where we could watch salamanders near the shore. The beavers were not home or at least did not have their welcome mat out.

The return trip was uneventful, and we left for home, congratulating ourselves on having picked another day of perfect hiking weather.



## Killington Section Annual Meeting

By John Hale, Secretary

The annual meeting of the Killington Section, Green Mountain Club was held on 32 March 2007 at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Hillside Avenue in Rutland, VT.

**Board Members present** were Barry Griffith, Pres.; Barbara Griffith, VP; Roma Pulling, Treas.; John Hale, Sec.; Lynda Hutchins; Andrea McQuade; and Wayne Krevetski. About 15 other people attended.

A **Pot Luck Dinner** began at about 5:30 PM and was enjoyed by all.

President Barry brought the business meeting to order with the observation that this likely was the **95th annual meeting** of the Killington Section, our founders having started the Section in 1912.

The **Minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting** as printed in *Smoke and Blazes* were approved as presented.

Treasurer Roma Pulling reported the following **account balances** as of 31 December 2006:

Un-restricted:

Checking .....	\$ 1,509.89
Savings.....	1,741.52
CD.....	1,704.06
.....	\$ 4,955.47

Restricted: (Kirk Fund)

Savings.....	\$ 1,985.02
CD's.....	13,559.11
.....	\$15,544.13

Membership:

Memberships.....	145
Voting Members .....	166

The Un-restricted assets increased \$1,204.19 from last year and the Kirk Fund assets increased \$366.11 from last year. Our registered membership decreased by seven.

**Smoke and Blazes** editor Bob Perkins reported that the publication continues its smooth quarterly appearance. He asked people to submit articles and pictures for inclusion. Bob was roundly thanked generally and especially praised for his inclusion of color in the publication.

President Barry mentioned one item that did not appear in the publication: Bob and Thelma Perkins have granted an **easement** to the Green Mountain Club for a section of the Cauty Trail that is part of their family's property.

Deb Waggett was thanked again for her service in generating the **Section's webpage** the new address for which is:

***web.mac.com/gmckillington.***

Herb Ogden, **Trails and Shelters** Chair, reported on various shelters:

- **Minerva Hinchey Shelter** was significantly improved last year but still needs new front steps.

- **Mill River** suspension bridge area is still hard to maintain because of the illegal camping and partying that occurs there. Overlapping official jurisdictions make the policing more difficult.

- **Gov. Clement Shelter** is still being abused, most recently

with journal entries from the last hiking season indicating that a through hiker was beaten by several people who had driven to the shelter. There is some good news. On town meeting day the voters of Shrewsbury approved an advisory ballot item calling for abandonment of the town highway leading to the shelter so that the Forest Service can erect a gate to keep Governor Clement from being razed. However, only the Town Selectmen can authorize discontinuance of a town highway, after a public warning and hearing. This process will probably play out in the months ahead; the outcome is unknown at this time. If the Forest Service is unable to gate the road during the summer to help insure hiker safety, it is expected that Governor Clement will be demolished.

- **Little Killington Shelter** will not be constructed this year primarily for lack of funds but also because of the uncertainty surrounding the Governor Clement shelter.

- **Cooper Lodge** will be demolished because of misuse; the foundation will be retained as a memorial.

- **Pico Camp** is now in good shape but if the new owners of the Killington ski resort decide to create the long proposed inter-connect between Killington and Pico, the shelter could be lost for being physically in the way.

Herb has been informed that a group of about 20 local General Electric employees want to do



volunteer trail construction this summer. A bridge over Gould Brook is under consideration.

Tom Copps reported on the first year's activity of the **Long Trail in Bits and Pieces Project**. Most participants have completed nine of the 29 sections in the project totaling 94 miles mostly in hikes near Rutland. Most sections are of ten to 11 miles in length, nearly twice the length of Killington Section's weekly hikes. All are welcome.

Lynda Hutchins reported on her attendance at the latest **parent club meeting** held on 24 March.

John Hale reported on the parent club's **Second Century Finance Campaign** as it will be supported by our Section. John, Lynda Hutchins and Steve Williams are the committee which will reach out to club members in our area asking for contributions.

More than \$3,000,000 of the \$5,250,000 expected in the Campaign has already been raised.

**Upcoming Events:** This year's GMC Annual Meeting will be held at Hildene in Manchester on 8 - 10 June.

- The **Rutland Area Physical Activity Committee (RAPAC)** has asked our Section to join them in offering weekly articles to the Rutland Herald newspaper.

- The first annual **Long Trail Festival** will be held at the Rutland Fairgrounds on August 17 - 20. Much fun is expected for all. The webpage is: [www.longtrailfestivalvt.com](http://www.longtrailfestivalvt.com).

- It is not too early to begin thinking about the **ATC's Biennial Meeting** to be held at the campus of Castleton State College in July of 2009.

- The **Green Mountain Club Centennial** is also in the offing coming up in the year 2010.

President Barry opened the meeting to **nominations for Board Members** for terms to end in 2010. John Hale, Lynda Hutchins, and Cindy Taylor-Miller were nominated, seconded and unanimously approved:

The full Board then met in closed session and elected the following **officers for the coming year:**

Barry Griffith .....President  
Barbara Griffith. Vice President  
John Hale...Secretary/Treasurer

The **next Board meeting** date was set for 6 PM on Tuesday 19 June at the Back Home Again Café.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:00 PM



Killington Section Hikers on Mount Antone, 24 March 2007



Your Invitation to Join  
**Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

**ANNUAL DUES:**

Individual ..... \$35  
Family ..... \$45  
Senior/Student/Volunteer ..... \$20

Contact us for information on life memberships and categories for giving at a higher level.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_ trail work, \_\_\_ shelter work, \_\_\_ sign making, \_\_\_ publications, \_\_\_ leading outings, \_\_\_ publicity, \_\_\_ education

Make check payable to Killington Section, GMC and mail with this application to:

John Hale, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
P. O. Box 506  
Castleton, VT 05735



**KILLINGTON SECTION**



# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 60, Number 3

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

August 2007

## Long Trail Festival Big Success

Hats off to Killington Section members Cathy and Wayne Krevetski! Last year when they broached their idea for a Long Trail Festival almost everyone offered mild encouragement but many privately feared low attendance and an embarrassing failure. After all, this is Rutland, Vermont, not a well known trail town like Damascus, Virginia whose Trail Days Celebration was the Krevetskis' inspiration.

Well, the estimated 1,000 attendees proved the doubters wrong.



Festival goers relaxing on the green

## Pot Luck to Feature Yukon Trip

The Killington Section's annual fall pot luck supper will take place at 6:00 PM on Saturday 10 November at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Hillside Avenue in Rutland. Members and nonmembers alike are invited to attend. Bring a plate, utensils, and a dish to share.

Following supper Paul Houchens of the Burlington Section will present a slide show of the Yukon River canoe trip that he and five other GMCers, including our own Lynda Hutchins, took last year.



GMCers heading north

Here's what Paul has to say:

"There are strange things done in the midnight sun..." These famous words by poet Robert Service, The Bard of the North, inspired a group of six GMCers to trek northward last summer to discover the allure of the northern summer. Following the footsteps of the Stampeders in the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898, the group climbed the infamous Chilkoot Pass from Alaska into Canada and then boarded canoes for the 550-mile journey down the Yukon River to Dawson City. Under almost perpetual daylight they paddled through Miles Canyon, camped on the "marge of Lake Labarge," shot the Five Finger Rapids, explored abandoned settlements and panned for gold on Bonanza Creek in the Klondike Valley. Did they strike it rich? Well they do have a wealth of stories to tell!

## Hopeful Signs for Gov. Clement

The Shrewsbury select board recently held a public hearing and a visit to the site proposed for the gate on the road to Governor Clement Shelter. Although no official action was taken, it appears that the selectmen are heeding their constituents who, in a nonbinding but substantial majority vote, have said that they want to save the shelter.

The discussion has progressed from whether the road should be gated to the resolution of a number of details such as who should hold title to the road, who should pay for the gate and parking area, and the dates when the gate should be locked and unlocked.

Another public hearing is scheduled for 6:00 PM on 19 September at the Shrewsbury town clerk's office.



