

# Smoke & Blazes

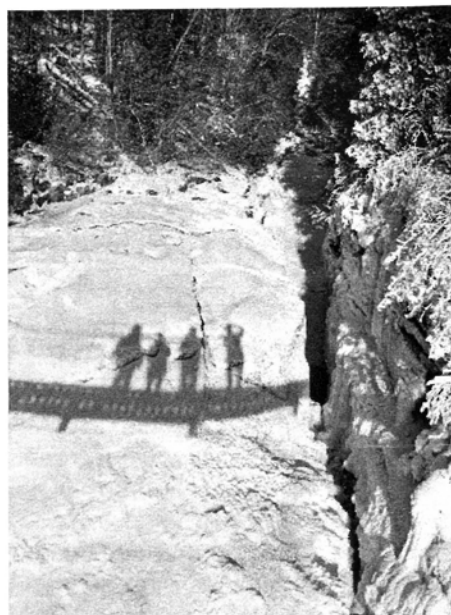
Volume 66, Number 1

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

March 2013



The Belden Falls bridge at the head of Otter Creek Gorge on the Trails Around Middlebury. Sue Thomas, Allison Henry and Viv Bebee, January 26.



Shadows below the bridge



The Great 2013 Wiener Roast, Half Moon Pond. Clockwise Jeremy a friend of Larry's, Viv, Roma, Sue, Steve and Barbara and Roma's son Steve. His wife Cathy is standing behind, February 10.

**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2013

Vivian Bebee  
Tom Copps  
Steve Williams

Term expiration 2014

Dave Coppock  
Allison Henry\*  
Sue Thomas\*

Term expiration 2015

Hillary Coolidge  
Barry Griffith  
Gerry Martin\*

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

**Killington Section Officers:**

Steve Williams	President
Barry Griffith	Vice President
Allison Henry	Secretary
Gerry Martin	Treasurer

**Committee Chairs:**

Bob Perkins	History
Sue Thomas	Outings
Herb Ogden	Trails & Shelters
Wayne Krevetski	Trails & Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Allison Henry	Director
Hillary Coolidge	Alternate

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee	Editor
Larry Walter	Assistant Editor
Tom Copps	Photo Editor

**Web Site:**

Deborah Waggett	Web Master
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Annie Coppock & Philo, Ladder Ravine, Mt. Ethan Allen



Burnt Rock Mountain

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.mac.com/gmckillington>**

Vivian Bebee	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:lwalter@sover.net">lwalter@sover.net</a>
Hillary Coolidge	PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, <a href="mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com">hcoolidge@hotmail.com</a>
Dave Coppock	21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, <a href="mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com">dscoppock@gmail.com</a>
Tom Copps	78 North Main Street, #Apt. 3, Rutland, VT 05701, 774-5144, <a href="mailto:tcopps@sover.net">tcopps@sover.net</a>
Barry Griffith	68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, <a href="mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net">Griff2VT@Vermontel.net</a>
Allison Henry	19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, <a href="mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com">allisonnorton1@gmail.com</a>
Wayne Krevetski	22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, <a href="mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com">wkrevetski@hotmail.com</a>
Gerry Martin	998 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2244, <a href="mailto:gdmartin2020@yahoo.com">gdmartin2020@yahoo.com</a>
Herbert Ogden	214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, <a href="mailto:hogden@vermontel.net">hogden@vermontel.net</a>
Bob Perkins	6 Rachel Drive, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, <a href="mailto:RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu">RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu</a>
Sue Thomas	27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185
Deborah Waggett	21 Academy Street, Fair Haven, VT 05743, 265-2024, <a href="mailto:vtrocks@gmail.com">vtrocks@gmail.com</a>
Steve Williams	682 VT Route 30, West Pawlet, VT 05775, 645-9529, <a href="mailto:voorburg00@comcast.net">voorburg00@comcast.net</a>



## **This n' That**

**EDITOR'S NOTE: IF YOU WOULD RATHER RECEIVE SMOKE & BLAZES BY EMAIL, PLEASE CONTACT ME at [vlb@sover.net](mailto:vlb@sover.net). THANKS**

**IN MEMORIAM:** The Killington Section was sorry to learn of the passing of Margaret "Mickie" Davidson. Mickie and her husband, Kit, have generously shared with all of us their beautiful property in Hubbardton, hosting an annual ramble for many years, followed by wine and cheese at their home. Our thoughts are with Kit at this difficult time.

**CLARENDON SHELTER HAS A NEW ROOF:** Volunteers worked three separate days removing the old roofing from Clarendon Shelter and installing a new metal roof. On Friday November 16<sup>th</sup>, seven workers arrived (along with one "Director") and worked until dusk under the very capable supervision of Dave Coppock. (see photo of the Shelter on Page 1)

**FALL POT LUCK SUPPER:** Our pot luck supper held at the Godnick Center on November 17<sup>th</sup> was well attended. We enjoyed a nice variety of yummy hot dishes, salads, breads/rolls, cider and desserts (many thanks to the cooks). The slide presentation for the evening was given by Nate Schneider, regarding his expeditions on Mount Everest. The presentation was most interesting, to say the least. Climbing Mount Everest (whether you summit or not) appears to be a daunting, exhilarating, tedious, exhausting, amazing and dangerous endeavor. Thank you, Nate, for sharing your experiences with us, and thank you Clare and Dave Coppock for arranging for Nate to be our guest speaker.

## **Outing Reports**

**BEAR MOUNTAIN, WALLINGFORD, September 3, 2012, Cheryl & Gerry Martin, leaders**

The Labor Day hike was led by Burdock, Stella, and Patches. All three canines paid their regards to the Princeton orientation contingency gathered in the Route 140 trailhead parking lot before leading our 22 two-legged group northward up Bear Mountain. A beautiful day ensured great overlook views of the Greens and of White Rocks. Hiking geologist Barbara G. shared insights of glacial sculpturing, erratics, domes ledges and of Taconic and Green Mountain origins. The role of beavers in our terrain and habitat formation was revealed by Peter G. Recent reshaping of Route 140 by sudden dam release got special attention.

The trail work performed by Dave Hardy and the YCC was evident and greatly appreciated. "You Tube" celebrity, Barry G., rendered a historic and folkloric reenactment of the Patch Hollow murder (two grass skirts?).

After the group reached Minerva Hinchey, cars and drivers were reconnected and most hikers adjourned for a picnic. A post hike hornet sting sustained by Burdock was the only injury of the day.

**SUPPER HIKE, HOGBACK MOUNTAIN, GOSHEN, September 15, 2012, Sue Thomas, leader**

As I write this now in November, with a coating of frost on the ground and the mountains capped with white, it is hard to remember how blasted hot it was over the summer. A frozen water bottle was tepid by the time we reached the trailheads; we approached cars left sitting in the sun all day with dread; and, happily, many hikes ended with an ice cream stop on the way home. So, what a relief when the heat wave broke suddenly on the day of the Hogback supper hike. It actually felt good to need a jacket.

We began our evening hike at the blueberry management area in Goshen, where the Forest Service maintains hillsides covered with wild berry bushes by periodic burning and rotation. A pleasant hour's hike through the woods on old roads brought us back to a clearing on Hogback Mountain, with open views of the Green Mountains and the valley below. Blankets were spread on the ground and rocks claimed as seats, as we enjoyed our supper and waited for the show to begin.

We were not disappointed. Soon the clouds began to glow around the edges, and the mountains caught fire as the sun slipped below the trees. Pink and orange, lavender and deep blue, the sunset gave us our money's worth, and when we reluctantly packed up in the fading light for a short walk to the cars, I felt we'd had a magical evening, and vowed to do it again soon.

#### **BURNT ROCK MT., WAITSFIELD/FAYSTON, October 13, 2012, Dave Coppock, substitute leader**

In his announcement of this hike, Larry described this one as "difficult" and "steep." It did not disappoint. Driving up the Big Basin Road to the trailhead, the rocky ramparts of Burnt Rock Mt. loomed above us, its slabs of gray rock broken only by scraggly spruce trees.

Larry had to bail out of this one and, in the end, it came down to Jeff Harvey, Annie Coppock, her trusty trail dog, Philo, and me. A short section of easy hiking through hardwood forest was noteworthy for the brilliant colors still in the leaves on the ground. The deciduous trees quickly gave way to birch, then spruce and balsam as the Hedgehog Brook trail bee-lined toward Burnt Rock Mountain. With Philo urging us on, we broke out onto the open rock, passed over the summit and reached a secluded perch just in time for lunch. From this vista point, we could clearly see the snow-capped summits of Mts. Moosilauke, Lafayette and Washington. It was a first-rate autumn day; slightly cool, but not a trace of wind. We sat there a long time.

Since it was still early and the day was perfect, we opted to hike north on the LT another 2.5 miles to Mt. Ethan Allen. As we ascended, a dusting of snow appeared on the ground and there was ice on some of the rock. At Ladder Ravine, we had to carry Philo down the 10' section of aluminum ladder cabled to the rock. This is not his favorite thing.

Mt. Ethan Allen has its own beautiful vista to the east and we once again stopped to admire the view for quite some time.

On our return trip back over Burnt Rock Mt., we found a fine vantage point that opened up to the west and even had a drop-dead gorgeous view of the south cliffs of Camel's Hump. As we descended the Hedgehog Brook Trail, late afternoon orange light painted the peaks of the White Mountains and seemed to brighten the fallen leaves on the trail. At 6:00 p.m., we got in the car and headed homeward. Fabulous day! (see pictures on Page 2)

#### **GRIFFITH LAKE, PERU, October 20, 2012, Sue Thomas, leader**

Tropical Storm Irene delayed this hike for over a year by destroying the road into the trailhead. I kept tabs on the repair work – each time I called I was told "two more weeks," and then "two more weeks". . .until finally it was done and the new-and-improved USFS Rt. 58 was ready for the invasion of the Killington Section.

The trail follows an old road for a mostly easy two miles, along the way passing a large beaver meadow, easy to see now with most of the leaves down. When we reached the Lake, Barry told us a bit about his ancestor, Silas Griffith, and the hotel he once owned there, and we speculated about its location, most likely on the western shore.

A long traverse of the famous (and slimy) boardwalk brought us to the caretaker's clearing, where we had our lunch by the water. The day was so beautiful that we opted to continue south on the Long Trail to Peru Peak Shelter. Easier said than done, as we discovered a portion of the boardwalk is now underwater. Not to worry – Larry led us crashing through the underbrush and climbing over logs and hummocks, and musing about the fact that we'd have to do the same in reverse on the way back.

It was well worth it, such a pretty piece of trail with several old bridges over babbling brooks, which miraculously survived Irene. We basked in the sun in front of the shelter and deeply regretted having to head home eventually. See above underbrush crashing in reverse.

As often happens with Killington Section outings, the adventure was not over when we reached the cars. We stopped down the road a piece to admire a sweeping view of the valley, and noted the very, very black cloud creeping in over Mt. Equinox. Next, the Griffiths led us further out Mad Tom Notch in search of a



memorial they had seen years before. Well, at the end of the road we found one, but memorializing something quite different than what they remembered! Back we went, and eventually located the correct stone by the side of the road: "Johnnie M. Howard, crushed to death by a load of lumber, Sept. 21, 1887, aged 13 years." Historically interesting, if grim.

As we headed north toward home, the sky blackened and heavy rain and a little hail made us glad we were out of the woods on time! Pulling into Rutland, we were treated to a beautiful double rainbow, a fitting ending to a great hike.

#### **LATE FALL WORK PARTY, October 23, 2012, Herb Ogden, Co-Chair, Trails & Shelters Committee**

We scheduled this before the Long Trail Patrol cleared and graded the relocation around the part of the trail that was eaten by Tropical Storm Irene in late August 2011. We thought it still might need substantial work. As it turned out, not much remained to be done. We hiked down to the Gould Brook crossing from the Upper Cold River Road to check out a report that the tree trunks in the brook had shifted, making the crossing harder. They had. They probably will shift some more in the spring runoff. Do not count on crossing without getting your feet wet. On our way back, wondered why the crew had built a steep, muddy stretch at the south end of the relocation instead of following the more gradually climbing route farther east that we had flagged. Farther along, we added some big stepping stones to a wet area as the relocation drops down to the north before hitting an old wood road. Then we scouted a way to continue the relocation along the top of the historic brook bank. We are not sure that it's enough of an improvement to warrant building it. Perhaps we will ask the GMC Trail Management Committee to wait and see if Sargent Brook floods the low-lying piece of trail on the old wood road.

We still had a good deal of daylight left, so several people hiked up to Gov. Clement Shelter and hauled out trash. One of us re-blazed the trail from the Clement Shelter Road up to the Sargent Brook ford. It was an enjoyable outing.

Honor roll: Barb and Barry Griffith, Wayne Krevetski, Herb Ogden, Sue Thomas, Larry Walter, and Sandy Bragg.

#### **MOUNT ANTONE, RUPERT, November 3, 2012, Vivian Bebee, substitute leader**

Our scheduled leader, Steve Williams, needed a replacement that day, and since I was pretty familiar with Mount Antone and had planned to attend the hike anyway, I was glad to help out. Tom Copps joined Larry and myself for the drive over from Rutland. We met Lisa Pettis at the Visitor's Center at Merck Forest, along with her dog, Patches, and her dog's friend, Lucy. It was a cool, windy day, which is what I prefer for hiking, although a little more sun would have been nice in the open areas where the wind was decidedly brrrrrrrr! Anyway, the hike was a good workout with three or four steep pitches that definitely warmed us up. Patches and Lucy were a lot of fun, running back and forth, back and forth all the time. They definitely covered a lot more distance than we did. The views from the top were very nice as we sat on a log and had lunch. Lisa and I and the dogs returned to the Visitor's Center via a couple of different trails for variety since this was Lisa's first time hiking at Merck Forest. Larry and Tom decided they wanted to hike down the Master's Trail to what, I call, the "back door" entrance to Merck Forest. Larry was glad to see that his favorite trail was in good shape, except for a couple of windfalls near the bottom. After I left Lisa, I drove to West Rupert and then up East Street to the Hollow to pick up Larry and Tom as they were hiking out. We stopped at my Mom's house and chatted with her for a bit and had some left-over Halloween candy for the drive back to Rutland.

#### **NOVEMBER WORK PARTIES, Herb Ogden, Co-Chair, Trails & Shelters Committee**

Organized by Section Director, Dave Coppock, two small groups did important work in November. Cindy Taylor-Miller also spent several days cleaning up some of what Tropical Storm Sandy left between the Wallingford Gulf and Minerva Hinchey Shelter.

The first group organized by Dave stripped the leaking roofing off Clarendon Shelter and fastened a sturdy tarp in place. The next step will be to replace some roof boards and then put on a new metal roof. Some of the half rounds in the walls will also be replaced. Folks have been complaining about leaks for several years, so this is a very welcome change. We had help from Steve Johnson. He lives close to the

shelter and has kept the grounds looking pretty for years. He volunteered his truck to bring materials in and out.

The second of Dave's groups cleaned up after Tropical Storm Sandy. They removed all the blowdowns between Sherburne Pass and Jungle Junction. They concluded a microburst hit roughly between Pico Camp and Jungle Junction. Dave and Larry each spent about ten hours on this, and two others contributed another six hours or so. Many thanks to our own Rapid Response Team!

Honor Roll: Joel Blumenthal, Dave Coppock, Barb and Barry Griffith, Murray McGrath, Steve Johnson, Larry Walter

## **Killington Section Directors' Meeting**

Minutes of Directors' Meeting

September 25, 2012

By Allison Henry, Secretary

Present: President Steve Williams, VP Barry Griffith, Secretary Allison Henry, Treasurer Gerry Martin, and Directors Sue Thomas, Vivian Bebee, and Dave Coppock. Also present: Trails and Shelters Co-Chairs Herb Ogden and Wayne Krevetski.

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Treasurer's report from Gerry Martin. "Not much has changed since our last meeting!" Contact Gerry for more information.

Trails and Shelters from Herb and Wayne: Beacons for Airport need updating; Beacon #9 is close to LT/AT on the top of Bear Mountain. VTrans needs access to replace tower with solar tower, which would not require power lines. After replacing, they want to haul out the old tower. Four approach options have been presented to us. Alternative 1: Use of existing dirt road and skidder trail from Wallingford, and involves clearing an 8-12 foot path through woods. Does not use LT/AT other than crossing one time. Alternative 2: Uses existing ATV Trails and two sections of LT/AT, each over 1000 feet in length, coming from Spring Lake Ranch area. Would involve widening the Trail and clearing vegetation, as well as grading and switchbacks. Alternative 3: Use of the already-existing Right Of Way already used by VTrans for access. However, this ROW is reportedly too steep for construction equipment. Alternative 4: Use of helicopter to deliver construction materials, and then use ATV's to access the site during construction, probably via Alternative 1. Alternative 5: "No Build." After lengthy discussion, we passed two motions:

(1) That as a Section we are not in favor of Option 2. (Thomas/Henry)

(2) As a Section, we prefer that VTrans use the option of airlifting heavy equipment, and using the existing ATV tracks for access. (Thomas/Martin)

Another beacon, south of Airport Lookout, will eventually require access. We hope that we can "swap" our existing Trail, which is a muddy road with an adjacent section. In other words, VTrans can have the muddy road and we will get a nice new trail a little bit away.

Other projects: Minerva Hinchey table, backhoe south of Lottery Rd (still needs approval from Dave Hardy). Wayne shared that he had found an official caretaker for Minerva Hinchey. Gerry explained that he and Chyrl have been taking care of it for several years. Wayne will contact Main Club to find other caretaker opportunities in the area for interested parties.

Shrewsbury Update: Crew is out scouting and building section between the Cold River Roads, should be ready for our help on our Trail Work day in late October. Club would like to reuse bridge from Bucklin Trail, but might not meet Forest Service specifications. The "Feds" have also been looking at bridge site on Governor Clement Road.



Report from Allison Henry, Director to Main Club. (Contact Allison for more information)

Main points include:

Big discussion of usage of the name, "The Long Trail." The Club has a trademark on this title. Several situations have arisen in regards to this. A woman set a speed record for hiking the entire LT and wanted to make a film entitled "The Long Trail," but Jean Haigh has contacted her and asked her to change the title somewhat. Another, much more serious example, is someone who hiked the Long Trail with mapping software and then put out an atlas entitled "The Long Trail Atlas, a Companion Guide to the Long Trail Guide." He even put the Green Mountain Club logo on "his" book and had it published. It was spotted at the Outdoor Gear Exchange for 30 dollars! He was sent an official warning letter from the Legal Committee. As this issue has come up a few times in recent months, the Legal Committee will discuss and address these and similar situations in the near future

Club will likely be operating at about a \$28K deficit by the end of this year, which is a change from last year in which we had a surplus. Main Club is considering ways to better keep track of Sections' finances. Director Will Wiquist noted, "This is not an effort to manage individual Sections' spending!"

Club membership is solidly above 10,000 with current number of 10,400. We also have 80+ business memberships.

The Vermont Land Trust is acquiring over 1,000 acres in the Bolton area, including the Bolton Nordic Trails. The Club is interested in taking over the management of two shelters in that area, including Bolton Lodge and Bryant Camp. The Trail actually used to go right past Bolton Lodge before the Trail was moved up to the ridgeline. These camps could be a good spot as a base camp especially for winter weekends. Issues include cost, whether side trails will be possible to connect area to Long Trail, and managing overuse/vandalism (read: partying) as Bolton Lodge in particular is close to a road. Club might keep shelters locked and rent them out the way we do with Wheeler Camps.

The Annual Meeting will be held at Stratton Ski Area the weekend of June 8, 2013. Note from Allison: We need to keep in mind that the K Section has not hosted the Annual Meeting in many moons! Our time might come up soon!

Outings Report from Sue Thomas: Good outing schedule for Fall. Fall Potluck will include a presentation on a trip to Mt. Everest! Next schedule will include December, January, and February. Call Sue in November to get your outing on the schedule.

Smoke and Blazes Report from Vivian Bebee, Editor: Thank you for your articles and photos. Schedule is being sent out via email to local libraries, colleges and other interested groups. Double-check your contact information and term limits that are listed on the second page of Smoke & Blazes.

Other Business: Steve was contacted by a local college student who wants to meet up with the K Section and possibly start a hiking club at his school.

Dave Coppock is working on an article for the Long Trail News about the trail repairs and relocations in Shrewsbury following Irene.

Hilary's "Marketing Plan—" Hilary has contacted local schools and libraries, and has hand-delivered schedules to broaden our reach. Will discuss more at next meeting.

Follow-up regarding discussion of safety at our last meeting: Sue received a letter from a club member with hike-leading experience, with additional suggestions regarding hike safety. Sue shared the letter with us and will write back and a "Thank you!" for the input.

Club Days at EMS Oct 5 and 6. Wayne will coordinate table for outreach. Hoping to raffle off Green Mountain Club books to get donations for the Club

Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 5, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm (Henry/Thomas)

**KILLINGTON SECTION, GMC      OUTING SCHEDULE      December-March, 2013**

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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. 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. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**15 December, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**LT and Old Roads, Shrewsbury**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

We will follow the LT north from VT 103 to near Hermit Spring and then take old roads to a beacon and do a short bushwhack to the Bullard Cemetery. Hike or snowshoe depending on conditions. Moderate, 6 miles.

**22 December, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Bucklin Trail, Mendon**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Courtesy of Tropical Storm Irene, we have a new bridge and a new trail to explore. We will go as far as the second bridge, with an option to continue further along the brook after lunch. Snowshoes may be needed. Moderate, 4 miles.

**29 December, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Bald Mountain, Mendon**

**Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

Climb to several viewpoints overlooking the Coolidge Range, the Taconics and a bird's eye view of the airport. Snowshoes or traction devices may be needed. Some steep climbing. Moderate, 4 miles.

**5 January, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Plymbsbury Mystery Hike, Shrewsbury**

**Gerry & Chryl Martin 492-2244**

Explore the trails in the Plymbsbury recreation area, home to bears, moose and snowshoe hare and a remote beaver meadow. Hike or snowshoe depending on conditions. Moderate, 3-4 miles.

**13 January, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Western Ridge Trail, Moreau State Park, NY**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

We saw it from a distance last year. This is our chance to see it for ourselves. Rocky cliffs with views of the Adirondacks and the Hudson River. Snowshoes may be needed. Moderate, 5 miles.

**20 January, Sunday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Plymbsbury Snowshoe, Shrewsbury**

**Barb & Barry Griffith 492-3573**

Explore old wood roads and trails, animal tracks, old stone walls and cellar holes. Moderate, 2-3 miles.

**26 January, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Trails Around Middlebury**

**Viv Bebee & Larry Walter 775-3855**

May be the Chipman Hill Trail or parts of the Jackson Trail and Johnson Trail. We will decide once we have a chance to check them out. Call leaders for details. Moderate, 2-5 miles.

**2 February, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Merck Forest, Rupert**

**Steve Williams 645-9529**

Bring snowshoes (depending on conditions) for a moderate trek on old wood roads and trails at the Merck Forest and Farmland Center. Warm up by the woodstove in the Visitor's Center. Moderate, 4-5 miles.



**10 February, Sunday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Annual Winter Hot Dog Roast**

**Viv Bebee & Larry Walter 775-3855**

Location to be decided; perhaps State Park or other suitable area that would provide a short hike and a safe place to build a fire. Bring what you want to roast and drink. Chips, cookies, condiments and fire wood will be provided by leaders. Call leaders for location details. Date may change to Saturday, February 9, if weather looks better.

**16 or 17 February, Saturday or Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Wallingford Pond, Wallingford**

**Tom Copps 282-1675**

Snowshoe or ski depending on conditions. Explore a beautiful pond in winter. Call leader for exact date. Moderate, 3 miles.

**23 February, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Rutland to Proctor, Rutland**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Trek over the hill from Rutland to Proctor on old roads. Snowshoes needed depending on conditions. Moderate, 4 miles.

**2 March, Saturday**

**East Poultney Snowshoe**

**Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

Enjoy a day out with beautiful scenery in the East Poultney/Middletown Springs area. Mileage variable. Call leader for meeting place and time.

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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.....\$40  
Family.....\$50  
Senior/Student/Volunteer.....\$22

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



**KILLINGTON SECTION, GMC      OUTING SCHEDULE      June-September, 2013**

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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. 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. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**16 June, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Sleeping Beauty & Fishbrook Pond, Lake George, NY**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

Climb to beautiful views of Lake/mountains and to remote Fishbrook Pond for a dip. Moderate, 8 miles.

**22 June, Saturday, call leaders for meeting time and place**

**Mystery hike, Ripton**

**Diane Bargiel & Jen Wagner 413-687-1109**

A moderately difficult hike in the Green Mountains. 4-6 miles.

**30 June, Sunday, call leader for meeting time and place**

**Disc Golf Outing, Killington area**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

You've seen the baskets in the woods. Come try it out. \$6 to play, \$4 disc rental. Beginners encouraged!

**6 July, Saturday at 9:00 a.m. (rain date July 7)**

**Lake St. Catherine, Wells**

**Tom Copps 282-1675**

An easy to moderate climb to cliffs overlooking the Lake, with an option to swim afterwards at the State Park (admission fee or pass required to swim).

**13 July, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Pico Peak, Killington**

**Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

Climb to the summit via the Sherburne Pass Trail and the summit spur for a spectacular view. We will look for grave markers of the Mead family gravesites, founders of Pico Ski Area. Difficult, 5-6 miles.

**20 July, Saturday, call leaders for meeting time and place**

**Blueberry Lake, Warren**

**Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

Small lake with clean, clear water and a gravelly bottom, deep enough to take kayaks and canoes and suitable for swimming. Bordered by the Green Mountain National Forest. Leisurely paddle.

**27 July, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. (rain date July 28)**

**Leicester Hollow Trail, Goshen**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Rained out in May, we'll try again to hike the newly re-opened Leicester Hollow Trail, rebuilt by the Youth Conservation Corp. We will go in via the Minnie Baker Trail, then up to beautiful Silver Lake for a swim and down past Falls of Lana. Moderate, 7 miles.

**3 August, Saturday, 9:00 a.m., meet at Sears parking lot, Diamond Run Mall**

**Poultney River Paddle**

**Barb & Barry Griffith 492-3573**

A relaxing paddle along the scenic Vermont/New York border, past farmland and woods. Easy, 5 miles.

**11 August, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Breadloaf Mountain, Lincoln ,**

**Larry Walter 775-3855**

Long, steady climb to beautiful westerly views near the summit, with 2,235 feet of elevation gain. Difficult, 8.6 miles.

**17, August, Saturday, call leaders for meeting time and place**

**Dead Creek Paddle, Addison**

**Diane Bargiel & Jen Wagner 413-687-1109**

Bring binoculars for this canoe/kayak excursion in the Dead Creed Wildlife Management Area.

**24 August, Saturday, 8:30 a.m (rain date August 25).**

**LT, Big Branch to Baker Peak, Mount Tabor**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

We will follow the Long Trail south , past Lost Pond Shelter and on to the rocky summit of Baker Peak.

Descend via the Lake Trail, with a dramatic rock slide left by Tropical Storm Irene. Moderate, with some steep ups and downs, 8 miles.

**2 September, Monday, 9:30 a.m.**

**Half Moon Pond State Park, Hubbardton**

**Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

Hike to High Pond and back to State Park and a possible second hike to Moscow Pond and back to State Park. State Park day use fee applies. Easy to moderate, 1.5-4.5 miles.

**14 September, Saturday, 4:30 p.m.. (rain date September 15)**

**Hogback supper hike, Goshen**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Bring supper along and enjoy the sunset over the valley from a viewpoint on Hogback Mountain (easy, short walk back to the cars). Easy to moderate, 2.5 miles.

### **THURSDAY HIKES SCHEDULE – 2013**

The Rutland Recreation and Parks Department sponsors a series of hikes for those who wish to enjoy their outings at a less strenuous pace. The hikes typically cover two to four miles, involve limited to moderate elevation gain, and try to avoid treacherous footing. Bring water and a lunch, wear sturdy footwear, and be prepared for Vermont weather. Meet on **Thursdays at 9 am** at the Godnick Center on Deer Street to car pool. We return in early to mid-afternoon. Call hike leaders if you have questions. All are welcome.

**June 13, Slate Historic Trail and Bomoseen Loop Trail, Bomoseen**

**Edith Kellogg 775-1246**

Self-guided story of slate industry; minor elevation trails. Easy.

**June 27, Abbey Pond Trail, Ripton**

**Edith Kellogg 775-1246**

Follow old woods roads to an attractive wilderness pond. Moderate

**July 11, Hogback Mountain, Goshen**

**Tom Copps 282-1675**

Hike this moderate trail in the Green Mountain National Forest.

**July 25, Old Plymouth Road (Plymbsbury), Shrewsbury**

**Jean Hinson 775-0873**

Old roadbed follows Great Roaring Brook toward Plymouth Union. Moderate.

**August 8, Glen Lake Overlook, Castleton**

**Jean Hinson 775-0873**

Walk along the shore of Glen Lake, then climb to great view of Lake below. Moderate

**August 22, Saratoga National Historic Park, Saratoga, NY – DAY TRIP**

**Tom Copps 282-1675**

Trails, historic sites and buildings, nature. Picnic. Fees; Golden Age/Senior Pass.

**September 5, Falls of Lana Trail, Salisbury**

**Lyn Drigert 775-7038**

Climb this zig-zag trail to the Falls and on to Silver Lake. Moderate.

# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 66, Number 2

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

June 2013



Salt ash Mountain hike. Article on Page 5.



Terri, Burdock, Gerry and Chuck on Salt ash1



A sunny day on Salt ash with many trees casting long shadows.



**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2014

Dave Coppock  
Allison Henry\*  
Sue Thomas\*

Term expiration 2015

Hilary Coolidge  
Barry Griffith  
Gerry Martin\*

Term expiration 2016

Diane Bargiel  
Vivian Bebee\*  
Wayne Krevetski

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

**Killington Section Officers:**

Barry Griffith	President
Wayne Kretvetski	Vice President
Allison Henry	Secretary
Gerry Martin	Treasurer

**Committee Chairs:**

Bob Perkins	History
Sue Thomas	Outings
Herb Ogden	Trails & Shelters
Wayne Krevetski	Trails & Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Allison Henry	Director
Hilary Coolidge	Alternate

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee	Editor
Larry Walter	Assistant Editor

**Web Site:**

Hilary Coolidge	Web Master
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Larry doing shelter repair.

**Contact Information – Web Site – [www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org)**

Diane Bargiel	<a href="mailto:notabene@crocker.com">notabene@crocker.com</a>
Vivian Bebee	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:lwalter@sover.net">lwalter@sover.net</a>
Hilary Coolidge	PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, <a href="mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com">hcoolidge@hotmail.com</a>
Dave Coppock	21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, <a href="mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com">dscoppock@gmail.com</a>
Barry Griffith	68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, <a href="mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net">Griff2VT@Vermontel.net</a>
Allison Henry	19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, <a href="mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com">allisonnorton1@gmail.com</a>
Wayne Krevetski	22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, <a href="mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com">wkrevetski@hotmail.com</a>
Gerry Martin	998 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2244, <a href="mailto:gdmartin2020@yahoo.com">gdmartin2020@yahoo.com</a>
Herbert Ogden	214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, <a href="mailto:hogden@vermontel.net">hogden@vermontel.net</a>
Bob Perkins	6 Rachel Drive, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, <a href="mailto:RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu">RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu</a>
Sue Thomas	27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185



## **This n' That**

**EDITOR'S NOTE: IF YOU WOULD RATHER RECEIVE SMOKE & BLAZES BY EMAIL, PLEASE CONTACT ME at [vlb@sover.net](mailto:vlb@sover.net). THANKS**

♦June 7 and 8, GMC's 103<sup>rd</sup> annual meeteing. Stratton Mountain Resort, Stratton (see Long Trail News or GMC website at [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org) for details of scheduled events)

♦June 24 at 6:00 p.m., Jennifer Pharr Davis talk and book signing at Long Trail Brewery, Bridgewater Corners; Jennifer has hiked over 12,000 miles on long distance trails on six continents, including the Long Trail!

♦Tom Copps has retired as photo editor of Smoke & Blazes. Many thanks for all his hard work on the front cover of each issue since February, 2011. Tom's volunteer efforts have been a huge help to our editor.

♦Many thanks to Deborah Waggett for her 10-plus years of volunteering as the web master for the Killington Section website. While Deb is moving on to other endeavors, Hilary Coolidge has consented to oversee our website in the future. Thank you, Hilary.

## **HELP!!** The Trails and Shelters Committee Needs Your Assistance.

In preparing for the May Work Day, it was discovered that our tool cupboard is beginning to look bare. Seems that a number of tools have not found their way back after earlier work trips. The hard work done by the members of the Killington Section, we mean YOU, is very much appreciated and recognized throughout the Club as we are praised often for the good condition of the trail in our Section. We therefore do not want to burden you further by having you take up precious space in your garages and garden sheds storing K-Section tools. If we could ask you to take a moment to check your tool storage areas for any K-Section tools, that would be wonderful. They are all marked with a "KSGMC" and a number. Things like Hazel hoes, garden hoes, lopping shears and shovels are among the missing, also a combi tool, (combination shovel, pick, and hoe).

If anything like that happens to be in your way around the house, please contact: Wayne Krevetski at 282-2237 or [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com), so we can arrange to have it removed. Thank You.

### **IN MEMORIAM, by Sue Thomas:**

**Ray Catozzi, 1921-2013.** Definitely one of the most memorable characters in the history of the Killington Section, Ray served as president for many years, sat on the board and racked up many hours on trail maintenance. Bob Perkins, in a recent tribute, recalled that Ray's involvement with the Club began when Bob's father, Craig Perkins, recruited the neighborhood boys to help clean up damage from the hurricane of 1938.

Ray's enthusiasm for the club and the Long Trail were infectious – he simply believed that everyone should hike, all the time! Mundane things like making a living just didn't seem important on a sunny day. I still have his copy of the Day Hikers Guide, which he gave me the first time I hiked with the group, and new to the area, was looking for places to explore. Years later when I took over the job of scheduling the Killington Section outings, it was difficult to hold him down to two or three per schedule. He would show up at the scheduling meetings clutching his list of at least 10, and it pained him to discard any.

Ray's ever-changing fleet of questionable cars were legendary. I recall one of my first car pools to a trail head involved being folded into the back of this Gremlin, and arriving at the top of Brandon Gap a bit woozy from CO2 fumes.

I still here Ray's voice whenever I drive past a cemetery - "How many people do you suppose are dead in that cemetery?" (For anyone who doesn't know that old joke, the answer is "all of them!") When I picture

Ray in my mind, it will always be gazing out over a vista with his usual expression of complete satisfaction and delight, as if the whole scene was created just for his enjoyment, and he wanted nothing more than to share it with us all.

No tribute to Ray would be complete without mention of his famous homemade elderberry wine. Many a hike ended with a tippie at the trailhead, sipped out of his motley collection of plastic cups – we all doubted they were ever washed, but took comfort from the disinfectant quality of his unusually potent creations. So, in preparing for our recent Killington Section annual meeting, I searched high and low for elderberry wine, and we raised our little plastic cups in a toast . . . to Ray!

**Helen Cawood, 1926-2013.** We are also saddened by the passing of Helen Cawood, an avid hiker, who, with husband Gordon, led many an outing for the Killington Section. Helen was a 46'er and a Long Trail end-to-ender, and her enthusiasm and sense of humor made her a pleasure to hike with.

At a memorial service in March, her daughter, Pamela, spoke of the many family hikes and camping trips that instilled a love of the outdoors that she carries on with her own children. Helen couldn't ask for a better legacy.

**ROMA'S RAMBLINGS, by Roma Pulling** (Editor's Note: After her children were grown, Roma started hiking with the GMC in 1975.)

What is a rambling? Webster says "desultory, aimless." I hope I'm not quite that bad, but I'll start with "Part One, The Early Years."

Some people, knowing my deep interest in hiking and all things outdoorsy, perhaps picture me as having been born with hiking boots on and carrying a backpack. It actually didn't happen that way. On the rare occasions when my mother took me to climb the hill across the road from our house, she carried a 10-quart pail, which we were to fill with blackberries that she canned for winter use. I came back hot, tired and dusty and with an attitude that said "who needs this?"

My father was a little more of an outdoor person, but in order to support a family of five during the Depression, he had little time for recreation. In the 23 years I lived with my parents, I remember two outings I had with my father. After the '38 hurricane, he chose to climb our "blackberry hill" and took me with him. I found it just as hot, dusty and strenuous as before, and my attitude hadn't improved. But on a later walk, we went from Route 12 in Pomfret to Luce's Lookout, now called just The Lookout. When I stepped onto the blue (now white) blazed trail, I took the first of many thousands of steps I was to take (although I didn't know it at the time) on blazed trails from New Hampshire to as far away as Hawaii. It was a very important part of my life.

Whether "Part Two" of this story ever reaches print, I don't know, but if it does, it will be entitled "West of the Greens." Stay tuned!

## **Outing Reports**

**Pine Hill to Proctor, February 23, 2013, Sue Thomas, leader**

Deer, squirrels, rabbits, coyotes, skunks, fishers, turkeys and assorted little scurrying things were very busy on Pine Hill, and a fresh coat of snow told the story. Burdock and Stella added their own tracks, small and extra-large, to the mix as 10 hikers set off over the hill. The fisher tracks were especially plentiful, so we were prepared to rescue Burdock from the jaws of death – from what I've heard about fishers, maybe even 100-pound Stella needed to tread cautiously. Then, we found a blood-splattered trail, evidence that the fisher had headed home with a take-out order from Kentucky Fried Voles, yum, yum! Burdock was safe for the time being.

On the Proctor side of the hill, we stopped for our much less exotic lunch on the banks of a small reservoir just as it began to sleet. By the time I'd passed the cookies around, it had turned to a gentle snow, very pretty on the trees. As we neared Proctor, the snow became more steady and we were glad to have cars waiting for us at the skating rink. After watching some young skaters take a few turns, we folded up Stella and stashed her in the back of a station wagon. Thanks to Cindy, Larry and Viv for helping me spot cars ahead of time.

**East Poultney Snowshoe, March 2, 2013, Diane Bargiel, leader, and Jennifer Wagner, follower**

As snow fell, we began at the Lake St. Catherine Country Club clubhouse. The snow wasn't deep, but the ground was covered and the trees had a dusting of new snow. The group quickly left the golf course and ascended into sheltered woods. Hiking along old, unused VAST trails in the hills above and behind the Country Club, we viewed small, frozen waterfalls, lovely hemlocks and hard woods. A long climb upward rewarded us with a view to the West.

At the top of the climb, the group reached the farthest point east that I had explored. As no one wanted to risk falling on their behind going back down the steep trail, Gerry and Sue were motivated to search on for a connection to the current Vast trail that would make a loop back to the golf course. I knew it must connect, but didn't know how much hiking would be needed to make the connection—would it take more climbing?

The rest of the group started following Gerry and Sue, but then decided to take a break to enjoy some dark chocolate containing dried cranberries and almond, while Gerry and Sue did some more trail research. After five minutes, the chocolate-eating group heard Gerry call "whoo-hoo!" Cheryl called "should we follow you?" And Gerry called "I hope so!" So, newly energized with chocolate, the happy hikers of Steve, Diane, Cindy, Jenn and Cheryl struck out. We soon found the new VAST trail and returned to the Country Club with no sign of any snow mobiles or their tracks. It was a much easier way down than reversing our steep, steep climb.

After a brief lunch, the group returned to their cars for a short drive to Diane's house, where the outing relaxed with hot tea, more chocolate and conversation.

**Saltash Mountain, Shrewsbury, March 9, 2013, Sandy Bragg, leader**

On a gloriously sunny, sugaring day, an intrepid group of 11 GMC'ers and friends headed up Salt Ash. We started from a logging area on Salt Ash Road, near Bailey Road in Shrewsbury. We followed a groomed snowmobile trail until it joined VAST Route 7 heading south towards Lake Ninevah. After dodging several snowmobiles (none of which could catch Burdock), we left VAST 7 to begin our bushwhack up the southern slope of Salt Ash. For the most part, we followed a trail that Barry Griffith and I had broken the week before. An additional six inches of snow had fallen during the week, so there was plenty of powder for everyone. As the forest transitioned from hardwood to spruce, clearings appeared where the moose had pruned all vegetation to snow level. We lunched on an open knoll enjoying a grand southern vista including Monadnock, Okemo, Stratton, Mt. Snow and Equinox. As we left our lunch spot, we swung east for a view of Ascutney and Cardigan. Then up to the wooded summit of Salt Ash were we signed the register (Snuffy: 'Not many flies here') while Barry performed a brief solo on the vuvuzela lashed to the summit tree. Jerry Parker led the party down the northern face, stopping at a clearing with a great view of Killington. We descended gently to the saddle between Salt Ash and Bear Mountain where the group vetoed my suggestion to climb Bear (some other day). We re-entered the hardwoods, passing moose tracks, until we joined VAST 7 heading south to loop back to our beginning. Definitive sources put the hike distance at 8.2 miles despite a faulty GPS reading of 5.8 miles. Tanned and relaxed, all slept well that night.

**Mystery Hike at Spring Lake, March 23, 2013, Peter Grace**

Eleven of us met at Spring Lake Ranch upper barn. Two dogs accompanied. The plan for this mystery hike was to snow shoe the ski trail that circles the Lake. If the trail that circles the Lake's edge is 2 ½ miles, then the Ranch ski trail that encircles it is 3 ½ miles. We had potential add-ons. We were a chatty group with small breaks at secluded wet-lands and other natural points of interest. We made good time to a point 80% along this particular trail; it had been fairly level hiking. We didn't want to quit yet, so we deviated from our loop, heading up hill on a different loop trail. This was another A1 Spring Lake Ranch ski trail that took us to a flat ridge, half a mile long with steep sides and great views. At this time, we interrupted this loop for a third loop-on-a-loop trail. I hate to complete things. This took us down an exceedingly steep woods road (glad to not be on skis). Here we entered isolated fields lined with buckets on Maples. Would we take the easy trek down hill to where we had left two cars? No. From here we took the steepest trail ever, uphill for a half a mile (or was it 6?). Only because it wasn't a loop could we complete it, returning to the upper barn. Many thanks to Spring Lake Ranch - - it was mostly their lands we hiked that day.

**Wantastiquet Mountain, NH (across CT River from Brattleboro), April 6, 2013, Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee, leaders**

We had a decent turnout for this nice little hike. We leaders had checked out the trail (actually an old access road to some antennas near the summit) about a month earlier when the ground was covered in snow. Today's hike found much warmer temperatures with just some small skiffs of snow and ice left over from winter and some recent rain. You could get by without traction devices but it was a little exciting in places to do so. There are about 10 switch backs on the way up, with some fairly steep grades towards the top. From the top, we had some very nice views of downtown Brattleboro and southeastern Vermont.

We had lunch at a nice overlook about ½ hour further south from the summit. Since we had an even mix of male and female hikers along, after lunch, the guys decided on an alternative trail that appeared to return to our cars (guessing), while the ladies back-tracked on the same trail we all started on. The guys did indeed bottom out on the highway only about ½ mile from the parking spot and did some cross-country scrambling along the way just to keep it interesting (exactly why ladies elected not to join them). This would definitely be a nice loop for future hikes (Larry says), now that we know where to turn. The guys got to the car about 5 or 10 minutes before the ladies. Guys route was easier though (Viv says), since ladies had all those switch-backs to do. ☺ ☺ ☺ !

**Long Trail Spring Cleaning, May 11, 2013, by Wayne Krevetski**

Crew met at the usual place at the Rutland City Green down from the Fire Station at 9:00 am. It was cloudy and had been raining earlier in the morning, but the rain had stopped when we met. The following folks were volunteering: Barbara and Barry Griffith of Shrewsbury, Wayne Krevetski of Rutland, Cindy Miller of Wallingford, Tom Shanahan of Rutland, Larry Walter of Rutland, all members, and Mark Suiters of Spring Hill, Florida a hiking friend of Cindy's.

Cindy volunteered herself and Mark to clear waterbars and fallen brush north of Bear Mountain to Minerva Hinchey Shelter. As the Section checker for that area, she was well acquainted with what had to be done and the Trail south of Hinchey Shelter needed regular waterbar maintenance.

The rest of us car-pooled up to Lottery Road after leaving a vehicle on Kieffer Road. Connie Youngstrom, Section checker, had reported a number of blowdowns along that section that needed attention, and she wasn't kidding! Over a dozen trees, living and dead, had fallen across the trail. There was plenty of work for everyone between cutting and hauling the blowdowns, clearing waterbars, and cutting back brush and brambles. On the bright side, the rain held off until we just cleared the last of the debris and arrived at Kieffer Road around 1:00 pm. It was a good days work and many thanks to all who helped out.

## **Killington Section Annual Meeting**

Minutes of Annual Meeting

April 13, 2013

By Allison Henry, Secretary

(Edited by Vivian Bebee – for complete transcript of these Minutes, contact Allison Henry.)

Present: Directors Steve Williams, Barry Griffith, Allison Henry, Sue Thomas, Tom Copps, Hillary Coolidge, Vivian Bebee, Dave Coppock. Absent: Gerry Martin. Also present approximately 20 other K Section members and friends.

Prior to the official meeting, Bob Perkins made a speech in honor of Ray Catozzi. Ray was a long-time member of the Killington Section who passed away in March. We had a memorial toast of elderberry wine. We also took a moment in remembrance of Helen Cawood, who also passed away in March. Helen was a member of the Breadloaf Section (along with her husband, Gordon), and our Section has done multiple joint outings with Breadloaf.

Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President, Steve Williams.



- Steve has tabulated hike stats. Last year we had 40 hikes with 2-17 participants. The average number of hikers is 7.4.
- Gerry's Treasurer's report was provided, in absentia.
- Allison Henry gave a summary of Main Club happenings. For more details, please contact Allison.
  - Budget fell short; two positions cut; duties consolidated/reassigned.
  - Slow and steady progress on the Winooski Bridge project.
  - We have taken over management of two shelters in the Bolton Valley area.
  - Potential ridgeline wind project just east of Camel's Hump.
- Trails and Shelters Report by Herb Ogden, Trails and Shelters Co-Chair.
  - The footway of the AT/LT is finished from Cold River Road to Upper Cold River Road, where much of the Trail had been washed out from Irene. It is not officially open yet.
  - Improvements could be made to the new Trail between Cold River Road and Upper Cold River Road. The new trail was mostly done on our proposed route, but not all. Some parts are very muddy and steep. Should we consider relocating those parts?
  - The Trail is still closed from Upper Cold River Road to Governor Clement. The flooding in that area was very severe—it is full of ravines and rubble, including pieces of the bridge. The Town of Shrewsbury is still working with the federal government regarding bridge replacement. A makeshift bridge would pose a liability issue. No immediate plans to replace the Sargent Brook bridge; it is still a ford.
  - The Section will be hiring someone with a backhoe to work on ditching on the Trail south of Lottery Road. Also working on a relocation north of Lottery Road near Hermit Spring. These projects still need USFS approval. Beacon Update: VTrans needs short term access to their beacons in the Clarendon area to upgrade the equipment. We discussed possible access options last fall and forwarded our preferences to VTrans. As it turns out, they will be using mostly existing logging roads. "The Trail will be impacted, but not as bad as it could have been."
  - Tucker Johnson will not be replaced this year. Also, no specific plans for the Gould Brook area crossing.
- Smoke and Blazes:
  - Thanks to editor/assistants for their hard work; changing email version to PDF; article contributions welcome; need to get outings to Sue for next hike schedule.
- Upcoming:
  - National Trails Day June 1
  - Main Club Meeting June 8 at Stratton
  - EMS Club Days May 3-4.
  - K-Section to help host Jennifer Pharr Davis, hiker/writer, at Long Trail Brewery on June 24.
- Website report, from Hilary:
  - Same URL: [www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org); what content wanted; "thank you" from the Membership to Deb for her hard work!
- Election of Directors:
  - Diane Bargiel, Wayne Krevetski and Vivian Bebee nominated/elected as a slate.
- We then adjourned to the Directors Meeting for election of officers, as follows:
  - Gerry for Treasurer (Henry/Bargiel)
  - Allison for Secretary (Thomas/Coppock)
  - Barry for President (Krevetski/Henry)
  - Wayne for Vice President (Henry/Griffith)
  - Motion by Allison, seconded by Sue to close nominations and elect as a slate. All were in favor.
  - The Directors then discussed: Do we want the Killington Section to host the Main Club's annual meeting next year? Following a discussion of mostly logistics and expectations, Wayne made a motion that we host the meeting, seconded by Dave. Barry will get in touch with the Main Club to inform them of our decision. Wayne and Barry will scope out possible sites for the event as a first step.
  - Next meeting was set for Tuesday, June 11, at the Walter-Beebe establishment at 6pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm (Wayne/Dave).

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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 .....\$40  
Family .....\$50  
Senior/Student/Volunteer .....\$22

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



# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 66, Number 3

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

September 2013



Tom Copps hiking above Lake St. Catherine.



Jerry Parker & Burdock on Dead Creek.



Time for lunch - Lake Moreau State Park (see Page 3).



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Sue Thomas\*

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

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Vivian Bebee	Editor
Larry Walter	Assistant Editor

**Web Site:**

Hilary Coolidge	Web Master
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Wayne Krevetski working on privy door at Cooper Lodge.

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.mac.com/gmckillington>**

Diane Bargiel	413-687-1109
Vivian Bebee	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:lwalter@sover.net">lwalter@sover.net</a>
Hilary Coolidge	PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, <a href="mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com">hcoolidge@hotmail.com</a>
Dave Coppock	21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, <a href="mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com">dscoppock@gmail.com</a>
Barry Griffith	68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, <a href="mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net">Griff2VT@Vermontel.net</a>
Allison Henry	19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, <a href="mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com">allisonnorton1@gmail.com</a>
Wayne Krevetski	22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, <a href="mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com">wkrevetski@hotmail.com</a>
Gerry Martin	998 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2244, <a href="mailto:gdmartin2020@yahoo.com">gdmartin2020@yahoo.com</a>
Herbert Ogden	214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, <a href="mailto:hogden@vermontel.net">hogden@vermontel.net</a>
Bob Perkins	6 Rachel Drive, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, <a href="mailto:RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu">RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu</a>
Sue Thomas	27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185



## **This n' That**

- September 28, 3:00-5:00 p.m.: GMC Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. See Long Trail News for details.
- November 23, 5:30 p.m. – Annual Fall Pot Luck Supper.
  - (See attached Outing Schedule for details on both of the above.)

### **IN MEMORIAM, BY Sue Thomas:**

**Joan Smith, 1934-2013.** Joan joined us for many hikes over the years. She was an avid outdoors-woman who skied, hiked, kayaked and snowshoed, and often pitched in on Killington Section work days.

**Sanborn Partridge, 1915-2013.** Sandy was a long-time member of the Green Mountain Club. He traveled the world many times and could always be prevailed upon to share slides from his adventures when we needed a program for our fall pot luck supper.

### **ROMA'S RAMBLINGS, by Roma Pulling**

"Part Two, West of the Greens"

Autumn of 1951 found me married and settling in a newish house partway up the mountain. I must have done a good job of it because 61 years later I am still in the same place with various additions and variations. One of our first outings was an overnight hike (my first) to Little Rock Pond Shelter on the Long Trail in Wallingford. Our neighbors, who were our guides, had chosen to hike in by the Homer Stone Brook Trail. Today, it is badly eroded and not much fun to hike and the preferred route seems to be the Long Trail from USFS Road #10, but in those days the Homer Stone Brook Trail was an easier hike.

At that time, we had not acquired proper gear and I wore sneakers and carried a blanket roll for lack of a pack. Having arrived at Little Rocky, my next challenge was to cross a 75-foot bridge to the shelter, which then was, according to my LT guide, "beautifully situated" on a small island in the Pond. By the time we arrived, the bridge was in poor condition and partially submerged. I was scared out of my wits, but arrived safely at my destination. The next change I found was the "bunk space for 6 to 8." There were no bunks, and hikers had been spreading branches upon which to spread their sleeping bags. Our two guys cut fresh branches, and I was able to spread my blanket and get ready for my first night in the woods. Following an afternoon of swimming and fishing, we returned home as healthy as when we started.

My next roughly 23 years were busy with a growing family, but I tried to work in a day trip at least once a year. The two most notable were, No. 1, a hike to Pico Peak. At that time, the peak had not been sullied by a cluster of communication structures, but had a fire tower manned by a friendly fire watch. My one visit to the Peak since the changes was so upsetting, I have never been back. No. 2 that stands out in my mind was to Tucker Lodge, situated a short distance north of Route 4 on Sherburne Pass. It was destroyed in 1969 and replaced by the Tucker-Johnson Shelter, which was on the trail north of the location of the old lodge, but has more recently been destroyed by fire.

Part Three of my "Ramblings" will be entitled "I Take to the Woods."

## **Outing Reports**

### **WESTERN RIDGE TRAIL, MOREAU STATE PARK, NY, April 28, 2013, Allison Henry, leader**

Around this time last year, I led a hike on the Moreau Lake State Park trail system (which is between Saratoga Springs and Lake George, NY), within the state park. On the map for that hike, we saw a trail that intrigued us—a ridgeline walk overlooking the Hudson River and the Spier Falls Dam. We thought, collectively, "Well that hike looks BETTER than the one we are on now!" I put the current hike on the schedule in January, but it was a dreary day, and the lone participant and I thought the views would be socked in.

Fast forward to late April, and behold, a sunny day for the scheduled trip. Multiple rendezvous points for the carpool and trip to the trailhead meant a slow start. Then, your fearless leader got a little confused about the trailhead location for the car spot, so this meant a long line of vehicles doing multiple u-turns. It's all

fun and games until someone smashes (okay, scrapes) the underside of their front end on a culvert. Adding a dog and an infant to the scenario also contributed to the careful planning of which cars should end up where. About two hours after we left Rutland, we were entering the woods. Total participants included 8 adults, one baby in a carrier, and one Burdock, and all parties agreed that the baby plus dog equaled one person for a grand total of nine people.

We ended up hiking south to north on the Western Ridge Trail. The hike started with a long, switch-backing climb up, up, up to some views toward the west. The trail then goes in and out of the woods with occasional lookouts (Lookout!). Around lunchtime, it appeared we would be reaching the best overlook just in time for a break. Being the sweep, I informed the rest of the group to stop at the overlook for a break (well, at least I thought I did). I then stopped to attend to some personal business and fell way behind. I caught up to some of the group and found that several folks had lost the trail and were tromping around, trying to find it. Meanwhile, the gentlemen of the group had found the overlook on a spur trail and were enjoying food and sun. Some of the ladies were not to be found at all. I went on ahead, as it turned out they had passed the overlook entirely. I caught up to them and they were already on the other side of a small ravine. Seated at that ravine were two other hikers, not part of our group. I called ahead to our womenfolk and babyfolk, and reported that the gentlemen were a ways back at the overlook, already enjoying lunch. Some discussion ensued, while the two hikers not in our party added their two cents as well, including suggesting that we should go on ahead without the guys and suggesting different side trails. However, the group agreed to go back to the overlook for lunch. (Turns out, once I'd turned around, the two other hikers reported to our group that I was angry. I was NOT! But I did have the cookies, so I was in charge.) Back to the overlook we went and our group was reunited. We enjoyed a long, sunny lunch break complemented by views of the Hudson and the Spier Falls Dam. We also enjoyed cake mix chocolate chip cookies that were all melty from sitting on a warm rock. The crowning glory of the lunch break was watching the baby's diaper get changed on the outcropping—probably the highest and most exposed diaper changing I've ever witnessed.

Most of the trek down was via an old woods road, which we all agreed would have been worse had we gone up that way. At the very end of the trail, near the trailhead, we passed several stone walls, cellar holes, and stone steps. All cars were found at the end of the trip, and baby and dog ended up with their proper owners. I strongly recommend this trail for a clear day. Moderate climbing, great views, and an easy drive.

### **THE BALL, ARLINGTON, May 19, 2013, Larry Walter, leader**

Frankly, things didn't look too good upon my arrival at the fire station, lagging behind by a customary 5 minutes. No one in sight, cloudy, windy and cold. Then Sue Thomas showed up. I assumed she was only stopping by to tell me she didn't hike with crazy people, but I insisted that the last weather report forecasted a "slight chance of showers in the very-southern part of Vermont." I had also promised to accompany my friend and co-worker Jeff Tilley up the hill, since the hiking route literally started at his driveway. Sue reluctantly agreed to tag along (hey...anything but housework sounds good). When we caught the first really good view of the valley leading to Manchester and beyond, all we could see was a black sky. Big drops were occasionally bouncing off the Jetta's windshield. We drove on, perhaps due to a reluctance to waste all of that hard-earned petrol.

We were greeted by Jeff and his wife, Amy, and two kids, Sarah (age seven) and Cale (age 5). The kids were ready to roll, so we moved off up the neighbor's field in a pretty nasty little shower. The Tilleys hale from a large island in Alaska that probably averages more rain per month than we get all summer, so this was nothing for them. We were accompanied by their old dog. Amy predicted said pet would turn around and head back once it got steep. The kids made it all the way up to where the logging road turns hard-right, back to the northeast, probably about half way up. Not bad for some pretty small kids (Jeff did pack Cale on his shoulders for a while.) We talked for about 10 or 15 minutes, when around the corner came their old dog. He'd pushed himself all the way up there for fear of missing out. No wonder dogs are such great pets. It's (almost) always a treat to hike with little kids. Everything's a big deal. They were pretty nature-savvy, thanks to early tutoring from their folks. We found some Morel mushrooms, which were proudly displayed by Sarah and Cale upon our return.

Sue and I managed to make it to the summit, catch a fairly nice view and return in a steady drizzle. The footing was a little slick, especially on portions of the road which had been laid bare by erosion. There is a lot of ATV use up on the final ridge, but none along Dry Brook. It rained most of the way back to Rutland.

## **SLEEPING BEAUTY, LAKE GEORGE, NY, June 16, 2013, Allison Henry, leader**

Sleeping Beauty is part of the trail network on the east shore of Lake George. This trail is actually where I was first introduced to "real" hiking, over 10 years ago. Growing up I had always thought hiking meant either nature walks at state parks, exploring at my Dad's hunting camp or Everest-style expeditions. I really had no idea that there were public trailheads and that one could just drive up, put on a daypack, and hike for the day! When I was living in Albany, a friend suggested that we go hiking. I assumed she meant the paths at Thacher State Park. Nope! Sleeping Beauty changed my life that day.

Anyway, fast forward to the present. The day of the hike dawned foggy and damp, with some glimpses of sun but a 30-40 percent chance of rain. I got myself all ready but half expected to be the only one at the park. Wrong! Several people were already waiting for me, and a few more appeared. We then had a last-minute rendezvous at the Welcome Center in Fair Haven with yet another hiker, and the total then included seven people and two dogs (one big, one little).

We drove to the Hogtown Trailhead which is off of Route 149 in the Fort Ann area. Now, trail reviews on the Internet as well as my outdated guidebook suggested that the road from the Hogtown Trailhead to Dacy Clearing (where the Sleeping Beauty Trail actually begins) was impassable unless in a high clearance vehicle. We were in Sue's Nissan, so I suggested we stop at Hogtown and walk the rest of the way. Wrong again! When we walked the one-plus miles to Dacy Clearing, we found the road in good shape with easy grades. At Dacy Clearing, there were mini vans, Jettas, and even a Mini Cooper. Sigh.

Up the trail we went, once we found it in the corner of the parking lot. It is a very popular area, and much of the trail is worn down to the bedrock. It was slow going because it was steep, muddy, and very slippery. We were glad the weather held on our way up. We passed several families, some with young children, and it was nice to see people enjoying the outdoors. Most looked prepared for the weather, which made me happy—it is a real pet peeve of mine to see other hikers out who look unprepared (jeans, cotton sweatshirts, no food or water) especially when they have children with them!

The day stayed clear until we reached the summit for lunch. Just as the sandwiches came out, so did the drizzle. Some folks stayed out in the open while a few took refuge in the trees. Brownies were passed around, made by yours truly, and the tree-dwellers made a sudden reappearance.

For the return trip, we decided to continue the loop, and took the trail around Bumps Pond. The trail down the back side of the mountain clearly gets less use than the main trail—it was grass and dirt treadway most of the way instead of being eroded down to rocks and roots. Very pleasant footing especially for a damp downhill march! Bumps Pond was quiet and misty, and we even caught sight of the resident pond monster Bumpy.

About a mile from the trailhead, we met up with several young people. They were wearing capris and t-shirts, carried no gear, and one even had on flip flops! They asked how far it was to "The Mountain." I explained that they had a long way to go, and that it was rainy and chilly. They ignored my warnings and chose to continue on. The rain began in earnest when we reached Dacy Clearing, and it poured on us as we made the mile trip along the road back to the cars. I, of course, had to endure some (good natured) complaints that we should have driven all the way in. But think of the extra calories we burned!

## **SKYLIGHT POND, RIPTON, June 22, 2013, Diane Bargiel, leader**

"Burdock's Near Tragedy" or "Why aggressive dogs need to be leashed & kept near their owners on hikes."

Sue Thomas, Steve Williams, Jerry Parker & Burdock, & I braved the hike despite the weather report and the rather rainy look to the sky. As it turned out, the weather was great for the hike, complete with a much-needed bit of breeze on the way up, which helped to keep us a little cooler and a little more bug free.

The vegetation along the trail had grown quite a bit in the two weeks since I had scouted the trail, but it was still quite nice. Someone had been along to clean up the blow downs that were there, so my trusty "Larry Walter's" saw was not needed.

We went through the flat warm-up section that begins the trail and crossed the 12-foot or so stream without any hitches. The slow ascent included several narrow brooks and a nice water feature and went quite smoothly until about 2/3 of the way up. Jerry and Burdock had been up ahead a little and Sue, Steve, and I were stopped for a water break when we heard Burdock do more than a little yipe. At first, we had thought that Burdock had met up with a porcupine and that curiosity had led to a mouthfull of needles, but the sound of Jerry's voice told us otherwise. As we raced to reach them, we saw Jerry trying to keep 2 large dogs away from Burdock and their owners just catching up to the scene. One of the dogs had gone to sniff Burdock, but

then suddenly grabbed the sweet dog in its mouth and violently shook him. Jerry luckily was able to fend off the dog and free Burdock, who amazingly was not harmed.

The lesson that dogs are animals and that those of us who own dogs should keep them with us on hikes and leash aggressive animals rather than letting them run far ahead was there for us to see the wisdom. The aggressive dog, even when finally leashed by its owner, eyed each of us as it walked past with quite a look in its eyes.

I am reminded of my Pennsylvanian friend, Marcellene Baker, who had had a kennel for almost 40 years, used to breed dogs, and raised numerous dogs of her own. Marcellene never used treats to train her dogs, but used lots of loving reinforcement. Her dogs were always within a few yards of us and always responded to her call to come. If one of her dogs had a potential issue in certain situations, she leashed the dog. We always worked to be aware of others on the trail.

Luckily, in this instance, it was only the people in our group who seemed to be more traumatically impacted by the scene. After a little while of being jittery, Burdock returned to his social self and approached other hikers and their dogs with ease. We were so grateful that the other dogs on the trail were sociable and gentle. Phew!

From a hiking standpoint, we were able to get a beautiful view on the spur off of the Long Trail intersection at the top and then we shot over to the shelter and pond for a good lunch. It is a hike worth taking and a beautifully laid out trail that climbs almost 1500 feet, but in a fairly gradual way. It is good to take hiking poles to help the knees on the descent, however. Note that on my scouting hike a couple weeks earlier, there were still painted, red, and white trillium to see! What a treat!

#### **PICO PEAK, KILLINGTON, July 13, 2013, Sandy Bragg, leader**

An elite group went for a jaunt up Pico, climbing the Sherburne Pass trail on a cloudy, cool Saturday. Sue Thomas, despite a recent injury to her knee, toughed it out and joined Sandy & Kristi Bragg and guest hiker, Dr. Steve Cohen, from NYC. Light rain fell briefly as the group reached the first ski trail, and one party ascended on the ski trails while the other went by way of Pico Camp and the Link. Pico Camp still has a purple sleeping bag on offer—the porcupines have not removed it yet. At the summit the group sheltered from a chilly breeze in the lee of the ski patrol hut for its lunch break. Then we headed down the access road to lower Sunset Trail, bushwhacking to pay homage to the Mead gravesite: Brad & Janet Mead, who founded Pico in 1937. The bushwhack continued as the group made its way back to the Sherburne Pass Trail, returning to the trailhead for a total trek of 5.9 miles.

#### **LEICESTER HOLLOW TRAIL, GOSHEN, July 27, 2013, Sue Thomas, leader**

The weather was sunny and pleasant, the birds sang merrily and seven hikers, plus one dog, set off down the Minnie Baker Trail for a day of carefree fun. We joked and chattered, blissfully unaware of the peril lurking in the cheerful blue sky. Suddenly, we realized that the birds had gone silent . . . "it's quiet . . . too quiet," someone remarked nervously. We milled about with rising panic as an ominous humming sound grew louder with each passing minute.

SLAP! SLAP! SLAP! SLAP! The ravenous hordes fell upon us! Frantically we hopped about, arms flailing helplessly, reaching into packs for clubs, mace, and AK-47's . . . but alas, it was too late. Two hapless hikers were carried off by the killer mosquitos and were not seen again. "Save yourselves . . .," we heard their faint cries as they were borne away.

With heavy hearts, we five remaining continued along the trail, donning armor inappropriate for such warm temperatures and only marginally successful at keeping our attackers at bay. Patches adopted the method of constant motion and frequent dips in the brook, and fared better than the rest of us. As we neared Silver Lake, we found the campground eerily deserted. No doubt, the unsuspecting campers had already been abducted by the Needle-Nose Gang. I feared we would have to eat our lunches in the outhouse (altogether now – "Eeeww!"), but we were pleasantly surprised to find a lovely breeze at the lake shore that did the trick and had a relaxing break, and some a swim, that almost made up for the loss of blood.

The walk down past the Falls of Lana was amazingly bug-free; perhaps word had been passed that we were already tapped out. We stopped in Brandon on the way home looking for plasma, but as none was available, we settled for ice cream, which all agreed was a pretty good substitute.



## **Killington Section Directors' Meeting**

Minutes of Directors' Meeting, June 11, 2013, by Allison Henry, Secretary

(Edited by Vivian Bebee – contact Allison Henry for complete transcript.)

Present: Barry Griffith, Allison Henry, Gerry Martin, Sue Thomas, Dave Coppock, Vivian Bebee, and Diane Bargiel. Absent: Wayne Krevetski and Hillary Coolidge

- called to order at 6:13 by President Barry Griffith
- minutes from December 2012 meeting and March 2013 meeting were approved (Thomas/Henry)
- Treasurer's report by Mr. Gerry Martin:
  - The only activity has been the hall rental and newsletter costs
  - the CD will automatically roll over in July
  - the Main Club now receiving duplicates of our statements and also require quarterly report; this is because of taxes and liability (Sections are not a separate entity; we fall under the Main Club)
  - Treasurer's report accepted (Bargiel/Henry)
- Main Club Report from Allison Henry
  - Winooski Bridge project marching forward!
  - Main Club and Manchester Section are doing a fundraiser for the Bromley Tower project
  - A UVM group wants to have a research facility on top of Mount Mansfield to study the alpine environment. Their current plan would allow groups of up to 25 students to spend the night above treeline, in the alpine zone. The Main Club has expressed concern to the Main Club and other parties about this, stating that it goes against the Club's very mission as stewards of the Green Mountains. Stay tuned for updates on this situation in the coming months.
  - Kit Davidson's land in Hubbardton, VT:
    - Kit has asked the Vermont Land Trust to take over management of his land and keep it open to the public for day use, as it is now. He has asked the Green Mountain Club to serve a supporting role in this. At the Main Club Directors' meeting, it was ultimately decided that the Club will request more information before agreeing to such a role. Sue shared that she attended a site visit with Main Club representatives. Barry volunteered to find out more information about the Main Club's position and what our role would entail, and he will share with the Killington Section at our next meeting.
- Smoke and Blazes report from Vivian Bebee, Editor:
  - A big "THANK YOU" to Tom Copps, former Director, for his photo editing efforts in Smoke and Blazes over the past few years.
  - If you want to submit photos, please email to [lwalter@sover.net](mailto:lwalter@sover.net)
- Outings report from Sue Thomas, Outings Chair:
  - The schedule for June, July, and August is out. Not too soon to call Sue if you want to lead hike on next schedule.
- Website update from President Barry Griffith:
  - Keep Hillary "in the loop" when sending out information as she is trying to keep our website updated
  - Facebook update from Allison Henry: Facebook page is "Green Mountain Club Killington Section." Posting 1-2 things per week (i.e., a list of cliffs that are closed due to falcons nesting).
- Other:
  - Upcoming presentation by Jennifer Pharr Davis, author and AT thru-hiker. Barry opened the discussion on behalf of VP Wayne. This will be an event sponsored by the Main Club and the Long Trail Brewery on June 24, and Wayne has suggested that we support the event with a \$125 payment to the speaker, which we understand to be half of the fee. A motion was made (Henry), and amended, to suggest that we offer the fee to the Main Club with the understanding that this is a one-time occurrence, not wanting to set a precedent for paid events of this nature (seconded by Bargiel). It was passed by a majority vote.
  - Annual Meeting: Our section will be hosting the Annual Meeting in June 2014. We made a list of possible venues and assigned one person to contact each. We will need to talk to our Main Club contacts about the expected cost and what support we can expect from the Main Club. Will set up additional meetings for planning as we narrow down venue options. We will also get in touch with Section leaders from Sections who have hosted recently, such as Marge Fish from the Manchester Section, for guidance and advice.
- Trails and Shelters Update, from Barry on behalf of Trails and Shelters Chairs:
  - The Long Trail Patrol will be working on the Shrewsbury Peak Trail
  - Siding on Clarendon Shelter. We approved the cost last year
  - Minerva Hinchey table will be replaced by Gerry and Chryl Martin
  - No news on a replacement for Tucker Johnson
  - Tools are missing! Check your sheds for tools with KSGMC written on them
  - Still need to put in the puncheon between Jungle Jct and Cooper. Has been delivered to the site.
  - Blowdowns need clearing in Little Killington area

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 1 at the Coppock Homestead in Rutland

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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.....\$45  
Family.....\$60  
Senior/Student/Limited Income.....\$25

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

**KILLINGTON SECTION, GMC      OUTING SCHEDULE      September-November, 2013**

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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. 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. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**14 September, Saturday, 4:30 p.m. (rain date September 15)**

**Hogback Supper Hike, Goshen**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Bring supper along and enjoy the sunset over the valley from a viewpoint on Hogback Mountain (easy short walk back to the cars). Easy to moderate, 2.5 miles.

**22 September, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Worth Mountain, Hancock**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

Hike from Sucker Brook to Middlebury Gap on the Long Trail, with a nice View at the top and possible stop at Lake Pleiad. We will spot cars at either end. Moderate, 5-6 miles, with some steep climbing.

**28 September, Saturday, 3:00-5:00 p.m.**

**GMC Volunteer Appreciation Picnic, Waterbury**

**Joe Sikowitz 802-241-8324**

**[jsikowitz@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:jsikowitz@greenmountainclub.org)**

Help celebrate our fabulous volunteers at club headquarters on the Waterbury-Stowe Road. RSVP by September 23. See your Long Trail News for details.

**29 September, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Merck Forest, Rupert**

**Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

We will drive to the southern end of Merck (West Rupert-Hidden Valley) and hike on Old Town Road and some side trails. Moderate, 4-6 miles.

**5 October, Saturday**

**Mystery Hike**

**Diane Bargiel (413) 687-1109**

East Poultney/Middletown Springs area. Enjoy a moderate hike and beautiful foliage. Call leader for meeting time and place.

**13 October, Sunday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Shrewsbury Peak**

**Barb and Barry Griffith 492-3573**

We will take an alternate route into the Black Swamp trail, ascending near the site of the old ski area. After a gorgeous summit view, we will descend the rocky Shrewsbury Peak Trail. Moderate, 5 miles, with some steep climbing and a challenging descent.

**19 October, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Round Hill, Shrewsbury**

**Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

Hike over Kinsman Hill for great views, then out to Round Hill. Moderate, 5 miles, mostly on old wood roads, but with some bushwhacking.

**26 October, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Fall Work Party**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510, Wayne Krevetski 282-2237**

All are welcome to help with fall trail maintenance projects. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, water and lunch. Tools will be provided.

**2 November, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Snake Mountain, Addison/Weybridge**

**Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

Hike on old woods road and trails to top of the north-south running ridge with beautiful views of the Addison County farms below, Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks in the distance. Moderate, 4 miles, 950 feet elevation gain.

**9 November, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Hamilton Falls, Jamaica**

**Steve Williams 645-9529**

Hike from Ball Mountain Dam on the West River Trail to one of the highest waterfalls in Vermont. Easy to moderate, 4.2 miles.

**16 November, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Mount Tom, Woodstock**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

A safe hunting season hike on the carriage roads at the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park. We will climb to the overlook, circle the Pogue and explore.

**23 November, Saturday, 5:30 p.m.**

**Fall Pot Luck Supper, Godnick Center, Deer St., Rutland**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

All are welcome to join us for our annual event. Bring your own place setting and a dish to share for the meal, which will be followed by a slide program on the Canadian Rockies.

**7 December, Saturday, 9:00**

**Willard Gap to the Elbow, Mendon**

**Larry Walter 775-3855**

From Willard Gap (LT) we will bushwack westerly along a natural spur ridge to the height of land with nice views to the south. Then northeasterly along a similar spur ridge back down to LT and then follow trail westerly to the Elbow and northeasterly along Elbow Road to North Sherburne. Will be spotting cars. Difficult, 5 miles.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Thursday Hikes Schedule - 2013**

The Rutland Recreation and Parks Department sponsors a series of hikes for those who wish to enjoy their outings at a less strenuous pace. The hikes typically cover two to four miles, involve limited to moderate elevation gain, and try to avoid treacherous footing. Bring water and a lunch, wear sturdy footwear, and be prepared for Vermont weather. Meet on **Thursdays at 9 am** at the Godnick Center on Deer Street to car pool. We return in early to mid-afternoon. Call hike leaders if you have questions. All are welcome.

**September 19, Chittenden Reservoir, Lefferts Pond, Chittenden**

**Pat Tinker 775-5483**

Follow the Catamount Trail from Chittenden Dam to Lefferts. Moderate

**October 3, Helen W. Buckner Memorial Preserve, West Haven**

**Lyn Drigert 775-7038**

Hike Tim's Trail through fields and forests where VT is west of NY. Moderate.

**October 17, New Boston Trail, Chittenden**

**Renee Warren 747-4466**

Old woods road climbs to David Logan Shelter on Long Trail. Moderate.

**October 31, Halloween Hike**

**Edith Kellogg 775-1246**

Destination is a mystery . . .





*Volume 66, Number 4*

*Killington Section, Green Mountain Club*

*December 2013*

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS!*



Barb enjoying the view on Snake Mountain (see Page 6).



**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2014

Dave Coppock

Allison Henry\*

Sue Thomas\*

Term expiration 2015

Hilary Coolidge

Barry Griffith

Gerry Martin\*

Term expiration 2016

Diane Bargiel

Vivian Bebee\*

Wayne Krevetski

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

**Killington Section Officers:**

Barry Griffith

President

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History

Sue Thomas

Outings

Herb Ogden

Trails &amp; Shelters

Wayne Krevetski

Trails &amp; Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Allison Henry

Director

Hilary Coolidge

Alternate

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee

Editor

Larry Walter

Assistant Editor

**Web Site:**

Hilary Coolidge

Web Master



Nancy, Larry & Sue on Birch Pond, Merck Forest  
(see Page 5).

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.mac.com/gmckillington>**

Diane Bargiel

413-687-1109

Vivian Bebee

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [lwalter@sover.net](mailto:lwalter@sover.net)

Hilary Coolidge

PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, [hcoolidge@hotmail.com](mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com)

Dave Coppock

21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, [dscoppock@gmail.com](mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com)

Barry Griffith

68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

Allison Henry

19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, [allisonnorton1@gmail.com](mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com)

Wayne Krevetski

22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)

Gerry Martin

998 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2244, [gdmartin2020@yahoo.com](mailto:gdmartin2020@yahoo.com)

Herbert Ogden

214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Bob Perkins

6 Rachel Drive, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, [RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu](mailto:RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu)

Sue Thomas

27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185



## **This n' That**

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you would rather receive Smoke & Blazes by email, please contact me at [vlb@sover.net](mailto:vlb@sover.net).

***NEW TRIP LEADERS WANTED!! If you have a favorite hike you would like to share with others or are just wondering what is required to be a hike leader, please call Sue Thomas at 773-2185. Leading a hike is a great way to volunteer for the GMC.***

### ***KILLINGTON SECTION TO HOST THE GMC ANNUAL MEETING IN JUNE 2014!***

- December 5, 2013, planning meeting for the GMC Annual Meeting in June, 2014. GMC Killington Section members that may be interested in volunteering to help during that weekend event are encouraged to attend. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Bebee-Walter residence at 14 Belmont Avenue in Rutland. Call 775-3855 for directions. Light refreshments will be served.
- REMINDER: All members of the GMC are encouraged to keep their memberships current in order to enjoy the full benefits of being a GMC member!

### **IN MEMORIAM, by Sue Thomas**

**Steve Pulling, 1955-2013.** Steve, an active outdoorsman and former Killington Section Trails and Shelters Chairman, recently passed away suddenly and much too soon.

Steve was an LT end-to-ender, built many a bridge and water bar and taught orienteering classes for the section. In the early 80's, he was one of a group of we, younger members, who often added some "extra-curricular" activities to KS hikes – on several winter, moonlight hikes, after hot drinks and songs around the campfire, the more sensible would head home to warm houses, while our little gang spent the night in an LT lean-to. One of my best memories of that time was of such a trip to Minerva Hinchey, back when it was an enclosed shelter, but still mighty cold on a winter night. Steve was terribly disappointed that a work commitment kept him from joining us. Early the next morning as we huddled in our sleeping bags, we were awakened by the sound of a vehicle – Steve had driven his truck right to the door with hot chocolate and donuts!

He also led a 2-day canoe trip on the Battenkill every year. We camped at the edge of a cornfield and I remember spirited "discussions" around the fire about the proper way to toast a marshmallow – golden brown or charcoal briquette.

Steve was active in the Boy Scouts – having earned the rank of Eagle Scout, he went on to volunteer as a leader for many years. He was a volunteer fireman, raised cattle and bees, and loved the Green Mountains and the Adirondacks. He leaves behind his mother Roma, wife Cathy, and sister and brother-in-law Cynthia and Randy. We all extend our deepest sympathy to our dear friend, Roma, who surely passed along to him a love of the outdoors.

### **ROMA'S RAMBLINGS, by Roma Pulling**

"Part Three, I Take to the Woods"

In 1975 both of our children graduated from college within a week of each other, one with a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Vermont and the other with an Associate Degree from the University of New Hampshire. This created a void in our household, not because they were leaving for distant lands, but because it was plain this would never be their home again.

When I paused long enough to think, I said "Now what?" Well, every week I had lived in Rutland I read notices by the Killington Section, whatever that was, about their latest activity in the region. My mouth watered, but I knew I could not fit one into my schedule. So what was my excuse now? Good luck came my way in the form of the then-treasurer of the Killington Section, whom my husband knew when they were both working at the post office. So in a short time I was a card-carrying member of this organization and still am.

My introductory outing was a hike up East Mountain. This was an annual event in those days in memory of a loyal member whose widow was still an occasional hiker. From the peak, before the trees had

grown to their current height, we could see the area where I lived. One of our younger hikers used to climb a tree and attach a red flag, which we could see from our house. On our way down the mountain, we usually stopped to build a fire and make coffee. I was delighted and told myself that this was what I wanted to do.

One morning as I waited at Court Square (one thing that has not changed much over the years), I was approached by a member who announced that the Killington Section was holding a meeting at my house. Not "may we meet at your house, but "we are meeting at your house." From that point on, our house became sort of Killington Section Central, which did not bother me because I did not have to go anywhere for a Club gathering.

I soon found out that opportunities to volunteer in the Club abounded. Over the years, I have been Outings Chairman, Publicity Chairman, Director, Treasurer and Vice President.

Part 4 will be "The Intersectionals."

## **Outing Reports**

### **LT/BIG BRANCH TO BAKER PEAK, MOUNT TABOR, August 24, 2013, Sue Thomas, leader**

When we gathered at the park, we found we had a shortage of cars – only one could be left to transport all six of us at the end of the hike. But we figured we could make do if we strapped someone to the roof rack, so we took the other two cars on to the Big Branch trailhead to begin, where two more hikers turned up – oops! It was more than worth the extra trip to have them along and the added benefit that everyone got to ride inside!

While we were getting organized at the trailhead, another car pulled up with a family inside and said they were looking for the GMC hike. They looked us over doubtfully and asked if we were the GMC Young Explorers group? Seems they had gotten the day wrong, but being mistaken for "young" anything set us off down the trail with an extra spring in our steps.

The impressive new suspension bridge at Big Branch was duly admired, and we stopped for lunch at Lost Pond Shelter, which must be made of asbestos since it is still standing (two previous shelters on that spot have gone up in flames in recent years). Our next goal was the summit of Baker Peak, which I'm quite sure was being moved steadily away from us as we approached. Eventually, we caught up with it though and plopped ourselves down to hold it in place of a while. The view of Dorset Peak and the valley beyond was well worth all the effort on such a clear, sunny day. We stuffed some thru-hikers with everything excess in our packs – cookies, fruit, extra socks – they will eat anything after a few months on the trail.

We clambered down the rocks and then started down the Lake Trail, which once carried tourists up to Silas Griffith's hotel on Griffith Lake. Two years ago it had a less welcome visitor by the name of Irene – she chewed up the brook and the trail and spit out a huge rock slide, dramatic to see. I wish I could also blame Irene for the completely unnecessary fall I took on the way down. Grumble. All in all we young adventurers had a great day on the trail.

### **SUNSET SUPPER HIKE, HOGBACK MOUNTAIN, GOSHEN, Sept. 14, 2013, Sue Thomas, leader**

I don't know about you, but I found the summer of 2013 a bit too hot for my liking. The thermometer inside my house registered 90° more than once, and I spent a lot of time sitting like a lump in front of a fan reading books about arctic exploration and leaving the chores to the fairies. Sadly, they're not making fairies like they used to, and I was left with a very messy house and a few things in the depths of the fridge that only DNA testing could identify. Having planned an evening hike for September 14<sup>th</sup>, I had no excuse not to spend the day virtuously hacking away at the crud, and by meeting time I was more than ready for my reward – a leisurely hike through the woods on Hogback Mountain with dinner theater in the form of a lovely sunset.

Larry had his little saw along, but selfishly refused to cut down the acre or two of trees that block a portion of the horizon. Nevertheless, the view from the clearing is expansive, backed by Romance Mountain and the Carmel and Bloodroot to the south, Birdseye and Pittsford Ridge to the west – quite a setting for our supper. One hiker brought along sushi, which may be a first for a Killington Section trail meal!

When we were ready for the show to begin, Viv mounted a large boulder and activated the start mechanism (see picture below this article). Suddenly the sky, the clouds and the surrounding mountains were



turned yellow, orange and purple – so beautiful. As we sat on the hillside admiring it, we saw a car rushing up the road to the parking area below. Then a group in fancy clothes carrying bottles and champagne glasses started up the hill, caught sight of our geriatric party and stopped short halfway up. We'd gladly have shared the view, but it seems we're now old enough to intimidate the younger generation! It turned out they had been at an engagement party down the road when someone got the idea to take photos of the happy couple in the sunset. We hope they got a few good shots from down below.



#### **MERCK FOREST, RUPERT, September 29, 2013, Vivian Bebee & Larry Walter, leaders**

Six of us (in three cars) left from Rutland on a cool, but sunny morning, which turned out to be the first road trip for our new Subaru, just purchased the week before. Our little car performed well, but we discovered it had less road clearance than our old VW. Upon approaching the South Gate of Merck Forest on Hidden Valley Road in West Rupert, the center of the road became increasingly higher than the tracks, so it was time to park the car and start hiking. Also at this time, two of us (in an SUV), thought they might just drive through to the other end of Merck (farm and visitor center area), but we advised that was not allowed, so they opted to turn back and drive through West Rupert and Rupert to the Visitor Center to catch an afternoon guided nature walk that Merck had planned for that day. We remaining four hiked up Old Town Road to Dunc's Place and the Glen, at which point we turned on to Schenck Road to Birch Pond. It was so pleasant and warm there in the sun that we decided to eat lunch on the floating dock on the south edge of the Pond. Shortly after lunch, Larry left us for a hike to the top of Mt. Antone via Beebe Pond Trail and we three ladies hiked down the Wade Lot Trail back to Old Town Road and out to the cars. Sue and Nancy returned to Rutland, while Viv visited her Mom in West Rupert and waited for a come-pick-me-up call from Larry, who had made it all the way to the Visitor's Center without the benefit of female guidance. Larry now admits that is not quite true because along the way he bumped into the aforesaid guided nature walk that was led by a female staff member from Merck. For those of you who do not know Larry, he is a surveyor/hiker extraordinaire who often has to be pointed in the right direction (in the woods) by Viv.

#### **SHREWSBURY PEAK, SHREWSBURY, October 13, 2013, Barb & Barry Griffith, leaders; report written by Lavinia Seide**

Have you ever yearned to climb a mountain? To most, yes! On Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 2013, twelve members of the Green Mountain Hiking Club/ Killington Section hiked up to Shrewsbury Peak summit, elevation 3710 feet via the Black Swamp Trail, and most returned via the Russell Hill Trail. Shrewsbury Peak is the highest peak in Shrewsbury, Vermont!

It turned out to be an excellent experience. For the more experienced hikers, it was an easy trek. For others it was a challenge. The weather was perfect, nice and sunny, clear skies, no high wind, and mostly no bugs. Though the peak foliage passed in late September.

After car-pooling to the Black Swamp and Russell Hill parking lots, the summit was 2 miles away. We walked along the logging road of the Black Swamp Trail. It was a gradual up-hill grade through hardwood trees for a mile. The trail narrowed and the terrain got a bit more rocky. The summit was still a mile away, but all up hill. We passed the Shrewsbury Shelter with a tenth of a mile remaining. We had our lunches and chocolate chip cookies made by Lavinia. We took in the view, though it was hazy we saw Mount Ascutney to the southeast and the villages near there. Then we focused in at close range to what was right under us, the CCC Rd, the shining silver streak slide at the Shrewsbury Mountain School, clear cuts of a hay field, a few steps to the south face revealed Upper and Cold River Roads close up, Spring Lake in the distance and White Rocks. We took pictures and decided who was hiking which way on the return trek. One hiker had already turned back before the Shrewsbury Trail. Four hikers returned via the Black Swamp Trail, seven continued the loop descent on the Russell Hill trail to the south.

The descent to the south side of Shrewsbury Peak in the Hemlock and Balsam forest was rough and steep. The trail was all rocks. The rocks were covered with moss making them slippery, but it was only for a short distance. The trail smoothed out into more beech trees, their leaves now fallen and covering more rocks. A continuous air of caution was a constant, voiced by the leaders. We passed a VAST trail, walked down some stairs and came into a dried up creek bed. I looked to my right and saw a huge cave like rock, which had an opening and a huge tree over it. I said that that definitely could be a bear cave or a large cat den, maybe even a catamount? After all we were in the beech forest and bears love beech nuts and large cats love heights. We passed the turn to the biggest rock in Shrewsbury, known as Picnic Rock.

So up another hill, across another VAST Trail and a short descent back to the Russell Hill Shelter and water well and then to the vehicles.

All in all it was a wonderful and caring group of people, which made it more pleasant for me as a beginner.

### **SNAKE MOUNTAIN, ADDISON/WEYBRIDGE, Nov. 2, 2013, Vivian Bebee and Larry Walter, leaders**

The weather started out sunny, but quickly turned overcast once our little band of 4 headed north on Route 22A. Even with the clouds, 22A is always a treat to navigate. My able navigator, Viv, made sure I didn't stray into Canada. We turned east on Wilmarth Road, between the towns of Bridport and Addison. The trail head takes off from the intersection with Mountain Road. There is a nice parking lot just to the north of there. I think they plow it in the winter. We chose to stick to the old access road to the hotel foundation at the top, along which we met several people and, seemingly, even more dogs. The summit was a bit windy/chilly, but lunch was pleasant enough. Only a couple canine would-be sandwich grabbers. The return trip was uneventful, until we took up a conversation with a young gentleman (accompanied by a very friendly dog and a devoted mentor). He reminded us of earlier hikes with our own past mentee, Peter. Stick-whacking was the order of the day. Soon enough, Barry and I found we could almost convince our 10 year old friend of all kinds of wild claims, including our questionable navigation skills (OK...So maybe I was a little confused).

### **HAYSTACK, PAWLET, November 9, 2013, Steve Williams, leader**

This hike was a substitute for the original plan of Hamilton Falls, Jamaica. As seems prudent, Steve made a reconnaissance to that trail on November 1<sup>st</sup>, confirmed both that he still knew where it was and that the trail was in good shape and was, in all ways, a good candidate for a K Section Hike. Just to round off the survey, he checked in at the Forest Service office on the way out to confirm that the route in would be open on November 9<sup>th</sup>. "Yes" was the response, "but the gate will be closed and you will need to walk the mile and a half to the trailhead." Recognizing that this would add three miles to a four mile hike, the leader decided that insurrection would probably occur, and that discretion suggested another hike. Hence Haystack.

Actual K Section participation was thin in numbers, but high in quality in the form of Barry and Barb Griffith. However, the Section trio was augmented by four members of the leader's family plus a UK visitor guest of theirs. As always, it proved to be a pleasant trail, with a steep pitch towards the top. Fortunately the going was relatively dry which, with the exception of parts of the descent of the steep pitch, made it an easy hike. The view from the top was great for the limited amount of energy expended in a 1000 ft. elevation gain, with Pico and Killington in one direction, the Mettowee Valley in another, and the Adirondacks in a third.

# **Killington Section Directors' Meeting**

Minutes of Directors' Meeting  
October 1, 2013  
By Allison Henry, Secretary

Present: President Barry Griffith, VP Wayne Krevetski, Secretary Allison Henry, Treasurer Gerry Martin, and Directors Sue Thomas, Dave Coppock, Vivian Bebee, and Diane Bargiel. Not present: Hilary Coolidge. Also present were Joe Sikowitz and Will Wiquist of the Main Club and Marge Fish of the Manchester Section to help with planning of the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Meeting called to order at 6:08 pm by President Barry Griffith.

- We worked on planning for the 2014 Green Mountain Club Annual Meeting, which will be hosted by our section next June. We reviewed facts/figures from previous Annual Meetings and discussed costs and venue options. A motion (Krevetski/Martin) was passed unanimously that Mountain Meadows in Killington, VT appeared to be the best option. Note: This has since been officially confirmed.
- An additional meeting was set for October 24. Ongoing topics of discussion include meals, hikes, work party plans, and evening entertainment options.

Minutes from previous meeting were approved (Krevetski/Coppock).

Treasurer's Report from Gerry Martin:

- Membership funds are up!
- Still very low return on CD's.
- We discussed what our Section will contribute to the Club as part of the Annual Meeting costs, but did not suggest any numbers at this time.
- Report was accepted (Bargiel/Krevetski).

Trails and Shelters Report from Wayne Krevetski:

- AT/LT in Irene-damaged Cold River Road area has been blazed and is officially OPEN.
- Still working on section north of Upper Cold River Road—need approval from USFS to continue. Still need footbridge on Governor Clement Road—might be part of October work trip.

Main Club Happenings from Allison Henry:

- Club has finally broken ground on Winooski Bridge project.
- Membership is down a bit, especially At Large memberships, but donations are up!
- Nika Myers is leaving the Club as her Americorps post has ended. She will be hiking the PCT.
- Field projects include: Relo on north side of 108; Kelley Stand Road (courtesy of USFS); Stimson Mountain; Short Trail on GMC property; new bridges/repairs at Gulf Stream and Stonybrook; Bolton Lodge complex.
- Only 6 miles of the Long Trail are left unprotected.
- Some members are starting a Field Alumni Program. 2000+ people have worked/volunteered in Club's field program since the 70s; hoping to create Alumni network. This is for community building, not fundraising. Hoping Board will support this concept
- A special Board Meeting will be held on November 9 to approve changes to health care plan for personnel due to the Affordable Care Act.

Smoke and Blazes update, by Editor Vivian Bebee:

- Our section gets mailing labels every quarter from the Main Club to use for Smoke and Blazes mailings, and this is assumed to be the most up-to-date membership list from the Main Club. There are some people on the email list who do not appear on the list from the Main Club. Is this a lapsed membership situation? A reminder will be put in S&B for folks to be sure to keep their memberships current in order to enjoy the full benefits of being a GMC member!
- New hike leaders are always needed. Should be a current member. If someone wants to lead a hike or outing, but is not a member, we can arrange a co-leadership with a member.

Outings:

- Call Sue if you want to lead a trip!
- We will put the Annual Meeting planning meeting dates/times in the next S&B so all interested folks can attend.

Other:

- Will Wiquist has asked about us having a Section historian. Bob Perkins was ours previously but he is stepping down. Anyone interested?
- EMS Club Days Sale Oct 4 and 5.

Next meeting scheduled for 1/28/14 at the Henry House in Rutland. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm (Martin/Henry).

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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.....\$45  
Family.....\$60  
Senior/Student/Limited Income.....\$25

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



# Smoke & Blazes

*Volume 67, Number 1*

*Killington Section, Green Mountain Club*

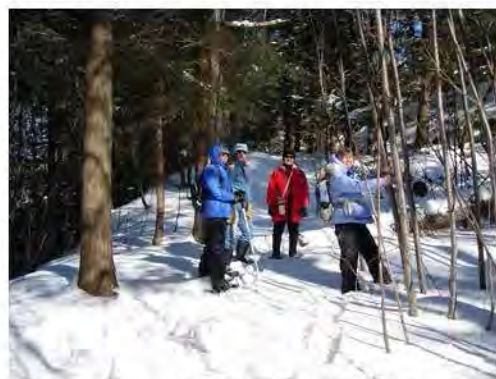
*March 2014*



Cindy, Angie, Gerry, Barry, Lavinia, Sue and Burdock on Plymsbury hike.



Barry shoeing in provisions for hot dog roast.



Sue, Barry, Viv & Barb – High Pond.



## Killington Section Directors:

Term expiration 2014

Dave Coppock

Allison Henry\*

Sue Thomas\*

Term expiration 2015

Hilary Coolidge

Barry Griffith

Gerry Martin\*

Term expiration 2016

Diane Bargiel

Vivian Bebee\*

Wayne Krevetski

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

## Killington Section Officers:

Barry Griffith

President

Wayne Kretvetski

Vice President

Allison Henry

Secretary

Gerry Martin

Treasurer

## Committee Chairs:

Bob Perkins

History

Sue Thomas

Outings

Herb Ogden

Trails & Shelters

Wayne Krevetski

Trails & Shelters

## Delegates to GMC Board:

Allison Henry

Director

Hilary Coolidge

Alternate

## Smoke & Blazes:

Vivian Bebee

Editor

Larry Walter

Assistant Editor

## Web Site:

Hilary Coolidge

Web Master



Sue, Allison, Angie & Dave, Willard Gap hike. Article, Page 4.



Allison by the "Not a Trail" sign on Willard Gap hike.

## Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.mac.com/gmckillington>

Diane Bargiel

413-687-1109

Vivian Bebee

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [lwalter@sover.net](mailto:lwalter@sover.net)

Hilary Coolidge

PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, [hcoolidge@hotmail.com](mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com)

Dave Coppock

21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, [dscoppock@gmail.com](mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com)

Barry Griffith

68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

Allison Henry

19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, [allisonnorton1@gmail.com](mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com)

Wayne Krevetski

22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)

Gerry Martin

998 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2244, [gdmartin2020@yahoo.com](mailto:gdmartin2020@yahoo.com)

Herbert Ogden

214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Bob Perkins

6 Rachel Drive, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, [RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu](mailto:RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu)

Sue Thomas

27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

## **This n' That**



We ambled up the carriage road in the least deer-like way possible and shared the summit (but not the cookies) with a pair of shaggy Icelandic ponies. They made no comment on the lovely view, possibly because they couldn't see it, what with all that hair covering their eyes. (Oh no, it's happening, just as they said it would ... I'm turning into my mother! Many's the time she said the same thing about my brother's hair in 1969!)

After lunch some of us circled around the mysteriously-named "Pogue." Opinions differ on the meaning of the word and no one is really sure. The ducks, who use it as a B&B on their way south, were carrying on a noisy debate on the subject, but they couldn't agree either, so I guess we will never know. We all, ducks, ponies and hikers, can agree that it is a great place to spend a warm fall day.

#### **WILLARD GAP, MENDON, December 7, 2013, Larry Walter, leader**

I had originally planned to run in a counterclockwise direction though the Elbow, but after recon'ing with Sue Thomas, decided a more logical route would be to strike off north, northeast to the LT and circle back to the gap, avoiding any car shuffling or excessive highway slogging. It was a bit nippy, but we had a decent turnout of six, including one brave newcomer, Angie. I've always enjoyed the trail hike from the lower parking lot to Willard Gap (Maine Junction), especially in the winter. Once we reached the Junction, our route took off cross country to the northwest about a mile to the 2600+ height of land where we had lunch. Some of the views to the south can be spectacular, but a low cloud cover limited our vision to Route 4. I caught a fair amount of grief for yet another broken you'll-see-fantastic-things promise. The first ½ mile of this segment is fairly steep, but not of any technical nature. You can just pick your way through some natural benches to gain elevation. It was pretty cold and fairly windy, so lunch was quick. We then retraced our steps easterly about 700' to where a major spur runs off northeasterly about 3000' to where you can easily slide easterly and downhill to catch the LT. From there, it was an easy southeasterly trek back to the ruins of Tucker Johnson shelter. The outhouse is still in nice condition. When we got to Willard Gap, we decided to take the "This Is Not a Trail" to the top of the subdivision and on down to Route 4. Then we completed the loop with a short, but noisy trudge down the highway.

#### **December 15, 2013, Allison Henry, leader**

On this hike, we found a pond just fine....it was Rocky Pond in Pine Hill Park. That's right, we did not make it all the way to New York for this trip. It had snowed six-plus inches overnight and into the morning hours and while the scheduled trip to Lost Pond in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness in Chilson, NY would have been a beautiful hike, I was concerned about the long drive in such weather, as well as the possibility of an unplowed trailhead lot. Three dedicated local regulars and I headed to Pine Hill Park instead. There wasn't enough snow to require snowshoes, but microspikes and yaktrax were helpful in the fluffy snow. We saw few other folks as we trekked almost every trail in the main part of the Park. As you can see below, the trip was not without shenanigans as I posed for a photo at the suspension bridge, with my tongue just inches from the metal support pole. Despite canceling the original plan, it was a perfect trip. A safe drive, fluffy snow, untrodden trails, great company, and home in time to decorate the Christmas tree.