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2008 ..... \* Barbara Griffith  
" ..... Barry Griffith  
" ..... \* Steve Williams  
2009 ..... Wayne Krevetski  
" ..... \* Andrea McQuade  
" ..... \* Roma Pulling  
2010 ..... \* John Hale  
" ..... \* Lynda Hutchins  
" ..... \* Cindy Taylor-Miller

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President ..... Barry Griffith  
Vice President ..... Barbara Griffith  
Secretary/Treasurer ..... John Hale

### Committee Chairs

History ..... Bob Perkins  
Outings ..... Susan Thomas  
Trails & Shelters ..... Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director ..... Lynda Hutchins  
Alternate ..... Alfred Pulling

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor ..... Bob Perkins

### Web Site

Web master ..... Deborah Waggett

## Remembering Al and Bill

The Killington section lost two of its long-time and most dedicated leaders this summer with the deaths of Al Pulling and Bill Robichaud, each in his early eighties. Al and Bill had contrasting personalities but they shared a common devotion to the outdoors and to the Long Trail in particular.

Gregarious Al served as a Section Director and Treasurer for many years, alternating the jobs with his wife Roma when term-limit rules came into play. Al and Roma led hikes in all seasons over the years including their popular annual winter snowshoe trek and hotdog roast. As a sideline, Al transported long-distance AT and LT hikers around the state and was an expert on locating all the trailheads. On a wall of their home Al and Roma had a huge map of Vermont with photos of (I think) every Long Trail shelter. They had visited and photographed them all.

Independent Bill also served as a Section Director but meetings, committee work, and group outings were not his things. He was happiest in the woods, especially with a pair of loppers in one hand and a hoe in the other. Bill turned out for almost every scheduled work party and no one knows how many days he went out alone, or with anyone he could recruit, to clear waterbars and blowdowns. Bill was our official Sector Checker for Long Trail from Cooper Lodge to Tucker-Johnson Shelter and was a key participant in the major relocations on the west side of Pico and over Bear Mountain. As a GMC Corridor Monitor Bill spent hours tramping off-trail to help ensure the integrity of our protected lands.

The Killington Section is fortunate to have had leaders like Al and Bill. We send our condolences to their families.

### Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.mac.com/gmckillington>

Barbara & Barry Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)  
John Hale, 170 Spooner Point or PO Box 506, Castleton, VT 05735, 273-2293, [john@lighters.com](mailto:john@lighters.com)  
Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, [lmhutch@shoreham.net](mailto:lmhutch@shoreham.net)  
Wayne Krevetski 22 Roberts Ave., Rutland, VT 05701 282-2237 [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)  
Andrea McQuade, 2 Jan Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5104, [andreamcquade@adelphia.net](mailto:andreamcquade@adelphia.net)  
Cindy Taylor-Miller, 337 East St., Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [ctmiller@vermontel.net](mailto:ctmiller@vermontel.net)  
Herbert Ogden, 214 South End Road., Mt. Tabor, VT 05253-9756, (H)293-2510, (W)774-2200, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)  
Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, [RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu](mailto:RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu)  
Roma Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, [pullingra137@aol.com](mailto:pullingra137@aol.com)  
Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185  
Deborah Waggett, 21 Academy St., Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, [purplejeep99@hotmail.com](mailto:purplejeep99@hotmail.com)  
Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, [voorburg@sover.net](mailto:voorburg@sover.net)



## Bits and Pieces End-to-Enders Still Going Strong

### Kelly Stand Road to Old Rootville Road

23 June 2007, Leg 11

By Steve Williams

While six participants had been expected until 9.00 PM, the night before, this number was suddenly halved, to Tom Copps, Cindy Oas-Kirk and Steve Williams. However, as the weather forecast was promising (and eventually proven correct) and the minimum of two cars available was met, the outing proceeded. The threesome met at Zoey's in Manchester and proceeded to leave Steve's Jeep at the lower end of the Old Rootville Road whereupon Cindy drove the approximately 22 miles to the trailhead on the Kelly Stand Road for a 9:50 AM start.

Two and a quarter hours, 3.8 miles and 2000 feet of elevation gain saw the party atop Stratton Mountain. At about three-fourths of the way up Tom's illusion of

seeing the lookout tower at the summit is believed to be the triumph of hope over reality. However, at the summit, a climb up the tower was very worthwhile, even if a chilly experience because of the wind. With Killington, Somerset Reservoir, Ascutey and the Adirondacks all in sight it was a fine place to be. The group had an interesting chat with the GMC caretaker on duty who told of the one week's training new caretakers receive, covering all aspects of their jobs: care of facilities, interaction with visitors, first aid, rescue operations and the management of composting privies. Any takers?

On to Stratton Pond, a relatively easy, mostly downhill, 3.2 miles with the pond providing a picturesque lunching spot. From Stratton Pond to Prospect Rock is 5.7 miles of nothing in particular (except for a fine new bridge at

the entry point to the Lye Brook wilderness) but which does very adequately meet the Long Trail description of "A Footpath in the Wilderness". Approximately half a mile before Prospect Rock, the trail comes out on a surprisingly smooth and well groomed extension of the Old Rootville Road. It was in such great shape in fact that we met a through hiker who had previously passed us coming back because he thought that he must have missed a turnoff somewhere.

Prospect Rock, with its fine view of Manchester, was a welcome rest spot before the rigors of the 1.8 mile descent of the Old Rootville Road. Sounds easy, but with a number of steep stretches, a rough surface, and knees feeling the effect of the previous miles, the last stretch is a good one to have behind you.

All in all, a fine day out.

---

### Middlebury Gap to Emily Proctor Shelter

7 July 2007, Leg 12

By Allison Norton

The participants for our hike included Allison Norton, Tom Copps, Steve Williams, Lynda Hutchens, Cindy Kirk, Rich Brown, and Lindy Brown. Our day started out bright and sunny and we were in great spirits as we crossed Route 125 and began a steep climb up the trail, entering the Breadloaf Wilderness. We were very chatty and conversation topics included the weather,

small-engine aircraft, and privy etiquette. Soon, however, not a word was spoken as we proceeded to sneak past the turnoff to the Silent Cliff trail (Shhh!). We continued to climb and you could actually see that we were on a ridgeline as we hiked, with the land dropping off on either side of us. After a few miles we reached Boyce Shelter. When the guide says, "On the trail," they aren't kidding. It looks like someone just dropped it right in the middle of the trail. I expected to see the Wicked

Witch's feet sticking out from under it! We were on the long green tunnel, though, not the yellow brick road, so after a short break for snacks and a few really great photos we were off again.

Leaving the shelter, the trail seemed tricky to find at first but we found it. We came to some really old log puncheon that was very, very, slippery. After that we chose to go around the log puncheons when we came to them rather than trying to use them. We made sure to step right in the mud, rather than widening the



muddy sections, of course. For the next few miles we went up and down along a ridgeline through the Breadloaf Wilderness, crossing over Mt. Boyce and Battell Mountain (no real views from either). We spent most of this time looking forward to lunch at the next shelter (well, at least I did, and a few others kept asking how far to our lunch stop!). And, as on most hikes, the estimates of how far away we really were from our intended lunch spot ranged from a few minutes to a few miles. We were very happy when we reached the sign for the spur trail to Skyline Lodge at Skylight Pond.

Skyline Lodge is a really fancy enclosed log shelter. Fancy compared to the board lean-tos, anyway. It has a front porch, a table inside, and two levels of sleeping platforms. I have less positive things to say about Skylight Pond—it is rather muddy and weedy. Last year Tom and I read in the shelter log that someone had seen a six-inch leech in the pond! Swimming anyone? Leeches or no leeches, the pond gave us a great view, so

we ate lunch on the porch and enjoyed our break. Upon leaving the shelter a member from our party said that it seemed longer than a tenth of a mile back to the LT, and mentioned that a tenth of a mile would be 176 yards. I bravely suggested that I count steps to see, and giant-stepped back to the LT! It was 221 steps, give or take a few rocks and roots, so whoever does the mileage for the signs and guidebooks wasn't all that far off.

Leaving the Skylight Pond trail we went north on the LT continuing our ridge walk. We took a short side trail for a lookout on Breadloaf Mountain, and it really was a lookout (Look out!) with a trail that suddenly drops off. It was getting windier and a little darker, though, so we tried not to hang around for too long. It started to rain, and just as we reached Emily Proctor Shelter, the skies opened and it really rained. Rich and Lindy who had gotten to the shelter ahead of us said they were making tea, but unfortunately they were teasing. We had to admire the shelter, though. It is a cute little log lean-

to with what is probably a great view, although we couldn't see anything due to the weather.

After a longer than usual rest at the shelter we roused ourselves for the 3.5 mile trek down the Emily Proctor Trail to Steve's jeep. It was a very slippery hike down, especially for the first mile or so, with pouring rain and dripping rocks, and more than one of us ended up on our backs on our packs, like turtles. On the way down we were marveling that we'd be coming back up that same trail in a few weeks for our next leg! At some point on the way down, a new tradition (maybe!) was begun. Steve suggested that we make bets on when we'd be back at the car; with each person contributing a quarter (closest guess takes all). Rules were discussed, including: 1. Everyone has to be off the trail and at the car for it to be official; and 2. No fair purposely dawdling or hurrying so your time wins. I don't remember what the winning time was, but Rich was the winner, and he commented that with his winnings he'd be able to buy half a gallon of gas.

## L T End-to-End in Bits & Pieces

LT miles Hiked  
150.8

LT miles To Go  
121.9



The End-to-End Gang takes a break at Boyce Shelter



## **Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Sept. – Nov. 2007**

Visit our web site: <http://web.mac.com/gmckillington>

Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome on our outings. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather, and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont! Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call the leader if you have any questions.

- 8 September, Saturday**                      **North Pond, Chittenden**                      **Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
Climb the ridge above the reservoir to a remote, high elevation beaver pond on what was once the main route to Pittsfield. Keep an eye out for moose which frequent the area and enjoy views of the lake and mountains.  
Difficult, 9 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.  
[Rain date September 9.]
- 15 September, Saturday**                      **Senior Shuffle – Mount Independence**                      **Roma Pulling, 773-6997**  
Bring supper and a musical instrument if you have one for a sing-along in the sunset at historic Mount Independence.  
Easy, 2 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 5:00 PM.
- 22 September, Saturday**                      **Mystery Bike Ride**                      **Joan Davidson & Bill Holt, 537-4227**  
Explore back roads.  
Moderate  
Call leaders for details and for meeting time and place.
- 23 September, Sunday**                      **Gilmore Pond, Bristol**                      **Jerry Parker, 775-6208**  
Hike into the Bristol Cliffs Wilderness.  
Easy to moderate, 3 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 29 September, Saturday**                      **Killington**                      **Tom Copps, 770-9394**  
Follow the Long/Appalachian Trail from Governor Clement Shelter in Shrewsbury to Cooper Lodge on Killington Peak then down the Bucklin Trail. Optional climb to the 4241-foot summit if time and weather permit.  
Difficult, 8 miles. Elevation gain of 2391 feet.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 8:30 AM.  
[Rain date: September 30.]
- 7 October, Sunday**                      **Bird Mountain, Castleton**                      **Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
We'll hike for the views. Steep climb at the end and some bushwhacking, so bring sturdy shoes, lunch and a sense for history.  
Moderate, 3 to 4 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Sept. – Nov. 2007

Schedule continued from previous page

- 13 October, Saturday**                      **Little River, Waterbury**                      **Viv & Larry Walter, 775-3855**  
History hike on a loop trail passing various sites, cellar holes and cemeteries that date back to the 1700s when farms and mills thrived in the area. State Park fee required  
Moderate, 3 to 4 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 20 October, Saturday**                      **Griffith Lake, Mount Tabor**                      **Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
A gentle climb on an old forest road, the Old Job Trail, which meets the Long/Appalachian Trail at pretty Griffith Lake. We'll continue on to Peru Peak Shelter for lunch.  
Moderate, 8 to 9 miles.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.  
[Rain date: October 21.]
- 27 October, Saturday**                      **Deer Leap Overlook, Killington**                      **Steve Williams, 645-9529**  
Climb to a rocky overlook with beautiful views. A few steep pitches. Loop via the Long/Appalachian Trail.  
Moderate, 3 to 4 miles. Elevation gain of 800 feet.
- 3 November, Saturday**                      **Work Party**                      **Herb Ogden, 293-2510**  
Help us put the trail "to bed" for the winter by clearing out water bars, removing downed trees, and repairing the shelters. It's a fun way to contribute to a great local resource. Bring sturdy shoes, work gloves, and lunch. Tools provided.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 9:00 AM.
- 10 November, Saturday**                      **Annual Fall Potluck Supper**                      **Sue Thomas, 773-2185**  
Join us for our annual fall potluck and a slide program on Alaska. Bring plates, utensils, and a dish to share. Nonmembers welcome!  
Meet and eat at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Hillside Avenue in Rutland at 6:00 PM.
- 25 November, Sunday**                      **Great Hawk Colony, Rochester**                      **Gordon & Helen Cawood, 352-4310**  
A safe road walk, partly paved and partly smooth dirt, and lined with "NO HUNTING" signs. This is a joint trip with the Breadloaf Section.  
Easy, 4.4 miles.  
Call leaders for meeting time and place.
- 1 December, Saturday**                      **Crown Point Road, Proctor**                      **Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
Follow along the route of the historic military road, past the homesite on Tory sympathizer Roger Stevens and several cellar holes.  
Easy.  
Leave from Rutland's Main Street Park near the east end of the fire station at 10:00 AM.
- 8 December, Saturday**                      **Cook Mountain, Ticonderoga, NY**                      **Allison Norton, 775-1627**  
Views Lake George and the Champlain Valley from the top of the Tongue Mountain range. Hike, or snowshoe if winter comes early this year.  
Easy hike or moderate snowshoe, 4 miles. Elevation gain of 900 feet.



## Killington Section Directors Meeting

By John Hale, Secretary

The Killington Section Board of Directors met on 19 June 2007 at the Back Home Again Café in Rutland. The meeting was called to order by President Barry at about 6:00 PM.

### Attendance

Board members present:

Barry Griffith, President,

Barbara Griffith, Vice President,

John Hale, Secretary/Treasurer,

Lynda Hutchins, and

Andrea McQuade.

Also present: Editor Bob Perkins.

### A Loss

A great sadness and sense of loss came over the Board when we learned that Al Pulling, long-time member and former Treasurer, passed away yesterday. The Board paused in silent remembrance of this fine man.

### Secretary's Minutes

The Meeting Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting were approved as presented.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer John Hale presented the Cash Flow Report for the year to date showing income of \$3,068.98 and expenses of \$801.31, and a Current Balance Report showing the general account of \$6,334.48 and the Kirk Fund of \$15,725.01. Copies of these reports are available from the Treasurer.

John was asked to provide the Section's membership numbers with the financial statements next time and to bring the Killington Section Membership List that the Main Club provides, to the next Board meeting.

[After Note: According to Waterbury's list, the Killington Section has 142 memberships with 195 voting members as of 30 May 2007.]

### Second Century Campaign

Treasurer Hale presented a financial idea for the Board's consideration: that the Killington Section make a \$15,000 donation from the Kirk Fund to the Main Club's Second Century fundraising campaign. He reasons:

\* The Kirk Fund is reserved for use in maintaining the Section's portion of the Long Trail; and the Section values the Kirk name and has a strong interest in preserving the Kirk legacy.

\* While the Section has enjoyed the interest earned on the fund (ranging from \$300 to \$600 per year), the Section's actual expenditures from the Kirk fund average only \$315 annually over the past 11 years for standard maintenance. [Extraordinarily, the Section decided to support the Main Club with a \$2,000 donation for "Bridge material" in fiscal 2003.]

\* An analysis of the Section's income and expense over the past 11 years reveals that income from dues averages \$1,071 and standard expenditures average \$1,018 [The Section was extraordinarily assessed \$1,472 by the Main Club in fiscal 1998 for its share of the main liability insurance policy.]. We basically break even financially each year.

\* The Main Club needs support now for the Second Century campaign and offers to recognize the endowment of a shelter by name in the Long Trail Guide, Annual Report, website and at Club Headquarters and promises a good faith effort to continue donor acknowledgment in perpetuity.

\* The Kirk Fund balances currently stand at \$15,725.01 in the Section's accounts at Key Bank; and the General Fund balances stand at \$6,334.48.