Allison



January 4, 2014, Larry Walter, leader

Another cold day on the mountain. Viv was my co-leader for this hike, but the weather was too cold for her, so I persevered. I half expected to see a massive no-show, but we ended up with about seven people on the trail. I had forgotten that the lower parking lot is not plowed by the State, so we used the Pico lot instead. Another highway march was in order . . . not fun. Once we got onto the trail, the wind was cancelled and the climb warmed up our extremities. Chuck, Gail and Dave all took turns finding white blazes. It's something that needs attention soon, as they're definitely not inter-visible. One of our participants, who had never been on snowshoes before, took some getting used to them, but did fine after a couple stream and boulder crossings. We had listed the hike as moderate, but it could be described as semi-difficult, given all of the false summits (3?) along the way. The fresh layer of dry snow made it safer (less ice underfoot) and quieter. The next day was forecast to be much warmer, but I figured the cold temperatures would keep the snow light, and there would be less chance of wet clothing. We had a nice lunch at the shelter. The eagle still adorns the deluxe outhouse. Our little party broke up a bit on the return trip and as I walked back up the highway shoulder, I spotted the other two cars leaving the Pico lot, escaping the "late afternoon skier evacuation." They do a remarkable job of directing traffic out of that parking lot.

February 8, 2014, Larry Walter/Vivian Bebee, leaders

We were pleasantly surprised to find people awaiting us when we arrived at the fire station rendezvous. It was a pretty cold, although not the near-zero temps we had a couple of years ago at Lake Bomoseen State Park. After a brief discussion, we decided to head for last year's site at Half-Moon Pond State Park. A recent layer of dry snow made for an easy snowshoe down the campground access road. Since the time was still early, a side trip on the trail to High Pond seemed in order. That way, everyone could warm up a bit and generate an appetite. There were some skiers following us at first, but when we cut off a portion of the regular route, we lost contact. To everyone's amazement, said detour was successful. A couple more dips and rises and we were at High Pond. Barb got some nice pictures and then toppled over into the snow for a brief siesta. We followed the official trail back and found where the skiers had turned around. With a little more snow, this area would be fun to explore on skis. We found a campsite with lots of sun exposure (if not a little windy) on the shore of Half-Moon Pond, and it was then time for Larry to ignite his somewhat damp load of private fire wood into a blazing, hot-dog-roasting inferno. After a lot of blowing, he managed to whip up some 2-inch flame heights, so everyone sort of stuck their dogs on sticks alongside his right ear while he provided oxygen to the heat source. After about an hour (not really), and inhaling massive amounts of smoke, the fire had actually reached the grill and was really ripping! Sadly, by then, we had finished eating and were getting cold, so it was time to leave. Despite Larry's attempts to thwart other GMC do-gooder-fire-snuffers, someone managed to drop enough snow onto the then BTU-belching vortex to ensure its demise. Lesson: Next time, we will leave Larry behind at the roasting site for fire management purposes, while the rest of the group goes on the hike.



, January 25, 2014, Sue Thomas, leader

There was more ice than snow on the ground when we set out to hike the Phillips/Cadwell Loop, part of Pittsford's impressive trail system. Beginning by a picturesque, red, covered bridge, the trail skirts cornfields and follows along the banks of Otter Creek. Traction devices were the fashion accessories of choice.

As we turned away from the Creek, we found recent flooding had deposited large icebergs in our path, and after a few obligatory Titanic jokes, we made our way through with our hulls intact. Across the road, we found tracks of busy little animals along Furnace Brook, which eddies and swirls on its way to join Otter Creek.

Back at the covered bridge, a quick poll revealed that six out of six hikers surveyed had not had enough yet, so we drove back to the Village to try out another trail, parking by the old cemetery. By now it had begun to snow and Barry's fire department scanner sprang to life, reporting first a chimney fire and then a car accident on Route 7. Much of the remaining hike was accompanied by a not-so-musical soundtrack of sirens in the distance. It's a pretty trail, though, winding through the wetlands and woods, past large boulders and the grounds of the former State TB sanitarium. Our third brook of the day, Sugar Hollow, featured a round chunk of ice ringed with foot-like appendages – hard to describe, but it reminded me of a crystal chandelier . . . was there a fishy ballroom underneath?

We made use of the picnic tables at the town recreation area for lunch. By now the snow was falling faster and the scanner spitting out alarming warnings about the condition of the roads, so we reluctantly decided to call it a day and headed back to brush off the cars for a careful drive home.

## **Killington Section Directors' Meeting**

Minutes of Directors' Meeting

January 28, 2014

By Allison Henry, Secretary

Present: President Barry Griffith, Secretary Allison Henry, Treasurer Gerry Martin; Directors Sue Thomas, Dave Coppock, Diane Bargiel, and Vivian Bebee; Trails and Shelters Co-Chair Herb Ogden; Member Larry Walter. Not Present: VP Wayne Krevetski and Director Hillary Coolidge.

Meeting was called to order by President Barry Griffith at 6:10 pm

Killington Section member Larry Walter presented to the Board a description of the Cauty Trail situation.

Background: The Cauty Trail is a Section-maintained trail up Blue Ridge Mountain in Mendon. The access to this trail is on private land, and the landowner has restricted access due to recent vandalism as well as hikers blocking the property's driveway (despite signage). There is limited parking for the Cauty Trail—there is no parking "lot," and hikers must park on the road. Town regulations require that all four wheels of parked vehicles must be off the traveled roadway, which is impossible in the winter. Larry presented to the Board a proposed letter to the Forest Service which suggests a solution to the problem of both the parking situation as well as the current trailhead location on private land. In summary, the proposal is for the trailhead and trail access to be moved down the road to a parcel of Forest Service land that is down the road from the current lot. Following discussion, a motion was made (Coppock/Martin) that President Griffith submit the letter as reviewed at this meeting to the Forest Service, and such was passed.

Treasurer's Report by Treasurer Gerry Martin:

Kirk Fund reminder: we can use the interest on the account for projects, above the amount of the original principal

No big events in deposits or withdrawals. Deposits from membership dues continue to increase.

Report was approved (Bargiel/Henry)

Main Club Report by Director to the Main Club, Allison Henry:



Multiple changes in office staff and club directorship in past year. Will Wiquist has left position; Maisie Howard is serving as Interim Director. Interviews in February for Executive Director; hoping to have new person in position by April 1. Club's finances are fine. FY 2015 Budget in process.  
Field Projects: Working on piers for Winooski Bridge; new trail proposed in Pomfret area adjacent to Marsh-Billings that would link trail network to AT; bridge in Shrewsbury to be replaced in July 2014; Bromley tower to be replaced after Winooski project is done; no news regarding Kit Davidson's property in Hubbardton.

Minutes from last meeting (October 1, 2013) approved (Thomas/Bebee). Minutes were printed in last issue of Smoke and Blazes, as always. Contact Allison for more info or for full text.

#### Trails and Shelters update by Co-Chair Herb Ogden:

Tucker Johnson to be replaced, slightly uphill from old site. Needs to be in same site to use same privy which is in decent shape. We discussed possibility of using Kirk Fund monies toward rebuild of Tucker Johnson. It was moved (Martin/Henry) and passed that Herb find out cost of replacement first, then we would consider financial support from our Section, through Kirk Fund or otherwise.

No news for airport beacon north of Minerva Hinchey

We did have permission to use backhoe south of Lottery Road to improve drainage, but permission has since expired.

We discussed Gould Brook crossing (between Cold River and Upper Cold River Roads). Should we post a "High Water Route?" Through discussion, we agreed that the crossing is at least better than it was before Irene.

Trail from Upper Cold River Road to Governor Clement should be fully open in summer 2014, including bridge replacements.

AT/LT south of Shrewsbury Peak Trail junction is very eroded. We discussed whether we should try to switchback around it. Also discussed whether we should suggest it as a project to VYCC.

Sherburne Pass Trail section on ski trail on Pico is badly eroded also. Should we switchback through woods? Herb will find out about easement in that area.

Signage needed near AT/LT lot on Rte. 4—it is hard to tell where Trail actually is and there are multiple herd paths.

Lot plowing for AT/LT lot on Rte. 4 will be shared by Green Mountain Club and Catamount Trail Association. The logistics (which agency/persons actually plow, and when) are unclear.

#### Smoke and Blazes Report by Editor Vivian Bebee:

Deadline is mid-February for hike write ups and other articles. PICTURES wanted!

See Sue to contribute to Outings Schedule! New leaders welcome. If not a member, can co-lead with current member.

We need current schedules in Hike Log notebook to hand out to new attendees.

#### Annual Meeting Planning:

We discussed our Section's financial contribution to the Annual Meeting. Historically, other sections have contributed \$1200-\$1500. It was moved (Coppock/Henry) that we contribute \$2000 to the event, and passed unanimously.

Location, entertainment, and outings schedule are set. Meal planning and other logistics are in progress. Future planning meetings TBA. Will need to discuss with Section at our Section Annual Meeting later this spring, and will need to recruit more volunteers.

#### Section Annual Meeting Planning:

To be held at Godnick Center

Dates discussed (note: following meeting and discussion with Godnick Center and our Directorship, meeting was set for April 26).

Several Directors' terms will expire and several folks will be ineligible for re-election. This includes Allison Henry and Sue Thomas.

Meeting adjourned by President Barry Griffith at 7:59 pm. Next Directors' meeting will be at Annual Meeting.

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



### Your Invitation to Join

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.....\$45  
Family.....\$60  
Senior/Student/Limited Income.....\$25

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

**KILLINGTON SECTION, GMC****OUTING SCHEDULE****March-June, 2014**

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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. 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. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**16 March, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. (Rutland) and 10:00 (Shrewsbury Town Office)****Old Roads of Northam – Shrewsbury****Peter Grace 492-3529**

We will make a loop on abandoned town roads lined with stonewalls for a bit of history and a bit of nature. About 3 miles, moderate, with some steep climbing. Snowshoes may be needed.

**22 March, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.****Mystery Hike****Barry & Barb Griffith 492-3573**

We will keep an eye on the weather and let that dictate our destination. Snowshoes? Flipflops? Only Mother Nature knows for sure! Call for details.

**29 March, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.****Little Rock Pond, Wallingford****Larry Walter & Viv Bebee 775-3855**

We will begin at the trailhead across from the parking area on USFS Road-FR 10 and hike to a pretty pond nestled in a forested mountain setting. 4 miles, easy to moderate.

**5 April, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.****Okemo Mountain, Mount Holly****Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

Climb via the Healdville Trail to summit fire tower for good views in all directions. Snowshoes may be needed. 6 miles, difficult.

**12 April, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. (rain date, Sunday)****Moscow Pond/Glen Lake Loop, Bomoseen****Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Visit two remote beaver ponds and a cliffy overlook. Then traverse along the shore of Glen Lake past a cellar hole. 6 miles, moderate.

**19-20 April, EASTER BREAK****26 April, Saturday, 6:00 p.m.****Killington Section Annual Meeting, Godnick Cener, Deer Street, Rutland Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Bring a dish to share and your own utensils for a pot luck supper followed by a short business meeting, update on current projects and election of officers. This year our section will be hosting the Main Club annual meeting in June, so come prepared to share ideas, enthusiasm and sign up to lend a hand! All welcome.

**4 May, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.****Prospect Rock, Manchester****Larry Walter 775-3855**

Pleasant hike on Rootville Road and the LT to a rock outcrop offering excellent views of Manchester and Mount Equinox. 3 miles round trip, moderate to difficult, with 1,100 foot elevation gain, some steep parts.



**10 May, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Lost Pond, Chilson, New York**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

We will hike on old roads to and around a pond, looking for beaver activity and maybe a few early wild flowers. May be wet. 4 miles, moderate.

**17 May, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Long Trail Clean-Up**

**Larry Walter 775-3855**

All are welcome to join us for our annual clean-up and maintenance, preparing the trail for the hiking season. We will clear waterbars, trim brush and cut blow-downs on the lower elevation stretches. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes and lunch. Tools will be provided.

**24 May, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Lye Brook Falls, Manchester**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Hike up an abandoned rail bed into the Lye Brook Wilderness to one of the highest waterfalls in the State. An added attraction, courtesy of Irene, is a very impressive rock slide, which brought most of the hillside down onto the trail in 2011. 4 ½ miles, moderate.

**31 May, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. (Rutland) and 10:00 (Spring Lake Ranch)**

**Bear Mountain, Wallingford**

**Gerry & Chryl Martin 492-2244**

Follow the Long Trail through old farm fields lined with stone walls, up to an overlook, then on past the infamous Patch Hollow to Spring Lake. 4 miles, moderate.

**7 June, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**National Trails Day – Long Trail Maintenance**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

Volunteers all over the country will be out clearing brush and waterbars, cutting blow-downs and painting blazes, readying 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.

**13-15 June, Friday-Sunday**

**GMC Annual Meeting, Mountain Meadows Lodge, Killington**

The Killington Section is hosting the meeting this year, so be sure to attend! We have many activities planned and many volunteer opportunities available. Call any Board member if you would like to help out and see the Long Trail News for a complete schedule and registration information.

# Smoke & Blazes

*Volume 67, Number 2*

*Killington Section, Green Mountain Club*

*June, 2014*



**Sue Thomas and a friendly New Zealand kangaroo. Article on Pages 3-4.**



**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2015

Hilary Coolidge

Barry Griffith

Gerry Martin\*

Term expiration 2016

Diane Bargiel

Vivian Bebee\*

Wayne Krevetski

Term expiration 2017

Dave Coppock\*

Herb Ogden

Cindy Taylor-Miller

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

**Killington Section Officers:**

Barry Griffith President

Wayne Kretvetski Vice President

Cindy Taylor-Miller Secretary

Gerry Martin Treasurer

**Committee Chairs:**

Vacant History

Sue Thomas Outings

Herb Ogden Trails &amp; Shelters

Wayne Krevetski Trails &amp; Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Allison Henry Director

Hilary Coolidge Alternate

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee Editor

Larry Walter Assistant Editor

**Web Site:**

Hilary Coolidge Web Master



Lunch at Lost Pond, Chilson, NY Barb, Viv, Allison, Barry and Sue.



Where did you say the the trail was—are we still in Shrewsbury?

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.mac.com/gmckillington>**

Diane Bargiel

413-687-1109

Vivian Bebee

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [lwalter@sover.net](mailto:lwalter@sover.net)

Hilary Coolidge

PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, [hcoolidge@hotmail.com](mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com)

Dave Coppock

21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, [dscoppock@gmail.com](mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com)

Barry Griffith

68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

Wayne Krevetski

22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)

Gerry Martin

998 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2244, [gdmartin2020@yahoo.com](mailto:gdmartin2020@yahoo.com)

Herbert Ogden

214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Cindy Taylor-Miller

337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [mrsgorp@gmail.com](mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com)



## **This n' That**

**EDITOR'S NOTE: CONTACT ME AT [lwalter@sover.net](mailto:lwalter@sover.net) for SMOKE & BLAZES BY EMAIL.**

- ♦ GMC 104th Annual Meeting (June 14, 2014) at Mountain Meadows Lodge, Killington, Vermont. Events scheduled for June 13, 14 and 15. See Long Trail News for details.
- ♦ Many thanks to Bob Perkins, our retired Killington Section Historian. We greatly appreciate all of the time and effort Bob has volunteered on behalf of the K-Section.

### **ANNUAL MEETING RAFFLE, by Cindy Taylor Miller**

Together with Joe Sikowitz, Membership and Volunteer Coordinator, the Killington Section has put together a fantastic annual meeting raffle with 22 terrific items for you to take a chance on winning. Raffle ticket donations are \$1 each; or \$5 for six tickets; or \$10 for fifteen tickets.

It will be a Chinese style raffle. A Chinese raffle is where folks purchase tickets, then browse the items up for raffle and put their tickets in the holders for the items they would like to win. Then all you have to do is wait for your name to be called following dinner on Saturday night at Mountain Meadows Lodge.

If you cannot be there during dinner, be sure to give your tickets to a trusted friend who will be there during dinner. I said "trusted" because these items are so special your "friend" might want to keep the winnings for themselves.

The items in the raffle include \$25 Gift Card from Vermont Country Store; two \$50 Bonus Certificates from Dicks Sporting Goods; Appalachian Trail Guide to New Hampshire and Vermont; Appalachian Trail Data Book; Appalachian Trail Thru-Hikers' Companion; Appalachian Trail Elevation Profiles; Black Diamond 4 Season Trekking Poles; Signed and framed print by Mark "Postcard" Hughes of Jerry Parker's trail magic "Cola Corral"; Duncraft Birdfeeder; Gift Certificate to the Paramount Theater in Rutland; Two Green Mountain Rock Climbing Comp Packages \$25 value each; Notecards from Vermont Life; Quilted Wall Hanging with GMC Logo; Red Ledge Snowshoes; Red Clover Inn Week Package room and dinner a \$400 value; Merck Forest two night cabin retreat; Darn Tough Vermont Socks (3 pairs for men: 3 pairs for women); Pyramid Wellness Salt Cave Passes (speleotherapy); Handmade Packbasket by Lies van der Heijden of Shrewsbury; and Solarfest Weekend Passes in Tinmouth, Vt.

Hope to see many of the Killington Section members at the raffle table supporting the club.

### **ROMA'S RAMBLINGS, by Roma Pulling**

"Part Five, The End-to-Enders"

Soon after I had agreed to be responsible for coordinating the quarterly hike schedules—sort of the Sue Thomas of our day—I discovered that an important part of every hike schedule was "End to End." We had several hikers working toward completion of their Massachusetts to Canada hike, and it was assumed that a large part of the hike required overnight trips.

It was about this time that my husband decided he wanted to be an End-to-Ender. I was startled by this announcement and immediately came up with several reasons why this could not be done. The first seems comical now, but I was very serious at the time. "But you're in your 50's!" No. 2: You aren't a backpacker!" Those of you who knew Al Pulling knew how determined he could be. In this case, if you had to be a backpacker to complete the trail and earn a certificate, then we would become backpackers.

Our first exploit was July 7-8, 1979, with an overnight at Tamarack Shelter. The shelter was full, so we tented with our son's Scout troop. In the next five years we made steady progress and in 1984 had only one stretch left—from Taylor Lodge to Taft Lodge. Considering the number of miles so far completed, this seemed simple enough, except that Alfred was diagnosed with colon cancer. This required his hospitalization and major surgery on July 16, 1984. It seemed clear to me that our dream of completing the trail would have to be scrapped, but here again I didn't give his determination enough credit. Barely two months from the time of major surgery, we (Al, our son, Steve, his friend, Jim, and I) were on the Lake Mansfield Trail headed for Taylor Lodge, where we spent the first night. Over the peak of Vermont's highest mountain and after our second night in Taft Lodge, we were ready to apply for our certificates, which now hang on my living room wall. We were awarded Nos. 27 and 28.

This may have been the highlight of our life with the Club, but was definitely not the end. My "Part 6" will cover some more recent challenges.

### **ROO OF THE KAIBAB, by Sue Thomas**

Last June, fellow Killington Section member, Ruth Hare, called with exciting news—after two years in the Park Service lottery, she finally scored backcountry permits for a 5-day hike in the Grand Canyon—was I interested? Of course! However, reality soon hit . . . was I still up to such a rugged climb at high altitude? Could my ancient knees

handle the long, steep descent and the weight of supplies for five days and the recommended four quarts of water . . . in the end common sense was overruled, I'm happy to say.

I bought a new sleeping bag (much smaller and lighter than my 35-year-old one) and a bigger back pack, which I loaded with water, books and anything heavy I could find, and trudged up Pico several times a week in an effort to get in shape. I'd called my friends in Arizona and bought a non-refundable plane ticket . . . wouldn't you know the politicians would choose just this moment to turn their usual squabbles into a regular toddler tantrum, closing down the government and all the National Parks! All we could do was wait and hope as the stalemate dragged on and our departure date loomed . . . finally against all odds sanity prevailed in Washington, and the hike was on. Phew!

I went out a few days early to spend time with old friends in Flagstaff. One idyllic evening Dave cooked elk stew in a Dutch oven over a campfire, and we sat under the stars with fiddles. I tried to talk him into cooking for us on the hike, but for some reason he was not enthusiastic about carrying a cast iron pot into the Canyon.

On Sunday, I went to pick up the rental car and collect Ruth from the shuttle, to find that the car we had reserved was not available. The clerk was sure we'd be thrilled with a tiny, 2-door, red Mustang convertible instead! No way could we stuff our backpacks and the huge suitcases we'd shipped them in in there . . . after I'd given up hope another car was returned and disaster averted. Phew, again!

We spent another day on Flagstaff buying supplies and hiked at Walnut Canyon National Monument among Indian cliff dwellings, then headed up to the Grand Canyon. There we woke to snow one morning, but luckily the day we began our hike, though cold, the sky was a clear, bright blue. We took a shuttle bus to the Kaibab trailhead, took a "before" photo for posterity, and set off down the trail on October 31. This was all very nostalgic for me. When I was in college in Flagstaff—younger, fitter and very foolish—friends and I hiked this same route in one day. Needless to say, it was very dark when we crawled back over the rim, and I still look back on it as both one of the best and stupidest things I've ever done.

Back to the present—older and, hopefully, wiser, we made our way down, overwhelmed by the panoramic views at every turn. And then, suddenly, we were overtaken by a kangaroo. Actually, it was a fellow from New Zealand in a kangaroo costume and, if not in honor of Halloween, I'd rather not know why. He was quite a friendly roo, and took photos for and with us before bounding on down the trail.

We also met a 10-mule pack train on its way up. The Park Service only uses a helicopter for emergencies and to transport composted sewage from the campgrounds. Everything else goes in and out via mule. I can tell you as we slogged along with our packs, we had much empathy for the mules!

The Kaibab Trail is about seven miles, the elevation at the rim 7,000 feet, cold and windy, but we peeled layers as we descended. The bottom elevation is similar to Phoenix—60's to low 70's during the day, 40's at night. The first sight of the Colorado River is always a thrill, and gave us a burst of energy, though it still looked very far below. Eventually, we came to the place I was most looking forward to seeing again—the trail disappears into a tunnel through the cliff face, and you emerge onto a long suspension bridge over the river. Clarendon Gorge, eat your heart out!

We were glad to find a campsite at Phantom Ranch and take our monster packs off at last, ahhh! We'd splurged and reserved a meal at the canteen for the first night, where simple meals are served family style for hikers and a few tourists who brave the 6-hour mule ride down. We met some nice folks, then sat outside for the nightly ranger program—scary canyon stories for Halloween. We went to the programs every night, both above and below, really a treat. Afterwards, we wrote postcards in the canteen to be carried out by mule, then hit the sleeping bags, exhausted.

The next day we hiked up Clear Creek to an overlook, lounged on "the beach" and took in another ranger talk on California condors, once nearly extinct but now nesting in the Canyon, though still few in number. There were always mule deer does/fawns wandering the grounds and a gray fox made the rounds every evening. We'd been warned to empty our packs into the metal ammo boxes provided, leave pockets unzipped so the varmints could "inspect" them, and not take food, cosmetics or anything plastic into the tent, as they would be watching us. We felt their beady little eyes.

After two nights, we bid a sad goodbye and climbed five miles up to the Bright Angel Trail to the Indian Gardens campground, so named by early explorer, John Wesley Powell, who found the natives growing corn and squash there. Now there are cottonwood trees, an oasis in the desert. We found it surprisingly uncrowded and chose a campsite with a view. It's just enough higher to be pretty chilly at night and we were glad to find that the ranger supplied hot cocoa along with her talk that evening. Walking back to the tent, we could see the lights of one of the hotels on the rim far above.

Before we hiked out the next day, we saw one of our new friends evacuated by helicopter, a bit of excitement. It was another beautiful day though quite chilly all the way as the canyon walls shaded the trail. We fended off extremely bold ground squirrels whenever we stopped for a break. I expect they make a good living from packs left unattended. One rest stop has an outhouse with surely about the best "seatside" view in the world.

It seemed strange back on the rim amid tourists and cars again, but we were proud of ourselves and intact, always a goal. It felt great to shower off four days of dust and run a weed whacker through my hair. We spent a last day playing tourist on the rim, where rangers had a spotting scope focused on what they assured us was a condor chick in a crevice. I'll take their word for it. After all, we'd already seen a kangaroo . . .

# Outing Reports

## SHREWSBURY, March 22, 2014, Barry & Barb Griffith, leaders

Not knowing what weather we would be awarded by Mother Nature, we waited for the day to arrive to finalize our destination. We decided to congregate at the Town Office Building in Shrewsbury, but thought everyone would be there at 10am.....rereading the "outing schedule," we realized "unless otherwise noted, all trips leave from Main Street Park." Lucky for us, Sue Thomas called, straightened us out, met people at Main Street Park and drove to meet us in Northam. The Lorentzes were kind enough to let us park in their driveway up off the CCC road. After much ado, we all decided not to wear snowshoes as there had been logging in on the CCC road all winter and we assumed we would be fine walking. Well, that was a mistake!! It started snowing and we were soon slogging through quite a bit of snow and ice. Luckily some hikers had spikes to wear.

We walked into the first gate over a partially packed and plowed road. It was special to have the new sparkling snow and to be able to read several varieties of animal tracks. We could see "snow snake" trails that we speculated were otter or mink slides. Then several types of mouse trails and a wandering porcupine trail.

By the time we got to the gate most everyone had enough, the snow was blowing in thicker and we decided to turn around. Back at our vehicles we snacked on lunches, chatted about the hike, brushed snow off and the trekkers left to get home before the snow piled up even more. We all agreed it was an enjoyable day and great camaraderie.

## PROSPECT ROCK, MANCHESTER, March 29, 2014, Larry Walter, leader

Viv and I had originally (over-optimistically) planned to hike up to Little Rock Pond from Forest Road 10 in Mount Tabor. But given our overabundance of snow this season, the parking lot was not accessible for us car-drivers. Viv suggested we just switch with the May 4 scheduled Prospect Rock hike. Problem solved. It was feared by me and others that the road/town trail would be a constant slab of sled-impacted ice all the way to the intersection with the AT/LT. That wasn't the case. We found ourselves treading up a nicely compacted trail of soft snow. As long as you kept your feet near the center, post-holing was easy. We were passed by just one sled operator, making a final run down to the bottom of Rootville Road. This is a pretty steep little road, but it's maintained by the owner of a small camp further up from Prospect Rock, so it's just a constant, uncomplicated slog up to the rock. What with the snow conditions, we were wishing we'd brought a couple sleds or even skis for the return trip. Next time we'll at least bring some descending devices if things look good.

As is typical on all of my hikes, we had zero precipitation and the sun came out at 12:00 noon for our lunch sit-down. The views are always (on my hikes anyway) really nice from the rock. There's another ledge visible down-canyon that may be worth exploring for a future hike. I think we may have passed a side trail into the same, on the way back down. I sequestered a small water jug that has fallen off of someone's machine. Will try to locate the owner through local channels. Otherwise, it'll be perfect for tree climbing stuff.

## LOWER ELEVATION TRAIL MAINTENANCE, May 17 2014, Larry Walter and Cindy Taylor-Miller, leaders

The weather reports looked a little spooky, but promised better weather as the day went on. The forecast proved accurate, as we enjoyed dry, if not somewhat windy and cold conditions. At least the black flies were grounded long enough for us to finish the day without too many welts.

Our ranks had been thinned somewhat by a rash of vacations (you'd think Wayne could have taken a break from his trek across the Sierra Range).

Cindy and Hillary agreed to tackle the stretch from Upper to Lower Cold River Roads with two crews (the water levels were a little high at some of the brooks). Hillary managed to clean out some more of the trail from Upper Cold River, northerly, by the end of the day. We were lucky in that two young USFS volunteers showed up to help out with the above listed goals, while five more self-professed "prom escapees" from Black River High School (Ludlow) showed up to help me out with part two of our plans, namely the Deer's Leap trail web. We managed to clean, trim and clear A) the entire LT from Route 4 to the Tucker Johnson site; B) the Deer's Leap access trail from the Inn at Long Trail to the summit and C) from the access trail northerly over Deer Mountain to just east of Maine Junction and then east-southeasterly back to the Gifford Woods junction. This would have taken me a couple days to complete by myself, and I would have been one tired puppy. These kids were GREAT! I'll send a thank you note to the school on their behalf.

## SHELTER MAINTENANCE, May 18, 2014 by Barbara Griffith

Barry and I went into Governor Clement Shelter on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May to work on the trail and see how the shelter had fared. We parked in a pull-out on the Governor Clement Road and walked in to the trail head. Trimmed brush back, cleared water bars, cut, hacked and sawed at the recently-downed, small-diameter rotted trees to clear off the trail. All in all, we thought this section from the Governor Clement Road into the shelter was in good shape. The brook crossing was a bit dicey (icy), but I had packed my trusty mud boots to cross. The only thing about this is that Barry (of course) wanted



to wear them (also) to cross the brook and I CANNOT throw very well (at all). It did work out in the end, after lots of encouragement, laughter (belly laughing) and throwing efforts. Perhaps Larry should hold boot throwing lessons along with saw lessons!

There remain two (if I remember right) trees that could be sawed out but are "walk over able." There was a large black plastic trashcan in the shelter that had stuff in it. We did not have the means to take it out. Not a lot of material but would take a couple of people to remove. Meanwhile, not sure what else to do, we dragged it out of the shelter (actually carried it out as it was not heavy) and finally propped it about 50 feet to the left of the outhouse in a clump of trees, where we hope it won't be used as it seemed camouflaged..

As for the outhouse itself, I thought it was in good shape (for an outhouse anyways). I cleaned out the "cleaning pit." Sorry, not sure what it is called, cleaned leaves and debris around, brushed off screen and generally tidied up.



Governor Clement Shelter still has all its charm and charisma, being one of the oldest existent shelters remaining on the Long Trail. We left off a new Journal and will continue to monitor the shelter.

On the way out, Barb managed not to clonk Barry on the head with the mud boot throws and not to toss them in the brook!! It was a good day.

## **Killington Section Annual Meeting**

Director with Killington Section Annual Meeting

April 26, 2014

By Allison Henry, Secretary

Present: President/Director Barry Griffith, Treasurer/Director Gerry Martin, Secretary/Director Allison Henry, and Directors Vivian Bebee, Dave Coppock, Hilary Coolidge and Sue Thomas. Not present: Vice President/Director Wayne Krevetski and Director Diane Bargiel. Also in attendance: Green Mountain Club President Jean Haigh, Director of Trail Programs Dave Hardy and about 20 Section members/friends.

Meeting was called to order by President Griffith at 7 p.m.

Minutes from last year's Annual Meeting were approved (Ogden/Griffith)

Special guest Club President Jean Haigh gave us some updates about Main Club happenings:

1. New Director Mike DeBonis has been hired and will begin on May 19. He is a Masters level Forester and has hiked the AT and LT.
2. Main Club is looking for candidates for two more positions, Director of Finance and Director of Development.

Treasurer's Report from Treasurer Gerry Martin:

1. Gerry reminded us that our Section receives some revenue from membership dues, which is a unique arrangement compared to most other outdoor organizations in which dues only go to the Main Club.
2. Assets are down a bit this year due to our Section's donation of \$2000 to help defray the cost of the Main Club's Annual Meeting. This donation was approved by our Section's Directors and it is a tradition of the hosting club.
3. Report was approved (Martin/Coolidge)

A moment of silence was held for Steve Pulling, who passed away recently. Steve was a long-time Club member and enthusiast.

Main Club updates were shared by Director to the Main Club, Allison Henry, with input from Jean H. and Dave H.:

1. Multiple staff changes in Main Club offices.
2. Winoski Bridge project marches onward. Footings are in!
3. The Budget for FY 2015 is not done yet; FY 2014 budget will be extended until 2015 budget is ready.

Dave Hardy, Director of Trail Programs, provided some updates regarding Trail projects and conditions:

1. We will have 3 VYCC crews in our Section this summer as well as a GMC Ridgerunner.
2. Bridge on town highway in Shrewsbury will be replaced soon; no contract yet. Looking at temporary repairs for next bridge north such as extending a footbridge from the old abutment to the old bridge, but the damaged bridge is getting more and more tilted. Also will be arranging rocks for a ford of Sargeant Brook as a short term solution.
3. Tucker Johnson rebuild will be near the original site so that the same outhouse can be used (a new build further away would require a new outhouse built to new requirements). Funding from Forest Service still needs to be finalized.
4. No official plan yet for access to Cauty Trail (as you recall, landowner restricted access to hikers due to vandalism on property). Dave will be meeting with Forest Service to discuss Larry's flag line route.
5. A mountain bike trail has been proposed near Gifford Woods. Will require signage, monitoring and education to keep bikes off the very inviting AT in that area!
6. Work will be done on Bucklin Trail near Cooper to work on erosion control for the steep sections

Herb Ogden, K-Section Trails and Shelters Co-Chair report:

1. Governor Clement privy needs repairs and needs to be moved to a fresh spot.
2. Still need to remove old privy from Pico Camp.
3. Need crew work north of Jungle Junction to address erosion.
4. Excavator work to be done south of Lottery Road to improve drainage.
5. Scouting possible switchback on the ski trail portion of the Sherburne Pass Trail.
6. Work parties May 17 and June 7.

Smoke and Blazes report by Vivian Bebee, Editor:

1. Keep sending hike reports! Other submissions also welcome, especially pictures!
2. Thanks to all who have been contributing ideas, tech help, pictures and articles.

Website Update by Hilary Coolidge:

1. Our Killington Section website is up and running and all information has been transferred.
2. It is easy to do if anyone wants to help!

Outings Report by Sue Thomas:

1. Need folks to lead hikes for our Annual Meeting!
2. Need leaders for "Senior Shuffle" series.
3. Summer schedule is coming out soon! Call Sue if you want to lead a hike, bike, or paddle!

Other:

1. Bob Perkins retired from Section Historian post two years ago. Anyone interested? We will pursue this more after Annual Meeting.
2. GMC Annual Meeting is June 13-15 at Mountain Meadows Lodge in Killington. Entertainment includes our own Phil Henry on Friday and author, Chris Wren, Saturday. Hike schedule is in Long Trail News and we still need leaders! We will hold a raffle ("Chinese auction" style) a fundraiser and are looking for donations from local businesses.
3. Upcoming Events: End-to-Enders Workshop, May 1; Lightweight Backpacking, May 15 (both at GMC HQ). Chainsaw Certification through GMC July 12-13 with Larry Walter.

Elections:

1. Directors Dave Coppock, Sue Thomas and Allison Henry are ending three-year terms. Allison and Sue have served two consecutive three-year terms and aren't eligible for re-election this year.
2. Sue Thomas nominated Cindy Taylor-Miller (seconded by Herb Ogden); Herb nominated Dave Coppock (seconded by Allison Henry); Gerry Martin nominated Herb Ogden (seconded by Cindy TM). A motion was made by Cheryl, and was passed, to close nominations and to vote for the candidates as a slate. The nominees were elected as a slate, unanimously.

A brief Directors' meeting was held to elect officers. Officers include: Barry Griffith- President, Wayne Krevetski- Vice President, Cindy Taylor-Miller- Secretary and Gerry Martin-Treasurer. Allison Henry was also kept on as Main Club Director and Hilary Coolidge as alternate.

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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 ..... \$45  
Family ..... \$60  
Senior/Student/Limited Income ..... \$25

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



**KILLINGTON SECTION, GMC      OUTING SCHEDULE      June-September, 2014**

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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. 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. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**22 June, Sunday, 8:30 a.m.**

**Stark's Nest, Starksboro**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

Follow the Long Trail south from Appalachian Gap past Theron Dean Shelter to nice views at Stark's Nest. Some steep sections. Moderate pace. Strenuous, 6 ½ miles.

**28 June, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Otter Creek Paddle, Brandon area**

**Barb & Barry Griffith 492-3573**

Canoe or kayak 3 ½ to 4 miles down Otter Creek's scenic twists and turns. Meet at Sears parking lot, Diamond Run Mall.

**5 July, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. (rain date 7/6)**

**Stockbridge South Hill to Killington Quimby**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

Hike on old wood roads and a half a mile of the AT. We will go south from South Hill Road in Stockbridge, passing remnants of long-abandoned farms. After passing the headwaters of Fletcher Brook, we will climb to the Quimby neighborhood in Killington for a good view of the Coolidge Range and a visit to the huge Woodard cellar hole and tiny Woodard Cemetery. We will then climb to the ridge used by the AT and return by a more easterly route past more signs of old farms, with at least one nice view to the north. Moderate, 7 miles with 1,100 ft. elevation gain.

**13 July, Sunday**

**Mystery Hike**

**Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

Destination to be determined. Call the leader for meeting time and place.

**19 July, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Knapp Brook Ponds, Cavendish**

**Vivian Bebee & Larry Walter 775-3855**

Canoe, kayak or paddle board on two small ponds with a couple of islands to explore and/or stop at for lunch. There is an easy portage (about 60 yards) between the two ponds on a wide grassy area. Meet at AT/LT trail head parking lot (Clarendon Gorge) just before the railroad tracks on Route 103.

**26 July, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Around Chittenden Reservoir, Chittenden**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Follow old roads from the historic New Boston settlement, where ruins and a few old headstones are still visible, winding down to Lefferts Pond. There is a small beach and a bathroom for changing, so bring a swimsuit. Moderate, approx. 4 miles.

**3 August, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Little Rock Pond, Wallingford**

**Larry Walter 775-3855**

We will begin at the trailhead across from the parking area on USFS Road-FR 10 and hike to a pretty pond nestled in a forested mountain setting. Easy to moderate, 4 miles.

**9 August, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Poultney River Paddle**

**Barb & Barry Griffith 492-3573**

This relaxing paddle along the scenic Vermont/New York border has become an annual event. Bring binoculars for bird watching! Meet at Sears parking lot, Diamond Run Mall.

**16 August, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**LT/AT, Cuttingsville**

**Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

We will hike from Spring Lake north on the Trail for views at Airport Lookout and lunch at the spectacular Clarendon Gorge. Bring swimsuits for a dip at the area's most scenic swimming hole. Meet at LT parking lot at Clarendon Gorge on Route 103 to spot cars. Easy to moderate, 3 miles.

**23 August, Saturday, 8:30 a.m.**

**Wallingford Pond to White Rocks, Wallingford**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Hike on old road to the LT/AT, then north to the lookout and famous rock garden, where hikers have expressed their creativity with interesting sculptures. Some steep climbing, 4 ½ to 5 miles.

**31 August, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. (Rutland), 10:00 a.m. (Shrewsbury Town Office)**

**Shrewsbury Ramble, Shrewsbury**

**Gerry and Chryl Martin 492-2244**

Climb to a spectacular view from a Shrewsbury hilltop. Moderate, with a bit of steep climbing, 4 to 5 miles.

**6 September, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. (rain date 9/7)**

**MysteryHike**

**Peter Grace 492-3529**

Destination to be determined – take a chance or call leader for more information!

### **THURSDAY HIKES SCHEDULE**

The Rutland Recreation and Parks Department sponsors a series of hikes for those who wish to enjoy their outings at a less strenuous pace. The hikes typically cover two to four miles, involve limited to moderate elevation gain, and try to avoid treacherous footing. Bring water and a lunch, wear sturdy footwear, and be prepared for Vermont weather. Meet on **Thursdays at 9 am** at the Godnick Center on Deer Street to car pool. We return in early to mid-afternoon. Call hike leaders if you have questions. All are welcome.

**June 12 Snake Mountain, Addison**

**Bob Perkins, 773-0184**

Logging roads lead to abandoned hotel site at summit. Excellent views. Moderate.

**June 26 Lowell Lake State Park, Londonderry**

**Edith Kellogg, 775-1246**

Hike around the lake in this little-known State Park. Moderate.

**July 10 Middletown Springs**

**Natalie Casco, 235-2457**

Leader will find new trails in the area to explore. Moderate

**July 24 Kent Pond to Thundering Brook Falls, Killington**

**Gerry Stanton, 843-368-3376**

Follow this pleasant, interesting trail through the woods to the Falls. Moderate.

**August 7 Cookout – Camp Plymouth S.P., Plymouth**

**Lyn Drigert, 775-7038**

Bring something to cook on our campfire and something to share. Hike, swim, relax!

**August 21 Little Rock Pond, Mt. Tabor**

**Bob Perkins, 773-0184**

One of the most beautiful and popular spots on the Long Trail. Moderate.

**September 4 Mt. Independence, Orwell**

**George Butts 483-2891**

Revolutionary War historic site. Views of Ft. Ticonderoga, Lake Champlain. Moderate.

# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 67, Number 3

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

September 2014

## ANNUAL MEETING AT MOUNTAIN MEADOWS



Falls at Kent Pond



Jack-in-the-Pulpit



Thundering Falls



Loons on Kent Pond



Annual Meeting



Sherburne Pass to Thundering Falls



Sherburne Pass Trail Hike



**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2015

Hilary Coolidge

Barry Griffith

Gerry Martin\*

Term expiration 2016

Diane Bargiel

Vivian Bebee\*

Wayne Krevetski

Term expiration 2017

Dave Coppock\*

Herb Ogden

Cindy Taylor-Miller

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

**Killington Section Officers:**

Barry Griffith President

Wayne Kretvetski Vice President

Cindy Taylor-Miller Secretary

Gerry Martin Treasurer

**Committee Chairs:**

Vacant History

Sue Thomas Outings

Herb Ogden Trails &amp; Shelters

Wayne Krevetski Trails &amp; Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Allison Henry Director

Hilary Coolidge Alternate

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee Editor

Larry Walter Assistant Editor

**Web Site:**

Hilary Coolidge Web Master



A party of hikers from GMC's Connecticut Section came up and hiked through the Coolidge Range over the weekend of August 22-24. Killington Section members assisted by keeping their vehicles away from trailhead parking and transporting the group to Sherburne Pass to begin their southbound journey. L to R: Barbara Griffith, Alina Badus, Carol Langley, Bob Perkins, Don Hagstrom, Mike Shaw, Mandy Brink

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.mac.com/gmckillington>**

Diane Bargiel	413-687-1109
Vivian Bebee	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:lwalter@sover.net">lwalter@sover.net</a>
Hilary Coolidge	PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, <a href="mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com">hcoolidge@hotmail.com</a>
Dave Coppock	21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, <a href="mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com">dscoppock@gmail.com</a>
Barry Griffith	68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, <a href="mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net">Griff2VT@Vermontel.net</a>
Allison Henry	19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, <a href="mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com">allisonnorton1@gmail.com</a>
Wayne Krevetski	22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, <a href="mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com">wkrevetski@hotmail.com</a>
Gerry Martin	998 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2244, <a href="mailto:gdmartin2020@yahoo.com">gdmartin2020@yahoo.com</a>
Herbert Ogden	214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, <a href="mailto:hogden@vermontel.net">hogden@vermontel.net</a>
Sue Thomas	27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185
Cindy Taylor-Miller	337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, <a href="mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com">mrsgorp@gmail.com</a>

## **This n' That**

**\*\*Eastern Mountain Sports, Club Day Event, October 3-5**  
25% off all full-price EMS items and 20% off all full-price national brand items

**\*\*November 22, 5:30 p.m. – Annual Fall Pot Luck Supper, Godnick Center, Deer Street, Rutland**

**\*\*A special thanks to all of the following individuals and businesses that donated items for the Chinese Auction held at the GMC 2014 ANNUAL MEETING (also see article-Page 4):**

Vivian Bebee and Larry Walter	Green Mountain Rock Climbing
Dave Coppock	Merck Forest & Farmland Center
Barb and Barry Griffith	Pyramid Wellness Center
Allison Henry	Red Clover Inn
Mark "Postcard" Hughes	SolarFest, Inc.
Cynthia "MrsGorp" Taylor-Miller	Vermont Country Store
Lies van der Heijden	Vermont Life
Darn Tough Vermont	Vermont Teddy Bear
Dick's Sporting Goods	

### **ROMA'S RAMBLINGS, by Roma Pulling**

"Part Six, Filling in the Gaps"

While choosing new projects to occupy our minds and keep our bodies in shape, I focused on the shelters, which had always fascinated me. During our End-to-End hikes, I had been able to visit a number of them and enjoyed overnight stays at some of them. I hoped that now we could visit and photograph some that we had missed before and others constructed since our previous hikes.

Alfred acquired a very large map of Vermont. On this, we assigned a number to each shelter and mounted pictures of each one in its appropriate place. We hung this display in our dinette for years. After the map disintegrated and seemed difficult or impossible to replace, I rescued the pictures and have them in a loose leaf notebook.

My next interest was the many side trails that intersect the main trail. More recently, the main club has highlighted use of these trails, made lists of them available and even offered certificates to those who complete them. We worked at filling gaps of side trails that we read about in our guide book. Our last jaunt was up the Burrows Trail to Camel's Hump, starting in Huntington Center. Many of the remaining trails were in the Mansfield area and were ones we were not enthusiastic about trying.

Between 1994 and 2006, a great deal of our time was devoted to End-to-Enders who were looking for rides to their trailheads. I asked one of the first people to call how he got our name, and he said it was "in the book." After that, we acquired the "Long Trail End-to-Enders Guide," and our names were indeed there, on page 40.

Our trips covered the miles between North Adams, MA and the Canadian border. Two of our assists stood out as being somewhat different. We met two girls on the Arlington-West Wardsboro Road and drove to Stamford, where we drove Mill Road to where it intersected the Long Trail.

Our longest shuttle was between Gifford Woods and Glencliff in the White Mountains. We allowed enough time so we were able to hike a short distance on the AT before parking where we were to meet two hikers from New Jersey. They were at least two hours later than their estimated arrival time. Before then, it had turned dark, and as we were in a remote and uninhabited area, I sat in the car with the doors and windows locked.

Alfred enjoyed meeting new people, and many notes in our notebook that they signed mentioned their conversations with the driver. I liked seeing new trailheads and rode along, except when there were three or four people and no room left in the car.

In the twelve or so years of our shuttle service, we had to perform only two rescues. One was a man from Georgia whom Alfred had arranged to meet in Lincoln Gap and return him to his car. It was so long a wait that Alfred feared the worst and called the State Police for help. The Police had not been alerted about a problem, and in the meantime, the hiker stumbled out of the woods with a sprained ankle. He was a doctor, which may have helped in this situation. He admitted that hiking alone was not the best plan, and in his later hikes he always brought someone with him, a son, a stepson and even a grandson.

Our other rescue was of a man from Anchorage, Alaska, hiking the LT with his friend from Fairbanks, who was stepping carefully to avoid tripping, but not looking overhead. The result was a bloody bruise to his forehead. They came out of the woods on Route 4, called us for help, and we carried them to the emergency room at the hospital. As a

temporary measure, his friend had bandaged his head with duct tape! He came out of the hospital with a more professional job, and after a night in a motel resumed hiking the next morning.

Writing this series of historic incidents has been fun, but this could be the last one. On the other hand, if I think of another subject, it could lead to Part 7. But for now—

THE END

## **K SECTION HOSTS GMC 2014 ANNUAL MEETING, by Barry Griffith**

Our Killington Section hosted GMC's 2014 Annual Meeting over the weekend of June 14, 2014. The event proved a huge success, thanks to the hard work and contributions of dozens of K Section members. Details concerning the business conducted and awards given at the Annual Meeting can be found in the *Long Trail News*, and I encourage you to read that article. Herein we will attempt to recall and memorialize a few of the highlights of the weekend, with particular emphasis on the efforts of Killington Section members.

A good place to start is the venue: Mountain Meadows Lodge on Thundering Brook Road in Killington. All in attendance seemed to agree that the location chosen by our Section was superb, well worth the facility and tent rentals incurred. Our hosts, Bill and Anne Mercier, and their staff, served us wonderful meals. Lodge Operations Manager, David Wright, was a big help, making sure we had everything we needed. Our thanks go out to everyone at Mountain Meadows.

Following a buffet meal on Friday evening, those who had arrived early were treated to songs in the Lodge barroom by fabulous Phil Henry, assisted by able sideman Gary Moon. Many approving reviews were offered the next day. Christopher S. Wren was our featured speaker Saturday evening. Chris has accomplished much in a full life as (among other things) a national and foreign correspondent, bureau chief, editor, author and avid outdoorsman. When Chris retired from the New York *Times*, he transitioned into (semi) retirement by walking out the front door on Times Square and continuing north on foot, connecting with the Appalachian Trail and continuing to walk until he reached his home in Fairlee. Many of us have read and enjoyed the book Chris wrote about this journey: *Walking to Vermont*. Chris shared stories from that trip with us, as well as findings from his current research about Vermont's first settlers and their foot travels. We were pleased we could provide such good entertainment!

Sue Thomas -- who has organized our Section hikes for as long as most of us can remember -- put together a wonderful collection of outings for attendees on Saturday afternoon. More than a dozen Killington Section members stepped up to the plate and volunteered to lead these hikes. While it rained during the morning meeting, Mother Nature granted us a great afternoon for these outings. Once again, the hikes received lots of good reviews. Thanks, leaders!

A special thanks to our K Section member, Dave Wright, for his slide show presentation regarding the original Long Trail Lodge and club headquarters at Sherburne Pass.

Larry Walter deserves recognition for his many contributions to this event. Larry assisted with planning and logistics. Larry participated in the Friday work party, and gave a demonstration of his cross-cutting skills for early risers Saturday morning. On Sunday, after others had departed for their homes, Larry extended the event and his contribution by striking out with others on an intersectional hike on the Trail through the Killington Section. Thanks for everything, Larry.

In recent times it has been traditional for the hosting Section to hold a fundraising activity at the GMC Annual Meeting, to help defray the cost of the event. Our K Section Board decided to hold what is known as a Chinese auction, and to solicit donations of items from members and local businesses for this event. While many contributed to this effort, Cindy Taylor-Miller deserves special recognition for her dogged work organizing and soliciting items for the event. Our Killington Section was able to present GMC's Executive Mike DeBonis with a \$540 check for use by the Club, representing the raffle proceeds. Thanks to all who helped.

Many other K Section members are worthy of acknowledgement as well. Time and space do not permit me to name you all in this short report. You know who you are! This event would not have been so successful without all of your contributions. In my humble opinion, our Killington Section is the greatest! Thank you, one and all. See you on the Trail!

## **Outing Reports**

### **MOSCOW POND LOOP, BOMOSEEN, April 12, 2014, Sue Thomas, leader**

If you were to look at a calendar, you would see that Spring arrived on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March this year. Perhaps there is a cheerful little flower on the page, or a frolicking bunny. Well, apparently Mother Nature never got the memo. Three weeks later, we found snow and ice still on the trail to Moscow Pond, and traction devices were necessary equipment.

Frankly, I'd had my doubts about the outing after nearly losing my car in the mud at the trailhead the day before. Turnout was good though and we figured if people really insisted on taking their cars home with them, we had enough muscle to push. So, we set off as planned on the very pretty though slippery trail. The brooks were burbling nicely over small waterfalls and a few plants bravely poked through the snow and leaf litter, as I recounted the tale of Spiney Norman, an overly aggressive porcupine that Roma and I encountered on that trail years ago. For a long time after, I never took that route without picking up a good, stout "porcupine whacker" stick at the trailhead just in case!



Lunch break was on the ledges overlooking Moscow Pond, one of my all-time favorite spots. There was no activity at the beaver lodge. Guess they were inside watching a ball game on cable that day. The trail winds down around the pond and past the remnants of an old mill and road abutment, and further up the hill Barb and Barry have found evidence of an even older military road.

We opted to shorten the hike somewhat by taking an old route that bypasses the overlook and a few followed the road back to their cars, while the rest of us continued on around Glen Lake, where we were amazed to find fishermen out on the very flimsy-looking ice. They had laid a board across the open water at the shoreline – they would have to be reeling in Champlain Chocolates to entice me out there!

### **LOST POND, CHILSON, NY, May 10, 2014, Allison Henry, leader**

This hike was originally going to be a snowshoe last December, but was rescheduled due to treacherous driving conditions due to an actual snowstorm! The Pharaoh Lake Wilderness is in the East-Central Adirondacks, west of Ticonderoga, NY. There are about 60 miles of hiking trails in the area. This hike starts near the entrance of Putnam Pond Campground. The Lost Pond Trail is a moderate walk with a great payoff. It is just over a mile walk to the pond, with little elevation change, then a mile and a half loop around the pond, and then the walk out, for a total of around 4 miles. While there was no snow on the morning of this hike, in the week leading up to it the forecast for Saturday was “iffy,” with about a 40 percent chance of rain for the day. I went to bed thinking that if there were any takers, I’d go rain or shine, as long as said participants had appropriate gear. I woke up to clearing skies, a suddenly much more optimistic forecast, and a ringing phone. “Are we going?” “Are you still doing the hike?” “Have you checked the weather?” When we assembled at the park, we had a very nice group, including two Griffiths, the Bebee-Walter contingent, and a Sue. The walk in to the pond was sunny, DRY, and full of wildflowers. There was little leaf cover as it was still early spring, and we got to soak up a lot of vitamin D. Larry carried an umbrella, insisting that it kept the black flies from swarming his head. At least it kept the rest of us away from him. On the way in, there were several incidents. First, I was squatting down to take a photo of a wildflower, and Barb exclaimed, “Eek!” A snake was slithering right at me! Also, we happened upon a very large black snake just off the trail who was not moving much. We weren’t sure if he was snoozing, molting, or not feeling well. Eek indeed. We stopped for lunch on the shore of the pond near a disintegrating dock with a disintegrating rowboat. As we ate, we enjoyed watching some folks fishing in a canoe on the far side of the pond. Of the pair, one person was very large and one was small, causing the boat to be positioned at a 45 degree angle! The hike around the pond was cool and breezy. Most of this hike is fairly level, but on the far side of the pond some scrambling is required, through a boulder field on the side of a small cliff. On the trail around the pond, we noticed evidence of some sort of predator. There were multiple large piles of scat at regular intervals on the trail, and the scat contained small bones and fur. Bobcat? Bear? Bigfoot? Only the woods know, but it was enough to make even the toughest hikers check over their shoulders occasionally. On the hike back out, we passed the spot where the motionless snake had been, and he was gone. Either he revived himself enough to move on, or he was somebody’s lunch. Despite snakes, bigfoot, and large men in canoes, we made it safely back to the car. We really didn’t want the adventure to be over, so we stopped for ice cream at the Wind Chill Factory in Ti before driving back to Rutland. A great day!

### **LYE BROOK FALLS, MANCHESTER, May 24, 2014, Sue Thomas, leader**

“The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated” – Lye Brook Falls.

Actually, that line was first penned by Mark Twain in a response to a premature obituary published in the newspaper, but I’m sure the Falls knows just how he felt. When Forest Service employees ventured up the trail for the first time after Tropical Storm Irene and discovered a massive landslide that had taken place down a good-sized portion of the hillside, they sadly concluded that this was all that was left of Lye Brook Falls. Word Spread, and all of us who loved this beautiful spot, mourned its loss.

What a relief it was to find that this obit was also premature – the rangers had simply not gone far enough to reach the Falls, happily alive and well, and as spectacular as ever. In fact, when we visited it in May, we found it filled by recent rains and enthusiastically putting on its best show. Not that it needs much help – its series of cascades forms one of the highest falls in the State, making it a challenge to photograph, or even see, the whole critter at once.

Maple creemees on the way home seemed a fitting way to toast the survival of beautiful Lye Brook Falls – it was the least we could do! Two days later, Larry, Angie and I went back with rope and cross-cut saws to take out a large tree blocking the trail. Well, I cannot tell a lie . . . I produced no sawdust, but made myself useful by warning off tourists, as the chamber of commerce generally frowns on flattening them with falling trees.

### **STARK’S NEST, STARKSBORO, June 22, 2014, Allison Henry, leader**

Appalachian Gap (aka VT 17) to Stark’s Nest is a neat hike with some cool features. I had indicated that the hike was strenuous but at a moderate pace, and on this warm, sunny day I had three takers, including Stalwart Sue, a Burdockless Jerry (Burdock is still recovering from an injury), and the occasionally seen Nancy. We easily piled into one car, and my passengers were immediately impressed by my fine driving skills which included jumping a mile out of the driver’s seat and swerving out of my lane when Rutland’s curfew alarm went off inches from my head. Yikes! It was a

loooooong drive up to Appalachian Gap and we got stuck behind every slow-moving tourist and every very slow-moving farm implement along the way. Hours later, we got started on our hike south on the Long Trail. This hike includes LOTS of climbing and scrambling, with occasional assistance from giant staples and/or ladders affixed to the rock. The ladders and staples are never positioned right where you need them, but we still appreciated the sentiment. When we reached the top of the single chair at Mad River Glen, I insisted on multiple photo shoots of hike participants sitting in the single chair. Fun! We then proceeded to Theron Dean Shelter, and checked out Theron Dean "Cave." The cave is a side trail that goes right through the rock face on which the shelter is perched, and loops around to the front of the shelter. Climbing out of the cave and up onto the ledge is rather treacherous, and a few of us ended up backtracking around to get to the shelter via the Long Trail instead. We then hiked on to Stark's Nest, enjoying views from the ski trails, and had a long break at the Stark's Nest cabin (which is a building used by the Ski Patrol). On the way back out, we decided that it is actually easier to go up all the ledges, staples, and ladders, rather than down, especially when one is tired. We scrambled, jumped, and rolled our way back to the car. Back at the trailhead, there were many folks on motorcycles checking out the view from the parking lot at the top of the Gap. On the way down, we passed a motorcyclist who had tipped his bike over, and he was already being assisted by passing motorists and was nearly on his way again. We then passed a state trooper by the side of the road, and I once again impressed my passengers with an amazing U-turn so I could inform the officer about the motorcyclist. He said that it is very common for bikers to tip over on the Gap road and, in the summer, there are at least 5 a day! The rest of our drive home was uneventful.

### **STOCKBRIDGE SOUTH HILL TO KILLINGTON QUIMBY, July 5, 2014, Herb Ogden, Leader**

I don't know whether scheduling this hike the day after Independence Day or advertising it as "moderate, 7 miles" affected the turnout, but it was surprising that, on a beautiful morning, only one other person showed up. That was Sue Thomas, who was going to stop by to tell me she needed to be back in the early afternoon and couldn't go. I persuaded her to go back and get her running shoes, however, so we could return on time. We drove quickly to the end of the passable road past the East Hill Cemetery and hiked down into the Fletcher Brook valley, making 5 mph on the old highway. Mr. Fletcher invited us in for dandelion wine and a special anti-deer tick potion, and then showed us where an old road headed to a more remote but formerly settled area of town. We couldn't find the house shown on the 1869 Beers Atlas, but did find a stash of bottled Beer in the brook. Figuring it might be left over from 1869, we didn't imbibe. Then, in our southward haste, we missed the turn over Quimby Gap and wound up in Notown. Notown had Nocell service and was inhabited by Sidehill Wampahoofuses, so we didn't linger there. At a grueling (for me, not Sue) pace, we hiked westward on the Appalachian Trail to the gap, passing 372 through hikers and one person who had no trail name. Checking out the Woodard Cemetery from the 1840s, we found it overgrown with ivory, apparently the result of a recent elephant infestation. We were glad to see the peripatetic pachyderms hadn't gotten into the nearby Woodard cellarhole, at least. The result would have been like what happened when Winnie the Pooh's friend set a trap for Heffalumps. From Quimby, it was just a mad dash north along the logging road superhighway back to the Fletcher Brook road. Quite an outing, and back by 2 p.m.! If you believe this, I have a brand new bridge over Sargent Brook to sell you.

Actually, Sue and I merely decided to have a look at the relocation of the bottom of the Cauty Trail that Larry Walter flagged this spring. He did it so well we could follow it pretty easily even with all the leaves out. They limited the visibility so much that we couldn't see whether one huge meander was necessary, but we trust it was. Generally we liked the route and thought it would be much drier than the present one. We were also pleased to see it passed a bigger glacial kettle hole than the present route does.

### **ZION MAJOR, MOOT POINT, ZION MINOR AND JAPANESE GARDENS, KIT DAVIDSON'S PROPERTY, HUBBARDTON, July 13, 2014, Diane Bargiel, leader**

This terrific hike was yet another example of how our Green Mountain Club can bring people together from far and wide. Jenn & Diane were joined by a delightful Canadian couple from the Toronto area: Donna (born in Guyana and raised in Canada), and Ewan, who emigrated from Scotland in the late 1970s.

Hikers will find the trails well maintained and very clearly marked with beautiful new wooden signs. We started the hike via Micki's Trail to Zion Major so that we could come down Major's safer side. We were greeted at the top with a brand new picnic table (Who hauled that baby up there piece by piece?) and a lovely natural snack of blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries prepared by Ma Nature herself. Although most berries were not yet ready for picking, we certainly found a lot that put smiles on our faces (especially the blueberries, which were found on all three summits)! Even in the humid haze, the three summits revealed fabulous views. What a treat it was to introduce this hike to our Canadian visitors.

Our quartet enjoyed lively and varied conversations and were treated to a concert by the very vocal bullfrogs in the ponds of the Japanese Gardens, where we relaxed for a snack. Donna and Ewan shared our enchantment with this special place. We all appreciated the thought, work, and craftsmanship that Kit & Micki put into all of the features over the years. We reveled in the hillside meadow full of wildflowers that led back to our cars.



Diane, Jenn, Donna and Ewan



Lunch Spot on Zion Major



**LOWELL LAKE, LONDONDERRY,** July 19, 2014, by Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee, leaders

We had expected a blue-sky, sunny day and ended up with a cloudy day, but it did not rain on us one bit, so couldn't complain. Lowell Lake is a day-use-only State Park, but seems to get a lot of use by quiet paddlers, so it was a good thing we got an early start. When we were ready to leave, the parking lot was overflowing and our spaces were taken up right away.

There were 10 of us, plus Burdock. Our water crafts included one canoe, two paddle boards and 6 kayaks. Lowell Lake offers a varied shoreline, islands (including one with picnic tables), grassy areas along the shore line with picnic tables and some marshy areas, one of which was a narrow water path that took us behind one of the islands and came out on the other side. We saw a number of pitcher plants (carnivorous) along the way and also were treated to viewing a heron, a turtle swimming just under the water by our canoe and two loons.

We almost lost Burdock. Well, not really! Gerry had a small platform hooked on the top front of his kayak for Burdock to stand on. Burdock lost his footing and the next second he was in the water paddling beside the canoe, but frightened since he does not like being in water over his head. Fortunately, Burdock had a little jacket on that has a handle on top. Within seconds, Gerry scooped him up, just like picking up a suitcase. Burdock had no interest in getting on the platform again for the rest of the day. We gave him a ride in our canoe for the trip back after lunch.

We had a leisurely lunch on picnic tables on the shore, which spot had a small swimming area, but we did not take advantage of that since there was a nice breeze by then and still cloudy. The after-lunch paddle would not have been as enjoyable sitting in a cold, wet swimsuit.



**Barry, Linda, Jerry, Burdock (standing on front of kayak), Sue, Larry and Viv paddling on Lowell Lake.**

**AROUND CHITTENDEN RESERVOIR, CHITTENDEN,** July 26, 2014, Sue Thomas, leader

We started our hike in beautiful downtown New Boston – 10 people, 2 dogs and perhaps a ghost or two. None signed the logbook, so we'll never know for sure. New Boston was once a thriving community, with Farms, orchards, a mill and a tavern, along the historic Green Road – then the only mail route across the mountains. I discovered this the hard way many years ago when I set off for a solo hike from Mountain Top Inn in Chittenden, took a wrong turn, and emerged from the woods on Route 100 in Pittsfield. Ooops!

But this day our route veered south and meandered pleasantly down an old road, past some impressive cairns that must have been built by Yetis, and delivering us right on schedule to a perfect picnic spot on the shore of Lefferts Pond. Blue Ridge Mountain across the pond and the newly reconstructed fish ladder (thank you Irene) made for a scenic lunch, though the dogs preferred to hunt frogs and chase sticks.

Most of the group continued on to the dam, while the drivers went to fetch the spotted cars . . . should I even think of inserting a hail-damage joke here? You know . . . spotted cars . . . let's not go there!



Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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.....\$45  
Family.....\$60  
Senior/Student/Limited Income.....\$25

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

# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 67, Number 4

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

December 2014



Sue, Fred, Barry, Lisa (with Patches), Lee and Peter on the trail by Little Rock Pond.

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS!*



**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2015

Hillary Collidge

Barry Griffith

Gerry Martin\*

Term expiration 2016

Diane Bargiel

Vivian Bebee\*

Wayne Krevetski

Term expiration 2017

Dave Coppock\*

Herb Ogden

Cindy Taylor-Miller

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

**Killington Section Officers:**

Barry Griffith President

Wayne Kretvetski Vice President

Cindy Taylor-Miller Secretary

Gerry Martin Treasurer

**Committee Chairs:**

Vacant History

Sue Thomas Outings

Herb Ogden Trails & Shelters

Wayne Krevetski Trails & Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Allison Henry Director

Hilary Coolidge Alternate

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee Editor

Larry Walter Assistant Editor

**Web Site:**

Hilary Coolidge Web Master



**Killington Section History (photo from Roma Pulling)**  
Carl and Nancy Schmidt, both of whom are past KS presidents. Going-away party for them at the Pulling house on 5/31/80.



**New parking area for the relocated Canty trailhead.**

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.mac.com/gmckillington>**

Diane Bargiel	413-687-1109
Vivian Bebee	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:lwalter@sover.net">lwalter@sover.net</a>
Hilary Coolidge	PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, <a href="mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com">hcoolidge@hotmail.com</a>
Dave Coppock	21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, <a href="mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com">dscoppock@gmail.com</a>
Barry Griffith	68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, <a href="mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net">Griff2VT@Vermontel.net</a>
Allison Henry	19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, <a href="mailto:allisonmorton1@gmail.com">allisonmorton1@gmail.com</a>
Wayne Krevetski	22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, <a href="mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com">wkrevetski@hotmail.com</a>
Gerry Martin	998 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2244, <a href="mailto:gdmartin2020@yahooo.com">gdmartin2020@yahooo.com</a>
Herbert Ogden	214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, <a href="mailto:hogden@vermontel.net">hogden@vermontel.net</a>
Sue Thomas	27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185
Cindy Taylor-Miller	337 East Street Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, <a href="mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com">mrsgorp@gmail.com</a>



## **This n' That**

♦♦The Killington Section has partnered with the Rutland Free Library on a GMC James P. Taylor Series presentation, to be given in the Library's Fox Room on Wednesday evening, **January 25, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.** Fellow hiker, Bill Cooke, of Lexington, KY, is the author of a well-reviewed book about his 486 mile trek in the Rockies in 2011: "Shades of Grey, Splashes of Color: A Thru-Hike of the Colorado Trail." Cooke has been invited by the Green Mountain Club to offer his multi-media production about his hike at Club headquarters in Waterbury Center; we have engaged him to allow us to enjoy his presentation here in Rutland while he is in Vermont. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, you may visit his website: [www.cookerhiker.com](http://www.cookerhiker.com). We hope you can attend and enjoy!

♦♦The Killington Section Fall pot luck supper, held at the Godnick Center on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, was well attended. Lots of good conversation and delicious food was enjoyed by all. Thanks to those who contributed to the generous meal and to our guest speakers, Gerry and Chryl Martin and Sandy Bragg. Despite a computer glitch that prevented our viewing pictures of the English countryside and views from the fells they climbed, we thoroughly enjoyed the presentation given by Chryl, Gerry and Sandy regarding their hiking trip in England. Their descriptions of where they hiked, the type of terrain, B&B's, pubs, food and other travelers they met along the way definitely sounded like a trip well worth taking.

♦♦**CANTY TRAIL ACCESS IMPROVED, by Barry Griffith, GMC/KS President:** The Killington Section has maintained and enjoyed the Canty Trail up Blue Ridge Mountain for as long as any of us can remember. One drawback has been the lack of a parking area near the trailhead on Mendon's Old Turnpike Road. The Killington Section has collaborated with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Town of Mendon to achieve a significant upgrade of the situation.

Much of Blue Ridge Mountain and the Canty Trail are on federal land maintained by the USFS. Tracts acquired by the USFS now extend down to the Old Turnpike Road. The traditional Canty Trail we all know started on lands once owned by GMC stalwarts, Craigie and Mary Perkins -- the parents of our current member Bob Perkins. Craigie was GMC's President in the 1950s, while Mary served as the longtime Editor of both the Long Trail News and of our Smoke & Blazes. When Bob sold the former "Tall Timber Camp" property a few years back, he made sure to reserve a trail easement in favor of the GMC for the Canty Trail. However, roadside parking remained a problem.

Several years back, our own Larry Walter recognized the potential new trailhead, which would: (1) allow the entire Canty Trail to be on public USFS land; (2) start at a point on the Old Turnpike Road where the topography would allow for a small parking area; and (3) allow for a much drier location, with an estimated 2/3 reduction in bog bridging compared to the route over private lands. Your Killington Section Board of Directors agreed to pursue this option. Many meetings and discussions with USFS and Mendon officials followed. To make a long story short: USFS agreed to the proposed relocation, and the Town of Mendon agreed to the proposed parking area in its highway right-of-way. The KS Board agreed to pay for the fill required for the trailhead parking area from our Kirk Fund.

It all finally came together in November. The new trailhead is now open for business -- check it out! Thanks to our USFS and Mendon partners for working with us to make this possible. Special thanks to Larry for his persistence with this project, to our Section's members -- Herb Ogden and Dave Coppock in particular come to mind -- and to Seth Coffey of the Rochester Ranger District for their work. A job well done by all! (See Page 2 for picture of new parking area.)

## **Outing Reports**

### **OTTER CREEK PADDLE, BRANDON AREA, June 28, 2014, Barb & Barry Griffith, leaders**

This entire trip left my mind boggled (those who know me would say, "So what's new?"). When we first scheduled our "hike" in May, the rivers were running high. When I went to do a "pre-hike" on June 26<sup>th</sup> you would need a step ladder to maneuver down into Otter Creek. Knowing this would factor into the paddle, I (Barb) again revisited that put in spot and found a perfect "put-in." Alas, this was not perfection as when we arrived after a rainstorm my 'PUT IN' had almost disappeared AND there was POISON IVY... With all that said, everyone opted to participate (sorta, as tales of poison ivy encounters abounded). We were 1 canoe with 2 paddlers, 5 kayakers, and 2 paddle boarders. A total crew of 9 for this adventure.

Once we got going, the two young paddle boarders and a seasoned kayaker saved the expedition. Otherwise, we may have *perished*! Two huge obstacles were met spanning the Creek that we did not foresee...they were both the width of the Creek and about 30 feet deep, blocking our way.

The first contained a very rotted, smelly, obnoxious (any other terms?) carcass of a deer sized animal. Gaggling, we muscled our way through, over and under trees, old tires, branches, carcasses and made it through only to face another "stringer" within minutes. I must say that the "young uns" were instrumental in brainstorming how to maneuver through (along with the seasoned kayaker). It took almost 45 minutes to overcome this blockade. It was a good way for all of us to bond!

It was a good, but very tiring expedition. Everyone finished the trip...and we didn't perish!!



### **WALLINGFORD POND TO WHITE ROCKS, August 23, 2014, Sue Thomas, leader**

Barry and Barb had opted to go on another outing rather than joining us for our hike to White Rocks in August. On their way home in the car, Barry's fire department scanner sprang to life – "Rescue at White Rocks cliff!!" it screamed, "man and dog over the edge!!" It must have been a tense ride home as they speculated – was it Jerry and Burdock?? Sandy and Stella?? (If so, what sort of machinery would that rescue involve?!) I found a frantic message on my answering machine.

I think most everyone knows by now that it was none of the above, but it certainly did end our hike with a bang! Up until that point, it had been thankfully uneventful, if a bit slimy. Most in the group had seen the Rock Garden at the head of the cliff trail, but were delighted to discover the equally impressive second garden further south, which made all the slipping and sliding worthwhile. With an amazing feat of engineering, someone had crafted the AT logo with rocks – hats off to them!

We had lunch admiring the view from the cliff, then started down the trail and that is when things started to get exciting, as we met various members of the wilderness rescue team, dragging a stretcher and some very heavy-looking equipment on their way up the steep, rocky trail. It seems a dog had fallen over the edge, landing in a tree. A man who climbed down to help then got stuck himself. When we reached the parking lot, we found two fire trucks, an ambulance, an EMT unit and two police cars – for once there was no worry that our cars would be vandalized!

It certainly did turn out to be one of our more eventful hikes, and I am pleased to report a happy ending – man and dog both rescued. The poor dog had a broken leg. Barry and Barb, on the other hand, may have needed a sedative!

### **255th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE END-TO-END CROWN POINT ROAD HIKE, September 13, 2004, by Barb and Barry Griffith**

We commenced at Marker NH#1 at 290 Main Street, Charlestown NH, passing all seven NH markers. We were then ferried across the Connecticut River via canoes and visited another three VT markers before stopping at Ferguson's farm, on Spencer Hollow Road. Becky Tucker, of the Crown Point Road Association, was the leader.

There were a number of folks on the hike in "period" clothing and we really had a walking history tour of a lot of sites. Most memorable for me were: #1) crossing the Connecticut River in canoes (getting down the river embankment was a real challenge ... made launching into Otter Creek seem like child's play; and #2) walking through the tunnel under Interstate 91 ... how cool is that?!

It rained on us at the end, but most everyone had on their rain gear. It was a very informative hike.



**Walking under Interstate 91**

### **HAPPY HILL, NORWICH, September 21, 2014, Sue Thomas, leader**

This was one of those weekends when it would seem the weather channel would do better to employ woolly bear caterpillars to do their forecasts. Saturday, predicted to be sunny and warm, turned out to be a preview of gloomy

November, while Sunday's dire forecast may have kept many people home. With just three of us willing to chance it and only one car, we decided to head over to Norwich for a portion of the planned hike.

Lo and behold, as we crested Sherburne Pass, it was like leaving B&W Kansas and stepping into Oz – to the east nothing but sunshine and blue sky, and the beginning tinges of color on the hillsides. So glad I didn't cancel!

The hike along the Tucker Trail is easy and pleasant and we reached Happy Hill just in time to enjoy lunch at the quaint stone shelter and patronize the brand-new, handicapped-accessible outhouse, recently completed by the Ottauquechee Section. The O Section, by the way, had planned to surprise us there with goodies, then realized it conflicted with one of their outings, alas.

The day had become so lovely that instead of just turning back, we opted to head east on the AT, planning to strike out vaguely car-ward on one of several old woods roads that crossed the trail and, it seemed, must get us back to our starting point . . . how often have we thought that?! Fortunately, by some fluke, it turned out to be true and also quite pretty, following an old stone wall through the woods and delivering us back to the Tucker Trail. We had one narrow escape when we stopped to ponder a hole in the ground where some animal had been digging – when bees began emerging to ponder us, we beat a hasty retreat. We may have interrupted a bear digging for a tasty bee treat – welcome to it, I say.

Then we chanced upon a treat of our own – on our way back to the car, we explored an unmarked trail that led uphill through a field and discovered some Adirondack chairs and a swing facing a view of the White Mountains and the Connecticut River. Happy us! Needless to say, we set a spell and enjoyed it, along with cookies, and felt really bad for all those who stayed home expecting rain . . . well, sort of bad, anyway!

### **STRATTON MOUNTAIN, October 11, 2014, Sue Thomas, leader**

I've missed the Kelly Stand Road since Irene tried to eat it. Re-opened at last, the once-familiar old road looks quite different now and it is easy to see why it took three years to repair. But it was good to be back there and autumn colors made it a pretty drive.

Our Rutland contingent was met at the trailhead by a Manchester Section member and two from the O Section came to join us, making a really fun group. I impressed them all greatly with my hike-leading prowess when I delivered us to the summit for lunch at exactly noon – careful planning and organization . . . or coincidence??

Jean and Hugh, the caretakers who live in the summit hut all summer, were still on duty and most entertaining – we swapped pumpkin cookies for stories of their wildlife encounters. Most notable was a problem moose, a young male who decided the summit was his territory and didn't appreciate sharing with them or the hikers. He rattled the sides of the hut, chased hikers and, occasionally, trapped them on the tower for hours. Mark, our Manchester hiker, confirmed it – he's logged some moose time on the tower himself.

Then the ski resort hosted a yoga festival, bringing over 100 people to the summit clearing to do yoga, along with a man toting a didgeridoo. Have you ever heard a didgeridoo? It's an Australian Aborigines instrument that makes a low, droning noise. As soon as he started to blow on the thing, in charged Mr. Moose, ready to vanquish his rival, scattering spandex-clad yoga people and sending didgeridoo-man up the tower! I sure wish I'd seen it.

We all enjoyed the panoramic view from the tower – forest, mountains and lakes in all directions. If you have to be trapped by a moose, it's not a bad spot when you come right down to it. But we reluctantly descended and said farewell to our hosts til next year. Mindful of their advice to stay together as there was a bear in the area (holy cow, that's one way to keep the stragglers moving along), we made our way down to the trailhead uneaten.

### **MERCK FOREST, RUPERT, OCTOBER 17-18, 2014, Vivian Bebee and Larry Walter, leaders**

Viv and I hiked to the Nenorod cabin (see picture below) on the 17<sup>th</sup> in bluster, but dry and sunny weather and established ourselves in the bottom bunk (Hey... first come, first serve!). We spent the night listening to some pretty wild, rainy weather pound on the tin roof. The next day we hiked back down to the Merck Forest visitor's center and met two more hearty backpackers (Sue and Ruth). While waiting for another friend, Jeff, to join us, we spent some time enjoying the toasty fireplace inside the visitor's center and reacquainted ourselves with Merck's resident kitty. Jeff did not arrive as planned, so we started on our way to the cabin. We were confident that with Jeff's hiking prowess, he would have no trouble finding his way to Nenorod cabin. However, we did ask the staff at the visitor's center to point him in the right direction. Of course, not far up Old Town Road, past the barns, it started to rain. I assured everyone that it wasn't supposed to rain too much based on a four-day-old Eye in the Sky report. That's when it really started to pour and the wind howled. Viv thought there would be a mutiny for sure, but we enticed Sue and Ruth to continue on with tails of a warm and cozy cabin awaiting us only two miles away. Sue headed out on her usual 6 mph clip, bound and determined to outdistance the storm. Viv and I already had our rain gear on, but Sue and Ruth had to scramble and did get pretty wet. Luckily, as promised, the cabin was still warm and cozy, so all was forgiven and we were not forced to walk the plank. I rekindled the fire from the nice supply of dry firewood on the porch and soon everyone had their wet gear hanging on the indoor hooks and cloths line to dry. A little while later, Jeff found his way to Nenorod and we all settled in to enjoy lunch and good conversation in the warmth of the cabin. Our last, but never least participant, Allison, joined us later that afternoon as well. We had no concerns that she would not find us since she had hiked and stayed overnight at Merck Forest cabins several times, including Nenorod.



Evening was accentuated by Allison's festive array of radioactive-waste-powered Christmas lights along with the usual collection of candles and headlamps. I think Viv brought about 4 electric light sources alone, most of them powered by 12 volt motorcycle batteries. Everyone pretty much did their own thing for dinner. A spilled pot extinguished my ancient MSR and before I could transport it outside, the still pressurized fuel bottle raised the cabin atmosphere to something just shy of the fuel-air mixture of a lawn mower engine on the intake stroke. We had to open the windows to let things air out. I have since purchased a nice little, non-pressurized alcohol stove.

Evening activities included terribly untrue stories about each other, a card game called "Spite and Malice," which the ladies played quite aggressively (is there any other way?!), reading and bad-mouthing the "guvmint" and politics in general and a birthday celebration for Ruth. Night-time forays to the outhouse could have been hazardous, since the dense fog and rain pretty much obscured anything more than 20 feet away. Thankfully, the above-exaggerated light sources were put to good use, and none of us strayed far anyway due to the cold and rain.

Just a general note as per structure conditions, the local porcupine has been busily dining his way through major sections of the plywood roof sheathing on the main cabin. He's also managed to open up several alternative entrances to the outhouse. The staff has managed to keep most of the damage contained, but he's a pretty determined little guy.

Next morning's hike out to the parking lot was accented by our first real snow flurries and small hail, but that was a lot better than hiking in the rain.



Nenorod Cabin, Merck Forest, Rupert (above).

Jeff, Ruth, Larry, Allison and Sue on Old Town Road (below).





### **LITTLE ROCK POND, WALLINGFORD, November 8, 2014, Barry Griffith, leader**

Little Rock Pond is always a great spot to visit. Most day hikers get there the way most through hikers do -- by heading north on the AT/LT from USFS Road 10 in Mount Tabor. Our starting point was the parking area on the Wallingford Pond Road -- a closer trailhead for most Killington Section members. Patches and her seven human companions found snow on the ground -- a sign of things to come! The wind was calm and the leaves were off the trees, allowing us to see a good distance -- a perfect hiking day! We started on a woods road, made our way southeasterly to the AT/LT, and then continued on the Trail in the same general direction. After crossing Homer Stone Brook we arrived at the site of Aldrichville, where we paused to examine foundations and other remnants of what was a thriving mill village circa 1890. The settlement was abandoned a century ago, and the forest has reclaimed the area.

We soon made it to our destination, where we inspected and had lunch at Little Rock Pond Shelter (see picture below). Continuing with the archeological theme, we discussed and marveled at the fact that this was also a destination for humans circa 10,000 years ago -- a site valued for its nearby ledges of quartzite, which could be fashioned into tools with sharp edges. We hope those early visitors also appreciated the beauty of the spot as they worked the stone! We inspected the quartzite ledges as we retraced our route northeast. Most AT/LT through hikers are done by now, but we did encounter and chat briefly with some section hikers also enjoying the good weather and this section of the Trail. As we returned to our vehicles, satisfied by good views and good conversations, we vowed to return another day.



**Lunch at Little Rock Pond Shelter**

### **MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS ROAD LOOP, November 16, 2014, Chryl & Gerry Martin, leaders**

In spite of somewhat dire weather forecasts, nine hunter-avoidance walkers set out on a sunny Sunday a little after 10:00 a.m. The map outline was a triangle with two legs, along a west and east Coy Hill Road and a base leg back along Buxton Avenue. Easy to moderate indeed, with 700 elevation gain and loss beginning with the up. Confessions would indicate another hundred feet up on a divergence to Look Away Museum (we did look but didn't figure out what it was). At about half way, the alpaca farm was passed and although Lee Wilson ventured close to the fence line to commune with members of the herd, no exhortation was exchanged. Next came the alpaca crossing, dogsled crossing and wolf crossing signs. Neither our intrepid group nor any of the three or four cars which went by during our hike were slowed by activity on the road crossings. Along the way, Bob Perkins gave brief consideration to a B&B which was for sale, but was fearful that owning it might interfere with his hiking and running schedule.

A little over five miles returned us to our cars and a unanimous celebration of sandwiches etc. at Sissy's. Right on schedule the sun slid behind the clouds.



Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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 .....\$45  
Family .....\$60  
Senior/Student/Limited Income .....\$25

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



**KILLINGTON SECTION, GMC      OUTING SCHEDULE      December-March, 2015**

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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. 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. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**Sunday, December 14, 9:30 a.m. in Rutland or 10:00 a.m. at Spring Lake Ranch**

**Around Spring Lake, Cuttingsville**

**Barb & Barry Griffith 492-3573**

Take a break from holiday preparations for a 3-mile, easy to moderate hike or snowshoe around the Lake.

**Saturday, January 10, 10:00 a.m.**

**Churchill Scott Shelter, Killington**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

We will hike south on the AT/LT to the shelter. Snowshoes and/or traction devices may be needed. 4 miles, difficult.

**Saturday, January 17, 10:00 a.m.**

**Mystery Hike, Dorset**

**Peter Grace 492-3529**

A short climb – 2 miles, 500 foot elevation gain, up a ridge on old roads. Skis, snowshoes or traction devices may be needed, and there is an option to add distance.

**Sunday, January 25, 9:00 a.m.**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

**Grizzle Ocean, Chilson, New York**

Visit a remote pond in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness. Snowshoes may be needed. 4 miles, moderate.

**Saturday, January 31, 10:00 a.m. (better weather date, Sunday, February 1)**

**Lily Pond, Bomoseen**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Snowshoe or ski to a pretty beaver pond, past historic slate quarries and otter slides. 3.5 miles, moderate, with options to go further if we choose.

**Saturday, February 7, 10:00 a.m.**

**Shrewsbury Snowshoe**

**Gerry & Chryl Martin 492-2244**

Join us for a moderate snowshoe jaunt in the Shrewsbury area. Location will be chosen by weather conditions.

**Saturday, February 14, 10:00 a.m. (better weather date, Sunday, February 15)**

**Annual Winter Hot Dog Roast**

**Vivian Bebee/Larry Walter 775-3855**

Location to be decided; most likely at one of our State Parks that will provide an easy hike and a safe place to build a fire. Bring your own beverage and what you would like to roast. Chips, cookies, condiments and fire wood will be provided by leaders. Call leaders for location details.

**Saturday, February 21, 9:00 a.m.**

**Wallingford Pond, Wallingford**

**Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

Explore trails and old roads in the area, with an option to continue on to Wilder Mountain, if conditions permit. 4.5 miles, moderate.

**Saturday, February 28**

**Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

**Poultney Area Snowshoe**

Join us for a moderate snowshoe trek through woods and fields. Call leader for meeting time and place.

**Sunday, March 8, 9:30 a.m.**

**Gile Mountain, Norwich**

**Vivian Bebee/Larry Walter 775-3855**

A short hike, but a grand payoff: a fire tower with views of the Connecticut River Valley, Mts. Ascutney and Cardigan and long views to Killington, Camel's Hump and perhaps even the White Mountains on a clear day. 1.4 miles, 413 foot elevation gain.



# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 68, Number 1

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

March, 2015



Sue and Allison enjoying the sun while hiking in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Area (article on page 4).



**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2015

Hillary Collidge

Barry Griffith

Gerry Martin\*

Term expiration 2016

Diane Bargiel

Vivian Bebee\*

Wayne Krevetski

Term expiration 2017

Dave Coppock\*

Herb Ogden

Cindy Taylor-Miller

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

**Killington Section Officers:**

Barry Griffith

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Cindy Taylor-Miller

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Gerry Martin

Treasurer

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Vacant

History

Sue Thomas

Outings

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Wayne Krevetski

Trails &amp; Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Allison Henry

Director

Hilary Coolidge

Alternate

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee

Editor

Larry Walter

Assistant Editor

**Web Site:**

Hilary Coolidge

Web Master

SOME PAST PHOTOS TO HELP US "THINK SPRING!"



Jerry Parker at Mad River Glen.



Diane Bargiel walking through spring melt.

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.gmckillington.org>**

Diane Bargiel

413-687-1109

Vivian Bebee

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [lwalter@sover.net](mailto:lwalter@sover.net)

Hilary Coolidge

PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, [hcoolidge@hotmail.com](mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com)

Dave Coppock

21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, [dscoppock@gmail.com](mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com)

Barry Griffith

68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

Allison Henry

19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, [allisonmorton1@gmail.com](mailto:allisonmorton1@gmail.com)

Wayne Krevetski

22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)

Gerry Martin

998 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2244, [gdmartin2020@yahoo.com](mailto:gdmartin2020@yahoo.com)

Herbert Ogden

214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Sue Thomas

27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Cindy Taylor-Miller

337 East Street Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [mrsgorp@gmail.com](mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com)



## **This n' That**

EDITOR'S NOTE: IF YOU WOULD RATHER RECEIVE SMOKE & BLAZES BY EMAIL, PLEASE CONTACT ME at [vlb@sover.net](mailto:vlb@sover.net).

- ▶ **March 28, 6:00 p.m., Killington Section annual meeting at Godnick Center, Deer Street in Rutland City (pot luck supper, bring dish to share).**
- ▶ **June 12-14, Green Mountain Club Annual Meeting. See your Long Trail News or visit [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org) for details and registration.**

### **ROMA'S RAMBLINGS, by Roma Pulling**

"Part Six, The Sweet and the Sour of It"

How could I have written five columns and skipped one of our favorite traditions? The sugar-on-snow parties! Rob Carey, a former Killington section president and worker, who was a member before me, has helped me fill in a few gaps of things that happened before I came on the scene. At the time I became a GMC member (roughly 39 years ago), the parties were taking place in the basement of the Unitarian Church on West Street, but had been held earlier at Doc Howard's sugar house on Route 4 in Mendon. When it was no longer convenient to meet at the Church and no other place came forth, I opened my house. A member of our family said, "They can't get 25 people (the average attendance) in there." But where there's a will, there's a way. We added three leaves to the dining room table, set up a folding table in the kitchen, used the table in the dinette and set up a card table in the living room. There was little space being unused, but I heard no complaints.

Having provided sitting space, the next requirement was gathering enough snow and empty Cool Whip containers to satisfy 25 or so people. Sometimes we could find enough snow in our back yard, but more often we drove up the mountain and found a convenient space where the snow wouldn't be missed. Dill pickles and doughnuts came from the grocery store and syrup usually from a nearby farm. The taste of the pickles contrasted with the sweetness of the syrup and helped those who wanted seconds. I have never been exactly sure what spot the doughnuts filled, but who can resist doughnuts?!

For a year or two near the end of this series, one of our members, Ira Hawley, donated syrup he had made at his house. Ira was always to be counted on to help out in any situation, including as a hike leader and trail maintenance person.

Throughout this period, Janet Perkins Martin boiled the syrup to its proper consistency on my kitchen stove (see photo above, right – March 8, 1980). After several years' work here, Janet felt she could no longer fill this capacity. Having no other person who could do it, we had to give up our annual party. It has been missed.





## Outing Reports

### CHURCHILL SCOTT SHELTER, KILLINGTON, January 10, 2015, Herb Ogden, leader

Only one Follower showed up at Main St. Park to join the Leader, but then things looked up. The Follower phoned another Follower, and not long after the three of us headed south from the US 4 trailhead, we found a fourth person who had gone straight to the trailhead and was looking for us. It was a beautiful, sunny morning, but only around 14° F and breezy, so it was good everyone dressed warmly. The trail was mostly boilerplate crust, with some ice, covered by a couple inches of new, fluffy snow, so it was also good that everyone brought something like micro-spikes. With them on, we hiked along pretty easily. The main problem was finding the trail in some places. We all agreed that the Killington Section standard of having a blaze in view at all times should be followed on this trail. Two hikers turned around near the split rock, and two of us continued on to the shelter for lunch. Everyone was out of the woods shortly after 2 p.m.

We saw no wildlife but did see a variety of tracks: deer, large and small coyotes, squirrels, and one mouse, at least. We also heard something barking in the distance where no one lives, so I assume it was a coyote. No catamounts, though.

### GRIZZLE OCEAN, PHARAOH LAKE WILDERNESS AREA, NY, January 25, 2015,

#### Allison Henry, leader

The trail to Grizzle Ocean is part of a network of trails in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Area near Ticonderoga, NY. Supposedly, Grizzle Ocean got its name because of a fisherman named Grizzle who bragged about how many fish he caught there. One of his buddies teased him saying that he must have found an ocean. Or so the story goes.

The morning of the hike I almost wanted to stay home in my jammies! But once I got up and dressed, I was ready to get going. I felt very fortunate to have the two diehards, Sue and Larry, show up. We have done this hike before in winter conditions and so I chose it again due to fond memories of a pretty hike and easy road access. The trailhead is within a campground and, when we got there, the road to the trail was unplowed. We drove in most of the way anyway through half a dozen inches of powdery snow in Phil's Trusty Taurus.

The hike itself was pretty easy, over moderately rolling terrain. We had brought snowshoes just in case, but ended up needing only microspikes. I do like snowshoeing, but I was kinda glad we didn't need them. Our walk into the ocean, I mean pond, took a long time. There is a nice variety of trees, but we saw few animal tracks. Somebody in our party insisted on cutting through every downed stick with a hand-held saw.

Right around high noon we reached Grizzle Ocean. Being snow-covered, it did not look particularly oceanic. We had a nice lunch break in the sun. We pretended it was warm. We would have hiked around the pond after lunch, but the wind was quite chilly and I needed to be back in Rutland.

The hike back to the car was much faster than the way in, thanks to the fine trail clearing that had been done earlier. We did hear and smell some snowmobiles nearby which was unfortunate. We were able to drive back out of the campground with no problems. On the way home we stopped at the (relatively) new gas station for the hiker essentials of coffee, water, and windshield washer fluid.

### LILY POND . . . NOT, January 31, 2015, Sue Thomas Leader

"Windchill -31°, gusts up to 45 mph" was the forecast for the day. I'd scheduled my snowshoe trip to Lily Pond – when I heard that, I expected no one would call. But call they did . . . to say "you're not going are you?" over and over. All agreed that it would be best to postpone til Sunday. Tho the temperature would be about the same, at least the strong wind would be over. (It should be noted here that there were three exceptions – Diane and Jen were ready and willing, as well as Larry, who seems to be made of neoprene and impervious to extreme weather conditions, as long as he is laundered regularly and lubricated now and then.)

By Sunday however, everyone but Larry (surprise, surprise) had come to their senses, and one by one called to say they'd just as soon keep all their fingers and toes. Understandable, I'm partial to mine as well. Larry and I decided to go for a short jaunt anyway, climbing a small ridge between Pittsford and Proctor, where the ascent (and some handwarmers) kept me from freezing solid. A (very) short lunch break was called for, hot drinks appreciated, and then we headed home to thaw out.

**SHREWSBURY SNOWSHOE, February 7, 2015, Gerry and Chryl Martin, leaders**

A planned late start (10:30) from the Shrewsbury Meeting House allowed the temperature to reach double digits as a similar double digit group (10 plus a 4-paw drive) assembled. At the end of the snowplowing on Lottery Road, our three vehicles parked and noted a twosome in an auto sauna who elected not to join our group as they were not attired for outdoor activities.

Having donned our wide tracks, we warmed up on a flattish half mile and then trekked up 800 feet to the top of Kinsman. A brief respite there included brownies (with and without nuts) and individual handcrafted nose warmers (with and without bells) by Sue Thomas. Summit views were limited (Spring Lake, the airport runways, and peaks to the west), but the festivities encouraged safe and rapid descent and return to our cars. The other vehicle had departed without forwarding information and no additional wildlife was encountered.



The gang modeling their nose warmers. Hey, what about Burdock?





WE HAVE A HIKE COMING UP ON APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> THAT WILL INCLUDE LUNCH AT THE MINERVA HINCHEY SHELTER. BELOW ARE PICTURES FROM THE PAST OF OUR K-SECTION MEMBERS REPAIRING THAT SHELTER.







**Ruth, Vivian, Sue and sheep in background. Overnight at Merck Forest, Rupert.**



**Bruce, Peter, Dave, Jake and Larry with their implements of destruction.**

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



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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



# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 68, Number 2

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

June 2015



Lunch break at Benson Overlook (article on page 5).



Bristol Pond (article on Page 5). Red-winged black bird gliding right of Larry's hat.



**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2016

Diane Bargiel

Vivian Bebee\*

Wayne Krevetski

Term expiration 2017

Dave Coppock\*

Herb Ogden

Cindy Taylor-Miller

Term expiration 2018

Barry Griffith\*

Hilary Coolidge\*

Sandy Bragg

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

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Wayne Kretvetski Vice President

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Sandy Bragg Treasurer

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Sue Thomas Outings

Herb Ogden Trails &amp; Shelters

Wayne Krevetski Trails &amp; Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Allison Henry Director

Hilary Coolidge Alternate

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee Editor

Larry Walter Assistant Editor

**Web Site:**

Hilary Coolidge Web Master



What is this? See Shrewsbury Peak article on Page 3.

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.gmckillington.org>**

Diane Bargiel	413-687-1109
Vivian Bebee	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:lwalter@sover.net">lwalter@sover.net</a>
Sandy Bragg	346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, <a href="mailto:sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com">sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com</a>
Hilary Coolidge	PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, <a href="mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com">hcoolidge@hotmail.com</a>
Dave Coppock	21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, <a href="mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com">dscoppock@gmail.com</a>
Barry Griffith	68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, <a href="mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net">Griff2VT@Vermontel.net</a>
Allison Henry	19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, <a href="mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com">allisonnorton1@gmail.com</a>
Wayne Krevetski	22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, <a href="mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com">wkrevetski@hotmail.com</a>
Herbert Ogden	214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, <a href="mailto:hogden@vermontel.net">hogden@vermontel.net</a>
Sue Thomas	27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185
Cindy Taylor-Miller	337 East Street Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, <a href="mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com">mrsgorp@gmail.com</a>



## **This n' That**

- ▶ **IF YOU WOULD RATHER RECEIVE SMOKE & BLAZES BY EMAIL, PLEASE CONTACT EDITOR.**
- ▶ **June 12-14, Green Mountain Club Annual Meeting.** See your Long Trail News or visit [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org) for details and registration.
- ▶ **In Memoriam:** We note the passing in May, 2015 of Ann Vale, 83, of Castleton. Ann and her husband, Bob, were active members of the Killington Section for many years.
- ▶ **Jim Jeffords State Forest:** For contact information regarding the acquisition of acreage (by the Trust for Public Land, in partnership with the State of Vermont) linking the Coolidge State Forest and Aitken State Forest, which would conserve a wildlife travel corridor as well as areas for recreational opportunities for hikers, skiers, mountain bikers and snowmobilers, please see the Donation and Pledge Form located on Page 7 of this issue.

### **ROMA'S RAMBLINGS, by Roma Pulling**

"Part 7. Anyone who has done much hiking runs into unusual episodes now and then. These are mine:

**THE VACANT CHAIR.** A group of us, being led by Steve Pulling, were in route to North Pond in Chittenden. While less well-known than South Pond, it is located a short distance north of there (surprise)! A short distance into our hike we discovered a wheel chair parked in bushes beside the trail. But where was the occupant? Perhaps it was easier (less expensive) to dispose of it in this manner than to take it to the dump.

**THE GRAVE ON THE GREEN HILLSIDE.** Things went from bad to worse. In June 1981, five of us on our End-to-End quest were backpacking from Middlebury Gap to Lincoln Gap. A short distance from Middlebury Gap, we were mystified to discover an open grave-like excavation. It was too small for a person and too big for a dog, and at any rate was empty. We decided that none of us were really that interested in hanging around and were soon on our way north.

**THE AX MAN.** As we approached Lincoln Gap, we were startled by a man carrying an ax. We would not have been surprised to see a saw, which might be handy to clear a blowdown. But an ax? When asked why he was carrying this lethal-looking weapon, he said to protect himself from dogs. We continued on, stopping in the Gap to count heads and were upset to find we were one head short. All four of us saw the possible connection between a missing person and an ax-bearing—possibly unstable—individual, so all of our guys retraced their steps at a rapid rate. Much to our relief, we were reunited with the missing person who had taken a wrong turn and been temporarily off the track.

**THE RESCUE.** Emergencies of any kind are very rare in any of our group activities. In fact, in the roughly 40 years I have been active with the hiking club, the only one such incident was when Alfred and I were out with a group of Senior hikers, some of whom, like ourselves, were also KS hikers. A group of about a dozen seniors led by our pre-eminent leader, Churchill Scott, were at Little Rock Pond in Wallingford when he became exhausted and unable to continue. He hadn't attempted to walk that trail for some time and didn't realize the erosion that had taken place, leaving it mostly an expanse of rubble. I hiked ahead to meet the Recreation Department van, who called the Department in Rutland and summoned help, which we got in spades.

He assembled two State troopers, a member of the Fish and Game Department, search dogs and rescue squads from Manchester, East Dorset, Danby and Tinmouth. To add to the tumult, one of our hikers came up missing while looking for a route more to his liking. By this time, there was such a large crowd, I couldn't see myself needed in a significant way and had the van driver call Rutland and tell our son, Steve, to pick me up. Alfred stayed until the excitement died down and the two victims were on their way back to Rutland. We read the whole account, including a picture, in the newspaper the next morning.

## **Outing Reports**

### **SHREWSBURY PEAK, SHREWSBURY, March 14, 2015, Sandy Bragg, leader**

A forecast encompassing all forms of precipitation, except frogs, daunted even the intrepid. Nevertheless, Jerry Parker, Burdock and special guest, Blanche Montesi, were game. So up we went! Blanche is a hiker we had gotten to know in the English Lake District.