\* John feels that by means of this suggested donation, the Kirk funds would be spent on trail maintenance per the Kirk mandate; the Kirk name would be remembered in posterity; the Main Club would begin to actively use the funds for trail and shelter maintenance as part of the Second Century campaign; and the ongoing work of the Killington Section would not be negatively impacted.

A general discussion ensued: Could the new Little Killington



shelter be endowed in this way? Should the general membership be asked for input? For approval? Do the By-Laws authorize the Board of Directors to make decisions of this type? Can the Kirk funds principal be distributed or rather only the interest? President Barry offered to speak with Herb Ogden about these last two issues. John hoped that a decision could be made before the end of this year, and the Board agreed to discuss the suggestion again at its next meeting in September.

### **Clement Shelter**

The Governor Clement Shelter saga continues. The Shrewsbury Selectmen will visit the site personally in the next few days and appear ready to decide whether the town will "throw up" the road, allowing it to be gated. There is some reason for optimism. The US Forest Service requires a decision from the town by the end of this summer.

### **GMC Directors Meeting**

Lynda presented her minutes of the Main Club's Board of Directors meeting held at Hildene in Manchester on 9 June. Her written report is available from

Secretary Hale.

### **Trails and Shelters**

The Trails and Shelters work parties have been successful so far this summer.

### **Smoke & Blazes**

Bob Perkins reported that the *Smoke and Blazes* newsletter continues to do well. He noted that he is using one folded folio sized piece of paper now rather than separate stapled sheets. President Barry opined that ours is far and away the best newsletter produced by any of the GMC sections.

### **New GMC Logo**

Lynda presented the two options for a new section logo offered by the Main Club for our consideration and choice. Unanimously, the Board chose Alternative B in which the word "Vermont" continues to appear in the bottom arch of the circular logo and in which the word "Killington" appears outside and directly below the circular logo. Lynda will report our decision.

### **Long Trail Festival**

Everyone was reminded that the Long Trail Festival will be held on 17-20 August. Board member Wayne Krevetski is looking for

more hike leaders for that Sunday.

### **Potluck Dinner**

The Fall Potluck Dinner is to be scheduled for either November 17<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> in that order of preference. The date will be finalized after Lynda speaks with prospective guest speaker Paul Houchens about his availability. Paul has a fine presentation on the Yukon and a particular hiking/kayaking trip taken by GMC members last year.

### **Sympathy**

There was a discussion about using Section funds for a remembrance for Al Pulling. The general consensus was that were Al himself involved in the discussion, he would vote against such an expenditure on the grounds that it would be a dangerous precedent. We all agreed that individual expressions of sympathy would be most meaningful.

### **Next Board Meeting**

The next Board meeting will be at 6 PM, Tuesday 16 October at 6 PM at the Back Home Café.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

## **Thundering Brook Relocation on the AT Nears Completion**



**VYCC and GMC crews putting finishing touches on the wheelchair-accessible reroute near River Road**

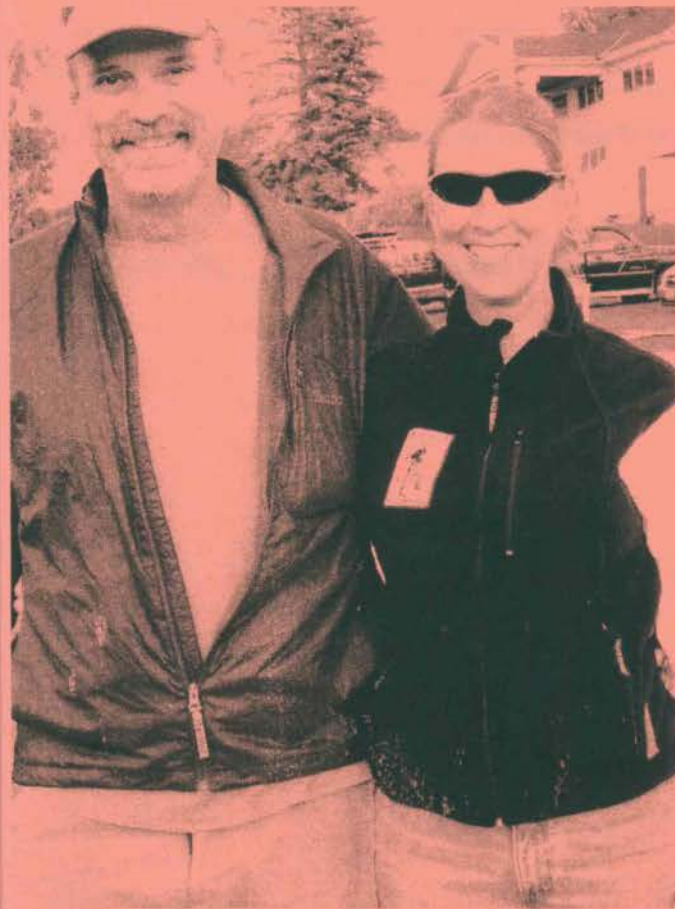


## Notes from the Road

By Cindy Taylor-Miller

*[In the May issue we left Mrs. Gorp in Baker, OR on her trans-continental bike ride. Ed.]*

**Twisp, WA, June 13:** Hello all. I reached the Pacific Ocean at Florence OR on June 7. So far 4,086 miles and I'm riding back to Vermont via the Northern Tier. Currently I'm in Twisp Washington. Long day, 96 miles of which 50 were all uphill over the Northern Cascades. I don't have much time on this computer and they're closing the library.



**Mrs. Gorp and her biking companion, Stump Thumper, a five-time AT through hiker.**

**Williston, ND, June 28:** Bucked strong headwinds to reach the MT/ND border this morning. I feel cursed. First I had three flat tires in five days in Montana and now the winds are blowing strong from the East – the direction I'm headed. Had two great days of westerly tail winds and rode 122

miles, (my 7th Century), in six and a half hours.

Saw two wolves this morning before the border and a black bear near the Libby Dam in Montana. I'll be riding through Canada, taking the most direct route home. I'm about a third of the way home!

**Superior, WI, July 10:** Yesterday was the 100th day on this journey and we rode 101 miles from Grand Rapids MN to here to celebrate. Not really, it just worked out that way. We got to Cloquet MN about 2 PM and decided to keep riding. It's a rainy morning here so I'm not leaving bright and early. I should be back in Vermont in about 3 weeks. Today I hit 6,000 miles!

**Middlebury, VT July 31:** Guess it's time to let you know that I finished my cross country bike ride last week, on Wednesday July 25th in Middlebury. I rode to the same bike shop where I bought my Cannondale T2000 last winter. It's for sale now, a low mileage 2007 model.

116 days; 6,786 miles; 20 States; 1 Province; and 3 flats.

I'm slowly getting back into the swing of things around here in Wallingford. My body is here but the old brain is still on a bike tour. I've gone through a three-foot pile of unopened mail and thought it was time to bring the pool furniture out of the pool house. I'm working on the weeds, one perennial bed at a time.

Yesterday, I visited the Minerva Hinchey Shelter on the AT/LT and ran into several AT thru hikers I know. That was a good diversion and made me realize how much I LOVE VERMONT.

*[Cindy went on to say that this winter she'll be planning her next long distance bike tour. Ed.]*

I think I'd like to ride the Southern Tier. This way I'll have traversed the country three times: once across the middle, once across the north, and once across the south.



Your Invitation to Join

## Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

### ANNUAL DUES:

Individual ..... \$35  
Family ..... \$45  
Senior/Student/Volunteer ..... \$20

Contact us for information on life memberships and categories for giving at a higher level.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_ trail work, \_\_\_ shelter work, \_\_\_ sign making, \_\_\_ publications, \_\_\_ leading outings, \_\_\_ publicity, \_\_\_ education

Make check payable to "GMC" and mail with this application to:

John Hale, Treasurer  
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club  
P. O. Box 506  
Castleton, VT 05735



**KILLINGTON SECTION**





Volume 60, Number 4

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

November 2007

## What is the Kirk Fund? – Why Should I Contribute To It?

By Barry Griffith, Section President

"Recent Killington Section Members sometimes ask 'What is the Kirk Fund?' or 'Why should I contribute to it?'" I asked these questions after joining the Killington Section, and have inquired with more purpose since joining the Section's Board of Directors. Longtime members were able to provide general information, but not the specifics. I volunteered to do some research. I found the sentence quoted above in the January 1981 edition of *Smoke & Blazes*! I also unearthed the information set forth below.

Establishment of the Kirk Fund was announced at the Killington Section's 15 January 1977 Annual Meeting – more than 30 years ago. George Kirk died in 1966, having worked as a reporter and editor at the *Rutland Herald* for 57 years. He was also an observer for the Weather Service for over 25 years, and was reported to be an expert on botany and ornithology as well as "all items of natural history." *Smoke & Blazes* articles describe him as "an ardent Green Mountain Club member" (Jan. 1977) and as "an active hiker who probably climbed Killington more than anyone else." (Oct. 1978) If George Kirk held the record, I wonder if it has since been eclipsed by W. Churchill Scott, Bill Robichaud, or others following in

his footsteps!?

Dorothy Wyman Kirk (1907-1987) was a Radcliffe graduate who taught English at Rutland High School for many years. Dorothy Kirk continued her association with the Killington Section following the death of her husband and her retirement in 1972. The Annual Meeting minutes contained in the January 1977 issue of *Smoke & Blazes* explain the Kirk Fund as follows:

Mrs. Dorothy Kirk established a Fund in memory of Mr. George L. Kirk with a check for \$500.00. \*\*\* To be named the George L. Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund of the Green Mountain Club, Inc. This Fund to be managed by the Killington Section and when the princip[al] reaches \$5,000.00 the % [interest] income will be used for maintenance. Mrs. Kirk will continue to contribute with the understanding that the Section will do the same. A number of methods were discussed: voluntary donations at the time of paying dues, gifts in memory or honor of a person, or a small donation on hikes.

Subsequent Treasurer's reports show the Fund steadily growing, thanks to the commitment and contributions of Dorothy Kirk and other Section members. The January

1981 *Smoke & Blazes* reported:

Over the past five years Mrs. Kirk has made several substantial donations which when added to the contributions of club members presently total \$4973.19. After reaching our goal of \$5,000 the interest earned will be used for the maintenance of our section's trails and shelters. With constantly increasing expenses...the Kirk Fund is vital to enable us to meet our responsibilities.

The October 1981 *Smoke & Blazes* reported that the goal had been reached "and according to the terms of the agreement, interest earned will [now] be used for trails and shelter maintenance."

I have not reviewed our Section records for the decades since the \$5,000 threshold was achieved 26 years ago. Your Killington Section Board of Directors has authorized expenditures for trails and shelters work, and will continue to do so. Thanks to continued donations and accrued interest, the Kirk Fund now contains more than \$15,000.

The minutes of the last Section Directors' meeting, contained elsewhere in this newsletter, reflect that the Board recently considered a proposal to donate \$15,000 from the Kirk Fund to the Main Club. I

*Continued on Page 2*



## Smoke & Blazes

Newsletter of the  
Killington Section,  
Green Mountain Club

### Killington Section Directors

Term expires in:

2008 ..... \* Barbara Griffith  
" ..... Barry Griffith  
" ..... \* Steve Williams  
2009 ..... Wayne Krevetski  
" ..... \* Andrea McQuade  
" ..... \* Roma Pulling  
2010 ..... \* John Hale  
" ..... \* Lynda Hutchins  
" ..... \* Cindy Taylor-Miller  
\*Second consecutive 3-year term.  
Not eligible for re-election.

### Killington Section Officers

President ..... Barry Griffith  
Vice President ..... Barbara Griffith  
Secretary/Treasurer ..... John Hale

### Committee Chairs

History ..... Bob Perkins  
Outings ..... Susan Thomas  
Trails & Shelters ..... Herb Ogden

### Delegates to GMC Board

Director ..... Lynda Hutchins  
Alternate ..... vacancy

### Smoke & Blazes

Editor ..... Bob Perkins

### Web Site

Web master ..... Deborah Waggett

## Kirk Fund (Continued from Page 1)

believe I speak for your Killington Section Directors when I state that the decision not to transfer these funds to the Main Club intends no disrespect to the laudable goals of the Second Century Campaign. We encourage Killington Section members to contribute to the Second Century Campaign as they are able. Rather, I believe your Directors' decision was intended to honor the stated terms of the Kirk Fund, and in particular the stipulation set forth above that the Fund "will be managed by the Killington Section."

Expenditures for the improvement of the trails and shelters in our area have been approved during my tenure on the Board. There will be projects needing financial assistance on "our" stretch of the Long Trail in the near future – Gov. Clement repairs and the projected new shelter on Little

Killington are two which spring to mind. The Board expressed its willingness to expend Fund monies on such worthwhile projects, while respecting the \$5,000 reserve and other conditions for its management and use accepted by the Killington Section when the Kirk Fund was established.

I hope this investigation and report memorialized in *Smoke & Blazes* will inform a new generation of Killington Section members about the establishment and use of the Kirk Fund. We should all be thankful to Dorothy Kirk and other past Section members for establishment of and generous donations to the Kirk Fund, which will continue to pay dividends as the Green Mountain Club and Killington Section enter their second century protecting and maintaining the Long Trail.



### Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.mac.com/gmckillington>

Barbara & Barry Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

John Hale, 170 Spooner Point or PO Box 506, Castleton, VT 05735, 273-2293, [john@lighters.com](mailto:john@lighters.com)

Lynda Hutchins, 10 Hibbard Hill Rd., Orwell, VT 05760, 948-2770, [lmhutch@shoreham.net](mailto:lmhutch@shoreham.net)

Wayne Krevetski 22 Roberts Ave., Rutland, VT 05701 282-2237 [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)

Andrea McQuade, 2 Jan Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5104, [andreamcquade@adelphia.net](mailto:andreamcquade@adelphia.net)

Cindy Taylor-Miller, 337 East St., Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [ctmiller@vermontel.net](mailto:ctmiller@vermontel.net)

Herbert Ogden, 214 South End Road., Mt. Tabor, VT 05253-9756, (H)293-2510, (W)774-2200, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Bob Perkins, 6 Rachel Dr., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, [RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu](mailto:RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu)

Roma Pulling, 883 US Route 4 East, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-6997, [pullingra137@aol.com](mailto:pullingra137@aol.com)

Susan Thomas, 27 Clinton Ave., Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Deborah Waggett, 21 Academy St., Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, [purplejeep99@hotmail.com](mailto:purplejeep99@hotmail.com)

Stephen Williams, 682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, [voorburg@sover.net](mailto:voorburg@sover.net)



## Killington Section Board of Directors Meeting

By John Hale, Secretary

The Killington Section Board of Directors met at the Back Home Again Cafe on 23 October. The meeting was called to order by President Barry Griffith at about 6:00 PM.

**Attendance::** Board Members:

Barry Griffith, President

Barbara Griffith, Vice President

John Hale, Secretary & Treasurer.

Lynda Hutchins

Andrea McQuade

Steve Williams

Wayne Krevetski

Roma Pulling

Cindy Taylor-Miller

**Guests present:**

Kathy Krevetski

Herb Ogden

Bob Perkins

Thelma Perkins

Sue Thomas

**Secretary's Report:** The Minutes of the 19 June Board meeting were reviewed and approved as presented by Secretary John Hale.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer John Hale presented the Financial Statements dated 10/23/07 which reflect Total Assets of \$22,535.58; Income and Expense for the period 1/1/07 to 10/23/07 of \$3,813.42 and \$1,069.66 respectively yielding a Net Income for the period of \$2,743.76.

Income for the period came primarily from Donations of \$2,253 and Membership Dues of \$1,255. Expenses for the period were primarily Newsletter Expenses of \$381, Hall Rental for our two social events and a \$500 donation to the Main Club regarding the Minerva Hinchey Shelter.

**Statewide Club:** Lynda Hutchins reported on her attendance at the Main Club's Board Meeting of 28 September 2007:

- The Main Club cash flow is running slightly better than last year but is still an area of concern and various painful options are under consideration including cutting the share of dues given back to Sections from 25% to 20%.

- The Second Century fundraising campaign stands at about \$4,400,000 with \$845,000 to go to the goal.

- Preparations are underway for the new Main Club Headquarters building; Act 250 and other permit applications are submitted, a construction bid is expected by January, a residential wind turbine has been donated for education purposes, lumber is being measured and cut.