Thanks to some logging in Calvin Coolidge State Forest, we were able to park near the Stone House on the CCC Road, and we decided to go up the Black Swamp Trail. I had broken trail the previous weekend and a horde of

snowmobilers had thoughtfully groomed the Black Swamp Trail up to the summit, making the walking easier on Burdock's spliced ligaments. Precipitation held off, but we were in the clouds for much of the hike. Blanche was interested in chaga mushrooms, which Jerry identified, and we were able to collect some small samples, though not enough for tea. We had an early lunch on the summit, then Jerry and Burdock headed back down the Black Swamp Trail and Blanche and I descended the Chimney Trail. We saw fresh snowshoe hare tracks in the krumholz near the summit. As we came off the top, we encountered a stampede of moose tracks obliterating the trail I had blazed. The moose had had a rowdy time scarfing bark off nearby trees and generally whooping it up. We made it down without getting trampled, and returned via the Stone House.

### **ANNUAL WINTER HOT DOG ROAST, LAKE ST. CATHERINE STATE PARK, WELLS, March 8, 2015, Vivian Bebee and Larry Walter, leaders**

The weather turned out pretty nice for this year's roast. I was left in charge of starting and maintaining a decent fire (this time, under the watchful eye of Cindy, who stayed behind to chip ice and snow off the picnic table. Viv, Sue, Angie and Barry went for a quick hike along one of the park paths. This is a nice place to have a winter feed, as the campfire pits have adjustable grates and they're easy to clean out (of snow). We did have some nice views out over the ice.

As is usually the case, the fire was just reaching that perfect coal-bed glow after everyone had already scorched enough tube steak to feed a small army. Delayed gratification is never part of an outdoor roast, especially in cold weather. After all had their fill of wieners, chips and cookies, a couple shovelfuls of snow pretty much snuffed out my masterpiece, and off we went. Rumor has it, after most of us had exited for the day, Burdock (and a friend, who shall remain nameless) arrived in much anticipation of some chow. Apparently, wonder-dog failed to set his clock ahead. Terriers!

### **MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS, EXTRA CREDIT HIKE, April 29, 2015**

The day after the Killington Section annual meeting and potluck, a few of us decided a hike was in order to walk off all of those delicious desserts.

The trails are not at their most appealing in March, so we opted for Diane's Middletown Springs road loop, which has become a hunting season/mud season favorite . . . possibly due in part to the presence of Sissy's take-out, which one would think would be the furthest from our minds after such a good feed the night before. One would be wrong.

Anyway, six of us set off up Coy Hill, enjoying the sunshine and solving all the world's problems as we walked. We imagined we could see buds on the trees (wishful thinking) and felt the potluck pounds melting away (downright delusional).

Noting that it was maple open house weekend, when we saw smoke billowing from a sugarhouse, we stopped in for a tour and a taste from the vat . . . yum!

Next we passed a field of very curious alpacas (or llamas). We weren't quite sure and they weren't talking. One big boy scanned our group critically, trying to determine where the greatest threat lay, and settled his gaze on Barry. Knowing how far they can spit, we wisely opted to move on.

All in all, it was just what we needed in the midst of a spring that felt more like winter – good company, beautiful scenery, a stretch of the legs and, as an added bonus, no llama spit!

### **HAMILTON FALLS, JAMAICA, April 25, 2015, Sue Thomas, leader**

I'm sorry now that I used up the Wizard of Oz reference back in September (when we met in Rutland in gray ickiness, but drove into technicolor now on the other side of the Pass) because, by golly, it happened again, and this time we had Toto along . . . well, his cousin, Burdock, anyway!

It was one of those days when I was amazed anyone would show up to hike – glowery and cold, with ominous dark clouds – but seven people and two dogs were willing to risk it, and we drove south toward Jamaica and an entirely difference day of blue sky and sunshine.

Leaving one car at the State Park, we drove around to Ball Mountain Dam, only to find the gate closed . . . curses! . . . but luckily my hardy crew were undaunted by the extra 1.5 mile walk in, and we were soon crossing over the dam, an impressive structure built by the Arms Corps. of Engineers in the 1960's. Descending the switchbacks on the other side brought back memories of my recent backpacking trip in the Grand Canon – granted the scenery is not quite as spectacular, cactus not abundant and we were not driven off the trail by mule trains, but we reached the river a lot faster!

I was happy to see that, since the last time I'd led a GMAC trip there, a bridge had been added across a tricky brook crossing, making the hike to the base of the Hamilton Falls trail a pleasant amble along the river. We consulted there – Larry and I had scouted the trail just over a week before and found quite a bit of ice still. We'd not been able to get safely to the base of the Falls. Once more rising to the challenge, all opted to give it a try and, in fact, most of the ice was gone, though we still had to step carefully at the Falls, where winter was enjoying its last gasp. Lunch was a chilly affair there, and the beautiful Falls – one of the highest in Vermont – made conversation a challenge, drowning out anything softer than a shout. Definitely a place for silent contemplation of nature's beauty!

Back at the base of the trail, we all chose to continue on the riverside trail, the rail bed of the old West River Railroad, to the State Park. Everyone had an enjoyable day . . . and Toto too!



## **BENSON OVERLOOK, BENSON, May 2, 2015, Barb and Barry Griffith, leaders**

*(Near the route of an historic military road, with nice views of southern Lake Champlain. Moderate, 4 miles with some very steep pitches.)*

We were rewarded with perfect hiking weather for this exploration and bushwhack. Everyone was willing (or seemed to be) to set forth and plunge through the bushes, around ravines and scramble up a very steep grade. Two well-behaved dogs and their human companions had been expecting more of a road walk -- *see the description above* -- but adjusted very nicely.

You knew you were in the Taconic Mountains, with evidence of slate all around. The ground can be wet in May, but the recent weather had been favorable, keeping our boots mostly dry (there was one small stream crossing). As an added bonus, the spring weather had pushed out the first wildflowers of the season -- spring beauties and trout lilies. Last, but not least -- the first snake sighting of the season!

We kept our compasses out. First heading west, then north, then a bit east before heading west again and ultimately north along the top of the cliffy ridge. From the ridge, the views were stupendous. We could see Mount Independence, Fort Ticonderoga, Mount Defiance, the Adirondacks (some snow capped still), Lake Champlain, and Route 22A, as well as the general direction/location of the Hubbardton Military Road. The views just left one speechless!

We finally made our destination -- a large cairn on the top of the ridge. There is speculation that this was a lookout point for the old military road running from Mt. Independence to Hubbardton and on to Rutland during the American Revolution. Quoting an excerpt from Joseph L. Wheeler's book on the Hubbardton Military Road, written fifty years ago: "there is a considerable pile of rocks, or cairn, set up with some care, on a ledge projecting from the steep west side of Howard Hill, labeled Big Rock in the 1854 and 1869 map and atlas. It was surmised this was a 'lookout' for men using 'the road' along here and that signal fires were burned here as indicated at that time by old wood ashes." Whether or not that is true, this was a perfect spot for our picnic lunch before heading back down to our vehicles parked on Perch Pond Road. It was an interesting and enjoyable "Scramble Ramble!"

## **BRISTOL POND, BRISTOL, May 9, 2015, Larry Walter, leader**

The weather report called for a chance of thundershowers in the afternoon, so we took a chance and saddled up our cars for the trip north. It was cloudy when we arrived at the parking lot, where a fellow from Lincoln (Alan) along with Diane and Jen were waiting for us. Once underway, I had a hard time just getting the big 16-foot Mad River headed south out of the estuary. The wind, 'she was a howlin'. With Nancy (first time in a canoe!) at the helm, Sue in the middle, and 5 other solo-craft cowering in our wake, we slowly made it out of the marsh towards open water. Once we exited the side channel, we decided to put a more experienced paddler at the bow, so Sue and Nancy expedited a floating position switch involving a brief handstand on the gunnels with partial disassembly of the bow seat. Diane spotted us from port side (in her this-just-isn't-fair light solo canoe), while I steadied the hull by grabbing onto a chunk of swamp turf. Aside from frightening several birds, everyone was re-stationed within 3 minutes time. At this point, we were a well-managed, cohesive group of boaters. Once we re-entered the main water body, it was all we could do to keep square to some pretty good sized breakers. Just for good measure, Nancy offered to stand up at mid-ship, while tethered rather like an organic crow's nest, to each side of the craft. So stationed, Nancy alerted us to several open-sea obstacles, including a drifting deep-water oil platform and an overcrowded sailboat with "viva USA" painted on the side. Sue and I never actually verified these sightings, but with our attention concentrated on said 30-foot curling waves of destruction, we were just glad to have a lookout. After about 45 minutes of frantic paddling (Sue actually looked rather relaxed), we managed to gain a handhold on the southern shore where we could afford a glance behind us. To our surprise, not a single Pinta or Santa Maria (nor lifeboat assigned thereto) could be seen! All we could do was reverse course and hope we could find our fellow boaters. This was easy. With some simple steering, we basically surfed for about 10 minutes to where Alan had advanced along the shore. He directed us to a much more relaxing system of estuaries where everyone had retreated. No wonder!! Much more peaceful and lots of wildlife. While eating lunch, we managed to spot kingfishers, bluebirds, blue herons, red-winged blackbirds, and a couple snakes. Bristol Pond really is a treat to visit, with some very interesting, navigable wetlands, especially along the south and west shores. *(The color of red-winged black bird stands out in picture at [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org), click on GMC Sections, Killington, and open Smoke & Blazes Summer 2015.)*

## **Killington Section Annual Meeting**

Minutes of Annual Meeting

March 28, 2015

By Cindy Taylor-Miller, Secretary

Directors Present: President Barry Griffith, Vice President Wayne Kresvetski, Secretary Cynthia Taylor-Miller, Treasurer Gerry Martin, Diane Bargiel, Vivian Bebee, and Dave Coppock. Directors not present: Hillary Coolidge, and Herb Ogden. GMC Director not present: Allison Henry. Also in attendance: members/friends—Sandy Bragg, Clare Coppock, Barb Griffith, Kathy Krevetski, Chryl Martin, Barb O'Connor, Bob Perkins, Roma Pulling, Cindy Pulling, Sue Thomas, Larry Walter, and Steve Williams.

Meeting called to order by President Griffith at 6:45 p.m.

MOTION: To approve minutes from April 26, 2014 annual meeting as presented in the June 2014 *Smoke and Blazes*. Motion made Barry Griffith and seconded by Dave Coppock. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Gerry Martin, who reported the organization has at this time \$25,243.19 in total assets. *Smoke and Blazes* continues to be the major expense of the year. Last year the Board approved \$2,000.00 to assist in funding the annual meeting expenses at Mountain Meadows and \$500.00 to fund the improvements at the new Cauty Trailhead. MOTION: To approve the Treasurers report made by Chryl Martin and seconded by Diane Bargiel. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

President Griffith thanked Gerry for his six years of service as our section's Treasurer.

The Main Club updates from Allison Henry were presented by KS Vice President and GMC General Director, Wayne Krevetski, and are as follows:

1. Winooski Bridge is almost done. The trail north of the bridge needs to be completed. The ceremonial opening date will be Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Fundraising to defray the cost of the bridge and abutting Trail continues.
2. Due to higher than expected costs of the Winooski Bridge, the club was in the "red" financially this past fall. Over the winter, two estate bequests to the GMC totaling over \$500,000.00 were voted upon by the Board to be used to pay off debt including the mortgage on the main club HQ.
3. The Manchester Section is taking the lead on the fundraising effort and rebuilding of the Bromley Observation Tower. The estimated rebuild is in 2017.
4. The "Wild Effect"—with the release of two long-distance hiker related major motion pictures films based on two books "Wild" by Cheryl Strayed and "A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson, the number of hikers is expected to rise dramatically on both the Pacific Crest Trail and Appalachian Trail. New this year, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy encourages thru-hikers to voluntarily register their hike on the ATC website as a means to help manage the overcrowding of start dates and trail resources.
5. Speaking of congestion—there is dialog between GMC sections on thru-hiker "feeds" or "cookouts" to inform them about the GMC and remind them of backcountry ethics while building a relationship with this group of hikers. It was suggested that these "hiker feeds" take place on the same day, sometime in late July throughout the Trail, to prevent congestion in one area. If the KS were to participate, we'd need to pick a location on the AT/LT. Lexi Shear, of the Montpelier Section, has done "trail magic" at Gifford Woods State Park in the past and offered to help if we chose that location.
6. The earliest Cooper Lodge would be dismantled is in the summer of 2016. The plan is to remove the roof down to the stone foundation. The tent sites, privy and water source would remain. Sue Thomas suggested we have a "Cooper" event inviting interested and associated parties to the lodge one last time prior to the official removal.
7. Easter Egg Hunt at the HQ in Waterbury April 4<sup>th</sup>.
8. Trail Maintenance Workshop with field work April 25<sup>th</sup>.
9. Annual Meeting June 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> at HQ in Waterbury Center with the Winooski Bridge dedication on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup>. This year's keynote speaker is Willem Lange.
10. Other notes: EMS Club day May 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>.

GMC Director of Trail Programs—Dave Hardy, not present, no report.

Trails and Shelter Report and Planning was presented by Wayne Krevetski, Killington Section Trails and Shelter co-chair. The Lower elevation work trip is May 16<sup>th</sup> and the upper elevation on National Trail Day, June 6<sup>th</sup>. The ditching near the Lottery Road junction will commence this summer. Chryl Martin reminded the club that Lincoln Hill Road will be closed in July for a culvert replacement and hikers/trail workers should to seek alternate routes during this time. Larry Walter will approach the Stafford Tech Forestry Department for help from the students on the upcoming work trips.

President Griffith thanked all who contributed to make last year's [2014] annual meeting at Mountain Meadows a success.

President Griffith thanked Larry Walter for his dedicated efforts towards the successful relocation of the Cauty Trail and trailhead.

The *Smoke and Blazes* report was presented by editor, Vivian Bebee, who thanked all for their pictures and articles. She reminded everyone to get their hikes submitted to Sue Thomas as this remains the only glitch in getting the newsletter out on time. The recent additions of "Roma's Ramblings" by Roma Pulling are enjoyed by all.

The outings Report was presented by Sue Thomas. There were several new hike locations and new faces on these hikes. In May, a hike has been added to the already printed schedule to the "Kit" Davidson property in Hubbardton. Refreshments will be served on the deck. All are encouraged to attend before the land transfers to State ownership.

Dave Coppock presented a resource map and led a discussion introducing our newest state forest in Rutland County, "Jim Jeffords State Forest", a wildlife corridor and home to three watersheds connecting the Aitken and Coolidge State Forests. There will be a hike to this two square mile tract on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Local funding is still needed. Handouts were provided.

Next on the agenda was the election of new directors. Directors Hillary Coolidge, Barry Griffith, and Gerry Martin ended their three-year terms. Gerry Martin served two consecutive three-year terms and is not eligible for re-election this year. Nominations for the three open positions were presented from the floor. Chryl Martin nominated Sandy Bragg (seconded by Diane Bargiel). Sue Thomas nominated Barry Griffith (seconded by Dave Coppock). Barb Griffith nominated Hillary Coolidge (seconded by Diane Bargiel). Diane Bargiel motioned to close the nominations and to vote for the candidates as presented (seconded by Dave Coppock). Unanimously approved by voice vote.

After a brief Directors' meeting to elect officers, the 2015 officers were announced: Barry Griffith—President, Wayne Krevetski—Vice President, Cindy Taylor-Miller—Secretary, and Sandy Bragg—Treasurer. Allison Henry will remain the Main Club Director for the Killington Section with Hillary Coolidge as alternate.

Next Director meeting May 28<sup>th</sup> in Rutland. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.





## THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT JIM JEFFORDS STATE FOREST

### WAYS TO GIVE

#### *Gifts of Cash*

All gifts payable to **The Trust for Public Land** should be mailed along with this contribution form to our VT NH office listed at the bottom of this form.

#### *Credit Card Gifts*

Credit card payments are accepted without additional fees through The Trust for Public Land using this form.

#### *Gifts of Stock*

A donation of appreciated securities can have many financial benefits for the donor. If you prefer to make a gift of appreciated stock, please contact John Davis at 1-800-714-5263 (x 253) or [john.davis@tpl.org](mailto:john.davis@tpl.org)

*All donations to the  
Jim Jeffords State Forest Campaign  
are tax deductible to the full extent  
of the law.*

**For questions or information about  
the campaign, please contact:**

Betsy McGean  
Senior Director of Philanthropy  
617-780-8735  
[betsy.mcgean@tpl.org](mailto:betsy.mcgean@tpl.org)



### DONATION AND PLEDGE FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We donate to this project on or before the deadline of **July 31, 2015** as follows:

I have enclosed a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
and/or

Please charge my credit card for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/We pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Jim Jeffords State Forest project to be paid  
on or before **July 31, 2015**.

☐ VISA

☐ MasterCard

☐ American Express

☐ Discover

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer, if matching funds are available: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as you wish to be acknowledged (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I wish to remain anonymous.

The funds will be used for the protection of  
Jim Jeffords State Forest and associated project costs.

Please make your check payable to The Trust for Public Land and indicate  
"Jim Jeffords State Forest" on your check.

*Please mail this form with your check to:*

The Trust for Public Land  
3 Shipman Place  
Montpelier, VT 05602

The Trust for Public Land's taxpayer ID# is 23-7222333.

[www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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 ..... \$45  
Family ..... \$60  
Senior/Student/Limited Income ..... \$25

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



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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. 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. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**June 20, Saturday, meet at Hedgehog Brook Trailhead at 10:00 a.m.**

**Burnt Rock Mountain, Fayston**

**Terri Wilson 334-787-2426**

We will be hiking a slow to moderate pace, keeping the group together. Please be prepared and have water, snacks, rain gear and proper foot wear. Strenuous, 5.2 miles round trip, with 2,090 feet of elevation gain, including a rock scramble.

Directions to trailhead: Waitsfield Village-North on VT 100. Turn left onto Center Fayston Road until you reach a junction with North Fayston; turn left onto Big Basin Road and park at end. Car pooling is suggested as there is not much space for parking. If planning on attending, please call leader ahead of time.

**June 27, Saturday**

**AT/LT USFS Road 10 to Route 140, Mt. Tabor**

**Cindy Taylor-Miller 446-2288**

Follow the AT/LT north past beautiful Little Rock Pond, Aldrichville and the rock garden at White Rocks. Moderate to difficult 8.5 miles, with some steep ups and downs. Call leader for meeting place and time.

**July 11, Saturday, 4:00 p.m., call leaders for meeting place.**

**Colby Pond, east of Tyson**

**Viv Bebee and Larry Walter 775-3855**

This will be a dinner paddle on a small pond (approx. 20 acres). Colby Pond is located on the Twentymile Stream in Windsor County. Construction was completed in 1959, and it is owned by the State of Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**July 18, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**The Dome, Pownal**

**Larry Walter 775-3855**

This is a natural loop that begins along one of the prettiest streams in the Green Mountain National Forest. Summiting at the Dome with a nice view of the Hoosic Range, Mount Greylock and the Berkshires. Difficult, 4 mile loop, with 1,650 feet of elevation gain.

**July 25, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Rutland or 9:30 a.m. Cuttingsville P.O., Route 103**

**Bear Mountain, Wallingford**

**Gerry and Chryl Martin 492-2244**

Join us for our annual trek north on the AT/LT and participate in a dramatic re-creation of the "Patch Hollow Horror!" Not to be missed! Moderate, 4 miles.

**August 1, Saturday, 9:00 a.m., Shrewsbury Town Office, Cold River Road**

**Proposed Jeffords State Forest, Shrewsbury**

**Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

Explore the eastern section of the proposed, new State forest, beginning at Governor Clement Shelter and traveling west. Moderate, 5 miles.

**August 8, Saturday, 9:00 a.m., Shrewsbury Town Office, Cold River Road**

**Shrewsbury Ramble, Shrewsbury**

**Peter Grace 492-3529**

Explore old roads, stone walls and cellar holes in the Northam area. Moderate, 3-4 miles, with some ups and downs.

**August 15, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Thundering Brook Falls, Killington**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Follow the AT from Sherburne Pass through Gifford Woods, past smaller but lovely falls at Kent Pond, and some very impressive boulders, ending at Thundering Brook Falls. Moderate, 4.5 miles.

**August 22, Saturday**

**Mystery Hike**

**Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

Call leader for details.

**August 30, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. at Sears Parking Lot, Diamond Run Mall**

**Paddle the Poultney River**

**Barb and Barry Griffith 492-3573**

A relaxing paddle on the Poultney River along the scenic Vermont/New York border. Suitable for canoes, kayaks or paddleboards.

**September 13, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Hunger Mountain, Waterbury Center**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

Ascend via the Waterbury Trail for great views of the Green and White Mountains from the 3,539-foot summit. Difficult, 5 miles, with 2,290 feet of elevation gain.

### **THURSDAY HIKE SCHEDULE**

The Rutland Recreation and Parks Department sponsors a series of hikes for those who wish to enjoy their outings at a less strenuous pace. The hikes typically cover two to four miles, involve limited to moderate elevation gain, and try to avoid treacherous footing. Bring water and a lunch, wear sturdy footwear, and be prepared for Vermont weather. Meet on **Thursdays at 9 am** at the Godnick Center on Deer Street to car pool. We return in early to mid-afternoon. Call hike leaders if you have questions. All are welcome.

<b>June 18</b>	<b>Moosalamoo Region, Goshen</b>	<b>Tom Copps 282-1675</b>
	Follow the Horseshoe Trail to Sugar Hill Reservoir. Moderate	
<b>July 2</b>	<b>Trail around Middlebury, Middlebury</b>	<b>Lyn Drigert 775-7038</b>
	Hike along a river on a section of the TAM. Easy/moderate.	
<b>July 16</b>	<b>Moosalamoo Region, Goshen/Salisbury</b>	<b>Tom Copps 282-1675</b>
	Follow the North Branch to the Voter Brook Overlook. Moderate.	
<b>July 30</b>	<b>Killington Region</b>	<b>Gerry Stanton 843-368-3376</b>
	Leader will explore a wooded trail or two in Killington region. Moderate.	
<b>August 13</b>	<b>Cookout—Lake St. Catherine S.P., Poultney</b>	<b>Renee Warren 747-4466</b>
	We'll have a fire. Bring some food to share. Hike, swim, relax!	
<b>August 27</b>	<b>Ly Brook Falls, Manchester</b>	<b>Bob Perkins 773-0184</b>
	Hike to one of Vermont's higher waterfalls on the edge of the wilderness. Moderate.	
<b>September 10</b>	<b>Boiling Springs, Chittenden</b>	<b>George Butts 483-2891</b>
	Find this elusive, fascinating "bubbling" spring. Moderate.	



# Smoke & Blazes

*Volume 68, Number 3*

*Killington Section, Green Mountain Club*

*September 2015*



Peter, Cynthia, Sue, Gerry, Chryl and Lee, and white canine friend exploring in the foreground on the Shrewsbury Ramble hike led by Peter Grace.



**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2016

Diane Bargiel

Vivian Bebee\*

Wayne Krevetski

Term expiration 2017

Dave Coppock\*

Herb Ogden

Cindy Taylor-Miller

Term expiration 2018

Hilary Coolidge\*

Barry Griffith\*

Sandy Bragg

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

**Killington Section Officers:**

Barry Griffith

President

Wayne Kretvetski

Vice President

Cindy Taylor-Miller

Secretary

Sandy Bragg

Treasurer

**Committee Chairs:**

Vacant

History

Sue Thomas

Outings

Herb Ogden

Trails &amp; Shelters

Wayne Krevetski

Trails &amp; Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Allison Henry

Director

Hilary Coolidge

Alternate

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee

Editor

Larry Walter

Assistant Editor

**Web Site:**

Hilary Coolidge

Web Master



Above, Jeff, Terri and Jerry hiking up Burnt Rock Mountain and, below, the view coming down with Terri, Jerry, Weston and Sue. See article on Page 3.

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.gmckillington.org>**

Diane Bargiel

413-687-1109

Vivian Bebee

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [lwalter@sover.net](mailto:lwalter@sover.net)

Sandy Bragg

346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, [sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com](mailto:sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com)

Hilary Coolidge

PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, [hcoolidge@hotmail.com](mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com)

Dave Coppock

21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, [dscoppock@gmail.com](mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com)

Barry Griffith

68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

Allison Henry

19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, [allisonmorton1@gmail.com](mailto:allisonmorton1@gmail.com)

Wayne Krevetski

22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)

Herbert Ogden

214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Sue Thomas

27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Cindy Taylor-Miller

337 East Street Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [mrsgorp@gmail.com](mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com)



## **This n' That**

- ▶ **EDITOR'S NOTE:** To receive Smoke & Blazes by email, send request to [vlb@sover.net](mailto:vlb@sover.net).
- ▶ **IN MEMORIAN:** We note the passing in July, 2015 of Jim Griffin, 87. Jim was the president of CVPS, but found time to hike and ski with the Killington Section for many years.
- ▶ **EASTERN MOUNTAIN SPORTS, CLUB DAY EVENT, October 22-24.** Show your GMC membership card and enjoy the savings.



### **ROMA'S RAMBLINGS, by Roma Pulling**

Bitty Bio No. 1: As I waited at the park in 1975 with a group of complete strangers for what would be my first hike with the Section, a woman walked up to me and offered her hand in greeting, introducing herself as Rachel Charland. From that point on, we became friends and hiking and camping buddies. She was a medical secretary at one of the doctor's offices in Rutland.

Rachel was an independent person and when she retired from her work here, she announced her intention to tour around the country. I received a few letters, from different locations, but then she settled in New Hampshire and in Springfield, Massachusetts. She died on January 12, 2006, in Franklin, New Hampshire.

In her time here, she was very active as a hiker and a hike leader. I have been assisted in this "bio" by Rob Carey, who was a member during this time period, and by my favorite computer expert, Cynthia Roberts.

## **Outing Reports**

### **BURNT ROCK MOUNTAIN, FAYSTON, June 20, 2015, Terri Wilson, leader**

The weather man was on our side. After having rain Friday and predicted rain for Sunday, we scored a pleasantly sunny Saturday with calm breezes. Crossing Hedgehog Brook set the stage for an invigorating hike. The water was cold! The five of us got across with no problems. We watched as a young woman was having a labored decision on how to cross the brook. Guess we were feeling a bit smug, but it wasn't long before she blew by us.

We did miss Burdock on this trip. He has been such a mascot for many a hike and sure hope he will join us again in the future. There were many dogs on the trail that day. One Golden Wheaton Terrier by the name of Weston was great entertainment. The trail was a bit wet in places, but we climbed the two miles where it connects to the LT. Once on the ridge, we made our way to the top and took in a great view while we had lunch together. The conversation was good and there were many laughs along the way. A few maybe at Larry's expense, but all in fun. It is always a good day to be with friends and be outdoors. We are a lucky bunch!!! (see pictures on Page 2 and Page 7)

### **COLBY POND, TYSON, July 11, 2015, Vivian Bebee and Larry Walter, leaders**

Late afternoon on July 11 turned out to be warm and sunny. Perfect paddling weather! Larry and I headed to the pond to meet Jerry and Burdock there. We arrived at the pond and waited for a while, but no Jerry and Burdock. While we were waiting, we chatted with some folks who were fishing from shore. They had a Jack Russel Terrier with them that was only a few months old and what a cutie.

After a half hour or so, we figured something else must have come up for Jerry, so Larry and I started paddling. Colby Pond is small, but a very pleasant paddle. Both times we have been at the Pond, there were very few other people there, usually fishing. For such a small pond, we were treated to a variety of wild life. There were two separate families of geese, both with a string of little ones. We also saw a single loon, a heron and lots of little green salamander type creatures in the water everywhere. All of the above were quite active and mostly unconcerned with our presence. The loon was particularly curious of us and the heron flew back and forth across the pond several times and even treated us to a view of his fishing prowess. The heron also flew very close over the top of the loon once and the loon immediately dove under water when he saw him coming.

At the far end of the pond is a grassy knoll, which the fishing folks told us was private property, but that the owner allowed others to use it as long as they did not leave trash behind or "party" there. So we headed to that spot for our



dinner, and what a beautiful spot it was!. It sits up off the pond, was nicely mowed and the sun was setting lower directly across the pond from us. Still no Jerry, so we stretched our legs and started dinner. We could still see the put-in area in the distance. As soon as we started eating, we could see a pick-up truck arriving with a kayak in the back and a little dog running around while its human got the kayak ready. So we continued to enjoy our sandwiches while Jerry and Burdock paddled toward us. When they arrived, Jerry explained, with a grin, that he was thinking of a different area and had to go a few extra miles to find us when he realized his mistake. We all continued our leisurely dinner while Burdock checked out the water and ran around the little knoll.

After dinner, we paddled around all of the shore line and then, reluctantly, headed back home. Such a relaxing way to end the day!

### **(Proposed) JIM JEFFORDS STATE FOREST, SHREWSBURY, August 1, 2015, Sandy Bragg, leader**

For our scouting expedition into the proposed Jim Jeffords State Forest, we had an elite group of 9 hikers and 3 canines. If sufficient funds are raised, the Jim Jeffords State Forest will comprise over 1,300 acres, providing a wildlife corridor between Coolidge State Forest in the east with Aitken State Forest near Rutland. The Trust for Public Land has raised funds to cover the bulk of the \$1.7 million land value, with less than \$45,000 left to find before year end. There will be more news on developments coming soon.

The weather was glorious, in the 60's for most of the trek, reaching a balmy 75 by the end. We car pooled to Gilman Road in Shrewsbury, then sauntered up Gilman Road past (shhh, the secret shelter) and a remote off-grid cabin whose for-sale sign caught the fancy of one of our company. We inspected the extensive logging operation on corner of the Coolidge State Forest adjacent to the new forest. No logging in the new forest...yet

Soon after entering the Holland property, which will become the bulk of the new state forest, we diverted to an old snowmobile trail, drawing on the bushwhacking skills of our party. After swatting branches, we came to a lovely brook and crossed by an abandoned snowmobile bridge. From then on, the trail was well traveled. We entered open meadows, found a nice cellar hole, and rendezvoused with VAST 407, the main snowmobile trail through the proposed Jim Jeffords State Forest

After crossing Mendon Brook, wonder dog Burdock bounded up to us, with Jerry Parker not far behind. Jerry had intercepted us halfway in consideration of Burdock's ailing ACLs. With our reinforced group, we followed VAST 407 past blueberry caches back to Gilman Road and the beginning of our hike.



Ann, Herb, Burdock, Peter, Barry, Jerry, Gerry and Cynthia taking a break.  
(ATV not included in the hike.)



### **THUNDERING BROOK FALLS, KILLINGTON, August 15, 2015, Sue Thomas, leader**

It seems to be a pattern for my hikes that at meeting time in Rutland the skies are gray and threatening, making me question the sanity of any one who bothers to turn up. It was particularly alarming this time that folks came from so far away to get rained on – Weston, Peru and even Massachusetts. I appreciated their effort. After all, they could have gotten struck by lightning much closer to home.

Fortunately, as often seems to happen, we left the clouds behind in the valley, finding blue sky and sunshine up in Killington. What we didn't find there though, was our Massachusetts hiker, Rich. Assuming he'd gone ahead, we set out to catch up, climbing up the hill from Sherburne Pass and pausing briefly to note the absence of a huge boulder that had always been challenging to traverse. Larry and his merry band, Barb Griffith and Ken Norden, had shifted it earlier. Now I know who to call the next time I want to move the refrigerator.

Once on the AT, we soon came upon more of Larry's handiwork – he certainly gets around with his many implements of destruction. The next thing we came upon was Burdock (also an implement of destruction, if you happen to be a chipmunk or a vole), who came running to greet us with the news that Jerry would be along soon. They had hiked in from Gifford Woods. Burdock also reported that he had not seen Rich. The mystery deepened. Soon solved however, as the lost one was found contemplating the small, but lovely water fall by Kent Pond, swelling our ranks to 8 ½. There we spent some time watching little fish trying to jump up the falls – not very successfully I must say. Hope they had a lot of Advil at home. I'll be thinking of those plucky little fishies the next time I get frustrated with the computer, which also feels like beating your head against a rock.

We enjoyed lunch by Kent Pond, watching loons and an occasional kayaker float by, then continued on, oohing and ahhhing at the huge boulders along the trail. I believe I heard one of them taunting Larry . . . "Move me! Go on, just try it, buster!"

Above the falls, we stopped to affix to a tree a piece of folk – kindly contributed by Barb. It will help keep hikers on the right track at a tricky turn. Then on to the falls for the usual group photo. Note that this one was not in fact usual – for once we caught Burdock's face instead of his back side.

Having added 2 hikers and a dog since we'd spotted a car at the trailhead, there was a brief scuffle to determine who would get strapped to the roof rack for the ride back up the pass. Thank goodness for bungee cords.



The Falls gang: Mark, Jerry, Cindy, Jake, Rich, Larry with Burdock and Sue

# **Killington Section Directors' Meeting**

Minutes of Directors' Meeting  
July 1, 2015  
By Cindy Taylor-Miller, Secretary

The meeting convened at 6:00p.m. at Wayne Krevetski's home on Roberts Ave. in Rutland.

Board members present: Barry Griffith, Wayne Krevetski, Cindy Taylor-Miller, Sandy Bragg, Dave Coppock, Vivian Bebee, Diane Bargiel and Hillary Coolidge. Absent: Herb Ogden. Also in attendance Allison Henry.

Allison Henry presented the Main HQ updates. The Winooski River Long Trail Footbridge officially opened on June 12, 2015. Flashing lights will be installed on U.S. 2 to warn traffic of the upcoming pedestrian crossway. The club ended the fiscal year with a small surplus. The newly formed "Camps Committee" will oversee the management and reservations for Wheeler Pond Camps, Bolton Camp and Bryant Camp. We have a new slate of officers: John Page, President; Tom Candon, Vice President; Lee Allen, Secretary; and Stephen Klein, Treasurer. There will be a Trailwide "Trail Magic" day on Saturday, August 8th. Wayne will coordinate the Killington Section event on that day.

The volunteer picnic and board of directors meeting is September 26<sup>th</sup> in Waterbury Center.

Allison also received a report of trees cut within the trail corridor one mile north of the former Tucker Johnson site. (Followed up post meeting, the Main HQ is working with the landowner and aware of the situation.)

Sandy Bragg presented the Treasurer's Report. The KS currently has \$25,375 in checking and certificates of deposit accounts at Key Bank. It was decided by majority vote, with one "no" vote by Cindy Taylor-Miller, to reinvest the General Fund CD and Kirk Fund CD in low risk short term bond funds with the Vanguard Group. The General and Kirk checking accounts will remain at Key bank. Copies of all statements are being sent to the main club. Dave Coppock suggested we look forward at a ten year plan of possible expenditures to determine what the balance of funds would be and then invest these funds to receive a higher rate of return.

On the topic of Trails and Shelters with in the Killington Section:

- The Cooper Lodge tent platforms need repair and will be rebuilt this season. The Governor Clement privy needs to be moved to new hole. Re-blazing is needed north of Governor Clement to Cooper Lodge.
- We have not received word if there will be a ridge runner for the Coolidge Range this season.
- The tool shed is getting bare. Section tools have gone astray. Members are asked to return the KS tools to Wayne Krevetski.

Hillary Coolidge would like hike leaders to poll their participants to find out what's working for publicity about our outings.

Hillary would like to add a QR code to the hike outing schedule, which would link our website to the list of outings.

The website domain was renewed. Scenic pictures are needed of the Killington Section for both the website and Facebook page.

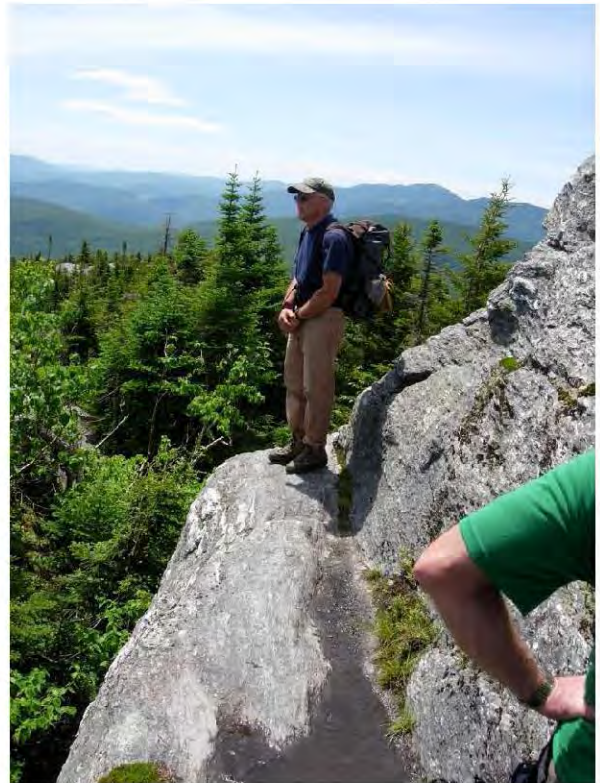
Wayne is going to start a Young Adventure Club, eta spring of 2016. This club will be modeled after Lexi Shear's Montpelier Section's YAC.

The next KS BOD meeting will be sometime in October.





Above, exploring the proposed Jim Jeffords State Forest and, below, views from Burnt Rock Mountain.





Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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 .....\$45  
Family .....\$60  
Senior/Student/Limited Income .....\$25

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



# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 68, Number 4

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

December 2015

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Barry and Cindy preparing to measure the Bucklin Trail that was re-routed after Tropical Storm Irene.



**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2016

Diane Bargiel  
 Vivian Bebee\*  
 Wayne Krevetski

Term expiration 2017

Dave Coppock\*  
 Herb Ogden  
 Cindy Taylor-Miller

Term expiration 2018

Hilary Coolidge\*  
 Barry Griffith\*  
 Sandy Bragg

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

**Killington Section Officers:**

Barry Griffith	President
Wayne Kretvetski	Vice President
Cindy Taylor-Miller	Secretary
Sandy Bragg	Treasurer

**Committee Chairs:**

Vacant	History
Sue Thomas	Outings
Herb Ogden	Trails & Shelters
Wayne Krevetski	Trails & Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Allison Henry	Director
Hilary Coolidge	Alternate

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee	Editor
Larry Walter	Assistant Editor

**Web Site:**

Hilary Coolidge	Web Master
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Barry guiding measuring wheel on the Bucklin Trail.



Claire single bucking a nasty blowdown on the LT.

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.mac.com/gmckillington>**

Diane Bargiel	413-687-1109
Vivian Bebee	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:lwalter@sover.net">lwalter@sover.net</a>
Sandy Bragg	346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, <a href="mailto:sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com">sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com</a>
Hilary Coolidge	PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, <a href="mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com">hcoolidge@hotmail.com</a>
Dave Coppock	21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, <a href="mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com">dscoppock@gmail.com</a>
Barry Griffith	68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, <a href="mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net">Griff2VT@Vermontel.net</a>
Allison Henry	19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, <a href="mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com">allisonnorton1@gmail.com</a>
Wayne Krevetski	22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, <a href="mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com">wkrevetski@hotmail.com</a>
Herbert Ogden	214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, <a href="mailto:hogden@vermontel.net">hogden@vermontel.net</a>
Sue Thomas	27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185
Cindy Taylor-Miller	337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, <a href="mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com">mrsgorp@gmail.com</a>



## **This n' That**

- **EDITOR'S NOTE:** To receive Smoke & Blazes by email, send request to [vlb@sover.net](mailto:vlb@sover.net).
- **IN MEMORIAM:** The Killington Section was sorry to learn of the passing of Thelma Perkins in October. Thelma was an energetic and always cheerful participant in GMC and many other activities, and she will be missed by all. We extend our sympathies to her husband, Bob, and all the family.

### **ROMA'S RAMBLINGS, by Roma Pulling and assisted by Cynthia Roberts**

#### Bitty Bio No. 2: Harold Rogers

Harold was a quiet person, very easy to have around. He was devoted to the Section and served on the Board of Directors. One of his specialties was a hike he led every spring. Before the trails were dry enough to welcome us into the woods, Harold would lead a group on the Quarterline Road in Rutland Town when it was still muddy and possibly snowy enough to discourage us from a hike. He always carried a folding saw in one hand. It hardly ever was used, but he said he had to carry something.

One of the first things I learned about Harold was that he was a carpenter. At one of the first Outings Committee meetings that was held here at my house, when Harold came up the stairs, he realized the house was one he had worked on when it was being built.

Harold's first wife suffered from kidney disease and had to be taken to Burlington for treatment three times a week as Rutland did not have a unit here. Following her death, Harold married Alberta Lamb, who survives him. Following his second marriage, the couple switched their activities to include square dancing, to the exclusion of hiking.

Harold passed away October 21, 2000 in Rutland.

### **WHEELING IN THE KILLINGTON SECTION, by Cindy Taylor-Miller** (see pictures on Pages 1 and 2)

This Fall, Killington Section members, Barb and Barry Griffith and Cindy Taylor-Miller, wheeled relocated trail due to Tropical Storm Irene. The Trail was moved to higher ground north of Gould Brook to the new bridge over Sargent Brook and the re-entry into the woods moved further west on Governor Clement Road. These reroutes increased the trail distance between Gould Brook and Governor Clement Shelter by three tenths of a mile.

The trio was joined by Sue Thomas to wheel the Bucklin Trail. By chance, the foursome chose the same day of the 2015 Killington Spartan Race to take measurements. On this day, thousands of racers compete on the slopes for "fun." From the Wheelerville Road trailhead, they were shuttled to the Killington Access Road to hop on a bus to disembark at the K-1 Gondola. While on the ride to the Peak Lodge, Spartan racers below, ran, walked, crawled and clawed their way to the summit.

Large windows provide endless views from the recently renovated Peak Lodge. The four meandered over the cat walk to Cooper Lodge. Dave Coppock did a fine job of rebuilding the three tent platforms this summer. Descending the Bucklin Trail, they met a group of women day hikers from New Jersey who'd never seen a measuring wheel. One asked if it was a unicycle. The overall distance of the Bucklin Trail increased by two tenths of mile.

The trails maintained by the Killington Section have increased by a half a mile.

## **Outing Reports**

### **LOWER POULTNEY RIVER PADDLE, August 30, 2015, Barry Griffith, leader**

We enjoy kayaking during the summer months, especially on rivers as they wind and turn through the landscape. One of our favorite trips is on the lower Poultney River -- between Carver's Falls and Lake Champlain. This forms the border between the States of New York (on the left bank) and Vermont (the Town of West Haven, on the right bank). On this winding stretch New York is to the east and Vermont to the west -- very disorienting!

This lower section of the river is usually wide and deep. This allows for easy navigating, and the chance to float and chat side by side. However, because of the dry summer this year, the water was as low as we have ever found it. In the past we have spotted vehicles, put in near the Book Road Bridge and floated downstream to the next bridge. On our "pre-hike" a few days before the event, we discovered that the low water level led to running aground on sandbars upstream. We elected to park by the lower bridge, paddle upstream for an hour or so, then turn around and float back.

Our participants had also paddled this stretch with us in prior years. Like us, they agree it is a place well worth revisiting. We enjoyed seeing the birds and wildlife along the shore. Jerry brought his pole along, as usual. The fish were biting! We departed resolving that we should come back again next year.

### **ABBEY POND, September 27, 2015, Sue Thomas, leader**

Huh. My last hike fell on a gray and menacing day, and drew eight people and a dog. The day of the Abbey Pond hike, however, had to be one of the top 10 of the year, with bright blue skies, sunshine, perfect temperature and a beginning blush on the leaves . . . but low turnout. Go figure!

It was a great day for a hike to a lovely and remote beaver pond. The Breadloaf Section had recently done a lot of work on the trail, improving stream crossings and blazing. A big thank you to them!

I'd planned to take a group photo at the prettiest spot on the trail - a rustic bridge at the base of a shelving waterfall. But you know what they say about the best laid plans . . . September's drought had reduced it to a trickle . . . no group, no waterfall, no photo. Oh well.

From there, the trail climbs steadily alongside the brook, crossing twice before leveling out for a pleasant walk to the pond. Large rocks provided a perfect lunch spot, and Ruth filled me in on her recent cross-country cycling adventure (see picture on Page 6).

### **CAMEL'S HUMP, HUNTINGTON, October 11, 2015, Terri Wilson and Deb Marcus, leaders**

Columbus Day weekend did bring the crowds to one of Vermont's landmarks. It was still worth it! Six of us charged up the Monroe Trail early Sunday morning and summited the peak in the cold, blustery wind. We then headed down and once we reached the junction, we took the trailhead to the Bamforth Ridge Trail. Not too far down the trail, we immediately found the peace and quiet we had all hoped for. No one was going our way. The trail was all ours. The day provided perfect fall temperatures and views full of color.

Maybe we became intoxicated with the day and we let our imaginations get the best of us. We began to look for birds and came across several new species. There was the Brown Crested Janeway Thrush (Anne), the White Capped Deb McCaw and the Purple Molting LuAnn Grouse. The Bearded Dave Blue Jay was spotted gathering sticks for his nest, and we heard the obnoxious calls of the Orange Breasted Timpecker. Last, but not least, the continued chirp of the Curly Topped Terri "Nut" hatch was heard "how pretty, how pretty"!!!! It was a "flock of fun" and as we headed south for home we laughed at what the day had provided.

### **PLYMSBURY, SHREWSBURY, October 17, 2015, Gerry and Chryl Martin, leaders**

Local historian and guide, Lee Wilson, provided in depth guidance along the trail system just off the Old Plymouth Road. By covering some of Lee's Large Loop, The Big Easy, School House Meadow Trail, over an old beaver dam, and Joyce's Straight Arm, our group of 14 reached impressive cellar holes and stone walls. Our narrator described how these attested to the importance of sheep farming in the 1800's. A cycle of bubble and burst was recounted. After a brief snack break we edged on through a light snow to La-De-Da and a meditative opening amidst a majestic stand of Norway Spruce (see picture on Page 6). A mandatory visit to Pierce's Store ended an enjoyable late Fall outing.

### **MERCK FOREST, RUPERT, October 31, 2015, Vivian Bebee and Larry Walter, leaders**

Despite a week of wind and rain, Saturday provided our party of seven with very pleasant hiking weather. Five of us met at the Park in Rutland and were joined by two others when we arrived at the Merck visitor's center. After heading toward the farm/sugarhouse area, we were treated to a brief visit with Ellie, Merck's resident cat. Ellie actually did a four mile hike with a group of us a few years ago, but this time she elected to stay by the farm.

As we headed up Old Town Road, it was slow going for a while (at least for me). Larry and I had reserved the Viewpoint Cabin for Friday and Saturday nights and were packing in our overnight provisions. I definitely felt the extra weight on my back. Sue generously packed in a couple of extra bottles of water for us. I had let the Merck staff know that we were not going to be there for the Friday overnight. The log book at the cabin included an entry from a couple who thanked us for their good fortune that night.

We were all involved in conversations as we continued up the road and missed the sign for the Viewpoint Trail, which is short, but steep. This turned out to be a good thing. We continued on and picked up the Viewpoint Road instead, which was longer but with a more gradual incline. My back was much happier.

There must have been some serious wind at Merck recently. We came across many downed trees. Some were broken off at least half way up the trunk and others had fallen taking down sap lines in various areas. At one place on the Viewpoint Road, we had to remove our packs and proceed on hands and knees under a large tree that had fallen across the road, with steep, brushy banks on either side that did not afford us an alternative route (see picture on Page 6).



As we approached the cabin, we were treated to a marvelous view. Even though some haze was settling in by that time, we were able to see quite a distance into New York State. That night, Larry and I saw many twinkling lights in that direction. There was a picnic table on the grassy area in front of the cabin, so we sat in the warm sun, enjoying the view and had lunch. After lunch, we did a loop starting on the Viewpoint spur trail to the Lodge Trail and back to Old Town Road. At the junction of Old Town Road and Antone Road, we split up. Sue, Barb, Nancy, Steve and Barbara continued down Old Town Road back to the visitor's center and their rides to Rutland and Pawlet. Larry went looking for a water source to try out his water purifier/pump and I headed back to the cabin to do some cleaning. Fortunately, there was a broom and a metal pail with a shovel in the cabin. I gave the cabin a good sweeping and removed the accumulated cold ashes from our little wood stove. When Larry returned, he got a nice fire going, and we enjoyed our supper and the cabin was cozy, and warm all night.

### **NOT FOLDED ROCK, November 8, 2015, Allison Henry, leader**

Three hikers appeared at the rendezvous point in the park for this hike, and out of the four of us (including me) three had already been on the Folded Rock Trail. We discussed doing something closer, so that we could do more hiking and less driving. Following Larry's subtle suggestion, we decided to do the Pico Loop instead and look for blowdowns to clear. One of us decided to go home and do household chores since she had just done the Pico trip a few days before. As we were discussing whether to spot cars or not, another hiker appeared, so we were four once again. Larry was already prepared for trail work with saws, gloves, goggles, a scalpel, and a rubber chicken. After a stop at the Henry House for another saw and more gloves, off we went to the LT/AT lot on Rt. 4. We were a teeny bit concerned about hunters, so we had a few colorful accouterments. I had a fluorescent running cap. Linda had a blaze orange vest. Nancy decided she was fine in a colorful windbreaker. Larry placed my blaze orange winter hat on top of his straw sombrero. When setting out from the car, I realized I had left my fleece jacket on the kitchen table, and thus only had a baselayer and rain shell. Rookie mistake! Luckily I had a fine Hanes sweatshirt in the back of the car. Cotton kills, but it was a dry day. Thus outfitted, we set out south on the LT toward Jungle Junction. The strange blowdown tangle from a windstorm several years ago is still a sight. Whoever cleaned it up did a nice job clearing a path through the mess, but there are still big holes from where the root systems of the toppled trees were ripped out during the storm. We (okay, Larry) cleared a few small branches from the Trail. A quick stop at Churchill Scott confirmed that the shelter and privy were still there, as was the privy's fine décor. The section of trail just south of Churchill Scott is one of my favorite parts of the whole trail, with all the ferns and birches. We (Larry) cleared a more significant blowdown mess on the back side of Pico, and when the rest of us tried to help, it became like a splintery game of Jenga with us all trying to pull logs from opposite directions. The only casualty was a little bit of skin on Linda's lip. We had a chilly lunch break at Jungle Junction and then headed north on the Sherburne Pass Trail. Pico Camp was also still there. The repaired windows and porch steps look very nice. Larry checked out the privy and found that the door had been left open, which meant that somebody had chewed up a portion of the seating area. Larry did not check to see if the porky was down inside the privy, though. The hike down the Sherburne Pass Trail went by quickly, and definitely faster than the climb up the LT/AT. On the roadwalk back to the cars, we took a "longcut" through the Pico condos to get away from the traffic noise. We had some well-earned pumpkin-chocolate-chip bars back at the Trailhead lot. A fun hike with fun company! That was the longest hike I've done since summer, and I was a little sore on Monday. Below left are Nancy, Larry, Linda and Allison and below right is Larry clearing trail.