- Two men have been arrested and charged with the felony count of damaging public property. During this summer, these men clear cut a 3,000 foot long by 60 foot wide section of Big Jay (Jay Peak) in an area under GMC management by deeded easement. The Main Club is suing the men for civil damages and pursuing other punitive action.

Lynda's full report is available from the Secretary.

**Governor Clement Shelter:** The Governor Clement Shelter saga continues. The Town of Shrewsbury originally offered to "throw up the road" to the shelter so it could be closed to vehicular traffic and so shut out miscreants. The Town Board of Selectmen has since decided to downgrade the road to a "trail" allowing its entrance to be gated. In theory the gate would be locked during the summer party months to

keep out the vandals and opened in the late fall and winter for hunters and snowmobilers. The timing of the locking/unlocking is still being discussed, but this solution appears to be workable for all parties. The Shelter will likely not have to be torn down as a result.

It was moved, seconded and passed that a \$100 donation toward the Town's cost of installing the gate (which is to be provided free by the US Forrest Service) be offered by the Killington Section to be consummated once the gate is actually installed. This gesture is meant to encourage the Town and indicate the Section's pleasure at their decision. President Griffith will write the offer letter.

**Smoke & Blazes:** Bob Perkins reported that the next *Smoke and Blazes* newsletter will be sent out at the end of November and asked that reports on hikes be submitted more quickly. He was asked if recycled paper can be used for our publication; Bob will research.

**Kirk Fund:** John Hale again presented his idea that the Killington Section contribute \$15,000 of the Section's Kirk Fund to the Main Club's Second Century campaign. A contribution of this size would endow a particular Long Trail shelter and be recognized by name in the Long Trail Guide, the Annual Report and website, and at the Main Club Headquarters.

John felt that the Kirk funds would be spent on trail maintenance per the Kirk mandate; that the Kirk name would be remembered in posterity; that the Main Club would begin to actively use the funds for trail and shelter maintenance as part of the Second Century campaign; and that the ongoing work of the Killington Section would not be negatively impacted.



A motion was made and seconded that the Board make the fall potluck dinner meeting scheduled for 10 November an official Section meeting; that an extraordinary mailing be sent out to all Killington Section members noticing the meeting and the contribution proposal; and that the general membership should decide the issue. (John offered to pay for the extraordinary mailing).

In active discussion, the opposing view held that the original intent of the Kirk family donation appeared to be to put control of the funds in the hands of the Section; that the funds could have been given to the Main Club but were not; and that the Section has an obligation to maintain control of the funds as we have for the past 30 years.

The motion was defeated in a vote of two Yeas and seven Nays.

**Trails and Shelters:** Trails and Shelters Chairperson, Herb Ogden, asked that the Board consider allowing him to represent that the Killington Section is willing to support upcoming projects in our area with substantial financial contributions. This would allow him better leverage with the Main Club's Trail Management Committee in having our own project needs set higher on the priority list.

It was moved and seconded that the Killington Section should stand ready to contribute as much of the

funds from the Kirk Fund balances (\$15,920.84 as at 10/23/07) as necessary to support worthwhile projects within the Section's purview with the provisos that the Kirk Fund balances shall not be drawn down to less than \$5,000 and that the Section Board review and approve all such projects before funds be expended. The motion was intended to serve the dual purpose of supporting Herb in his relationship with the Main Club and to settle the issue of how the Kirk Fund monies may be utilized.

The motion passed with five Yeas, three Nays, and one abstention.

**Outing Publicity:** President Griffith reported that the *Rutland Herald* has changed its method of accepting public notices for publication. An electronic filing system is now employed and Bob Perkins offered to enter information about the Section's hikes in that way.

**End-to-End Hike:** Steve Williams reported that there are six End to End hikers still in the program and the last hike of this season will be held on 3 November.

**Trailhead Issues:** The Route 103 parking lot and the adjacent Clarendon Gorge areas are being misused, particularly with trash and garbage discards. There is no person or organization now responsible for policing the area. Herb Ogden will bring up the subject at the next Main Club Trail Management Committee

meeting. One suggestion was to hire people on probation from the courts.

**Upcoming Events:** Upcoming events include the Second Annual Long Trail Festival in August of 2008; the Appalachian Trail Conference Biennial celebration in July of 2009 (the Killington Section contact will be Sue Thomas); and, of course the Green Mountain Club Centennial in 2010.

The Education Committee of the Main Club sponsors speakers in their Taylor Series and on February 6, 2008, Board member Cindy Taylor-Miller will speak about her recently completed transcontinental bicycle ride. There is no official charge for attending the program, but any donations collected will accrue to the Killington Section.

The speaker at the 10 November Fall Potluck Dinner will be Paul Houchens who will describe his (and Board member Lynda Hutchins') experiences in the Yukon last summer. A motion was passed to reimburse Mr. Houchens \$60 toward the cost of his car transportation to the meeting.

**Next Board Meeting:** The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12 February at 6:00 PM at the Back Home Again Café in Rutland.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.



Steve Williams at Duck Brook



Group at Peru Peak Shelter



Beaver Work at Bolton Notch



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Dec. 2007 – Feb. 2008

Visit our web site: <http://web.mac.com/gmckillington>

Newcomers and nonmembers are welcome on our outings. Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather, and be prepared for weather changes. This is Vermont! Unless otherwise noted, all trips leave from Rutland's Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station. Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call the leader if you have any questions.

- 1 December, Saturday, 10:00 AM**      **Crown Point Road, Proctor**      **Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
Follow along the route of the historic military road, past the homesite on Tory sympathizer Roger Stevens and several cellar holes.  
Easy.
- 8 December, Saturday**      **Cook Mountain, Ticonderoga, NY**      **Allison Norton, 775-1627**  
Views Lake George and the Champlain Valley from the top of the Tongue Mountain range. Hike, or snowshoe if winter comes early this year.  
Easy hike or moderate snowshoe, 4 miles. Elevation gain of 900 feet.
- 16 December, Sunday, 10:00 AM**      **The Stegosaurus Bridge, Rutland**      **Tom Copps, 770-9394**  
Hike or snowshoe, depending on conditions, to see the new bridge at Pins Hill Park. We'll meander a bit coming back to hit some of the highlights of the park. Note: if snow is insufficient for snowshoes, ice creepers may be needed.  
Moderate, 3 to 5 miles.
- 5 January, Saturday, 10:00 AM**      **High Pond, Sudbury**      **Barb & Barry Griffith, 492-3573**  
Hike to this pristine preserve owned by the Nature Conservancy. We may do some bushwhacking around the pond to explore winter wildlife habitat. Snowshoes may be needed.  
Moderate, 3.5 to 4 miles.
- 12 January, Saturday, 8:30 AM**      **Mad Tom Brook, East Dorset**      **Larry Walter, 775-3855**  
A combination of old forest roads and bushwhacking on a forested ridge. Snowshoes may be needed.  
Difficult, 6 miles.
- 19 January, Saturday, 9:00 AM**      **Lake George Wild Forest, Dresden, NY**      **Allison Norton, 775-1627**  
Snowshoe to remote Lapland Pond or Black Mountain Point, depending on conditions.  
Difficult, 7 to 8 miles.
- 27 January, Sunday,**      **Ski-for-Heat Ski-athon, Peru**      **Connie Youngstrom, 492-3502**  
Enjoy a day of skiing at Wild Wings x-country ski area on groomed trails, and raise money to help your neighbors stay warm this winter. Call leader for time and place or for more information.
- 2 February, Saturday, 9:00 AM**      **Merck Forest Ramble, Rupert**      **Steve Williams, 645-9529**  
Walk or snowshoe, depending on conditions, through the woods and along old roads in the forest preserve.  
Moderate, 4 miles.
- 9 February, Saturday, 10:00 AM**      **D&H Rail Trail, Rupert**      **Herb Ogden, 293-2510**  
Cross country ski along the converted rail bed. Rain date: 2/10. Call leader for conditions.  
Easy, 8 miles.

Schedule continued on next page.