The Cyclist returns - Ruth at Abbey Pond.



Hiking in light snow on 10/17/15 in Shrewsbury.



Claire and Dave maintaining the LT.



Larry and Viv at Viewpoint Cabin.



Steve and Larry . . . how low can you go!!



# **Killington Section Directors' Meeting**

Minutes of Directors' Meeting  
November 14, 2014  
By Cindy Taylor-Miller, Secretary

The meeting convened at 4:30 p.m. prior to the annual potluck dinner at the Godnick Center on Deer Avenue in Rutland.

Board members present: Barry Griffith, Wayne Krevetski, Cindy Taylor-Miller and Vivian Bebee. Absent: Sandy Bragg, Diane Bargiel, Hillary Coolidge, Dave Coppock and Herb Ogden. Also in attendance: Barb Griffith, Ruth Hare, Allison Henry and Sue Thomas.

The July 1, 2015 minutes were approved as presented in the September 2015 *Smoke and Blazes*. Motion by Vivian Bebee and seconded by Wayne Krevetski.

A treasurers' report was not presented.

Allison Henry presented the Main HQ updates.

- Winooski Bridge- the Bridge is open, however small projects remain in the area one mile south of the Bridge.
- The 2015 field staff had unique challenges this past season with weather and bears.
- Caitlin Miller, Group Outreach Coordinator, will remain in this position for another year and continue to improve GMC relationships with college groups to include work trips while on their outings along the Long Trail.
- Visitor Center and web sales of books and gear increased this year.
- The 2015 End to End Guide and Long Trail version five were recently released.
- The Club is within budget for this year.
- The 2016 annual meeting is at Lyndon State College and hosted by the Northeast Kingdom Section.
- The club is seeking a Land Stewardship Coordinator to fulfill the vacancy created by Pete Antos-Ketcham. Pete is now the executive director of Energize Vermont.

In October, Barry, Barb, Wayne and Allison were invited to attend the Ridgeline Society outing and reception at the Inn at the Long Trail.

Wayne Krevetski presented the Trails and Shelters updates.

- Tucker Johnson Shelter is scheduled to be rebuilt in 2016, pending USFS approval.
- Cooper Lodge will not be torn down in 2016. Kudos to Dave Coppock for rebuilding the three tent platforms this summer.
- The trail between Gould Brook and Governor Clement Shelter was wheeled and increased by 0.3 mile.
- The Bucklin Trail was wheeled and increased by 0.2 mile.
- Pending approval from ATC, there may be a new "official" blue blaze side trail linking Kent Pond at Mountain Meadows Lodge to the Killington Visitor Center near Base Camp Outfitters named "Kent Pond Trail."
- The Cauty Trail requires 40 feet of puncheon lumber.

Sue Thomas presented the Outings report. There are still a few opportunities open in the next quarter for trip leaders to fulfill.

Vivian Bebee presented the *Smoke and Blazes* report. Getting the word out about our outings remains a challenge with the Rutland Herald. Trip leaders are to contact the Herald directly or inform Sue Thomas, who will then contact the Herald. Allison Henry will continue to update the GMC Killington Section Facebook page.

Other business:

- Trail Magic Day on August 8<sup>th</sup> was held at the Vt. 140 trailhead parking lot. The KS hosted 27 hikers with hot dogs, watermelon and treats.
- EMS Club day was slow. EMS would like participating clubs to promote the event.
- The KS April 2016 annual meeting will be a Sunday luncheon.
- The next LT Guide will be released in 2017, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition.

The next KS BOD meeting will be in April 2016.

Motion to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. by Cindy Taylor-Miller and seconded by Wayne Krevetski.

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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.....\$45  
Family.....\$60  
Senior/Student/Limited Income.....\$25

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



**KILLINGTON SECTION, GMC****OUTING SCHEDULE****December-February, 2015**

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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. 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. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**December 5, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.****History Hike at Mt. Independence, Orwell****Barb and Barry Griffith 492-3573**

Visit the site of a Revolutionary War fort, once linked to Fort Ticonderoga by a floating bridge. Interpretive signs tell the story along the easy 2-3 mile route.

**December 12, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.****The Dome, Pownal****Larry Walter 775-3855**

This is a natural loop that begins along one of the prettiest streams in the Green Mountain National Forest. Summiting at the Dome with a nice view of the Hoosic Range, Mount Greylock and the Berkshires. Difficult, 4 mile loop, with 1,650 feet of elevation gain.

**December 19, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. in Rutland, or 10:00 a.m. at Shrewsbury Town Offices, Cold River Road****Explore Shrewsbury****Gerry and Chryl Martin 492-2244**

Location to be determined by weather conditions, snowshoes may be needed. Moderate, 3-4 mile.

## ***BREAK FOR THE HOLIDAYS***

**January 9, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.****Jim Jeffords State Forest, Mendon****Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

Explore the beautiful proposed Jeffords State Forest on old wood roads and trails. Snowshoes may be needed. Moderate, 4-5 miles.

**January 16, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. in Rutland or 10:00 a.m. at Shrewsbury Town Offices, Cold River Road****The Dogleg, Shrewsbury****Peter Grace 492-3529**

Starting in the Eastham corner of town on a little dogleg known as the "One Square Mile," we will snowshoe on an abandoned road, passing one of Shrewsbury's oldest (neglected) cemeteries. Easy, 4 miles.

**January 24, Sunday, 10:00 a.m.****Lowell Lake, Londonderry****Allison Henry 775-1627**

Spend a mid-winter day on snowshoes at Lowell Lake State Park. Moderate, 3.3 miles.

**January 30, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.****Mystery Hike****Mystery Leader 773-2185**

If the weather outside isn't too frightful, we'll go SOMEWHERE, and do SOMETHING . . . all suggestions and leaders are welcome.

**February, 6, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Hawk Hill Trails, Brandon**

**Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

A nice hike (hopefully on snowshoes) past old cemetery, stonewalls, old quarries and a short lookout loop. Gradual climbing, easy to moderate, 3+/- miles.

**February 13, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Lilly Pond, Bomoseen**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Showshoe to a remote beaver pond, past abandoned slate quarries, where otter slides and many animal tracks can be found. In honor of Valentines Day, we may continue on to Loves Marsh. Moderate, 4-4.5 miles.

**February 20, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Wallingford Pond, Wallingford**

**Cindy Taylor-Miller 446-2288**

Snowshoe through scenic woods and fields, where winter wildlife signs should be abundant. Moderate, 3 miles.

**February 27, Saturday, 10:30 a.m. at the East Poultney Green**

**East Poultney Snowshoe**

**Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

Explore the countryside in the East Poultney/Middletown Springs area. Moderate, 2-4 miles.



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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. 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. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**March 14, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. (meet at Shrewsbury Town Offices, Cold River Road)**

**Shrewsbury Peak, Shrewsbury**

**Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

A strenuous climb with rewarding views from the 3,720 foot summit. Snowshoes will be needed. Difficult, 6 miles.

**March 22, Sunday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Emerald Lake, North Dorset**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

Hike the State Park trails around the Lake. Snowshoes or traction devices may be needed. Moderate, 4 miles.

**March 28, Saturday, 6:00 p.m. (meet at the Godick Center, Deer Street, Rutland City)**

**Killington Section Annual Meeting**

**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!

**April 4, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.**

**Gile Mountain, Norwich**

**Vivian Bebee/Larry Walter 775-3855**

A short hike, but a grand payoff: a fire tower with views of the Connecticut River Valley, Mts. Ascutney and Cardigan and long views to Killington, Camel's Hump and perhaps even the White Mountains on a clear day. 1.4 miles, 413-foot elevation gain.

**April 12, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Rutland or 9:30 a.m. Cuttingsville Post Office**

**Around Spring Lake, Cuttingsville**

**Gerry and Chryl Martin 492-2244**

Follow wood roads to join the LT at Spring Lake clearing, then lunch at Minerva Hinchy Shelter. Moderate, 3 miles.

**April 18, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Mystery Hike**

**Leader to be determined.**

**773-2185**

Location to be determined. Call for details or take a chance!

**April 25, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. (rain date April 26)**

**Hamilton Falls, Jamaica**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Follow the old rail bed of the former West River Railroad to one of Vermont's highest waterfalls. Mostly easy with a steep climb to the Falls. 4 ½ - 6 miles (option to continue on to Ball Mountain Dam).

**May 2, Saturday, 9 a.m. (rain date May 3)**

**Benson Overlook, Benson**

**Barb and Barry Griffith 492-3573**

Near the route of an historic military road, with nice views of southern Lake Champlain.

Moderate, 4 miles with some very steep pitches.

**May 9, Saturday**

**Bristol Pond a/k/a Winona Lake, Bristol**

**Vivian Bebee & Larry Walter 775-3855**

Canoe or kayak on this beautiful, small lake, with abundant bird life. Hoping for a warm spring day. If not, may change to a hike. Call leaders for details, start time and meeting place.

**May 16, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. (rain date May 5)**

**Long Trail Spring Cleaning**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

All are welcome to join us for our annual clean-up and maintenance, preparing the trail for the summer hiking season. We will 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.

**May 23, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Jim Jeffords State Forest, Shrewsbury**

**Eliza Mabry & Jonathan Gibson 492-3665**

Explore Vermont's newest State Forest, named in honor of Shrewsbury's own

Senator Jeffords. We'll follow an old town road, with a bit of bushwhacking possible.

Moderate, 3 - 4 miles.

**May 30, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Rutland or 9:45 a.m. Williams Hardware, Main Street, Poultney**

**Haystack Mountain, Pawlet**

**Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

This Nature Conservancy property offers spectacular views of the Mettawee River

Valley, the Adirondacks to the west and the Taconics and Green Mountains to the east.

3 miles, 950-foot elevation gain, with some steep climbing.

**June 6, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**National Trails Day, Long Trail Maintenance**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

Volunteers all over the country will be clearing brush and waterbars, cutting blowdowns and painting blazes, readying the trail 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.

**June 12-14, Green Mountain Club Annual Meeting**

See your Long Trail News or visit [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org) for details and registration.



# Smoke & Blazes

*Volume 69, Number 1*

*Killington Section, Green Mountain Club*

*March, 2016*



Lee, Barry, Jean, Sue, Cynthia, Kristi, Peter, Eliza and canine friends, Stella and Theo, at proposed Jim Jeffords State Forest.



**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2016

Diane Bargiel  
 Vivian Bebee\*  
 Wayne Krevetski

Term expiration 2017

Dave Coppock\*  
 Herb Ogden  
 Cindy Taylor-Miller

Term expiration 2018

Hilary Coolidge\*  
 Barry Griffith\*  
 Sandy Bragg

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

**Killington Section Officers:**

Barry Griffith	President
Wayne Krevetski	Vice President
Cindy Taylor-Miller	Secretary
Sandy Bragg	Treasurer

**Committee Chairs:**

Vacant	History
Sue Thomas	Outings
Herb Ogden	Trails & Shelters
Wayne Krevetski	Trails & Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Allison Henry	Director
Hilary Coolidge	Alternate

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee	Editor
Larry Walter	Assistant Editor

**Web Site:**

Hilary Coolidge	Web Master
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Scenes from Mount Independence

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.mac.com/gmckillington>**

Diane Bargiel	413-687-1109
Vivian Bebee	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:lwalter@sover.net">lwalter@sover.net</a>
Sandy Bragg	346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, <a href="mailto:sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com">sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com</a>
Hilary Coolidge	PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, <a href="mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com">hcoolidge@hotmail.com</a>
Dave Coppock	21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, <a href="mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com">dscoppock@gmail.com</a>
Barry Griffith	68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, <a href="mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net">Griff2VT@Vermontel.net</a>
Allison Henry	19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, <a href="mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com">allisonnorton1@gmail.com</a>
Wayne Krevetski	22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, <a href="mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com">wkrevetski@hotmail.com</a>
Herbert Ogden	214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, <a href="mailto:hogden@vermontel.net">hogden@vermontel.net</a>
Sue Thomas	27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185
Cindy Taylor-Miller	337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, <a href="mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com">mrsgorp@gmail.com</a>



## **This n' That**

- **EDITOR'S NOTE:** To receive Smoke & Blazes by email, send request to [vlb@sover.net](mailto:vlb@sover.net).
- **April 9, 2016, 1:00 p.m., Killington Section annual meeting at Godnick Center, Deer Street, Rutland City (potluck lunch, bring a dish to share and your own place setting).**
- **We are very glad to hear that Barry Griffith is recuperating well from his recent fall while clearing snow and ice from his roof. We wish him continued progress and look forward to seeing him back on the trails as soon as possible.**

### **ROMA'S RAMBLINGS, by Roma Pulling**

Bitty Bio No. 3: Janet Martin

Janet and I had quite a history. When I went to my first KS annual meeting in about 1975, which was in the basement of the Universalist Church, guess who was the president? Janet. She enjoyed hiking with the group, and with her husband, John, led many hikes. At what used to be an annual event, the sugar-on-snow party, she was the cook. When she was no longer able to do the boiling of the sap, we couldn't find anyone else and had to give it up.

Perhaps my first meeting with Janet was when our children attended meetings of the Junior Humane Society. I have pictures of Betsy (Martin) there with her pet rabbit (I think) and Cynthia with a cage of pet mice. The Grand Prize winner was a German shepherd.

More recently, when I attended my first meeting of the Rutland Town Senior Citizens, hoping to expand my horizons, to my surprise and pleasure Janet and John were already there.

Due to health issues, Janet had to curtail her activities recently and passed away at the age of 91 on December 22, 2015. No one can fill her shoes.

### **MT. ASCUTNEY ON CHRISTMAS DAY, by Herb Ogden**

Spurred by a forecast of temperatures in the 50s and the likelihood that there was no snow or ice on Mt. Ascutney, a friend and I hiked up the Weathersfield Trail on Christmas Day. Sure enough, there was no snow or ice to be seen anywhere! The trail was a bit muddy below Gus's Lookout and near the top, but generally in fine shape. The Ascutney Trails Association must have cleared it recently because there were no blowdowns. After a shirtsleeves lunch at the top, with an unusually good view south to Mt. Wachusett, north to Mt. Mansfield, and east to what I'm pretty sure was Mt. Washington, we went back the way we had come. It was pretty strange to be atop Ascutney wishing half a dozen people Merry Christmas.

### **TREASURE HUNT, by Herb Ogden**

Begin where the lowest numbered state highway crosses our section of the Long Trail. Hike to the nearest bridge on the trail. From there, hike north to the first vista. From there, hike to the nearest LT crossing of an abandoned town highway. Follow the old highway uphill, past a barn foundation and cellar hole on your left, until it ends at a maintained town highway. Follow the maintained highway to the nearest LT crossing. Hike on the LT to the nearest paved road that is not a state or federal highway. Follow that road to the nearest place where you can buy both eggs and pastries. From there, follow first a paved road and then a gravel road to the closest LT crossing. Hike on the LT to the closest bridge. Where are you?

**I will give an archive copy of the *Long Trail Guide* to the first person who solves this problem.**

## **Outing Reports**

### **PINE HILL, RUTLAND, November 21, 2015, Sue Thomas, leader**

"Lovely November" would ordinarily be an oxymoron – you know, like "jumbo shrimp" and "Senate Intelligence Committee" – but that's exactly what we were having when we headed up the trails at Pine Hill. Hunting season limits our choices, but the extensive trail system there offers enough points of interest so that our group of nine felt not the least bit deprived. I planned a route that took in every view point in the park. We looked down at the City from Tim's Vista, peered at Rutland Town, Center Rutland and Herrick Mountain from the powerlines and argued about the placement of the Greens from the Rocky Pond Overlook . . . is Mt. Carmel the really pointy one, or the sorta pointy one . . . ?

Fueled by pumpkin bread, we traversed several bicycle obstacles, wobbled and bounced across the suspension bridge (see below), and narrowly escaped death from the jaws of a fearsome beast. Well, OK, it was a tiny Yorkie, truth be told, but if looks could kill . . .!

But we had a date to keep with some dead people. We emerged from the woods at Evergreen Cemetery, where many of early Rutland's notables reside. A very nice lady who works there had provided me with a map and a list, and a quick search online yielded more – 5 governors, an early pitcher for the Baltimore Orioles, a scientist who worked on the Manhattan Project, and the first settler of the "Otter Cheek Valley." Even the stonecutters made a typo now and then, and no spell check! We enjoyed meandering around reading stones, dating from the 1700's to present, many with names familiar as streets, buildings and even hiking trails still found in the area today.



Vivian and Nancy at Pine Hill



Larry at Rocky Pond, Pine Hill

### **THE DOME, POWNAL, December 12, 2015, Larry Walter, leader**

I was surprised to have four people crazy enough to go on one of my hikes. The weather was really nice, so that helped. The drive to the trailhead is a long one, probably about 1 ½ hours. You actually dip just into MA for a couple minutes before parking on Old Military Road, a couple hundred feet into VT. This drainage remains one of my favorite within the Green Mountain National Forest, and I've seen several over 21 years of survey work for GMNF. Jeff, Sue and I rode down from Rutland where we met Mark in the parking lot. I knew there was a somewhat tricky water crossing over Broad Brook, but as time does, I'd forgotten how much water is still flowing in September. Mark and I managed to splash across without getting our feet too wet, while Sue and Jeff chose to bare-foot it. That water was cold. Good thing it wasn't too wide.

The trail itself is pretty well marked by a local trail organization, so it was fairly easy to follow up onto the ridge where it links up with old woods roads that wind their way up to the summit. Some of the routing is very steep. Seems we got up there around lunch time. The trees have grown up over the years, but you can still catch some views from the rocky summit. The trip down was less eventful, since we took the ridge route all the way down to the road and crossed the bridge in a civilized manner. I'll lead this again, but will remember to recommend some water shoes for the crossing. I may explore on up the drainage, just to see where a more primitive trail leads.

### **EXPLORE SHREWSBURY, December 19, 2015, Gerry & Chryl Martin, leaders**

(Russell Hill/Hudson Trail) Another non-snowshoe winter outing with 11 plus 3 four-pawers. Off the CCC Road and up an open trail system to a grand viewing height. Just a bit of snow (with ticks still on the go). Down from Russell Hill and off to the northwest on the Hudson Trail (remnant auto, not trading company) to the "biggest rock in Shrewsbury" a/k/a picnic rock. All 11 plus 3 made it back to the starting point after a pleasant Saturday morning outing.

### **(Proposed) JIM JEFFORDS STATE FORREST, MENDON, January 9, 2016, Sandy Bragg, leader**

Our winter excursion in the proposed Jim Jeffords State Forest included nine hikers and two dogs, mostly ambling over wood roads.

Thanks to El Nino, snow shoes were not needed, but ice spikes were highly desirable. Departing from Moonshine Lane in Shrewsbury, we skirted Wilcox Hill, then began climbing towards Mendon Peak on well-maintained wood roads.

After a short but very slippery bushwhack, we headed west on wood roads toward Bald Mountain, descending to Notch Road Extension. We then followed VAST 407, sans snowmobiles, back to Wilcox and completed a pleasant loop in the new JJSF.



## **LOWELL LAKE, LONDONDERRY, January 24, 2016, Allison Henry, leader**

I led this same hike exactly four years ago in January 2012, and so I considered using the same write-up (then I'd know for sure whether or not anyone reads these!). Instead I will just borrow some information directly from the Vermont State Parks website (<http://www.vtstateparks.com/html/lowell.htm>). Lowell Lake State Park was established in 1981 when the State of Vermont purchased 207 acres on the southern end of Lowell Lake. This area included the dam, a revolutionary war-era cemetery, and the boat launch. In 1996, with assistance of the Vermont Land Trust, 154 acres, known as the "White Property," were acquired. This section of the park has a former summer camp with a lodge, cabins, and outbuildings. Also according to the website, there is a long-range plan for the park that includes rehabilitation of the cabins and lodge. There are several islands on the lake, which are a neat feature. Our Section had a paddle outing to Lowell Lake last year. No one was out paddling during our trip. However, there were several groups fishing and skiing on the ice and I half expected them to end up going for a swim given our finicky weather.

Speaking of the weather, our group of people and one shaggy little dog had a nice sunny day for our hike around the lake. We had crusty old snow with just enough fresh powder on top to make it seem like a normal winter. We had heard that there was a section of the trail that was so icy that people were forced to turn back. We came across several such icy portions where we collectively wondered, "Was this the part they meant?" We were able to proceed safely with microspikes, hiking poles, and by clinging to tree trunks. We managed to find a sunny spot for lunch and I happily shared some cheese with Burdock.

Toward the end of the hike, we checked out the old lodge and cabins from the summer camp. We agreed that it will be a great place to spend the night once they are all renovated. As is often the case with our winter trips, the most treacherous part of the hike was really the icy drive to the parking lot. On both the way in and out, we had some exciting moments that involved playing "chicken" with large pickup trucks traveling in the other direction.



Jerry, Rob, Burdock, Sue, Jean and Allison at Lowell Lake



Scene at Lowell Lake

## **MYSTERY HIKE, January 30, 2016, by Sue Thomas**

Seeing as this is an election year, when no one came forward with a hike for the February 6<sup>th</sup> weekend, I decided to try something new – an exercise in democracy – we'd meet at the park and pitch ideas, all offers considered, and hopefully more civil than the recent debates. It turned out quite well – no mud was slung, no ethnic groups slandered and no hairdos mocked, proving the GMC could teach the current crop of presidential candidates a thing or two.

Two destinations were weighed, and Burdock cast the deciding vote, opting for Jerry's route in the West Rutland Town Forest (hmmm, perhaps there was some vote rigging . . . did I see a dog treat slipped by?).

Following old roads with occasional bushwhacking, we stopped for lunch at an old stone wall, and emerged from the woods at a panoramic view that stretched for miles, from Pico along the spine of the Green Mountains. Our thanks to Burdock for a good choice, though sadly he's too short to properly appreciate the view, preferring to scout the area for varmints. Let's send him on the campaign trail – there are lots of them there!

## **HAWK HILL TRAILS, BRANDON, February 6, 2016, Vivian Bebee and Larry Walter, leaders**

We were hoping for this to be a snowshoe hike, but it was not to be. February 6<sup>th</sup> arrived with warm temperatures and hardly a tiny patch of snow to be found. Seven hikers and three canine friends were treated to walking mostly on pine needles and leaf litter.



Hawk Hill is located behind Otter Valley Union High School and is sometimes referred to as "Old Brandon." In the 1700's, the first families to settle there were the Cutlers, Amblers and Junes. These three families and/or their descendants farmed the Hawk Hill area into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Larry and I had scouted out the original trailhead (furthest athletic field south of the high school building) a day or so before the hike and discovered that that area is now under water due to beaver activity. We found that the kiosk at that site had been moved to a site on the south side of the athletic field directly behind the high school building, which is where we began our hike.

We were fortunate to have local historian, Bill Powers, join us on this hike, who was very familiar with the history of the area and shared with us some of his considerable knowledge regarding the cemetery, stone walls, home sites, foundations, wells and quarries that can be found near the trails. We explored parts of the Old Brandon Road and the Red, White and Blue Trails, as well as the Lookout Loop. We enjoyed lunch at the lookout.

There were a few places where the trails were blocked by blowdowns. Fortunately, Larry brought along a small saw for just such an occurrence and cleared away the offenders without difficulty.

The trails are well signed and blazed and we discovered some new trail name signs, which I believe were Rossiter Trail (red trail), Ambler Trail (blue trail), Cutler Trail (white trail) and June Lookout Loop. **See Page 7 for a trail map of the area.**

### LILY POND (NOT), BOMOSEEN, February 13, 2016, Sue Thomas, leader

"-30° windchill," said the weatherman, as he issued an ominous "exposed skin warning." Surely no one would be foolish enough to show up for my hike that morning . . . wrong! A certain saw-wielding, tall fellow, who shall remain nameless, was rarin' to go, so I dutifully packed on so many layers of fleece and down that I could barely waddle, and we set off. Not for Lilly Pond, however. We'll save that for a snowier winter. One of the chief attractions there is always the otter slides – I'm betting that this year the little guys are as grumpy as we GMCers, who haven't had snowshoes or skis on all season.

So we instead headed to Proctor ledges, a good choice as I hadn't been up there in many years. It certainly was a pretty day, with lots of blue sky and sunshine, which made the view from the ridge top well worth the climb. It didn't however raise the temperature one bit, so we didn't linger. In fact, the wind was picking up as we made our way back down. We stopped at the Farmer's Market on the way home, where I rewarded myself with a maple truffle. Well deserved, I felt. Back at home as the wind howled outside, I curled up with a mug of hot tea and read a memoir written by a nurse who worked at the remote Grenfell mission hospitals in Labrador in the 1920's, routinely visiting patients via dogsled and snowshoes . . . what a wimp she would think me for even considering cancelling for a mere -30° windchill!

### SCENES FROM MOUNT INDEPENDENCE, DECEMBER 5, 2016







Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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.....\$45  
Family.....\$60  
Senior/Student/Limited Income.....\$25

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



**KILLINGTON SECTION, GMC****OUTING SCHEDULE****March-May, 2016**

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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. 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. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**March 5, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. at Shrewsbury Town Offices, Cold River Road****Salt Ash Mountain, Shrewsbury****Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

Snowshoe up to the 3,286' summit, mostly bushwhacking and visiting an historic gravesite. Difficult, 5 miles.

**March 12, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.****Carriage Trail, Rutland**

Follow the old carriage road from Rutland's Pine Hill to Proctor. Snowshoes may be needed. Moderate, 5 miles, with some steep climbing.

**Lisa Pettis 265-4816****March 19, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.****Spruce Peak, Manchester****Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

A moderate hike on generally easy terrain with a couple of viewpoints along the way and good views to the west of Mount Equinox and the valley below. Moderate, 4.5 miles.

**March 26, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. in Rutland or 10:00 at Shrewsbury Town Offices****Long Trail/Appalachian Trail, Shrewsbury****Gerry & Chryl Martin 492-2244**

Follow the AT/LT from Clarendon Gorge north to the Upper Cold River Road. Snowshoes or traction devices may be needed depending on conditions. Difficult, 5.4 miles.

**April 2, Saturday, 10:30 a.m.****Maple Open House Road Walk, Middletown Springs****Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

Take in mountain views and tour a sugarhouse in operation. Easy to moderate, mileage variable.

**April 9, Saturday, 1:00 p.m.****Killington Section Annual Meeting, Godnick Center, Deer Street, Rutland****Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Bring a dish to share and your own place setting for a potluck lunch, followed by a short business meeting and election of officers. All are welcome – a great opportunity to meet other hiking enthusiasts and learn about club activities and volunteer opportunities.

**April 10, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.****Bristol Plane Wreck, Bristol****Jerry Parker 775-6208**

Trek to the remote location of a plane wreck in the mountains. Moderate to difficult, with some bushwhacking, 6 miles.

**April 16, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. (rain date 4/17)****Natural Bridge, Dorset****Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Climb on old roads to this geologic oddity and descend, bushwhacking along the course of a beautiful marble streambed with sculpted gorges and waterfalls. 900 foot elevation gain, with some steep grades to get the winter kinks out of your muscles. Moderate, 4 miles.

**April 24, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Spring Wildflowers**

**Barb Griffith 492-3573 & Sue Thomas 773-2185**

The ground hog has spoken and predicted an early spring, so we'll take his word for it and see what's blooming in the woods. Location to be determined.

**May 1, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Bike the Delaware-Hudson Rail Trail, Castleton**

**Cindy Taylor-Miller 446-2288**

Bike on a crushed gravel surface along the old rail route, with the option of lunch in beautiful downtown Poultney. 14.45 miles round trip. Call leader with questions about equipment.

**May 7, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Mystery Hike**

Gather at the meeting place to pitch ideas . . . all suggestions and leaders are welcome. Take a chance and witness democracy in action!

**May 15, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Silver Lake, Goshen**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

Climb up to beautiful Silver Lake along the brook and past Falls of Lana. We'll take the route up the road, with the option to return down the rocks on the other side. Moderate, 3 miles.

**May 21, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**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 will 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.

**May 28, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Grout Pond, Stratton**

**Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

Paddle on a small, remote pond in the Green Mountain National Forest. For those who do not want to paddle, there is a hiking trail around the Pond. We can all meet up at an agreed upon spot for lunch. Easy.

**June 4, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**National Trails Day – Long Trail Maintenance**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

Volunteers all over the country will be out clearing brush and waterbars, cutting blowdowns and painting blazes, readying the trail for the summer hiking season. Join us to work on our local treasure, the Long/Appalachian Trails. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes and lunch. Tools will be provided.

**June 10-12, Friday-Sunday**

**Main Club 802-244-7037**

**Green Mountain Club Annual Meeting, Lyndonville**

See your Long Trail News for schedule and registration details or visit [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).



# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 69, Number 2

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

June 2016



Nancy, Jean, Cindy, Bob and Larry, lunch on Mt. Tom (Wildflower Hike)



Bear Claw Marks on Beach Tree (Salt Ash Mountain Hike)



Jonathan at the Vista (Spruce Peak Hike)



**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2017

Dave Coppock\*

Herb Ogden

Cindy Taylor-Miller

Term expiration 2018

Hilary Coolidge\*

Barry Griffith\*

Sandy Bragg

Term expiration 2019

Larry Walter

Allison Henry

Wayne Krevetski\*

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

**Killington Section Officers:**

Barry Griffith

President

Wayne Krevetski

Vice President

Cindy Taylor-Miller

Secretary

Sandy Bragg

Treasurer

**Committee Chairs:**

Vacant

History

Sue Thomas

Outings

Herb Ogden

Trails &amp; Shelters

Wayne Krevetski

Trails &amp; Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Allison Henry

Director

Hilary Coolidge

Alternate

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee Editor

Larry Walter Assistant Editor

**Web Site:**

Hilary Coolidge

Web Master

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.mac.com/gmckillington>**

Vivian Bebee

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [lwalter@sover.net](mailto:lwalter@sover.net)

Sandy Bragg

346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, [sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com](mailto:sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com)

Hilary Coolidge

PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, [hcoolidge@hotmail.com](mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com)

Dave Coppock

21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, [dscoppock@gmail.com](mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com)

Barry Griffith

68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

Allison Henry

19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, [allisonnorton1@gmail.com](mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com)

Wayne Krevetski

22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)

Herbert Ogden

214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Sue Thomas

27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Cindy Taylor-Miller

337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [mrsgorp@gmail.com](mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com)

Larry Walter

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [lwalter@sover.net](mailto:lwalter@sover.net)**Sunbathing at the Pogue on Mt. Tom**



## **This n' That**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** To receive Smoke & Blazes by email, send request to [vlb@sover.net](mailto:vlb@sover.net)

### **ROMA'S RAMBLINGS, by Roma Pulling**

#### Bitty Bio No. 4: "Church"

Walter Churchill Scott. Virginia Scott was the only one I ever heard call him by his first name. To everyone else, he was Churchill, Church or Scottie. He answered to any of these and was always ready to answer one of our many questions. He always had the answer and was pleased to help.

Many things have been written about Church before, especially when a new trail shelter was named for him in 2002. As happens to many of us, he had slowed down and was unable to climb the two miles, more or less, to the shelter; so we dedicated the sign at the Route 4 parking lot. Those who were willing, climbed to the shelter for a short ceremony as the sign was attached to the shelter.

One thing essential to Church was: "you can't have a hike without coffee." This was usually no problem since there were fewer rules in the early days about where it was proper to build fires. But one occasion stands out in my mind when Church led a hike to the top of Bird Mountain in Ira. The summit provides very little room for building a fire, so Church came equipped with a backpacking stove for heating one cup of water.

Each of us have memories of our friend Church, Churchill, Walter or Scottie. No one can replace him.

## **Outing Reports**

### **SALT ASH MOUNTAIN, SHREWSBURY, March 5, 2016, Sandy Bragg, leader**

On a bright Saturday, 6 hikers and 3 dogs climbed the south side of Salt Ash Mountain, starting near Lake Ninevah. Thanks to El Nino, snow shoes were not needed, but ice spikes were highly desirable. The south side of the mountain had a surprising amount of snow, but a recent rain had converted much of it into ice. A dusting of snow was perfect for viewing animal tracks, including fisher, turkey, and multiple moose, but did not provide much traction.

We started on an old wood road which dissipated into a bushwhack. Along the way, Jerry Parker and Connie Youngstrom found a knob where bears had created nests in beech trees to feast on beechnuts. Some of the trees showed recent claw marks (photo on front cover).

Much of the hike covered land owned by the Ninevah Foundation, where logging had opened expansive views of New Hampshire to the east. After joining another wood road, we began climbing in earnest as the road evaporated into maple and birch saplings.

As we neared the top, we reached a series of increasingly open plateaus, yielding vistas to the south, east and west. We had views of Ascutney and the slopes on Sunapee, Okemo, Stratton and Magic Mountain.

The very top of Salt Ash is boreal forest, and an entry in the logbook at the peak said that a hunter had shot a 755 pound bull moose on the summit the previous November. As we headed down, we met a hiker from Lowell, MA who was climbing the 200 tallest mountains in Vermont, and only had 29 more to complete. According to Peakbagger.com, Salt Ash is the 87<sup>th</sup> tallest mountain in Vermont at 3286 feet.

Our return was much easier than our ascent, and we followed a wood road that took us by the gravesite of a revolutionary war soldier who had died near the Crown Point Road.

### **SPRUCE PEAK, MANCHESTER, March 19, 2016, Vivian Bebee and Larry Walter, Leaders**

The weather was sunny with a clear blue sky, but a bit nippy. The coolness worked out though since our wet trail was temporarily frozen. There was a good turnout with nine people and at least one dog. This part of the trail could be a relatively easy jaunt for some, but with all of the roots and rocks to navigate, and several small water crossings, moderate would be a better description for most of us. There were some nice ridge top views along the way. The actual top of Spruce Peak is accessed via a short, marked trail on the north side of a rocky spine. Sue found the blazing, and we had a nice lunch on top and enjoyed the views just off the east side of the summit (photo on front cover). Cindy found a geocache in a military ammo-box near our lunch spot, full of strange items.

After lunch, a few folks continued on the trail a little further to Spruce Shelter while the rest of us began the return hike. Spruce Shelter is one of the few left with a stove and a nice, closed structure. Those who visited the Shelter reported that all was clean and orderly. Although the drive is a bit far (from Rutland), this is worth the trip to experience trails and views beyond our home turf. The local Section has been doing a nice job of cutting out the blowdowns and cleaning the water bars.



## **BRISTOL PLANE WRECK, BRISTOL, April 10, 2016, Jerry Parker, leader, by Larry Walter**

We had wonderful weather, although it was a bit cold. Extra mittens were in order. We had a total turnout of five people, but were without the company of Jerry's usual canine companion, Burdock. Too tough of a trek for an aging Cairn terrier. Jerry Parker has been hunting this area for over 40 years and has since been the go-to person for leading this hike. Two navy fliers from the "Hell Razor VB" squadron, based out of RI, went down in their "Helldiver bomber" on October 24, 1945 after becoming lost in heavy fog.

According to the newspaper article (5 cents!), they had taken off from a Burlington base with a destination of Quonset Point, RI. The original plan was to fly with their squadron, but had been delayed by the apparent late arrival of Lieutenant Commander Maurice Stone, who was suffering from blood poisoning in his left arm. He had "suffered infection in his left hand after a few splinters and steel wool became imbedded in it while working in the yard at his Quonset Point quarters on Sunday." His doctor had advised that he "remain at a local hospital for treatment," but he decided to "stick to his executive duties ...until completion of the scheduled Navy day program on Friday". Lieutenant Stone had been awarded the "DFC for his participation in the first carrier strike against Tokyo." He had also been awarded several air medals for his participation in attacks against the "Volcano Group," the Nansei Islands and Okinawa, apparently, without a scratch. Lieutenant Smith's background was limited. The articles only described him as being married (his wife expecting) and that she was originally confident that her husband would be alive."

Jerry and others have speculated that they were probably following the Route 116 valley and failed to negotiate a bend in the same, although flights from VT to RI would normally have been flying down the Lake Champlain basin. The pilot was identified as Lieutenant Walter Smith.

Several years ago, Jerry actually talked to a fellow in his 80's, who was among the first group to find the wreckage. It's funny that the article described the charred wreckage as being "over an area of about 50 square feet." There are bits and pieces of airplane scattered over at least 10,000 square feet. Tony, one of our hiking group, who had flown F4 Phantoms in his military career, stated that the cruising speed of the dive bomber was around 190 miles per hour. It was easy to understand how violent the impact was when observing how extremely well machined, robust steel and aluminum structures had been ripped apart. Jerry said he could remember seeing trees that had been topped off by the plane, when he first witnessed the site decades ago.

After having lunch at the site, we were ready for some exercise to get our fingers working again. Jerry skillfully navigated his way to a beautiful rock overlook (see below). We could see both Routes 116 and 7, as well as the Adirondack range. We also cruised by an old logging camp that had been supplied by mules via the "donkey trail" from the valley below. There were remnants of old stoves and the like still around. There were also some very large beech trees with bear nests and several claw marks on the same. Lots of moose poop, a couple nice ponds, deer and coyote tracks and some fabulous beaver dams. It's always fun hiking with Jerry.



Enjoying the View



Part of Wing Wreckage

## **NATURAL BRIDGE, DORSET, April 16, 2016, Sue Thomas, leader**

A bright, sunny day brought a good turnout for the hike up to the natural bridge – one dog, 12 people and a fairy. Really. Seeing how one little sparkly-winged sprite could elevate the mood made me realize, we just don't have enough fairies in our lives these days.

The climb up the ridge behind Emerald Lake is steep and comes as a bit of a shock to winter-atrophied muscles, but I heard no complaints – perhaps due to lack of oxygen, but I prefer to think we're all in fantastic shape. I believe in fairies too . . .

Whenever I lead this hike, I offer the disclaimer that compared to its much more impressive cousins out west, our little natural bridge is a bit of a yawn. At Arches National Park in Utah, they'd be selling it in the gift shop as a lawn



ornament. But our humble, little span is still a favorite destination for me. I especially enjoy the walk at the top along the old County Road, flanked by a stone wall and remnants from the abandoned marble quarries that dot the mountainside. We ate lunch beside the arch, and a brave few crossed over it to see if the view was better from the other side. As they were looking back at the rest of us, I don't imagine it was.

There were a few takers for the bushwhack down the stream bed, led by Jerry and Burdock, who reported that the marble waterfall was full and spectacular. Most opted to return the way we'd come – funny how much shorter the descent seemed than the climb . . . maybe it was fairy dust.

Stream Bed Navigation



### **WILDFLOWER HIKE, MT. TOM, WOODSTOCK, April 24, 2016, Sue Thomas, leader**

Oh, that dirty, lying scoundrell! No, I don't mean any of the presidential candidates (insert name of your choice here). It's that @\*#! Groundhog, who promised us an early spring, then no doubt scooted back to his condo in Boca Raton for the duration. That's the last time I'll put my faith in a rodent.

Based on the mild winter and the groundhog's prediction, I scheduled our annual wildflower hike a bit earlier than usual. My mistake. Winter, conspicuously absent when we were all poised with snowshoes in hand, suddenly sprang to life in April. The few wildflowers brave enough to try a tentative bloom looked a bit shell-shocked, as were we, shivering in winter hats and mittens. It was a gorgeous day though, and while it never got exactly warm, the bright sun eventually coaxed blossoms to open – spring beauties, bloodroot, trillium, wild ginger, cohosh, violets and a trout lily or two decorated the path around the Pogue. Mr. and Mrs. Mallard were setting up housekeeping there, and turtles were sunning on a log (photo on Page 2). We followed their example and had our lunch on a sunny bench at the summit (photo on front cover), out of the wind and with a view of the village below.

We decided, for variety, to go down the steeper Faulkner Trail, where we added saxifrage to our flower list, and shared brownies with some frustrated skiers from Massachusetts – what a confusing species we are. Not wintry enough to please them, not spring-like enough for us! I guess I'll cut the groundhog some slack since we're pretty hard to please.

A stop in Bridgewater on the way home for maple creamies at a sunny picnic table capped off a pretty great day. We've certainly seen more varieties other years, but I really can't remember a more enjoyable wildflower hike!

Trout Lily



Bloodroot



Wild Ginger





## **Killington Section Annual Meeting**

Minutes of Annual Meeting

April 9, 2016

By Cindy Taylor-Miller, Secretary

Directors present: Vice President Wayne Krevetski, Secretary Cindy Taylor-Miller, Diane Bargiel, Vivian Bebee and Herb Ogden. Directors not present: President Barry Griffith, Treasurer Sandy Bragg, Hilary Coolidge and Dave Coppock. Sixteen additional members and guests in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Vice President Wayne Krevetski at 2:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** To approve minutes from March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 annual meeting as published in the June 2015 *Smoke & Blazes*. Motion made by Herb Ogden and seconded by Sue Thomas. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report**—Sandy Bragg, not present, no report.

**Trails and Shelters Report**—Herb Ogden and Wayne Krevetski. There is a proposal to reroute about a third of a mile on the Sherburne Pass Trail south of U.S. 4 away from the Pico Pond Road onto the higher route the Long Trail formerly followed when it passed through the Long Trail Lodge. No progress on bridging Gould Brook. Tucker Johnson shelter is scheduled to be rebuilt this summer, pending expected funding from the State Forest. Cooper Lodge may remain standing depending on cooperation with a backcountry skiers' group. Otherwise, the plan is to tear down the walls to about two feet so the site will remain visible.

**The Main Club Report**—Allison Henry. The Green Mountain Club revamped the website. Fundraising is below budget. At the winter directors' retreat, the Main Club and Board of Directors are forming several Committees to look at the governance of the club, including the roles of the Board, employees, committees, and sections. Volunteers are needed for various Committees, i.e. finance, trail maintenance, publications, and membership. The Main Club is working on ways of increasing the diversity of the membership, including cultural diversity and age range. GMC expressed LNT concerns about the University of Vermont Mt. Mansfield Science and Stewardship Center proposed at the top of the mountain and the issue of overnight stays in a fragile alpine environment.

**Outing Report**—Sue Thomas. Comments are welcome about the time change of the annual meeting from a dinner meeting to a luncheon meeting.

**Smoke and Blazes Report**—Vivian Bebee. Most files have been restored after a computer failure.

### **New Business**

1. Larry Walter announced classes at the Mt. Tabor work center, Chain Saw June 4-5 and Cross Cut July 23<sup>rd</sup>.
2. Jeff Harvey generously donated a McLeod rake tool to the section.
3. Sue Thomas encourages Killington Section submissions to the Main Club *LT News*.
4. Allison Henry informed attendees of a secret EMS sale tomorrow, Sunday, April 10 from 6 to 8 p.m.
5. Wayne Krevetski announced EMS Club Day Weekend April 29-May 1, and a request for volunteers to help man the Section's information table outside the store at Diamond Run Mall. Contact Wayne at [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com).

**Election of new directors**—Directors Diane Bargiel, Vivian Bebee and Wayne Krevetski ended their three year terms. Vivian Bebee served two consecutive three year terms and is not eligible for re-election this year. Nominations for the three open positions were presented from the floor. Sue Thomas nominated Diane Bargiel (seconded by Herb Ogden). Herb Ogden nominated Wayne Krevetski (seconded by Sue Thomas). Herb Ogden nominated Larry Walter (seconded by Diane Bargiel). Cindy Taylor-Miller nominated Allison Henry (seconded by Larry Walter). Diane Bargiel withdrew herself from the vote. Hearing no further nominations, the slate as presented, (Krevetski, Walter and Henry) was so moved and unanimously approved by voice vote.

After a brief Director's meeting to elect officers, the 2016 officers are: President-Barry Griffith, Vice President-Wayne Krevetski, Secretary-Cindy Taylor-Miller and Treasurer-Sandy Bragg. Main Club Director-Allison Henry and alternate-Hilary Coolidge. A vote was taken and passed to appropriate \$150 towards tools for the section.

The next director meeting was not scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.



**KILLINGTON SECTION -- GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB**

**Fund Balances**

**as of March 31, 2016**

**Sandy Bragg, Treasurer**

<b>ASSETS</b>		
	<b>Balance 3/31/2016</b>	<b>Balance 3/28/2015</b>
<b>General Accounts:</b>		
Checking Account	\$6,504.05	\$5,825.69
General Accnt CD	\$5,336.60	\$5,331.92
<b>TOTAL General Account:</b>	<b>\$11,840.65</b>	<b>\$11,157.61</b>
<b>Kirk Fund Accounts</b>		
Kirk Checking Account	\$627.09	\$627.09
Kirk Fund CD	\$13,467.49	\$13,458.49
<b>TOTAL Kirk Fund Accounts:</b>	<b>\$14,094.58</b>	<b>\$14,085.58</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS:</b>	<b>\$25,935.23</b>	<b>\$25,243.19</b>

<b>General Checking Account Activity</b>			
	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Beginning Balance 3/28/15			5,825.69
Membership	\$2,031.25		
Godnick Ctr/Meet		-\$165.00	
Newsletter		-\$1,149.90	
Web Expense		-\$37.99	
<b>Ending Balance 3/31/16:</b>			<b>\$ 6,504.05</b>

<b>Kirk Checking Account Activity</b>			
	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Beginning Balance 3/28/15			627.09
<b>Ending Balance 3/31/16:</b>			<b>\$ 627.09</b>

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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.....\$45  
Family.....\$60  
Senior/Student/Friend.....\$25

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



## **KILLINGTON SECTION, GMC      OUTING SCHEDULE      June-September, 2016**

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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. 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. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**June 18, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Work Day, Killington**

**Wayne Krevetski 282-2237, Larry Walter 775-3855**

Join us to do some trail clearing on the ridge. Bring water, lunch and work gloves. Tools provided.

**June 25, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. (rain date Sunday)**

**Siamese Twin Tree, Shrewsbury**

**Jerry Parker 775-6208**

A 3-mile, moderate hike on old roads to see an unusual tree. Some climbing and a short bushwhack.

**July 2, Saturday**

**Paddle or Hike, Bristol**

**Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

So many choices! Call leader for a final decision and for meeting time and place.

**July 9, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Rutland or 9:30 at Cuttingsville Post Office, Route 103**

**Okemo Mountain, Mount Holly**

**Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

A steep, but rewarding climb to the 3,343 foot summit, with a fire tower for panoramic views. Difficult, 6 miles, 1,900 feet elevation gain.

**July 16, Saturday, 8:30 a.m.**

**The Ball, Arlington**

**Larry Walter 775-3855**

Tree identification hike with GMNF forester, Jeff Tilley. We'll follow the traditional route up Dry Brook. This hike follows an old logging road, but is very steep in places. For those who are more interested in Jeff's presentation, he'll present most of his information while walking the easier portion of the path, up Dry Brook. Great views. Difficult (if you choose continue up to the summit), 8 miles, 1,800 feet elevation gain.

**July 23, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. (rain date Sunday)**

**Raven Ridge, Monkton**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Explore the Nature Conservancy's newest preserve, home to bobcats, ravens, beavers, the endangered Indiana bat, vernal pools and a spectacular geological formation, as well as views of the Adirondacks and the Champlain Valley. Moderate, short hike with some steep places.

**July 30, Saturday, 8:30 a.m., meet at south end of Diamond Run Mall parking lot (formerly Sears)**

**Grout Pond, Stratton**

**Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

Paddle on a small, remote pond in the Green Mountain National Forest. For those who do not want to paddle, there is a hiking trail around the Pond. If we have both paddlers and hikers, we can all meet at an agreed upon spot for lunch. Easy.

**August 6, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Rutland or 9:30 Cuttingsville Post Office, Route 103**

**Bear Mountain, East Wallingford**

**Gerry and Chryl Martin 492-2244**

Follow the LT/AT north from Route 140 to Spring Lake, through old pasture land and over stone walls, along wood roads and rocky trail, past the scene of "The Patch Hollow Horror." Moderate, 3.7 miles.

**August 13, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Styles and Peru Peaks, Peru**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

Check out the fine work done by the Long Trail Patrol the last two summers and hit two summits on the LT/AT. Difficult, 6.5 miles.

**August 21, Sunday, 9:00 a.m., Mystery Hike**

Gather at the meeting place to pitch ideas . . . all suggestions and leaders welcome. Take a chance!

**August 27, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Library Ridge, Proctor**

**Larry Walter 775-3855**

We'll start at the Proctor skating rink, walk north along Route 3 a short distance, turn right on Williams Street and into the woods through the Town-owned gravel pit. From there, onto old woods roads to a newly-built cell tower and then south along Library Ridge until we intersect with the Carriage Trail and back to the skating rink. Some mild bushwhacking with excellent views to the west off the ridge. Moderate, 4-5 miles.

**September 3, 9:00 a.m.**

**Delectable Mountain and Mystery**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

Hike on old highways to an area of mysterious stone piles, then on into Barnard District No. 2 past several old cellar holes and the site of School No. 2, then over the Delectable Mountain pass. Explore extensive remains of a farm that had disappeared by 1911, then hike back over the mountain by a different old road and past a farm that disappeared by 1869. Good views of the Coolidge Range from an unusual angle. Mostly good footing, but 8.1 miles long, with total climb of about 2,300 feet.