## Killington Section, GMC – Outing Schedule: Dec. 2007 – Feb. 2008

Schedule continued from previous page

- 16 February, Saturday, 9:30 AM**      **Gifford Woods, Killington**      **Roma Pulling, 773-6997**  
Annual Hot Dog Roast. Celebrate Roma's grandmother's 144th birthday at our annual event. Bring your own hot dogs or whatever you want to roast over the campfire. Hot drinks will be provided. Snowshoes may be needed. We'll have a short hike to work up an appetite.  
Easy, one-half mile.
- 23 February, Saturday**      **Mystery Snowshoe**      **Bill Holt & Joan Davidson, 537-4227**  
Storm date: 2/24. Call leaders for time and place, conditions, and degree of difficulty.
- 2 March, Sunday, 10:00 AM**      **Woodland Snowshoe**      **Jerry Parker, 775-6208**  
Explore animal tracks and winter signs. May involve some bushwhacking.  
Moderate, 3 miles.
- 8/9 March, Saturday/Sunday**      **Merck Forest Winter Weekend, Rupert**      **Viv & Larry Walter, 775-3855**  
Come down for a day hike (or ski or snowshoe, depending on conditions), or spend the night in one of the shelters. Fee for overnight stay. Call leaders for details or to make overnight reservations.
- 

## Global Warming?

A note from our schedule coordinator, Sue Thomas, 773-2185

After our scheduled trip to the **Valcour Island Lighthouse** had to be cancelled two years in a row, I've decided that the way to make the channel freeze over is to not list it in the schedule! I will keep an eye on conditions, and if it's safe enough for the Historical Society to open the lighthouse, we'll go. It's likely to be the first or second Sunday in March. Phone me if you'd like to add your name to the to-be-called list.

---

## Killington Section Outings Last Winter



Pond Woods, 27 January 2007



Merck Forest. 24 March 2007



**Sable Mountain Area**

4 August 2007

By Herb Ogden, leader

This was going to be a moderate to difficult eight mile hike along the flank of Mt. Hunger and (yes) Delectable Mountain in Stockbridge and Barnard. For three reasons, it wasn't. First, the forecast was for temperatures around 90 degrees. Second, I checked out the bushwhack part of the route and discovered that an old, logged-over area that was fairly easy to navigate in April had turned into something with such lush, high ferns that one had to walk very slowly to avoid tripping over the logging leftovers that were now hidden beneath all the vegetation. Third, part of what looked like a nice woodroad walk in April was choked with tall nettles. After conferring with the other two who showed up, I changed the hike to an old road walk. I'll put the original on the schedule for next spring.

We drove up Pittsfield's South Hill Road from Vt. Route 100 and left the car at the height of land. Walking down a pretty passable road to the Fletcher Brook Road, we passed several cellar holes and a nice new camp. We then headed north on the Fletcher Brook Road, very happy on such a steamy day to be in a steep, shady valley with a brook at the bottom. Leaving the valley, we hiked up the Taggart Hill Road. When the grade lessened, we retreated up a shady lane to the former J. Taggart farm, where we lunched and enjoyed a little easterly view.

Soon after lunch, we turned left onto a less used road, where logging had created some local views. Quite a ways up the road was a rustic year round house with lawn ornaments! There were also several foundations. As the road deteriorated, we finally stopped climbing toward Sable Mountain and the road took us south to the car. We saw no wildlife to speak of but enjoyed the relatively cool woods on this hot day.

On the way home, we toured the old cemetery. Some of the stones from the early 1800s are beautiful. There's

## Outing Reports

also the gravestone equivalent of yellow journalism – the headstone of a deaf mute who was "killed by the fall of a tree." This was a good place to ponder what life was like up there about two centuries ago.

**Mount Independence  
Senior Shuffle at Sundown**

15 September 2007

By Roma Pulling, Leader

Saturday morning was very disappointing with dark clouds and showers. It didn't seem likely that we would ever see the sun set, as we never saw it rise. When we left the park at 5:00 PM, it started to rain again. But at the lookout on the Orange Trail at Mt. Independence, we saw the most beautiful sunset I ever remember.

Four of us set out on the trail that had been "improved" to accommodate wheel chairs since our last trip there. Still, it seemed long for such conveyances with sharp turns, and I was glad to be walking. At the new lookout we ate our supper and enjoyed the view. Returning as dark settled in we needed the flashlights that we had stowed in our packs.

Thank you, Sue, Barb, and Charlie, for sharing this rewarding experience with me.

**Bird Mountain-Poultney**

7 October 2007

By Barbara Griffith, leader

We've been to the top of Bird Mountain a number of times but we've never made the hike up the same way. None with us this day had made the trek. When we pointed in the general direction of the western summit stating that **that** was our destination all that was seen was a fog bank. The clouds cloaked the mountain and the hikers knew not what they were climbing towards. Perhaps the mystery spurred them on.

Our footing was fine as we traveled up a well maintained path skirting the fields at the base of the mountain. Steadily we climbed onto the steep

incline that is stoned into the path. Noses to the hill we carefully made our way to the area between the ridges then winding to the southwest. In the time it took us to attain the top of the outcrop the fog and clouds parted and we were rewarded with breath taking views to the valleys below. Dinner in a fine restaurant would be found wanting after lunch at this altitude's panorama.

Bird Mountain, located in the Taconic Range, has a prominent 2216-foot rock outcrop. Barry and I gleaned some historical information about Bird Mountain or Birdseye as some locals call it: From the "History of Rutland County" one learns that Colonel Bird spent an unscheduled night "on the summit of a precipitous mountain" circa 1767. Thus the name Bird Mountain. Some say he woke up and had a "Birdseye View" of the panorama below.

**Bird Mountain from the South**

According to their website the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department now oversees the Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area, which has 175 acres in Ira, 115 acres in Castleton and 350 acres in Poultney. According to the "History of Bird's Mountain Masonic Monument" the Masons erected a monument on the top on 27 August 1886. When the corner stone was laid there was a great ceremony with over 2000 participants. This Masonic Monument was later struck and demolished by a bolt of lightning. We have it from a local mason that many of the bricks were retrieved and used in the construction of the Castleton Masonic Lodge.



**Little River State Park**

13 October 2007

By Viv &amp; Larry Walter, leaders

We had a good turn out with 13 folks eventually joining up. The Little River State Park is an 1100-acre tract within the Mount Mansfield State Forest situated west of Waterbury, VT and north of the Waterbury Reservoir. The park headquarters closed the weekend before, so we hiked an extra mile up the hill from the gate to the trail head. This little park is a historical gem with many cellar holes, graveyards and points of interest. A thriving farm and mill community existed here from the mid 1800s into the 1930s. We guessed that the total mileage was about five miles. Except for the first quarter-mile or so, most of the hiking was on an easy grade. We managed to see pretty much everything and were leaving the old Waterbury Last Block Co. Sawmill site when it began to drizzle. I then led everyone on an errant shortcut (it's traditional) before about-facing to our warm automobiles. Anyone interested in obtaining guide maps to the different sites can get one at the park headquarters during the summer, or they can give us a call. There are several trailside history stations with short descriptions of who occupied different sites, some tragic and some humorous. It's worth the trip the next time you're in the Waterbury area. A clockwise loop would be a nice choice if on skis.

**End-to-End in Bits & Pieces****L T End-to-End  
in Bits & Pieces**

LT miles Hiked  
150.8

LT miles To Go  
121.9

**Lincoln Gap to Appalachia Gap**

4 August 2007, Leg 14

By Cindy Oas-Kirk

Lindy Brown, Tom Copps, Allison Norton, Cindy Oas-Kirk, and Dorothy Sullivan hiked the 11.6 miles over this very interesting section of the Long Trail. We set in at 8:45 AM and emerged at 6:15 PM. I don't think there was a winner of the "Time Out" contest. Most guesses were between 4:30 and 7:00 PM. Who guessed 7:00 PM? And was that a second guess?

The weather was perfect. We did have to add a layer atop Mt. Abraham as we sat having a snack. It was crowded on Mt. Abe that day. The caretaker was very helpful, pointing out various peaks including Camel's Hump (where we will be hiking on the next leg of our Bits & Pieces project), Killington, and some of the Adirondacks, and Whites. It never ceases to amaze me how the mileage shrinks when viewed from the mountain tops. This section of the Long Trail offers boulder scrambling, rocky terrain, softwood northern forest, and three ski areas – some runs look very formidable without snow. There are also many fabulous lookouts.

An interesting find along the way was the access to the Theron Dean Shelter via a side trail and/or a cave. Another factoid is that the Long Trail from Lincoln Gap to the Winooski River is called "The Monroe Skyline". In the 1930s there had been a plan to build a highway along this section but it was voted down.

For peak baggers, we did summit two of Vermont's five 4,000-foot peaks: Mt. Abe and Mount Ellen.

**Vermont Route 9 to  
Kelley Stand Road**

22/23 September 2007, Leg 16

By Steve Williams

All six "regulars", meaning Rich and Lindy Brown, Tom Copps, Allison Norton, Cindy Oas-Kirk and Steve Williams were available for this hike, so far the only one where an overnight was undertaken. Originally the idea had been to undertake it in two legs, with the breakpoint being access to the ridge via a forest road (by Jeep) followed by a

stretch on a skimobile trail (on foot), which access had been surveyed by Steve and Tom. However, discussion of the time required and the associated logistics led to the decision to overnight at the Goddard Shelter, 0.3 miles short of Glastenbury Peak.

The day was great and, with the help of early starts by all for the trip to leave two vehicles at the Kelley Stand Road trailhead, the group left the Route 9 trailhead shortly before 8.00 AM. The trail was easier than the mid-state locations which had been the subject of other recent "End to End" hikes and was also without any bugs (which, earlier in the season are a plague in the area). The party reached the Goddard Shelter in mid afternoon, left gear there and went on to the summit to view the surrounding area from the fire tower. This was a good move, as on Saturday afternoon humidity was low and the view good, as opposed to the next morning when the reverse applied. A spectacular coverage of green meets the eye from East to West and North to South, from the Adirondacks to New Hampshire and from Stratton and Mount Snow to Massachusetts.

It was the writer's first encounter with freeze dried foods, but the beef stroganoff and noodles proved to be splendidly filling, and were followed by an ice cream sandwich (in the usual chocolate biscuits), for which saliva provided the hydration. Ingenious, and definitely recognizable as ice cream even if not first choice in comparison with, say, Ben and Jerry's. Tom and Rich were purists and set up tent near the peak (see below); the remaining four settled for the comforts of the shelter which we had to ourselves. Initially the wind and the early "heads down" time of 8.00 PM were deterrents to sleep, but eventually the rigors of the day overcame both.

On Sunday morning two unaccompanied fine looking hounds appeared, of which more below.

Now, some vignettes from the party:

- **Lindy Brown:** "My favorite part was waking up Sunday morning in the shelter on Glastenbury Mountain to very chilly temperatures. After breakfast we hiked 4.1 miles to Kid Gore Shelter



for our first lunch of the day. It was so beautiful there. We sat in the sunshine looking out at gorgeous foliage and a body of water. I wanted to spend the day but they told me we had a few more miles to go! Later in the day at our next lunch (adequate food being an essential of longer distance hiking) we met a couple that had spent the night at Kid Gore. They had had a moose walk right by the shelter that morning".

- **Tom Copps:** "Soon after Rich and I pitched our tents at the top of Glastenbury and crawled in for the night I was awoken by running animals racing closely around his tent. I was concerned. What could they be? Bears? No, too fast. Raccoons? Again no. Coyotes? Maybe. On about lap ten the second one whimpered to the front-runner and the mystery was explained. They were hounds out on their own. They spent the whole night chasing around the top of the mountain annoying us. Two hikers who were sleeping without even tents on the top of the mountain were also the target of rambunctious nocturnal carousing and got little sleep. However, they probably diverted attention from Rich and me, allowing for a comfortable nights sleep after all"

- **Allison Norton:** "I have to say I was thrilled when we got to the trailhead at Route 9, because I had looked forward to this trip all spring and summer! I second the previous comments that we found this hike to be easier than some of the other LTETE trips further north. A particular feature of the trip that was especially nice was the "mauve squad" which consists of Cindy, Lindy, and me, all with similar shades of backpack, and sometimes hiking as a trio. One of the main things I remember from the first day is that we were never really sure where we were, or how far from our campsite, because there were no signs and few landmarks! I think we were all surprised when we got to Goddard Shelter as soon as we did. I also insist on including the following useful tidbit of information: on the first day we passed two HUGE piles of bear scat right on the trail. Also on the first day, as we got closer to the shelter, we came across two young guys who were obviously hiking faster than us

and were taking a break. They caught up toward the "mauve squad," as we were hiking together at the time, and we discussed holding them up somehow so we could get to the shelter first. I considered holding my hiking pole out to the sides like a balance pole. But when we talked to them, they mentioned that they were going to just sleep on the ground without tents, and we relaxed a little. The shelter was beautiful and clean with a nice porch, which provided a psychological if not physical barrier to roving wildlife. And, the second day was pretty much a slow, gradual downhill all day with only a few minor uphill. Like everyone else, I was surprised and excited to see Sue and Barry at Story Spring. Seeing those two, coupled with running into Pooh Bear and Happy Tails (see below), resulted in a noisy, excited reunion of sorts at the shelter, much to the surprise of some other hikers who said they hadn't seen people in days!"

- **Cindy Oas-Kirk:** "As we came into Story Spring Shelter--our last stop along this division of the Long Trail, I thought I was seeing things. But no--indeed, there was Sue Thomas and Barry Griffith approaching from the North with treats of bottled water, cookies and stories of the "Glastenbury Triangle". WOW!! How thoughtful!! We learned there is a history of mysterious disappearances on this section of the Long Trail. Yes, we were all accounted for and pleased to learn this on our way out. The last four miles seemed easy as we moved right along chattering with our welcoming party"

- **Steve Williams:** "Also at Story Spring Shelter were Pooh Bear and Happy Tails, previously met in mid-state and still looking remarkably trim and enthusiastic as they made their way to the Massachusetts border. (As trail names do not give much away about their owners, let's add that Pooh Bear was an attractive woman with many years of youthful advantage compared to the more mature members of our own party, while Happy Tails was a Nova Scotia Duck Toller Retriever. Not too many of these out on the trails.)"

Before the final stretch, Forest Service Route 71 to Kelley Stand Road,

the party met a man and his (presumed) daughter who were looking for two hounds which, from their description, were the two described by Tom above, and last seen by the searchers the previous day. After some discussion about missing canines, it emerged that there were two missing bipeds also, but these appeared to be of less concern. The Glastenbury Triangle strikes again?

The hike concluded at about 5.00 PM. with a feeling of satisfaction by all at having conquered the longest continuous roadless section of the Long Trail.

### Duxbury Road to Bolton Notch Road

3 November 2007, Leg 18

By Lindy Brown

Come along with us as this is a trail of three men and a lady! On Saturday Steve Williams, Tom Copps, and Richard and Lindy Brown hiked the Long Trail from Duxbury Road to Bolton Notch Road. Steve and Tom were to meet us in Jonesville at 8:00 AM. We arrived in Jonesville, looked in our rear view mirror, and there they were at 8:00 AM. How's that for coordination?

We started hiking at 8:35 AM on a very cold day; frost was still on the grass. Tom thought we needed to jog. Well, Steve soon put an end to that idea! We paused for a photo opportunity under the I 89 overpass as this marked a milestone in our 8.2-mile journey.

The wind was really whipping at Duck Brook Shelter where we stopped briefly for a chilly lunch at 11:00 AM. In the afternoon we had a few outlooks and then time for another snack at the 1680-foot height-of-land.

We were fascinated by the beaver pond and by all the fresh work the busy animals have been doing. Tom took a picture of a tree being held up only by an inch of wood remaining in its center. After a little difficulty crossing the final brook, we arrived at the car at 1:45 PM. We stopped for tea and HUGE brownies on the way home.



Your Invitation to Join  
**Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

**ANNUAL DUES:**

Individual ..... \$35  
Family ..... \$45  
Senior/Student/Volunteer ..... \$20

Contact us for information on life memberships and categories for giving at a higher level.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

\_\_\_trail work, \_\_\_shelter work, \_\_\_sign making, \_\_\_publications, \_\_\_leading outings, \_\_\_publicity, \_\_\_education

Make check payable to "GMC" and mail with this application to:

Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677

Bob Perkins, Editor  
6 Rachel Drive  
Rutland, VT 05701



**KILLINGTON SECTION**