### **THURSDAY HIKES SCHEDULE**

The Rutland Recreation and Parks Department sponsors a series of hikes for those who wish to enjoy their outings at a less strenuous pace. The hikes typically cover two to four miles, involve limited to moderate elevation gain, and try to avoid treacherous footing. Bring water and a lunch, wear sturdy footwear, and be prepared for Vermont weather. Meet on **Thursdays at 9 am** at the Godnick Center on Deer Street to car pool. We return in early to mid-afternoon. Call hike leaders if you have questions. All are welcome.

**June 16 Spirit in Nature Path Center, Ripton**

**Renée Warren 747-4466**

Explore newly-developed, fairly level, trails. Spring wildflowers. Easy/Moderate.

**June 30 Hogback Mountain, Goshen**

**Jim Foti 773-7315**

Hike this moderate trail in the Green Mountain National Forest. Moderate.

**July 14 Robert Frost Interpretive Trail and further, Ripton**

**Edith Kellogg 775-1246**

Walk the Trail; visit Robert Frost's home site and surrounding area. Easy/Moderate.

**July 28 Killington Region**

**Gerry Stanton 843-368-3376**

Leader will explore a wooded trail or two in the Killington region. Moderate.

**Aug. 11 Cookout--Coolidge S.P., Plymouth**

**Lyn Drigert 775-7038**

We'll have a fire. Bring some food to share. Hike! Relax!

**Aug. 25 Amity Pond Trail, Pomfret**

**Tom Copps 282-1675**

Explore a moderate/easy loop trail to a small pond in the Amity Pond Natural Area.

**Sept. 8 LT/AT north to Maine Junction, Killington**

**Tom Copps 282-1675**

Hike north from Rt. 4 to Maine Jct. (where AT turns east) and on to the site of the burned-down Tucker-Johnson cabin (interesting story). Moderate.



# Smoke & Blazes

*Volume 69, Number 3*

*Killington Section, Green Mountain Club*

*September 2016*



**SIAMESE TWIN TREE HIKE (article on Page 3)**

Back row: Barry, Bob, Gerry, Jerry, Cynthia and Eliza

Front row: Jenn, Chryl and Diane



**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2017

Dave Coppock\*

Herb Ogden

Cindy Taylor-Miller

Term expiration 2018

Hilary Coolidge\*

Barry Griffith\*

Sandy Bragg

Term expiration 2019

Larry Walter

Allison Henry

Wayne Krevetski\*

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

**Killington Section Officers:**

Barry Griffith

President

Wayne Krevetski

Vice President

Cindy Taylor-Miller

Secretary

Sandy Bragg

Treasurer

**Committee Chairs:**

Vacant

History

Sue Thomas

Outings

Herb Ogden

Trails &amp; Shelters

Wayne Krevetski

Trails &amp; Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Allison Henry

Director

Hilary Coolidge

Alternate

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee Editor

Larry Walter Assistant Editor

**Web Site:**

Hilary Coolidge

Web Master

**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.mac.com/gmckillington>**

Vivian Bebee

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [lwalter@sover.net](mailto:lwalter@sover.net)

Sandy Bragg

346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, [sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com](mailto:sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com)

Hilary Coolidge

PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, [hcoolidge@hotmail.com](mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com)

Dave Coppock

21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, [dscoppock@gmail.com](mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com)

Barry Griffith

68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

Allison Henry

19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, [allisonnorton1@gmail.com](mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com)

Wayne Krevetski

22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)

Herbert Ogden

214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Sue Thomas

27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Cindy Taylor-Miller

337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [mrsgorp@gmail.com](mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com)

Larry Walter

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [lwalter@sover.net](mailto:lwalter@sover.net)**Dead Creek paddle (article on Page 4)**



## **This n' That**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** To receive Smoke & Blazes by email, send request to [vlb@sover.net](mailto:vlb@sover.net)

- Our annual Fall potluck on November 20 at 1:00 p.m. at the Godnick Center, Deer Street in Rutland. Bring a place setting and a dish to share. Slide program after the meal on Herb Ogden's hiking trip to Switzerland. All are welcome!
- The annual Gathering of ALDHA (Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association - an off-trail family of hikers, dreamers and friends of the trail working to preserve, protect and promote the long-distance hiking community) will be held this year Oct. 7-9 in Williamstown, Mass. Be sure to check out their website for all the details <http://www.aldha.org/gathering.html>. Saturday night featured speaker is Niki Rellon, the first female amputee to complete an A.T. thru-hike. Additional info may be found in the ALDHA newsletter [http://www.aldha.org/newsletter/2016b\\_summer.pdf](http://www.aldha.org/newsletter/2016b_summer.pdf).
- Thursday, Sept 22: Private Sale at Rutland Eastern Mountain Sports for members of certain organizations, Green Mountain Club included. Watch your email and local media for details!
- October 21-23: Eastern Mountain Sports Club Day Weekend. Show your GMC membership card and enjoy the savings.



### **ROMA'S RAMBLINGS, by Roma Pulling**

Bitty Bio #3: Ray Catozzi

After highlighting two of our outstanding, but "quiet" former members, this segment requires shifting into a higher gear. Ray was an active and outspoken person. While others, including yours truly, sat around pondering a subject, Ray was able to put his thoughts into words and set them before the group for consideration. Scouting was another of Ray's interests. After all, he had five sons. When my son joined Scouts, Ray was his first Scoutmaster.

Another aspect of Ray's character was his generosity. In the spring, when the hobble bush (*viburnum alnifolium*) was ready to bloom, he headed for moist, wooded areas where he remembered seeing it and came back with an arm load, which he divided among us women. In the fall, Ray brought to our hikes a bottle of his home-brewed elderberry wine and a bag of 3 oz. cups and shared a small sample with each of us.

So, how did he find time for all that he did? I still wonder.

## **Outing Reports**



### **SIAMESE TWIN TREE, SHREWSBURY, June 25, 2016, Jerry Parker, leader, by Chryl Martin and Barb Griffith**

This was a moderate 3-mile hike on old roads to see one of Shrewsbury's unique trees. We did some climbing and a short bushwhack (sorta) was involved. 10 curious hikers and 3 canines showed up for Jerry's claims of an unusual tree to see...I mean the hikers were curious; the dogs were along to cavort. (Miss Millie decided to take a mud bath at one mud hole and we almost had to rescue her from the mucky elements!) True to our leader's word, we did indeed come to ponder a wonder of Mother Nature. We all oohed! and ahhed! our astonishment, scratched our heads and attempted to come up with an explanation of how and why.

Leader Jerry climbed up to measure the circumference above and below the joints. The larger tree is 55 ¾" below the joint and 51" above. However, the smaller tree is 37 ½" below and 41" above the joint....which might mean it's getting nutrients from the adjoining larger trunk (in case you didn't get that higher math....the larger tree is larger at the bottom than it's top and the reverse is



true for the smaller tree.....) Jerry says he was walking by one day when he said "Wow! Isn't that neat!" And it is! (Later: According to research, these are known as "conjoined" trees. This is when two trees become grafted together. Generally, this grafting takes place between two trees of the same or closely related species. These are also known as "fused" trees. Another term is "inosculation," which is a natural phenomenon in which trunks, branches or roots of two trees grow together. It is also biologically very similar to grafting.) Be what it may, we have this marvel in the hills of Shrewsbury!

After viewing the trees for a time, we proceeded to Clarendon Shelter (which is actually situated in Shrewsbury) and enjoyed a peaceful lunch before our return trip. We donned our packs and continued on. Climbing the Gaynor Road, we passed a barn foundation whispering legends of years past. Then climbing over brooks, stonewalls and downed trees, we bushwhacked in to visit the Bullard Cemetery where John & Lucy Bullard are buried. They married in 1797. She died in 1831. He in 1855. They lived and farmed these lands, now overgrown. Our Karen Carrara, of Shrewsbury, is descended 6th or 7th generation. Also, there is a connection here with Roland Wheeler and the Patch Hollow incident (small world). Finally, we continued on back to our parked vehicles, all chattering about what a nice ramble we all had in the wilds of Shrewsbury.



#### **DEAD CREEK, ADDISON, July 2, 2016, Diane Bargiel, leader**

An adventurous paddle day! Larry, Viv, Jerry, Sue, Diane and Jenn braved some strong winds to paddle into the Dead Creek Wildlife Refuge. After meeting up at the corner store on RT. 17 and 22A, we drove to the launch site to discover that the waters were sheltered from the wind (relatively speaking). Given our lucky break, the group opted for an endurance paddle and headed south. The "hardy explorers" did indulge in copious and generous breaks to enjoy snacks, views and wildlife (such as it was). After reaching the point of diminishing returns, because the water was so shallow and the aquatic plants were so thick, we decided to turn around and were surprised at just how far we had paddled. That last leg of the trip

was into the wind and was the hardest part of the trip. Upon returning to the cars, we took a short walk to scope out a possible launch site for a different (southwest) club outing. Apres paddle, a maple creamie was in the mix for some of the crew.

#### **THE BALL, ARLINGTON, July 16, 2016, Larry Walter, leader**

The weather was a little threatening on the radar screen, but that's never stopped the hard-core Killington Section members from giving it a go. Sue T. and Cindy O. and I pooled it down to Jeff Tilley's place, which happens to be right across the road from the trail head. Jeff's son, Cale, also tagged along. He's probably around 6 or 7 years old, so our planned climb to the summit was pretty ambitious. He had been well tutored by his parents, as he was pointing out all kinds of mushrooms on the way up the old woods road. Jeff was nice enough to identify some of the more unique tree types, such as some American Chestnuts and Chestnut Oaks. All of the conversation between Cale and the ladies made it much less ponderous for our youngest hiker, and before we knew it, we were on top of the ridge where we had lunch. There's a great view to the South from an exposed field up top. Then we descended on a series of old logging roads back to the main access along the brook and home. A stop at the ice cream place on the way back pretty much topped off a perfect day.



#### **RAVEN RIDGE, MONKTON, July 23, 2016, Sue Thomas, leader**

As so often happens when I lead a hike, the weather forecast for July 23<sup>rd</sup> was apocalyptic. No mere rain shower for me, oh no – high winds, torrential downpours, thunder and lightning and hail were promised. Bummer. Since the trail is a short one, we decided to take a chance on outrunning the storm, and began our hike with a bright blue sky and puffy clouds (for the moment, they were white), which made the rolling hills and farmland of Monkton look like a page from the Vermont Life calendar.

The Nature Conservancy acquired the Raven Ridge property in order to protect the breeding territory of bobcats and the endangered Indiana bat. New this summer is an improved parking area and a boardwalk across a marsh leading to the base of the ridge, where a steep but short climb brought

us to the ridge top and the first point of interest – a spectacular geological formation dubbed "the Oven." When I visited last winter with a conservancy staffer, he told us all about it, not a word of which I can remember. So suffice to say, it's just awesome. In fact, it looks like a set for the next Indiana Jones movie, or a place some ancient culture gathered to sacrifice goats – which in hindsight we probably should have tried, to appease the weather gods.

We saw signs that bobcats had been about sharpening their claws, which would look familiar to any cat owner who has upholstered furniture, alas. We opted for an early lunch at an overlook with sweeping views of farmland and the



Adirondack Mountains. As if there wasn't enough entertainment, a scarlet tanager flitted about in the treetops directly in front of us. What a treat!

We were a group of eight, including several locals, out-of-state visitors and a botanist who had worked for a time at Denali, but seemed to enjoy our slightly less spectacular scenery anyway, and identified bird calls for us. Further along the ridge, Jenn showed us an amazing slot cave, and led the way down a narrow, rocky passageway to explore. From there, the trail descended and ambled through woodland, depositing us back at the boardwalk with sun still shining. We made it, and without losing a single goat! A short time later as we sat enjoying maple creamies in Ferrisburg, we watched the beautiful white clouds turn dark and menacing – perfect timing!



Jenn and Diane at “the Oven” (article above)

### **GROUT POND, STRATTON, July 30, 2016, Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee, leaders**

Despite the weather forecasts, Viv and I decided we'd give this a go. We even went a little further and decided to camp at the Pond on Friday and Saturday nights. We got an early start on Friday in order to secure one of the sites along the shore (no reservations taken and the Pond has been “discovered”). After arriving, we managed to get the boat (along with several waterproof bags of gear) into the water by 12:30 and quickly paddled to the far end of the pond to secure our site. There was a light drizzle coming down while we paddled across the pond, with some fish still jumping. Upon approaching #9, we were advised by one of the inhabitants that “11 is occupied, but 10 is still open.” Yeah!!! Site 10 is by far the most private of any of the sites, with a nice screen of trees on the pond side, and a fairly long approach from the pond loop trail to the north. The USFS brochure said there was a table at all of the sites, but ours was missing for some reason. The platforms were nicely made, but lacked tie-down hardware along the sides. Can't be picky, however. It was home. For anyone unable to attain a pond-side berth, there are some nice sites on the opposite side of the loop trail, some with lean-to's. The south shore is pretty much undeveloped, save for some car-camping sites along the southwest side. A large vault toilet resides at the day-use area put-in on the west shore, along with a nice hand pump with fresh, cold, potable water.

The weather, as predicted, cleared shortly after our arrival. Ruth had decided to camp with us Friday and Saturday. While I waited for Ruth to show up in her little boat, Viv checked out where some other privies were reportedly sited to the north of the loop trail (never found). Round about seven that evening, we figured Ruth had opted out of camping Friday night, so we hit the sack. The nice thing about having a big heavy canoe is you can pack lots of stuff, including a gigantic Bean tent with a double-sized air mattress that must weigh 10 pounds alone. We also brought a large tarp which we never really used, but which did allow me to show off my manly knot-tying skills. It's drying out on the covered porch as I type this report.

The following morning we cooked some oatmeal, had some tea and paddled over to the parking lot to see if there were any takers for our paddle/hike. Sue and Ruth arrived in Sue's car, but sans boat, and Cindy arrived with her kayak for our day paddle. We loaded up all of Sue and Ruth's gear into our canoe, while getting the scoop on Ruth's attempts to reach our camp on Friday. She had made it all the way down from Montpelier to the Emerald Lake area when her little car sprouted a leak in the power-steering unit. She limped her hard-steering Subaru back to the Subaru dealership in Rutland and then to Sue's house, with her reportedly beautiful little cedar canoe still strapped on the top. Hence, two ladies with no craft. The hike and/or paddle to our site is pretty quick, so they arrived at our site about when Cindy, Viv and I were pulling our boats up to the shore.



We all helped Ruth and Sue set up their one-person tents on our extra tent platform, had lunch and discussed what to do next. While Cindy and Viv paddled our canoe around the pond, Sue and Ruth joined me in a hike on the "West Loop" trail (Recommendation: Pick up a copy of the GMC "Manchester Area" waterproof map of this area). While approaching a small spur trail shown to wind its way to an inlet for Somerset Reservoir, Ruth and I were getting pretty tired (ever tried to keep up with Ms. Thomas?). Only after being accused of being wimps through the use of Trump-like insults, Ruth and I finally gave in. Another 5 minutes (add in 15 for identifying flowers which I promptly forgot within another 5 minutes), we arrived at the mouth of East Branch Brook. There's a trail along the north bank which afforded us a nice vista of the Somerset Reservoir. Much discussion ensued as to future plans of canoeing and/or camping on the same. Our return trip was, in part, on private land, so the trail was a little iffy in places. As we returned on the loop trail by the parking lot, we found Cindy getting ready to load her kayak and make her return trip to Rutland. We gave her an assist, and then headed back to #10 and found Viv enjoying some quiet reading time by the pond. The water was so nice that Ruth, Viv and I had a swim (washing off the bug repellent and suntan lotion). Dinner was prepared and quickly consumed. It was a beautiful evening around a campfire (very few bugs), and we were treated to a "plane runway" arrival of a loon halfway across the pond directly in front of our campsite. As light faded, because of the white patches on the loon, we could watch while he or she progressed further down the pond, most likely fishing for dinner.

During the night (around 10:30 or so), the rain started and didn't stop much after that. Fortunately, most of our gear that we did not need in the morning, we had taken across to the cars the night before, so we only had to make one canoe run with the rest and Sue and Ruth hiked out just a little more. Probably should have taken down the tarp the night before too . . . pretty messy business. SOMEONE had hidden my little stake hammer in the bottom of the food bag, so I was missing a key implement of destruction. I suspect Sue was behind the disappearance, since she mysteriously knew just where to look ("somewhere in the bottom of one of your bags" I believe were her words).

We managed to get our soggy selves over to the cars and headed out for a sit-down breakfast in the Manchester area. Never try to find a breakfast joint in Manchester on a weekend. Not much opens before 11:00 a.m. and what was open had long lines. Finally found a very nice little spot (Nipper's Café) as we were leaving town on Route 7. Probably had way too many calories, but we deserved it. That little Ruth eats like a logger!



Viv and Cindy pushing off from campsite on Grout Pond (article above)

### **BEAR MOUNTAIN, SHREWSBURY, August 6, 2016, Cindy Taylor-Miller, substitute leader**

The forecasted rain and t-storms didn't deter the six hikers who showed up for the annual Patch Hollow Hike. Our three stooges Larry, Barry and Jerry along with Bob, Lynn, Cindy and Burdock began the hike in hot humid conditions to climb the south side of Bear Mountain from Vt. 140. Lynn loved the slow steady pace so she could add to her fungi and mushroom photo collection. Bob is serious about photography and should have some good pictures of today's hike. A pair of felco pruners saw a lot of use by Larry while Cindy cleared the water-bars in need their annual flush out. Barry



retold the early nineteenth century Patch Hollow rioter tale just as two Appalachian Trail NoBo Thru hikers, Grizzly Adams and Stick, came bouncing down the trail. He retold the tale again for their entertainment.

Then the rains came. We could hear it in the trees accompanied by a rumble of thunder. Everyone donned some sort of raingear while Larry had his umbrella. We headed north along the trail for a rather quick but soaking wet trek to Minerva Hinchey Shelter. Enroute, we were passed by a half dozen NoBo thru hikers making a mad dash off the top of Bear Mountain to lower ground and one SoBo lone female thru hiker heading up the mountain. After a quick reconnoiter at the Shelter to count noses, we all headed out to our cars as the rain stopped and the sun poked through the gray clouds.

It was a lovely hike and Gerry and Cheryl were missed by all. I do like to walk in the rain and to save those sunny days for basking on mountain tops with a view.

### **MYSTERY HIKE - LIBRARY RIDGE, PROCTOR, July 23, 2016, Sue Thomas, leader**

Despite a rather gloomy forecast of thunder cells in the afternoon, Sue, Jerry and Burdock showed up at the park. Some discussion was had as to where we should go, but since I was unable to lead the hike I was scheduled for the following weekend, we headed for Proctor to do it as the mystery hike. We all took a rain check on Jerry's offer to hike to a mystery tree. The first part of the hike was along Route 3 from the skating rink down to Williams Street. Then the real climbing takes off up through the Proctor gravel pit, eventually ending on the top of Library Ridge by the newly erected communications tower. Permission was obtained from a nice fellow who owns that portion of the ridge. Then you're onto Proctor Library land with little bits and pieces of private ownership all the way south to the Carriage Trail. It's pretty rocky up there and the view isn't that great, so we all decided it would be best to shoe this in the winter, assuming we get snow this winter. All of the blackberries will be under the white stuff as well. It's very pleasant up on the ridge, view or no view. A surprise encounter: a motorcyclist went putting by us on his way north. Not sure where he was headed, or where he came from. I think I'll rate this as difficult, due to some bushwacking involved, and the steepness of the first section. Burdock got a ride from Jerry after he got tired of jumping over logs.

### **TREE WORK AT STONEY BROOK IN KILLINGTON**

**Jerry supervised by Burdock**



**Tree: 1, Axe: 0**



**Larry with saw**



**Oops - did something get pinched?**



**Saw: 1, Tree: 0**





Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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.....\$45  
Family .....\$60  
Senior/Student/Friend .....\$25

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



**KILLINGTON SECTION, GMC      OUTING SCHEDULE      September-November, 2016**

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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. 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. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**September 11, Sunday, 10:00 a.m. (meet at Diamond Run Mall, former Sears Parking Lot)**

**Poultney River/Wood River Paddle, West Haven**

**Barb & Barry Griffith 492-3573**

Bring canoes or kayaks for a relaxing paddle along the New York border.

**September 17, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Mendon Peak, Mendon**

**Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

A challenging climb via wood roads and bushwhacking to the 3,840 foot summit and sweeping views of the Coolidge Range. Difficult, approximately 7 miles, with bushwhacking and stream crossings.

**September 24, Saturday, 1:30-4:00 p.m. (GMC headquarters)**

**Volunteer Appreciation Picnic, Waterbury Center**

Help celebrate our fabulous volunteers (like you) with a picnic, awards and music by Two Cents in the Till. RSVP by September 9<sup>th</sup> to Lenny Crisostomo (802) 241-8325 or [lcrisostomo@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:lcrisostomo@greenmountainclub.org).

**October 1, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. (rain date October 2)**

**Mount Carmel, Chittenden**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

It's that pointy one you can see behind Blue Ridge, and at 3,365 feet of elevation, it merits a summit sign-in canister. It also features a fire tower, which sadly is toppled. Moderate, approximately 4 miles with some steep portions.

**October 9, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Putnam Pond Area, Chilson, New York**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

Enjoy the foliage of upstate New York. Moderate, approximate 5 mile hike.

**October 15, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Mystery Hike**

Gather at the meeting place to pitch ideas . . . all suggestions and leaders welcome. Take a chance!

**October 22, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.**

**Merck Forest, Rupert**

**Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

We will do a loop hike (with two lookouts) beginning at the south entrance (Hidden Valley Road) to park cars. Hike along Old Town Road, turning left onto Lookout Road (for one lookout); continue on Lookout Road to a short section of Beebe Pond Trail to the top of Antone Mountain (for the second lookout), and back by way of Masters Mountain Trail to Old Town Road. Moderate to difficult (depending on your ability), some steep climbing and several switch-backs (most of which are on the descent on Masters Mountain Trail), approximately 4 to 5 miles.

**October 30, Sunday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Haunted Hike**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

We'll celebrate Halloween with a hike to all the viewpoints in Pine Hill Park, appropriately ending at an historic cemetery for a visit with some of the early movers and shakers of Rutland – let's hope they're not!

**November 5, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**"Put the Trail to Bed" Work Day – LT/AT**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510; Wayne Krevetski 282-2237**

Join us for our last-of-the-season work party. Bring lunch, water and work gloves. Tools will be provided.

**November 20, Sunday, 1:00 p.m., Godnick Center, Deer Street**

**Annual Fall Potluck, Rutland**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Join us for our annual hunting season tradition. Bring a place setting and a dish to share. We'll have a slide program after the meal presented by Herb Ogden on his recent hiking trip in Switzerland. All are welcome!

**November 26, Saturday, 10:30 a.m.**

**Road Walk, East Poultney area**

**Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

Work off the turkey with a safe hunting season walk on dirt roads.

**December 3, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.**

**Deer's Leap, Killington**

**Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

We'll be spotting cars for this hike and begin the hike at the LT/AT parking lot just east of Pico Ski area. After crossing Route 4, we'll hike on the LT/AT to the Deer's Leap trail. From the top of Deer's Leap Rock we'll descend to the Sherburne Pass Trail back to Route 4. Moderate, approximately 3 miles.

### **THURSDAY HIKE SCHEDULE**

The Rutland Recreation and Parks Department sponsors a series of hikes for those who wish to enjoy their outings at a less strenuous pace. The hikes typically cover two to four miles, involve limited to moderate elevation gain, and try to avoid treacherous footing. Bring water and a lunch, wear sturdy footwear, and be prepared for Vermont weather. Meet on **Thursdays at 9 am** at the Godnick Center on Deer Street to car pool. We return in early to mid-afternoon. Call hike leaders if you have questions. All are welcome.

**Sept. 8 LT/AT north to Maine Junction, Killington**

**Tom Copps 282-1675**

Hike north from Rt. 4 to Maine Jct. (where AT turns east) and on to the site of the burned-down Tucker-Johnson cabin (interesting story). Moderate.

**Sept. 22 Grafton Village Park Trail/Grafton Pond, Grafton**

**Renée Warren 747-4466**

Park woods trail have few ups/downs and stone steps. Moderate. Pond trail is easy.

**Oct. 6 Chittenden Brook, Chittenden**

**Bob Perkins 773-0184**

Old wood road follows along a pretty stream. Some short, steep sections. Moderate.

**Oct. 20 Hawk Hill, Brandon**

**Tom Copps 282-1675**

Follow the forest trail to the site of old Brandon and surrounding area. Moderate.



# Smoke & Blazes

*Volume 69, Number 4*

*Killington Section, Green Mountain Club*

*December 2016*



**Putnam Pond Area: Clare (in front), with Allison, Linda, Sunghee and Nancy**



**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2017

Dave Coppock\*  
Herb Ogden  
Cindy Taylor-Miller

Term expiration 2018

Hilary Coolidge\*  
Barry Griffith\*  
Sandy Bragg

Term expiration 2019

Larry Walter  
Allison Henry  
Wayne Krevetski\*

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

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee Editor  
Larry Walter Assistant Editor

**Killington Section Officers:**

Barry Griffith	President
Wayne Krevetski	Vice President
Cindy Taylor-Miller	Secretary
Sandy Bragg	Treasurer

**Committee Chairs:**

Vacant	History
Sue Thomas	Outings
Herb Ogden	Trails & Shelters
Wayne Krevetski	Trails & Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Allison Henry	Director
Hilary Coolidge	Alternate

**Web Site:**

Hilary Coolidge	Web Master
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**Contact Information – Web Site – <http://web.mac.com/gmckillington>**

Diane Bargiel	413-687-1109
Vivian Bebee	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com">vivianbebee@gmail.com</a>
Hilary Coolidge	PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, <a href="mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com">hcoolidge@hotmail.com</a>
Dave Coppock	21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, <a href="mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com">dscoppock@gmail.com</a>
Barry Griffith	68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, <a href="mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net">Griff2VT@Vermontel.net</a>
Allison Henry	19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, <a href="mailto:allisonmorton1@gmail.com">allisonmorton1@gmail.com</a>
Wayne Krevetski	22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, <a href="mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com">wkrevetski@hotmail.com</a>
Gerry Martin	998 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2244, <a href="mailto:gdmartin2020@yahoo.com">gdmartin2020@yahoo.com</a>
Herbert Ogden	214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, <a href="mailto:hogden@vermontel.net">hogden@vermontel.net</a>
Bob Perkins	6 Rachel Drive, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-0184, <a href="mailto:RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu">RobertPerkins@alumni.UVM.edu</a>
Sue Thomas	27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185



Loon on Glen Lake



Chryl, Larry, Lynn, Gerry, Bob and Jerry on Mendon Peak



## **This n' That**

**EDITOR'S NOTE: TO RECEIVE SMOKE & BLAZES BY EMAIL, SEND REQUEST TO [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com).**

### **IN MEMORIAM, by Sue Thomas:**

Joyce Wilson – It is with great sadness that we note the passing of our friend and hiking companion. In the last few years as she bravely battled cancer, she was not often able to join us on the trails, but was always with us in spirit, especially as we roamed the woods of her beloved Shrewsbury. The club extends heartfelt sympathy to Lee and all the Wilson family. She will be greatly missed.

Kit Davidson – One night more than 25 years ago, I got a phone call from a man who said he had some property in Hubbardton where he had been building hiking trails, and he'd like to invite the club to come enjoy it. I added it to the hike schedule. "How will we find the place," I asked. "Just go north on the Hubbardton Road, and turn left at the man in the pith helmet," he replied. We set off that morning not knowing quite what to expect – but sure enough, there at the edge of a field stood a man in a pith helmet, who welcomed us to the magical place he had created. Kit and his wife, Mickie, continued to host GMC outings and the annual "Taconic Ramble," with cocktails on the deck. Over the years, more people discovered it, much to Kit's delight. Shortly before he passed away in September at the age of 92, his dream came true – the Taconic Ramble is now Vermont's newest State park, thanks to the incredible generosity of Kit and Mickie.

### **ROMA'S RAMBLINGS, by Roma Pulling**

#### **Bity Bio #6: Ira Hawley**

Ira joined our group later in life than some of us. Whereas he had been a woodsman forever as a hunter and lover of the outdoors, after hearing this author's enthusiasm for club activities, he became a Killington Section member at a rather advanced age.

What Ira lost in years of Killington Section membership, he made up for in other ways. As a leader, he took us on many trips, always enhancing our experiences with narratives of his knowledge of the outdoors gained over a period of many years. In addition to his leadership, Ira spent many hours alone repairing and clearing Killington Section trails. Ira's wife and daughter became involved in club activities because of Ira's interest and, on at least one occasion, his brother, Maurice participated. We are thankful to Ira for the gift of maple syrup to be served at some of our sugar-on-snow parties and for encouraging us to hike from the end of Bellevue Avenue in Rutland City across his property and ending in Rutland Town at his house or the Pulling household. A member never to be forgotten.

## **Outing Reports**

### **LIBRARY RIDGE . . . , not, August 27, 2016, by Sue Thomas**

Larry found he had a conflict, so asked me to lead his hike to Library Ridge. He even took Jerry and me there to show us the route, but by the time we emerged dazed and thorn-shredded, I knew it was mission impossible. He'll have to reschedule that one and lead it himself!

So instead, we headed over to Bomoseen to climb up to Glen Lake Overlook, where there was at least some chance that I'd get everyone out alive. It was a beautiful, sunny day, always a great time for the scenic trail around the lake.

Burdock quickly acquired a fan club and was enthusiastically pursued by our younger hikers. Many acorns were collected, ***efts examined*** and a black snake caused great excitement. One of the boys proved that chivalry is not quite dead by helping all the ladies over a downed log. We paused at one of the peninsulas to watch a loon drift by (see picture on Page 2), had our lunch at the overlook and then made our way back, completing a very nice outing with creamies at the Bomoseen Country Store. Great group, great scenery, great day!

### **DELECTABLE MOUNTAIN CIRCUIT, September 3, 2016, Herb Ogden, leader**

One mystery solved: According to J. Hadfield, *The Shell Guide to England*, (London: Michael Joseph, 1970), in John Bunyan's 1678 Christian allegory, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, the "Delectable Mountains" are the Chiltern Hills in England. "Chalk hills, stretching fifty miles from the Thames to Dunstable Downs, have beautiful blue flowers and butterflies, with glorious beech trees."



There's more information at <http://www.definitions.net/definition/delectable%20mountains>. Evidently some early settlers of Barnard must have been much better versed in Bunyan than our party of seven, not to mention its leader. Now we just need to find out which smart-aleck gave the northernmost peak of Delectable Mountain the name Mount Hunger.

Attracted by other mysteries, we left our cars on Davis Hill Road in Stockbridge, walked back down the road to a bridge, elevation 1,260' on the U.S. Geological Survey Delectable Mountain Quadrangle, and began our old road adventure. Crossing into Barnard on a road that shows as broken lines in the 1869 Beers *Atlas of Windsor County* and had not been cleared for several years, we soon emerged onto unmaintained Barnard Town Highway 88 and headed south into old Barnard District Two. I pointed out an obscure road heading about ¼ mile east up to a cellar hole that probably was the home of D. Angell in 1869. Soon, we turned west onto a woodroad and then about 50' south to a rock pile roughly 5' high, 25' long, and 12' wide at the middle, about 150' west of the highway. It was laid up with dry masonry on the north and east. Why is it there? If settlers were merely clearing the land of rocks, it seems likely they would have made a stone wall or a number of smaller rock piles rather than this big one. And why go to the fuss of laying up the stones nicely? About 300' south of this pile we saw another smaller one, on a ledge, with one side laid up. North of the woodroad are an apparent barn foundation, a 3' high by 24' long by 10' wide rock pile on a sloping ledge, a 25' long pile at the west edge of arable land, a 2 x 15 x 3' rock pile, a 1 x 6 x 6' pile, and a 7 x 15 x 10' pile, and maybe more, mostly laid up on one side, all within an area about 100' x 400'. Why? The closest house shown on any map is that of "A. Packard," (Beers 1869), near where we emerged onto Town Highway 88. Did Packard have a mad uncle with time on his hands and a penchant for toting rocks?

Heading south on the old highway and stopping occasionally to pick yummy blackberries that the bears had also apparently enjoyed, we soon reached its intersection with unmaintained Barnard Town Highway 48, which leads from the Stony Brook Road over Delectable Mountain to the Chateaugay Road. The cellar hole at the intersection shows as the home of J. Davis in the 1869 atlas. A house still stood there in 1911, according to the old 15' U.S.G.S. Woodstock Quadrangle. Heading east, we soon passed the overgrown cellar hole that was I. Gardner's home in 1869. It had disappeared by 1911. Crossing a snowmobile bridge, we climbed south past the cellar holes of what Beers shows as the homes of I. D. Davis and L. Marsh and finally of Barnard District School No. 2. All three still stood in 1911. The 1911 quadrangle shows the road ending at the school. We tried to imagine what a trek the District 2 folks would have had to attend Town Meeting in the Village of Barnard, way over on the other side of the mountain.

Following a relatively modern detour that paralleled an old dugway, we got views to the west, including Farr Peak, Bloodroot Mountain, and perhaps Monastery Mountain in Chittenden. Just before crossing a brook and heading north, I pointed out another stone pile about 100' north of the road, roughly 2' high and 6' square, laid up on all sides but north. Jerry pointed out a possible cellar hole just west of it, but we couldn't figure out how they related. This was the last sign of man-made building on the west side of the mountain. A county atlas from the 1850s shows two houses higher up, but I have not managed to find any trace of them. Descending from the 2,320' Delectable Mountain pass — a good deal higher than Sherburne Pass! — we looked at a large barn foundation about 100' south of the highway. A 12 x 12' cellar hole is nearby, probably showing as a house on the old atlas from the 1850s. It's not on the 1869 atlas, however, so it must have disappeared by then.

We descended farther east on the old highway before turning north onto another old road, which Barnard recently tried to designate as a town highway. It failed for lack of proof that it had been properly laid out. Before a steep climb, we passed a well preserved deep cellar hole on the east. It appears to show as C.C. Cummings on the 1869 atlas, but neither it nor the old road are on the 1911 quadrangle. Heading north over an easterly spur of Delectable Mountain, we descended to a four corners at the south end of unmaintained Town Highway 90. To the east was a long double cellar hole, probably the home of C. Hathan in 1869. Neither it nor the road show on the 1911 quadrangle.

Climbing west and then north on another old road, we encountered a stone wall on the south, a tall rock pile (purpose unknown) on the west, and a stone wall on the east before recrossing Delectable Mountain at a 2,175' pass and then turning west on unmaintained Town Highway 89, which leads south from Smith Hill Road just east of its 2230' pass over Delectable Mountain. Views to the west followed, and then an unusual view of Pico Peak. We descended into a valley, on the south side of which I recently found a cellar hole and stone wall. No atlas shows any house there, so I guess it was gone by the 1850s. Maybe the settlers left for the west after 1816, the year that had frost every month, "1800 and froze to death."



Just before crossing back into Stockbridge at a stone wall, we passed the north end of Barnard Town Highway 88, which I had avoided because the major bridge was out. We then passed a grand house with a grand view and descended to our cars. Though foliage hampered the view of several sites, it was a successful hike on a beautiful day. The only casualty was a hiking shoe whose sole partly parted from its upper. Ever prepared, Larry produced tape to fix it.

Most of the hike was in the State Les Newell Wildlife Management Area. The only terrestrial wildlife we saw were toads and frogs, although there was a report of a noise in the blackberry bushes that could have been a bear. Maybe the two parties of ATVers who passed us scared off the wildlife. At least they were polite and they kept off an old road that had a "no ATV" sign.

### MENDON PEAK, Mendon, September 17, 2016, Sandy Bragg, leader



On a bright cool Saturday, seven hikers climbed 3,840' Mendon Peak, ascending the north side following the trail along Eddy Brook, which was surprisingly full despite the drought. The trail crosses the brook three times, giving everyone six opportunities to get wet.

After leaving Eddy Brook, the trail steepened as we began the climb up the north flank of Mendon Peak. We all speculated about the origin of the wood road which continues nearly to the saddle separating Little Killington from Mendon. One theory is that it was used by the denizens of Stovepipe City, a now-lost encampment in the area. Another theory is that the road formed a loop connecting along the flanks of Little Killington and Killington with the carriage road leading up to the nineteenth-century summit hotel near Cooper Lodge.

The network of trails in the area are used by back-country skiers in the winter, and we saw a spare rescue sled used by the ski patrol to bring down injured skiers, tucked beside one of the trails, ready to service a back-country skier in distress.

After leaving the wood road near the top of the saddle separating Little Killington and Mendon, we followed a faint trail. As the trail became fainter, intrepid hikers Larry Walter and Jerry Parker forged off to add some bushwhacking spice to their hike. The rest of the party avoided intimate encounters with spruce and balsam, rejoining the bushwhackers for a good view of Pico to the north.

Mendon's "wow" summit ledge gives breath-taking views to the south and east, ranging from a full view of Killington to Little Killington to Shrewsbury Peak, Ascutney, Salt Ash, Okemo, Stratton, White Rocks and Dorset Mountains. We lunched with eyes glued to the views.

We checked in at the summit, registering our names in the porcupine-nibbled canister marking the peak. The parking lot at Brewer's Corner had been overflowing when we parked, but we did not see any other hikers for the six hours we were on the trail. We guessed the majority of hikers were on the Bucklin Trail heading up Killington.

### MOUNT CARMEL, CHITTENDEN, October 1, 2016, Sue Thomas, Leader

(Bucklin Trail substituted.) The schedule said Mount Carmel, but the weather said no thanks. Cold and drizzly are no one's favorite hiking conditions, and even less appealing for a poorly-maintained trail through scrubby trees, so we'll save that for a drier day. Four of us turned out in spite of the weather, determined to get a hike in. We settled on the post-Irene Bucklin Trail, intending to go only as far as the bridge. That seemed like a very long way back when I helped lug the building materials in years ago, but this day the bridge appeared too soon and we hardy hikers continued on. Not so hardy though. Where the trail turns right for its steep ascent of Killington, we continued straight – one part curiosity, two parts wimp! New territory is always rewarding (we told ourselves), and soon we discovered one of the emergency stashes placed there to aid wayward skiers who stray from Killington's trails and get lost on an alarmingly regular basis each winter.

There the old road we followed made a sharp turn and crossed the brook. So, so did we and vowed to return and explore further on a drier day. On our way back out, we met a college hiking group on their way to spend the night on the summit, and knowing that it had snowed up there the night before, noted their shorts and t-shirts with alarm. Ah, youth! We could only hope their packs contained warmer clothes.

## **PUTNAM POND AREA, CHILSON, NEW YORK, October 9, 2016, Allison Henry, leader**

This area is a few miles west of Ticonderoga, NY. The region is made up of the Putnam Pond State Park and the Pharoah Lake Wilderness Area. Locals call it "Putts Pond." I try to lead a hike in the area every couple of years. There are miles of little-to moderately-used trails and plenty of trailheads for hike options. It is only about an hour from Rutland.

The night before the hike I figured we'd be rained out in the morning so I did not even get my stuff ready. In the morning, the forecast was mostly clear, so I went into panic mode. I could not find my rain jacket or my boots. I made brownies, and tried to wait for them to cool so I could cut them, but ended up giving up because they were still too warm and were falling apart. I found my rain jacket, but not the hiking boots. I didn't even leave my house until 9 am (which was the rendezvous time) and by the time I got to the Park, I could see a car leaving. Nooo! Sue was there and said that the others were going to stop at home for more layers and would meet us in West Rutland at Stewarts.

Off we went and we waited at Stewarts for a while and couldn't decide what to do. Were we mistaken about where to meet up? Were they? Did they change their minds? A few minutes later our other party appeared, and we caravanned on up to Ticonderoga to meet another hiker at a convenience store. Before we drove the final few miles to the State Park I warned the others that we would have to pay a State Park fee. I felt bad about not including the part about the fee in the hike schedule, but when the schedule was written I had not yet decided which trail we'd be doing. There are several trailheads outside the state park that are free, but we've already done most of those. Everyone seemed okay with the fee though and we pooled together a couple of bucks each and made it through the Park entry gate unscathed.

Our group of five grownups, one five year-old, and two beanie babies started off from the campground itself (one of the stuffed animals was a rabbit, not sure who contributed THAT). We did a loop hike around Putnam Pond following the Clear Pond Trail and the Grizzle Ocean Trail. This loop had some brief sections of climbing, but overall was relatively easy. The weather turned out to be a little damp, but the greyness made the foliage look that much brighter. We spent most of the hike stopping to look at trees and stopping to pick up leaves. We wanted to see Heart Pond from a small overlook, which my ADK book says is quite nice, but somehow we missed it.

We ate lunch on the edge of one of the ponds and while it was quite chilly, there was a little bit of sunshine. Following our lunch break, I familiarized myself with the map and made an effort to keep track of all the trail junctions and turns. I told the group that we'd have to be extra vigilant near the trail to Treadway Mountain, because if we made a wrong turn we could end up going five miles deeper in the woods. We then hurried along and got to yapping, as usual. I suddenly thought, "I saw the trail sign when we walked past, but I don't think I actually checked it!" Some of our party was a little faster than the others and had gotten a bit ahead. I shared my feelings of doubt with the rest of the group and I suggested that someone run back and look at it, in case we did make a wrong turn and were headed out to the wilderness. One member of the group strongly believed we were going the right way. I wasn't sure if one person would be enough to assuage my second-guessing of myself, and I was still debating whether or not to go back and confirm that we were going the right way. Another group member spoke up and said that she too had looked at the sign and felt like our direction of travel was accurate. Two opinions were enough for yours truly, so on we went! Once we reached the junction with the Grizzle Ocean Trail we were more confident that we were going in the right direction. Literally. When we got back to the campground area of the State Park, we took our time and took photos of the lake, the foliage and some birds. Despite the weather being a little chilly and damp, this was a great hike with great company.

## **MYSTERY HIKE, October 15, 2016**

Several proposals were considered when we met at the Park, and when voted were tallied, the winner was Little Rock Pond, a great choice for a beautiful fall day. We hiked in via Wallingford Pond, pausing at Aldrichville to imagine the thriving community that once was there surrounding the mill. All that remains are some rusting artifacts and a stone wall.

At the Pond, we were surprised to be greeted by a GMC caretaker. She'd been offered the chance to go in for one night and jumped at it. Who could blame her, such a beautiful spot and the leaves were putting on a good show as well. Even if the night was a bit nippy, we all agreed it was more than worth it. After lunch, we hiked around the south side of the Pond to the big rocks, some continued on around, before reluctantly headed for home. It was one of those days when we know exactly why we live in Vermont.

## **HAUNTED HIKE, October 30, 2016, Sue Thomas, Leader**

The turnout for the Halloween Eve hike was even more eclectic than usual – it included 2 children, a small green frog, the Wicked Witch of Wallingford and an aging 80's rock star. We decided we had to include the frog when we realized the nose count was 13 without him – no need to tempt fate so close to Halloween.

We headed up the trail at Pine Hill gabbing away, with an occasional croaked comment from the frog . . . Suddenly, we were drowned out by the louder conversations of a huge flock of geese overhead. Their GPS devices must be faulty as they were headed north. I think I even heard a snarky "recalculating," several times as they passed. What a racket they made! When it finally died down and they were gone, we could still hear them up ahead of us, now settled onto Muddy Pond and checking their reservations for lunch. We, on the other hand, checked our hats for goose poop and, miraculously finding none, we were on our way.



Our route took us to the new Redfield trails on the far side of Pine Hill, now opened to public use by the kind landowners – big thanks for their generosity. The trails are well maintained and scenic, and a great addition to Pine Hill. We stopped for lunch at a rocky overlook, and passed around pumpkin bread for dessert just to make sure everyone ate their vegetables.

Soon, we re-entered Pine Hill, stopping for a brief word with a gnome in a hollow tree, and eventually emerged in historic Evergreen Cemetery, final resting place of five Vermont governors, an early baseball star and the first settlers of the “Otter Cheek Valley” – yes, even stone cutters make typos! So do cemetery employees – the info given to me by the very helpful one at Evergreen about that first settler, Col. James Mead, says he bought 7,000 acres of land here in 1769 for six cents an acre. It goes on to say that he was Rutland’s first selectman, and served as Governor from 1910-1912. Hmmm. A bit of Halloween magic, or is there something in the water . . .

### **“PUT THE TRAIL TO BED” WORK DAY – LT/AT, November 5, 2016, by Larry Walter**

Four hardy souls showed up for our trail work day including myself, Jean, Wayne and Cindy O. We decided to tackle the planking on the re-routed section of the Canty Trail, so we rounded up some more materials and headed up Old Turnpike Road to the new trail head. Seth Coffey from the GMNF had dropped off some spikes and yellow pine pressure-treat just in from the road, so we decided to suffer through a one-tripper and managed to get everything moved about 5 minutes up the trail to the site. I had the bright idea of retrieving a loose sill that had been dropped off down by the Tall Timbers Camp so I walked down there while the others tackled task ‘B’: disassembling the sills and 10’ planks on the old trail at the last stream crossing. Apparently, the 100D spikes had attached themselves to the sills so well that it was virtually impossible to separate the components. That’s a task for another day, cuz those are really nice planks and sills. After abandoning said task B, we decided to bang the USFS planks into place, which went quickly. We’ll need to replace a couple more planks (and sills) in the future, but they’ll work for now. After finishing around noon, we decided to check out the bog bridging going north and south from the Keafer Road up Barb & Barry way. The rotten planks and sills had already been replaced at the stream crossing going south. I think Jerry Parker got those, but may be wrong (Barb and Barry? Burcock?). We were a little alarmed to see a lot of new brush hogging in and around the trail, but it turned out to be a project that was coordinated through the AMC/GMC. There are now several ‘liberated’ apple trees around the trail, especially going north through that old field/wetland. We counted up a number of planks that are in need of repair, which Wayne reported to Herb. I can’t remember what the actual count was. One was treacherous enough to pop up when entered upon it from the south side. Made for some exciting countermoves by our crew. Sort of like watching fast-action Tai Chi. At that point, we figured it was time to head home and enjoy some senseless TV (perhaps that was just me).

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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 .....\$45  
Family .....\$60  
Senior/Student/Friend .....\$25

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



**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB: KILLINGTON SECTION OUTINGS ([www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org))**

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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call hike leader if you have any questions. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**DECEMBER-MARCH 2016**

**December 10, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Mystery Hike**

No leader, destination will be decided by whoever shows up – take a chance!

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!!**

**January 7, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. at Shrewsbury Town Office, Cold River Road**

**Plymbsbury, Shrewsbury**

Snowshoe the trails in the Plymbsbury recreation area. Moderate, 4 miles.

**Gerry & Chryl Martin 492-2244**

**January 15, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. at Wallingford Elementary School**

**Wallingford Pond/Little Rock Pond**

We will hike from Wallingford Pond to Little Rock Pond. Snowshoes or grippers needed.

Moderate, 5-6 miles.

**Cindy Taylor-Miller 446-2288**

**January 21, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Library Ridge, Proctor**

We'll start at the Proctor skating rink, walk north along Route 3 a short distance, turn right on Williams Street and into the woods through the Town-owned gravel pit. From there, onto old woods roads to a newly-built cell tower and then south along Library Ridge until we intersect with the Carriage Trail and back to the skating rink. Some mild bushwhacking with excellent views to the east and west off the ridge. Moderate, 4-5 miles.

**Larry Walter 775-3855**

**January 29, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Bromley Mountain, Peru**

Climb to the 3,260' summit from Mad Tom Notch for great views – hope for fluffy snow! Snowshoes will be needed. Moderate to difficult, 7 miles.

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

**February 5, Sunday, 10:00 a.m. in Rutland or 10:30 a.m. at Shrewsbury Town Office, Cold River Road**

**Shrewsbury Ramble, Shrewsbury**

A moderate snowshoe somewhere in the mountains of Shrewsbury. Great animal tracks, if the weather cooperates. Call leaders for final details.

**Barb & Barry Griffith 492-3573**

**February 11, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. at Shrewsbury Town Office, Cold River Road**

**Jim Jeffords State Forest**

Moderate 5-mile snowshoe in Vermont's newest State Forest.

**Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

**February 19, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.**

**Merck Forest, Rupert**

**Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

Larry learned hewing and joinery with traditional tools on construction of a replica of Thoreau's Cabin at Merck Forest. We will hike to the Cabin site to view the progress of construction. Moderate, 4 miles. Call leaders to determine appropriate foot gear.

**February 25, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Lily Pond, Bomoseen**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

This trip was the opposite of snowed-out last year . . . let's try again! Past old quarries where otters play, to a pretty beaver pond. Snowshoes needed (we hope!) Moderate, 3.5 miles.

**March 4, Saturday, 10:30 a.m. at the Church on the Green in East Poultney**

**East Poultney Area**

**Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

Moderate snowshoe of 3-4 miles. Call leader for final details.



# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 70, Number 1

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

March 2017



Viewpoint at Merck Forest



**Killington Section Directors:****Term expiration 2017**

**Dave Coppock\***  
**Herb Ogden**  
**Cindy Taylor-Miller**

**Term expiration 2018**

**Hilary Coolidge\***  
**Barry Griffith\***  
**Sandy Bragg**

**Term expiration 2019**

**Larry Walter**  
**Allison Henry**  
**Wayne Krevetski\***

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

**Killington Section Officers:**

<b>Barry Griffith</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Wayne Krevetski</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Cindy Taylor-Miller</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Sandy Bragg</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Committee Chairs:**

<b>Vacant</b>	<b>History</b>
<b>Sue Thomas</b>	<b>Outings</b>
<b>Herb Ogden</b>	<b>Trails &amp; Shelters</b>
<b>Wayne Krevetski</b>	<b>Trails &amp; Shelters</b>

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

<b>Allison Henry</b>	<b>Director</b>
<b>Hilary Coolidge</b>	<b>Alternate</b>

**Smoke & Blazes:**

<b>Vivian Bebee</b>	<b>Editor</b>
<b>Larry Walter</b>	<b>Assistant Editor</b>

**Web Site: [www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org)**

<b>Hilary Coolidge</b>	<b>Web Master</b>
------------------------	-------------------

**Contact Information**

<b>Diane Bargiel</b>	<b>413-687-1109</b>
<b>Vivian Bebee</b>	<b>14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com">vivianbebee@gmail.com</a></b>
<b>Sandy Bragg</b>	<b>346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, <a href="mailto:sanfordbragg@yahoo.com">sanfordbragg@yahoo.com</a></b>
<b>Hilary Coolidge</b>	<b>PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, <a href="mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com">hcoolidge@hotmail.com</a></b>
<b>Dave Coppock</b>	<b>21 Engrem Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-5968, <a href="mailto:dscoppock@gmail.com">dscoppock@gmail.com</a></b>
<b>Barry Griffith</b>	<b>68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, <a href="mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net">Griff2VT@Vermontel.net</a></b>
<b>Allison Henry</b>	<b>19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, <a href="mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com">allisonnorton1@gmail.com</a></b>
<b>Wayne Krevetski</b>	<b>22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, <a href="mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com">wkrevetski@hotmail.com</a></b>
<b>Herbert Ogden</b>	<b>214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, <a href="mailto:hogden@vermontel.net">hogden@vermontel.net</a></b>
<b>Cindy Taylor-Miller</b>	<b>337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, <a href="mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com">mrsgorp@gmail.com</a></b>
<b>Sue Thomas</b>	<b>27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185</b>
<b>Larry Walter</b>	<b>14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:lwalter@sover.net">lwalter@sover.net</a></b>



Sunghree, Larry, Sheamus, Jerry and Eliza on Bromley summit (and Burdock watching the skiers).



## **This n' That**

- To receive Smoke & Blazes by email, send request to [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com)
- **April 9, 2017, 1:00 p.m., Killington Section annual meeting at Godnick Center, Deer Street, Rutland City (potluck lunch, bring a dish to share and your own place setting).**

### **IN MEMORIAM, by Sue Thomas:**

Virginia Scott, 92 – Virginia married into the Killington Section and became an active member and enthusiastic hiker alongside her husband, Churchill Scott. She hosted club outings at the family camp on the side of Blue Ridge Mountain and welcomed us into her home for hot chocolate after an annual trek along the pipeline. As outgoing as Churchill was quiet, she brought fun and laughter to many a hike.

Emma Hughes, 93 – Despite her small stature, Emma was always game for any challenge, conquering most of the local mountains and completing a good portion of the Long Trail. The Killington Section sends sincere condolences to her husband and hiking partner, John, and all the family.

### **ARCHIVED SMOKE & BLAZES, by Bob Perkins**

You may be aware that the Rutland Historical Society serves as the repository for items of historical interest to the Killington Section, GMC, including issues of Smoke & Blazes.

Recently, with much help from Society volunteers, Clifford Giffin and Doreen McCullough, we have scanned and uploaded to the Internet all issues of S&B from the first issue (September, 1948) thru the issue of September, 2012 (a total of more than 2,000 pages). More recent issues are available at the Society and we plan to upload them to update the archive periodically.

The archived Smoke & Blazes can be accessed through the Rutland Historical Society website as follows:

Go to: <http://rutlandhistory.com>

In the menu on the left select: Historical Texts

Scroll down and click on: Smoke & Blazes

Scroll down and click in the box: Smoke and Blazes 1947 to Present

Alternatively, one can go directly to the archive as follows:

Go to: [https://archive.org/details/SmokeAndBlazes\\_201605](https://archive.org/details/SmokeAndBlazes_201605)

The data is now permanently preserved. Although the technology leaves some things to be improved, it is now key-word searchable, selectively downloadable, and even (sort of) audibly available.

Just for fun, I determined that the old Tucker Lodge was cremated on March 27, 1971 after having been fatally damaged by a falling beech tree. The earliest reference I found for Sue Thomas was that she attended a hike to Deer Leap on July 6, 1982.

**[Editor's Note: At the end of this issue of S&B, I have printed a couple of pages from the March 1949 issue. Interesting!]**

### **ROMA'S RAMBLINGS, by Roma Pulling**

Bity Bio #7: "The Pullings"

Al and Steve, father and son. Each left his mark on the club in his own way. At first, Alfred held back, saying that he "had already been there." But after listening to me for a while and realizing there were people to talk with, he became a regular. Steve showed up regularly until he left for college in the Fall of 1975. Both worked on the trails and, for a while, Steve was Trails and Shelters chairman and Alfred served as Treasurer.

[Editor's Note: I would like to add that, for a number of years, Al and Roma lead our annual "hot dog roast" hike in all kinds of winter weather. They packed in all of the "staples" needed for a hot dog roast and, while the rest of us slackers went off for a short hike, they stayed behind and got a nice fire going for our return subsequent feast. When Al passed away, Steve helped Roma continue the tradition for a bit. I always looked forward to that particular hike every year. Roma also served as Treasurer for several years and tells me that she enjoyed "keeping the books."]

## **Outing Reports**

### **LITTLE ROCK POND, WALLINGFORD, January 15, 2017, Cindy Taylor-Miller, leader**

Unseasonably warm January temperatures and rain prevailed the week prior to our planned hike, creating an ice rink out of the upper parking area. Concerned for everyone's safety and that first step out of the car, we parked where the



Town of Wallingford officially stops plowing in the lower parking area on USFS Road 20 a/k/a Wallingford Pond Road. This added an additional 1.2 miles to the overall hike.

Ten hikers and four dogs met at the Wallingford Elementary School Parking lot. Before leaving, the official hike group was reduced to eight hikers and two dogs. Two hikers and two dogs headed out on their own hike, reason being, as hiker leader, I would not allow hikers without traction devices for the icy conditions to hike with the group. My one extra pair of traction devices had already been donated. The thickest and most slippery ice was on FS RD 20. Once in the woods, the trail conditions ranged from frozen, bare ground to crusty snow and any water on the trail was frozen solid.

We lunched in the sun at the northern end of the pond listening to the low thumping sounds of the snow ice expanding and contracting from the warmer afternoon temperatures. The ice on the pond was thick and smooth. Great for ice skating.

After lunch Jerry, Burdock and Larry walked the pond to Little Rock Pond Shelter while the rest of the group opted for the trail along the shoreline. On the return trip, five hikers and one dog decided the pond would be easier to walk than to navigate the slippery rocks along the shoreline.

A fabulous winter day to visit LRP. No caretaker, no screaming kids jumping off the rock on the far shoreline into the water, no leons and no stanky thru-hikers, just winter tranquility and solitude. Linda's phone app measured our hike as 6.7 miles.



Lunch at Little Rock Pond

#### **LOOP-HIKE OVER LIBRARY RIDGE FROM PROCTOR, January 21, 2017, Larry Walter, leader**

The weather was a little iffy, so I didn't expect to see anyone show up. Lo and behold, people started showing up. Jerry and Burdock the Wonder Dog, along with Jean, Cindy and Sunghee all threw their hats in the ring. In order to avoid car spotting, we walked north from the Proctor ice skating rink on Route 3 to the southern end of Williams Street, where we turned south through the Proctor gravel pit and on up onto Library Ridge, passing by a recently installed cell phone tower. Then we were onto the old logging roads along the ridge. Jerry pointed out fisher tracks along a very steep section of road, and we took the chance here to shed some gear. That climb out of the pit is a doozy! We also came across some hickory nuts that the squirrels had been dining on. Part of our ridge hike was sort of cross country in an attempt to find Burdock's lost water dish from a couple months back, but local people-tracks may explain its fate (who would be walking out here in the middle of nowhere?). That little side trip did get us out of the fog and into a place with a decent view of Proctor, so we had lunch there. I managed to second-guess my flagging and got us onto another ridge, but some backtracking to the west got us back to the route and we dumped out on the Carriage Trail (Rutland to Proctor mountain bike trail), which we took back to the cars.

#### **BROMLEY MOUNTAIN, MANCHESTER, January 29, 2017, Sandy Bragg, interim leader**

Allison Henry had the terrific idea for a hike from Mad Tom Notch to the north summit of Bromley Mountain, but then had to pass the baton to Sandy Bragg after falling ill. As Allison envisioned, it was a great hike enjoyed by six intrepid hikers and wonder dog, Burdock.

We were fortunate in that a logging operation had plowed USFS Road 21 up to the AT/LT trailhead, and thoughtfully had made a small parking area, saving us a road walk dodging logging trucks operating on a Sunday.

As we began the 1000' elevation change to Bromley (3120'), there was well over a foot of snow cover, albeit very crusty. The trail itself was an ankle twister because it has been broken during soft conditions then frozen, making the surface uneven even on snowshoes.

We encountered one hiker making a foray from Bromley toward Mad Tom Notch, but otherwise had the trail to ourselves... until pushing through a thicket of nine-covered branches, we gaped at the busy summit of Bromley with skiers



pouring off the lifts. Burdock was an immediate hit, as skiers stopped in their tracks to lavish attention on the doughty Cairn Terrier.

After a sociable lunch near the ski patrol warming hut, we savored the great views to the east, north and south, made even more dramatic by shafts of light breaking through an impending snow shower. We made great time on the return trip in falling snow, reminding us that, yes, winter does still thrive in parts of Vermont.

Jerry Parker's animal track report: weasel, fisher, snowshoe hare. According to Sandy Bragg's somewhat optimistic GPS program, the hike was just under 5 miles with a little over 1000' elevation gain.



Burdock enjoying his admirers.



Eliza, Jerry, Larry, Sunghee and Sheamus - Bromley woods.

### **MERCK FOREST, RUPERT, February 19, 2017, Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee, leaders**

Counting three people who showed up at a packed Merck parking lot, we had 12 people, plus Burdock, for our hike. After a month of pretty seasonal weather and some actual build-up of white stuff, the weather had taken another swing to the warm side. There were clear, blue skies and bright sunshine, which meant it was time for sunscreen and lots of mushy snow and some running water in the exposed areas. The most asked question was "will we need snowshoes." Not really knowing what any of the side trails looked like, Viv and I advised taking them. Turns out, a pair of micro-spikes mounted on water-proof footwear was all that was needed.

After we left the open field and the barns, the snow became more solid and everyone settled down to a fairly consistent slog up that first big hill. Once we hit the top of that climb, the View Cabin was selected as our destination. It's a fairly easy ascent along old logging roads to a nicely cleared vista. The cabin is tiny...just big enough for about 1.5 people. Viv and I stayed in the cabin on Halloween night in 2015 and had to sleep head-to-toe to fit on the platform. It's easy to heat in the winter though, and the views are great. Someone had rented the cabin for this weekend, so we did not venture inside, but had lunch on and around the picnic table, soaking up the sun and enjoying the view.

After lunch, Bob Amelang and I decided to explore some more to the south, along the ridge, while Viv lead everyone else on a short cut trail (steep and slushy) back to Old Town Road. While the adults carefully maneuvered their way down the steep slope, Claire and Burdock seemed to have great fun getting down to the road by whatever means necessary. Claire especially enjoyed being a human sled. Bob and I got out to a side trail off Lodge Road where we could have gone another half mile out to Ridge Cabin (which has also been recently cleared out for a better view), but decided to head back to the cars where Viv was waiting for us. They only beat us back by about 30 minutes.



Claire, Burdock and Larry in front of materials that will become Thoreau's Cabin in the Spring of 2017.



Jerry and Claire during lunchtime fun at the Viewpoint Cabin.





Vol. 2 No. 3

Killington Section G.M.C.

March 1949

#### ADDITIONS TO THE 1949 MEMBERSHIP LIST

Helen Bailey  
Diana Conlon  
George Conlon  
Barbara Dee  
Helen Frink  
Martha Hakin  
Mrs. A. C. Mason  
Mr. A. C. Mason  
Barbara Mellow  
Shirley Morris  
Robert Perkins  
Ellen Russell  
Bernice Tuttle  
Skipper Field (associate)  
Bongo Field

Up to and including this issue the 1948 mailing list has been used in sending out copies of "Smoke and Blazes." All future mailings will be made from the 1949 Membership List.

Last year we had a membership of 94. This year, to date, we have only 54 members. This is most likely due to an oversight on the part of 40 of our old members. Attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Even if you can't be actively engaged in the program of The Green Mountain Club, the loyal support of your continued membership is necessary if the Club is to continue to operate.

Send dues to Miss Eleanor Walker, 87 Baxter Street, Rutland, Vermont.

#### ANOTHER SPRING LAKE WORK PARTY

At the latest Spring Lake Work Party held February 20th, Harold Valiquette, Craigie Perkins, Bill Allard, Joe Valiquette and Jerry McLaughlin and Michael Jennings put in another day of good hard work.

In spite of the fog that hung over the area all day, the work of carrying rafters and boards up to the camp site went along smoothly.

The next party should be a big one for the wall sections still remain to be carried up.

It is encouraging to see so much accomplished in such a short time. The committee and workers deserve commendation from the rest of us. Keep up the good work boys, and before long Spring Lake Camp will be a reality.

#### A TRIP TO KILLINGTON

Ray Catozzi and George Conlon spent a recent weekend on Killington. They drove into the lumber camp and from there on found the going tough. There wasn't enough snow for snowshoes and the trail was so icy it made the trek up tedious. When they reached Cooper Lodge and tried to build a fire in the stove, the THING didn't work too well. The ventilation inside the camp was more than they wanted. The new windows will improve that situation sometime in the future.



## MR. WHITEFOOT

Just sit quietly for a few minutes in almost any GMC camp and you will hear the rustle and scurry of our star boarder, the deer mouse. Now don't confuse him with the common household pest. He is quite different in appearance and manners.

Brownish grey on top and pure white underneath, his white legs give him the name, "Whitefoot". Approach him slowly and he will let you come within a few feet. Lacking the guilty conscience of his city cousin, he is friendly, and can be induced to take food from your fingers after an hour or so of patient tempting. It is said that in captivity he can be handled after a weeks time.

The nest is built of grass and leaves under a log, in a hollow tree, or sometimes in an abandoned bird's nest. The deer-mouse doesn't travel more than a few yards from home, and if taken to a distance will return from as far as a mile.

During daylight he remains quiet, but at night is very active. His food is composed of all kinds of seeds, nuts, and berries, plus an assortment of insects. Since he doesn't hibernate in the winter he must store up food and these caches are found in such unusual places as cupboards, and pockets of clothing left hanging in a camp.

A pair of deer mice might, in a years time, have over a thousand descendants, if their number were not controlled by the foxes, bobcats, weasels, skunks, owls, hawks, and blue-jays.

Even if we wouldn't care to live with these fellows all the time, they are interesting to watch and good company in camp.

## SLIDES ENJOYED

Pres. Fred Field showed the G.M.C. slides at the Colony House Friday evening, March 11th.

## TUCKER LODGE ON WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY by

Diana Conlon

Our winter trip into Tucker Lodge turned out to be a hiking party although it did have skiing possibilities. We were surprised to see about a foot of snow in the wood. The hard crust however, made it ideal for hiking. We just skimmed along the top! In fact, hiking was so good that many of us took additional side-trail excursions from the lodge.

Early bird, Craigie Perkins, was on hand to greet the morning hikers. At this point may I mention Craigie's prowess at wood chopping.

The lodge was cozy and warm with a good fire blazing merrily away by the time the first hikers appeared. Some arrived in time for luncheon, while others hiked in during the afternoon for supper. Needless to say the coffee pot worked overtime!

We had a grand day and by mid-afternoon we numbered seventeen jolly souls. And there's something about a winter hike that makes the GMC coffee taste so good -- it's wonderful!

Snow was softly falling most of the day, just to remind us that it still was winter, but there was a definite Spring feeling and mildness in the air. We know of one hiker who had Spring Fever - Maude Canty! Maude suggested a Spring house-cleaning and window polishing bee at Tucker for the girls. It's an idea. See you at Tucker come Spring!

## WHO WANTS TO HELP?

The windows for Cooper Lodge must be painted. Come, and bring a small brush, if possible, to Perkins' cellar Monday evening, March 21st, and every Monday after that until the job is done.

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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.....\$45  
Family.....\$60  
Senior/Student/Friend.....\$25

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



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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City. 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. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**MARCH-JUNE, 2017**

**March 12, Sunday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Emerald Lake State Park, Dorset**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

Follow trails through the woods past an old cemetery and end with a stroll on the beach.

Moderate, 3-4 miles.

**March 18, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Mystery Hike**

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the first day of Spring. We'll meet in Rutland and decide on a destination. All suggestions considered!

**March 26, Sunday, tentative 11:00 a.m. at Middletown Springs Green (call for final meeting time)**

**Maple Open-House Weekend, Middletown Springs**

**Diane Bargial 413-687-1109**

Celebrate mud season with a walk on dirt roads and a visit to a working sugarhouse.

Moderate, approximately 6 miles.

**April 1, Saturday, 10:00 A.M.**

**April Fools Day, Mystery Hike**

Come down to the meeting place and pitch your idea for a foolish hike!

**April 8, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. in Rutland or 10:00 a.m. Shrewsbury Town Office**

**Shrewsbury Ramble, Shrewsbury**

**Gerry Parker 775-6208**

Hike through the woods of Shrewsbury. Moderate 3-4 miles.

**April 9, Sunday, 1:00 P.M., Godnick Senior Center, Deer Street, Rutland**

**Killington Section Annual Meeting and Potluck**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Bring a dish to share and your own place setting for a potluck meal followed by a short meeting and election of officers. All are welcome!

**April, 22, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.**

**Bucklin-Plus Scramble, Killington**

**Larry Walter 775-3855**

We'll begin this loop hike on the Bucklin Trail along Brewer's Brook. This hike will include an old woods road, some bushwhacking, some steep climbing and a couple of challenging stream crossings (depending on the runoff rate and temperature). Difficult, 6 miles +/- with about 1200 feet of elevation gain.

**April 29, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Pedal the Delaware/Hudson Bike Path, Poultney**

**Cindy Taylor-Miller 446-2288**

Pedal the bike path from Poultney to Castleton and back. An easy 14 mile ride, with options to buy food at either end or bring your own. Helmet required.

**May 6, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Cook Mountain, Ticonderoga**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

This hike will include a short steep section, rewarded with excellent views of Lake George. Moderate, 4 miles.

**May 13, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. (rain date May 14)**

**Long Trail Spring Cleaning**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510, Wayne Krevetski 282-2237**

All are welcome to help prepare 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.

**May 20, Saturday, 9:30 in Rutland or 10:00 at Cuttingsville Post Office**

**Spring Lake Ramble**

**Gerry and Chryl Martin 492-2244**

Moderate, 4-5 miles. Call leaders if you would like more details.

**May 28, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (meet at Chittenden Town Office Parking Lot)**

**Paddle on Chittenden Reservoir, Chittenden**

**Vivian Bebee & Larry Walter 775-3855**

Since this is the first holiday weekend of the summer, we are meeting early to beat the rush. Hopefully, we will have a couple hours of quiet paddling before we have to share the water. Our plan is to put in at the parking area nearest Lefferts Pond. Hiking is also an option at that area if we want to stretch our legs a little after the paddle.

**June 3, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. (rain date June 4)**

**Upper Elevation Trail Maintenance, Killington** **Herb Ogden 293-2510, Wayne Krevetski 282-2237**

On National Trails Day, volunteers from all over the country will be out readying the trails for the summer hiking season by clearing brush and waterbars, cutting blowdowns and painting blazes. Join us to work on our local treasure, the Long/Appalachian Trail. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, bug repellent and lunch. Tools will be provided.



# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 70, Number 2

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

June 2017



Visit with an inquisitive llama in Middletown Springs on our Maple Open-House Weekend hike



### **Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2018

Hilary Coolidge\*

Barry Griffith\*

Sandy Bragg

Term expiration 2019

Larry Walter

Allison Henry

Wayne Krevetski\*

Term expiration 2020

Herb Ogden\*

Cindy Taylor-Miller\*

Sue Thomas

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

### **Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee Editor

Larry Walter Assistant Editor

### **Killington Section Officers:**

Barry Griffith President

Wayne Krevetski Vice President

Cindy Taylor-Miller Secretary

Sandy Bragg Treasurer

### **Committee Chairs:**

Vacant History

Sue Thomas Outings

Herb Ogden Trails & Shelters

Wayne Krevetski Trails & Shelters

### **Delegates to GMC Board:**

Cindy Taylor-Miller Director

Hilary Coolidge Alternate

### **Web Site: [www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org)**

Hilary Coolidge Web Master

### **Contact Information**

Vivian Bebee

Sandy Bragg

Hilary Coolidge

Barry Griffith

Allison Henry

Wayne Krevetski

Herbert Ogden

Cindy Taylor-Miller

Sue Thomas

Larry Walter

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com)

346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, [sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com](mailto:sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com)

PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, [hcoolidge@hotmail.com](mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com)

68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, [allisonnorton1@gmail.com](mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com)

22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)

214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [mrsgorp@gmail.com](mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com)

27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [lwalter@sover.net](mailto:lwalter@sover.net)



Lunch at the Café



Ivy a/k/a Squirrel



## **This n' That**

- To receive Smoke & Blazes by email, send request to [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com)
- June 9 - June 11 Green Mountain Club's 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at the Common Ground Center in Starksboro, Vermont. See your **Long Trail News** or visit [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org) for details and registration.
- August 5 – Trail Magic Day. The GMC is providing trail magic all up and down the LT this day providing food and other magic for all hikers who come through. KS trail magic will be set up at the LT trailhead parking lot on Route 140. Contact: Wayne Krevetski 282-2237, [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)
- Our Section is in need of some additional volunteers to lead a hike, bike or paddle. For more information, call Sue Thomas at 773-2185. Co-leading is also an option.

### **TREASURE HUNT, by Herb Ogden**

Begin at the Long Trail's highest point on the only mountain on the LT in our Section that is named after an omnivore. Hike to the nearest shelter. Hike east from the shelter to the nearest public road. Follow this road downhill to the nearest paved road. Follow this paved road to your left. Take the first non-abandoned paved road to your right. From this paved road, take the next three left turns on public roads. Follow the public road to the Long Trail crossing. Hike the Long Trail past a small cellar hole to the crest of a ridge. Where are you? First person with the correct answer wins a historic **Long Trail Guidebook**.

### **LETTER TO THE EDITOR, by Roma Pulling**

Although I know copies of early Smoke & Blazes are available, I have never examined them. When I was a new member of the club, I do remember that our newsletter consisted of a few 8½ x 11 sheets of mimeographed paper. Compare that to our present attractive and well-organized offering. That is why every three months I admire our Smoke & Blazes so much.

Keep up the good work!

## **Outing Reports**

### **LILY POND BOMOSEEN, February 25, 2016, Sue Thomas, leader**

One of my favorite snowshoe destinations was, once again this year, snow-free in February. It's still a pleasant walk, past slate quarries and beaver ponds, but I did miss seeing the assortment of tracks and otter slides that a good snow cover allows. There must have been some pretty glum otters this winter too, nothing to do but hang around the den playing Angry Birds.

I'd booked our usual table at the Park Avenue Café for lunch (picture on Page 2). We pulled up chairs and benches and enjoyed the ambiance – rustic to say the least, but never a wait for a table. The official "first tick" of the season was an unwelcome guest and not greeted warmly. February. Huh.

Burdock's little cousin, Ivy, provided comic relief at the pond by falling into the drink off the beaver dam, and later climbed a tree (picture on Page 2) – we believe her to be at least part squirrel, though she looks deceptively like a dog. Either that, or she needs to seriously cut back on the caffeine.

Incredibly, there were still a few ice fishermen out on the very mushy-looking Lake Bomoseen when we passed by heading home. I think that must be a bit squirrely, as well.

### **SHREWSBURY RAMBLE, SHREWSBURY, April 8, 2017, by Larry Walter, Gerry Parker, leader**

This was probably the last good snow of the season and the timing was perfect. Barb and Barry helped out with ferrying us around to the hike start point. From there, Gerry took us up old logging roads and across a ridge, putting on our snowshoes along the way. The forest was beautiful and the snow was light and fluffy. The final section is along a very steep woods road that had been used during WWII for training GI's to drive



2 ½ ton all-wheel-drive trucks. There must have been lots of winching going on, because even these vehicles couldn't have just driven up these steep, wet grades. The boys must have had a blast doing this. We ended up coming out in Gerry's back yard. Following the hike was a free tour of the famous Parker Art Gallery, featuring some absolutely exquisite furniture and other articles made of recovered moose antlers. Mr. Burdock presided as curator.

**DELAWARE/HUDSON BIKE PATH, POULTNEY, April 29, 2017, Cindy Taylor-Miller, leader**

It was a fabulous day for a bike ride. Little or no wind, overcast skies and temps in the low 70's. David Treat, of Wallingford, and I pedaled 15.34 miles round-trip between the Castleton University parking lot to the bridge over the Poultney River at a leisurely pace of 8.3 mph, reaching a maximum speed of 12.6 mph. Total time 1:49:33.

**LONG TRAIL SPRING CLEANING, May 13, 2017, by Larry Walter**

This is a report on the Skidmore, Walter, Coppock (photographer) segment of trail maintenance. We covered blowdowns from Gov. Clement Road southerly to Keifer Road. When we unpacked all of the gear, it was discovered that Larry had forgotten to throw in some handles for the 66' felling saw, so we had to make do with the 42" D-handle saw (Barb Griffith's great uncle's saw, by the way). It proved up to the task, even for some pretty big stuff (see photo below). Some of the blowdowns were partially hung up, which proved challenging, but we managed to take them apart safely and methodically. Crosscuts are so much more fun than a chainsaw! We eventually met up with Sandy, Herb, Allison and others at the south end.



**Dave Skidmore and Larry Walter clearing trail between Upper and Lower Cold River Road**



# **Killington Section Directors' Meeting**

Minutes of Directors' Meeting

March 22, 2017

By Cindy Taylor-Miller, Secretary

The meeting convened at 6 p.m. at Wayne Krevetski's home on Robert's Ave. in Rutland.

Board members present: Barry Griffith, Wayne Krevetski, Cindy Taylor-Miller, Sandy Bragg, Allison Henry, Herb Ogden, Larry Walter, and Hillary Coolidge (through phone conferencing).

## **The Main HQ report Hilary presented her notes by speakerphone with input from Wayne and Allison:**

- The club continues to work on funding the endowment and a five year strategic plan.
- Donations increased in 2016. However, both membership and external funding decreased.
- One known repercussion from the decrease in funding is one less week of Long Trail Patrol in 2017.
- Salaries will increase to retain employees.
- Results from the winter 2017 survey of 500 random members with 225 respondents show that the current age and education demographics to be between 50-70 years old with a Master's Degree. The data crunching on the survey has not been completed.
- There is the continual goal to increase engagement of a more youthful membership.
- Allison's term as a KS Director to the Main Club has concluded. Cindy expressed interest to replace Allison; to be voted upon at the April KS Annual meeting.
- Updates to the 1930's Bolton Lodge are slated for this summer.
- Bryant Camp has had greater than 60% occupancy since opening.
- GMC annual meeting is slated for the weekend of June 10<sup>th</sup> at Common Ground Center in Starksboro, Vt.

## **Website report**

- Hilary—"It's up and running"
- Allison advocated that pictures of "older" hikers don't reflect examples of who we would like to attract. Need more "youthful" pictures. Send them in for submission.
- Herb brought up the "Volunteer Opportunities" page as outdated referencing 2013.
- Cindy presented a rough draft for a KS brochure of services for hikers from Wallingford to Killington. Those present agreed this would be a good addition to our website once completed to be uploaded as a printable PDF booklet with hyperlinks to services in our section. It would also be distributed to service providers in our section for reference in the print form.

## **Discussion about Section Outings**

- Hilary's suggestions: add the actual address to our designated meeting place in Rutland—27 South Main St.; poll outing attendees and inquire as to how they learned about the outing; post schedule at Rock Climbing Gym.
- Larry will confirm with Vivian which college Outing Clubs get our newsletter.
- Allison posts mid-week the upcoming weekend outing on the KS Facebook page.
- Discussion followed and suggested ideas for "spreading the word" included "Meet-Up" apps, posting outings schedule at cross-fit and yoga studios, local bulletin boards, and encouraging section members to post our outings on their town's "Front Porch Forums."

## **Trails and Shelters Report Herb Ogden**

- The bridge washed out during 2011 Tropical Storm Irene which once spanned Robinson Brook (the west branch of Sargent Brook) adjacent to Poczubut Road should be replaced. Larry Walter may have a source of materials for its replacement.
- Looking ahead five years, the wooden improvements on the Bucklin Trail will need repair. Herb advocates asking the GMC to begin replacing the wood with stone and earth.
- Poultney resident, Matt McCoy, is the new sector checker for the upper portion of the Bucklin Trail.

- If someone is interested in compiling data from retired shelter registers, please contact Herb.
- Lower elevation work-trip is May 13<sup>th</sup> and upper elevation on National Trails Day June 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Treasurer's Report by Sandy Bragg

The CD monies for both the general and George L. Kirk accounts were invested in Vanguard Short Term Treasury Mutual Funds. Treasurer Sandy and President Barry are authorized signers on these accounts. Trail maintenance expenses were low and the quarterly newsletter continues to be the largest club expense.

2010 to 2016 End of Year comparison table below:

**GMC Killington Section Financials**  
**Sandy Bragg, Treasurer**  
**2010 - 2016 Year End Summary**

	Balance 12/31/2010	Balance 12/31/2011	Balance 12/31/2012	Balance 12/31/2013	Balance 12/31/2014	Balance 12/31/2015	Balance 12/31/2016	Balance 2/28/2017
<b>General Accounts:</b>								
Checking Account	2,813	4,800	5,163	6,969	5,353	6,554	6,119	6,320
General Acct CD	5,310	5,316	5,320	5,326	5,330	5,337		
Vanguard Treasury Fund							5,493	5,496
<b>TOTAL General Account:</b>	<b>8,123</b>	<b>10,116</b>	<b>10,483</b>	<b>12,295</b>	<b>10,683</b>	<b>11,891</b>	<b>11,612</b>	<b>11,816</b>
<b>Kirk Fund Accounts</b>								
Kirk Checking Account	2,023	1,226	615	1,615	627	627	224	-
Kirk Fund CD	14,400	14,414	14,426	13,441	13,455	13,467		
Vanguard Treasury Fund							13,884	14,111
<b>TOTAL Kirk Fund Account</b>	<b>16,423</b>	<b>15,640</b>	<b>15,041</b>	<b>15,056</b>	<b>14,082</b>	<b>14,094</b>	<b>14,108</b>	<b>14,111</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS:</b>	<b>\$ 24,546</b>	<b>\$ 25,756</b>	<b>\$ 25,524</b>	<b>\$ 27,351</b>	<b>\$ 24,765</b>	<b>\$ 25,985</b>	<b>\$ 25,720</b>	<b>\$ 25,926</b>

### Section Outreach by Wayne

The directors agreed it is a good idea to efficiently and quickly contact section members by e-mail when there is a section announcement, reminder or to request help for trail maintenance. Wayne will be the contact person to channel the announcements and reminders.

### Other

Dave Hardy, GMC Director of Trail Programs, was diagnosed with mesothelioma in November 2016. A card and donation jar will be placed at the upcoming annual spring meeting April 9, 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. and was followed by light fare of chili and corn bread graciously provided by our host, Wayne Krevetski

## **Killington Section 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

Minutes of Annual Meeting

April 9, 2017

By Cindy Taylor-Miller, Secretary

Meeting called to order by President, Barry Griffith, at 2:50 p.m.

Directors present: President-Barry Griffith, Vice President-Wayne Krevetski, Treasurer-Sandy Bragg, Secretary-Cindy Miller, Allison Henry, Larry Walter and Herb Ogden. Special guest-GMC President-John Page. Twenty-three total attendees.

MOTION: To approve Minutes from April 9, 2016 annual meeting as presented in the June 2016 *Smoke and Blazes*. Motion by Herb Ogden and seconded by Sheamus Fagan. Unanimously approved by voice vote.



**Treasurer's Report**—Sandy Bragg

The bank certificates of deposit for both the General and Kirk Funds were converted to short term treasury funds at Vanguard®. Section, assets total \$25,926.00 as of February 28, 2017. Motion to approve by Allison Henry and seconded by Larry Walter. Approved by voice vote.

**GMC Director Report**—Allison Henry

Section directors have term limits. Membership decreased. Online donations increased. Due to funding cutbacks, the field season will be shorter this year. GMC Bryant Camp at the Bolton ski area is a year round rental. The 100<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Long Trail Guide* should be available for sale early summer including a collector's edition. The GMC's 107<sup>th</sup> annual meeting is June 10<sup>th</sup> at Common Ground Center in Starksboro.

**GMC President**—John Page

John, a Burlington native, completed a section hike of the entire Long Trail by age fifteen. He would like to see the creation of a "sections" forum and bring back the "inter-sectional." A newly formed committee is determining how to best utilize social media to attract younger members. He would like a member from the KS to join this aforementioned committee. Briefly spoke of Dave Hardy's health issues.

**Trails and Shelters**—Herb Ogden

It was discovered that the Clarendon Shelter is located several hundred feet outside of the trail easement. Future section projects may include:

- Relocate the trail north of Lottery Road away from the wet area near Hermit Spring.
- It may be problematic to replace the bridge over Robinson Brook adjacent to Poczubut Road, because of the A.T. policy not to replace bridges. Larry Walter plans to meet with the USFS representative on April 30th.
- Relocate the Shelburne Pass Trail near the former Inn at the Long Trail site.
- Tucker Johnson is still on the rebuild list.
- A crew will work on the Bucklin Trail this summer.

Larry Walter maintains the Ottaquechee section of A.T. from Willard Gap "north" compass east to the Sherburne Pass Trail. Wayne Krevetski will send requests and reminders to members by e-mail when assistance is needed for trail maintenance.

**Smoke and Blazes**—Vivian Beebe

Archived issues dating back to the first issue in September 1948 are available online through [rutlandhistory.com](http://rutlandhistory.com). This database is searchable.

**Outings**—Sue Thomas

"Same ole same ole." Call her before she calls you.

**Website**—Hilary Coolidge, not present, no report.

Allison Henry mentioned there are several out of date references.

**Other Business**—

- Kathy Krevetski suggested placing a historical marker at the Inn at the Long Trail, the early headquarters of the Green Mountain Club.
- National Trails Day is June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Trust for Public Land is working to purchase the 2,800 acre Rolston Rest and transfer the land to the U.S. Forest Service for permanent protection.

**Election of new directors**—Slate for new directors, Barry Griffith, Cindy Taylor-Miller and Sue Thomas, voted in as presented.

The Board of Directors held a brief meeting to elect officers. The 2017 officers are: President-Barry Griffith, Vice President-Wayne Krevetski, Treasurer-Sandy Bragg, Secretary-Cindy Taylor-Miller. Main Club Director-Cindy Taylor-Miller and alternate-Hilary Coolidge.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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.....\$45  
Family.....\$60  
Senior/Student/Friend.....\$25

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



**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB: KILLINGTON SECTION OUTINGS ([www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org))**

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. **Unless otherwise noted, all trips leave from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City.** Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call hike leader if you have any questions. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2017**

**June 9-11, 107<sup>th</sup> GMC Annual Meeting, Starksboro**

Held this year at the Common Ground Center in Starksboro. A full weekend of gatherings, birding, yoga, hikes, a silent auction and delicious food, along with the meeting and a Saturday night talk by Peter Lourie: "From Polar Bears to Ancient Treasures." It's a great chance to meet folks from other sections and get caught up on Club business. See your Long Trail News for more information, lodging options and registration, or visit [www.greenmountainclub.org/meeting](http://www.greenmountainclub.org/meeting).

**June 18, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Galick Nature Conservancy Preserve, West Haven**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

We'll take Tim's Trail for spectacular overlooks, then hike the connector to the Bacher Trail to the former Galick Farm for woods and fields overlooking the south end of Lake Champlain. Moderate, 6-8 miles. **NOTE:** The Nature Conservancy requests no dogs.

**June 24, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Rutland or 9:30 a.m. Cuttingsville P.O. on Route 103**

**Bear Mountain, Wallingford**

**Gerry and Cheryl Martin 492-2244**

Join us for our annual trek north on the AT/LT from Route 140 to Spring Lake, through old pasture land and over stone walls, along wood roads and rocky trails, past the scene of "The Patch Hollow Horror." Moderate, 3.7 miles.

**July 1, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.**

**Bucklin-Plus Scramble, Killington**

**Larry Walter 775-3855**

We'll begin this loop hike on the Bucklin Trail along Brewer's Brook. This hike will include old woods roads, some bushwhacking, some steep climbing and a couple of challenging stream crossings (depending on the runoff rate). Difficult, 6 miles +/- with about 1,200 feet of elevation gain.

**July 8, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Exploring the Bird's Eye Conservation Initiative, Ira/Poultney**

**Sandy Bragg 402-2143**

The Conservation Fund is acquiring 2,875 acres south of Bird Mountain, including the peaks of Herrick Mountain and Spruce Knob. We'll explore some of the landscape which will be added to the Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Moderate/Difficult, 6 miles.

**July 16, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Silver Lake, Goshen**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Hike into beautiful Silver Lake via the North Branch Trail and bring your suit for a swim. Moderate, 6 miles.

**July 22, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-rain date July 23-(meet at Diamond Run Mall-former Sears' parking lot)**

**Poultney River/Wood River Paddle, West Haven**

**Barb & Barry Griffith 492-3573**

Bring canoes or kayaks for a relaxing paddle along the New York border.

**July 29, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Bourn Pond Area, Sunderland**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

Hike to remote beaver ponds in the Lye Brook Wilderness. Moderate, 5-6 miles, footing may be wet.

**August 5, Saturday, all day**

**Trail Magic, Wallingford**

**Wayne Krevetski 282-2237**

We'll be set up in the trailhead parking lot on Route 140, feeding hungry Long Trail/Appalachian Trail through-hikers. Bring food to contribute or stay a while to chat with the hikers – they always have tales to tell!

**August 6, Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Rutland or 10:40 a.m. East Poultney Green**

**Haystack Mountain, Pawlet**

**Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

This Nature Conservancy property offers spectacular view of the Mettawee River Valley, the Adirondacks to the west and Taconics and Green Mountains to the east. 3 miles, 950-foot elevation gain, with some steep climbing. Call leader for possible changes. **NOTE:** The Nature Conservancy requests no dogs.

**August 12, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Mystery Hike**

Is there a hike you've been wanting to do? Come down to the meeting place with ideas and the group will decide.

**August 20, Sunday, 8:30 a.m.**

**Buck Mountain, Lake George**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Garnet crystals gleam from the rocks at the summit, which has sweeping views of the Lake and the Adirondack Mountains. Moderate, 4.6 miles with some steep climbing.

**August 26, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**"Winter in August" Hot Dog Roast**

**Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

We decided to move the annual February hot dog roast to balmy weather. Bring your own beverage and what you would like to roast. Leaders will provide chips, cookies and condiments. If anyone expresses an interest, we can bring our canoe and life vests to share for paddling. Not sure of the location yet, but are considering Emerald Lake State Park. Call leaders for the final decision. Don't forget, there is a small day use fee per person for Vermont State Parks.

**September 2, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Rutland or 10:00 a.m. Shrewsbury Town Office**

**Shrewsbury area, Shrewsbury**

**Gerry and Cheryl Martin 492-2244**

Destination uncertain at press time, but hey, it's Shrewsbury, so we know it will be scenic! Call leaders if you need to know more than that. 4-6 miles.

**\*\*\*\*\*COMING ATTRACTIONS\*\*\*\*\***

The upcoming Fall schedule will feature a tour of Mount Holly's hidden backwoods cemeteries, the new visitor's center atop Mount Equinox, kayaking and our annual pot luck supper and slide show. Do you have a hike to contribute? Call Sue Thomas by mid-August to claim a weekend. 773-2185.

**THURSDAY HIKE SCHEDULE**

The Rutland Recreation and Parks Dept. sponsors a series of hikes at a less strenuous pace for seniors. Hikes typically cover 2-4 miles, involve limited to moderate elevation gain, and try to avoid treacherous footing. Bring water and a lunch, wear sturdy footwear, and be prepared for Vermont weather. Bring bug spray, and guard against ticks by wearing long sleeves and pants. Meet on **Thursdays at 9 am** at the Godnick Center on Deer Street to car pool. We return in early to mid-afternoon. **For further details, call hike leader.** All are welcome. NOTE: Hikes are subject to change due to weather and/or trail conditions. (.....and please, no dogs). **State Parks: free admission w/Green Mountain Passport or \$4 per person**

June 1	<b>Jamaica State Park, Jamaica</b> Hike West River Trail to Ball Mt. Dam--easy; on to Hamilton Falls (opt.). Moderate.	<b>Bob Perkins 773-0184</b>
June 15	<b>Hartness Park, Springfield</b> Follow a nice woodland trail to lookout on old ski jump. Moderate.	<b>Renée Warren 747-4466</b>
June 29	<b>Deer Leap, Killington</b> Climb this Long Trail spur trail to spectacular overlook. Moderate	<b>Lyn Drigert 775-7038</b>
July 13	<b>Shaw Mountain, Benson</b> Hike through woods on this Nature Conservancy loop trail. Moderate.	<b>Edith Kellogg 775-1246</b>
July 27	<b>Half Moon State Park, Hubbardton</b> Explore the nature trail around the campground and Half Moon Pond. Moderate.	<b>Tom Copps 282-1675</b>
Aug. 10	<b>Cookout-Bomoseen State Park, Castleton</b> We'll have a fire. Bring some food to share. Moderate hike (opt.)! Swim! Relax!	<b>Lyn Drigert 775-7038</b>
Aug. 24	<b>Mt. Tom in Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP, Woodstock</b> Climb the gradual switchback Faulkner Trail toward the South Peak. Moderate.	<b>Edith Kellogg 775-1246</b>
Sept. 7	<b>Long Trail to Aldridgeville, Wallingford</b> Hike to the archaeological site of an abandoned logging village. Moderate.	<b>Tom Copps 282-1675</b>



# Smoke & Blazes

*Volume 70, Number 3*

*Killington Section, Green Mountain Club*

*September 2017*



**What a beautiful day on Buck Mountain!**



### **Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2018

Hilary Coolidge\*

Barry Griffith\*

Sandy Bragg

Term expiration 2019

Larry Walter

Allison Henry

Wayne Krevetski\*

Term expiration 2020

Herb Ogden\*

Cindy Taylor-Miller\*

Sue Thomas

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

### **Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee Editor

Larry Walter Assistant Editor

### **Killington Section Officers:**

Barry Griffith President

Wayne Krevetski Vice President

Cindy Taylor-Miller Secretary

Sandy Bragg Treasurer

### **Committee Chairs:**

Vacant History

Sue Thomas Outings

Herb Ogden Trails & Shelters

Wayne Krevetski Trails & Shelters

### **Delegates to GMC Board:**

Cindy Taylor-Miller Director

Hilary Coolidge Alternate

### **Web Site: [www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org)**

Hilary Coolidge Web Master

### **Contact Information**

Vivian Bebee

Sandy Bragg

Hilary Coolidge

Barry Griffith

Allison Henry

Wayne Krevetski

Herbert Ogden

Cindy Taylor-Miller

Sue Thomas

Larry Walter

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com)

346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, [sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com](mailto:sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com)

PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, [hcoolidge@hotmail.com](mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com)

68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, [allisonnorton1@gmail.com](mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com)

22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)

214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [mrsgorp@gmail.com](mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com)

27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [lwalter@sover.net](mailto:lwalter@sover.net)



**Paddling on the Poultney River**



## **This n' That**

- To save paper, receive Smoke & Blazes by email. Send request to [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com)
- GMC Volunteer Appreciation Picnic, Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 1:30 to 4:00 PM at GMC headquarters, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center. Help celebrate our fantastic volunteers with a picnic, awards and music. Bring a guest! **RSVP** by September 8<sup>th</sup> at [www.greenmountainclub.org/picnic](http://www.greenmountainclub.org/picnic).
- Annual Fall potluck, Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Godnick Center, Deer Street in Rutland City. Bring a place setting and a dish to share. Slide program after the meal. All are welcome.

### **IN MEMORIAM, by Sue Thomas**

Norm Cyrs, 87: Though not a member of the Killington Section, Norm often traveled from Springfield to join us, and whenever Mt. Ascutney was on the schedule, he was there to welcome us. He had made a project to climb the mountain once a month, year-round, ultimately summiting nearly 400 times. He was a Long Trail end-to-ender and was active with the Ascutney Trails Association and the Crown Point Road Association.

Cindy Oas, 68: It doesn't seem possible that we're saying goodbye to Cindy. In her quiet way, she was such a dynamic force – always ready to help anyone who needed it, always learning new things and taking up new projects. She made quilts, rugs and jewelry, caned chairs and mastered the Norwegian art of rosemaling, baked her own bread and collected water samples for a research study. An avid hiker, she climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa, completed the Long Trail and was working her way toward Maine piece by piece on the AT. She was immensely proud of her two sons and thrilled to be a grandmother to Charlotte. Cindy always had a sparkle in her eye, and her generous spirit will be greatly missed by all of us in the Killington Section.

## **Outing Reports**

### **LAKE ST. CATHERINE COUNTRY CLUB, POULTNEY, Saturday, March 4, 2017, by Diane Bargiel, leader**

Hikers: Jenn, Larry and Jerry with puppy, Ivy. The intrepid hikers braved the 20 below wind chill and trusted the sunshine and the woods for warmth and protection for what turned out to be a fabulous adventure. Although there was some snow, we didn't need snowshoes and only put on crampons for part of the hike.

Near the start, we observed a barred owl sitting in a tree right along the trail. It was a little too close for Ivy's taste. We think we saw the owl lick its chops as it eyed Ivy.

After a warming climb, we were treated to a panoramic view of Lake St. Catherine. From there, we left the trail to discover a beautiful little pond with a dock and picnic table. Further along, we stumbled across a small cascading waterfall on our loop back to the country club.

Once out in the open again at the Country Club, we rushed to get into our cars!

### **SUGAR SHACK RAMBLE, MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS, Sunday, March 27, 2017, by Diane Bargiel, Leader**

Hikers: Jenn, Larry, Jerry & Burdock, Cindy, Sue T., Shamus, Sunghee, Andy, Isaac, Claire, Sue G. and Nancy. This was scheduled to be a mud season hike, and it was. The day was overcast, but this did not inhibit the view. The mountains were defined by the remains of last week's late-season snow storm, adding texture and definition.

This loop hike was populated with critters. Isaac saw a snake-shaped branch. A barred owl was spotted sitting in a tree, and we saw llamas, sheep (including a black sheep of the family we named "Larry"), ducks, horses and a pony. Half-way, we all got our sugar fix at Mahar's sugar shack. Additional entertainment was provided by Jerry who brought along a sling shot for the children. (Editor's note: Our cover picture on the June issue of Smoke & Blazes was taken on this hike.)

### **HIGHLAND WORK PARTY, June 3, 2017, by Herb Ogden, Section Trails & Shelters Co-Chair**

We were a bit short-handed on the high altitude work party but at least met the most pressing needs. Larry Walter and Spencer Wilson cleared the Long Trail from US 4 south to Churchill Scott Shelter. Dave

Coppock, Jerry Parker and Herb Ogden cleared the many waterbars on the Sherburne Pass Trail south from the pass to Jungle Junction, and Herb also lopped back brush on the Pico Link.

Later, Barb and Barry Griffith cleaned up Gov. Clement Shelter; Herb Ogden re-blazed the Long Trail from Gov. Clement Shelter to Cooper Lodge, lopped branches on the Cauty Trail up Blue Ridge Mountain, lopped brush on the Long Trail from Minerva Hinchey Shelter to the Lottery Road and re-blazed from Clarendon Shelter to the Lottery Road; Larry Walter and Bob Amelang cleared the Long Trail and the Deer Leap trails north of US 4; Larry Walter cleared waterbars on the lower two miles of the Bucklin Trail (before the work party, Sector Checker Matt McCoy had cleared them on the upper 1.3 mile); Wayne Krevetski, Larry Walter and Alison Henry cleared brush and waterbars from Shrewsbury Peak Jct. to Cooper Lodge (with thanks to Killington Resort for use of the gondola); and Wayne Krevetski and Killington Resort employees trucked 15 hemlock planks to Jungle Jct. to repair bog bridging in the Killington-Pico saddle.

If you missed the work party and would still like to help, or if you just want to help more, please contact Trails & Shelters Co-Chair Herb Ogden at 293-2510 or [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net). He has a list of projects for one or two people, including refreshing blazes, clearing waterbars, lopping brush, and whacking weeds.

#### **BUCKNER NATURE CONSERVANCY PRESERVE, WEST HAVEN, June 18, 2017, by Herb Ogden, leader**

This was planned to cover all the trails in the Nature Conservancy preserve, but we cut it back to just Tim's Trail on account of very hot weather. Up on the heights overlooking Lake Champlain, there was a little breeze that refreshed us while we lunched in beautiful open woods and watched turkey buzzards circle.

Several generations of hikers enjoyed this excursion, including two children who were fine hikers.

#### **HERRICK MOUNTAIN, IRA/POULTNEY, July 8, 2017, by Sandy Bragg, leader**

The Conservation Fund acquired 2,870 acres in the Taconic Range which is now part of an expanded Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Six intrepid hikers explored some of the eastern portion of the area by doing a circuit up Herrick Mountain. The hike promised a 1500' elevation gain to the summit of Herrick (2726').

We started from Ira, following an ATV road before switching to an old wood road which ascended south then northeast. After threatening rain most of the morning, the clouds opened as we climbed, thoughtfully ending just as we reached the top of the ridge connecting Spruce Knob with Herrick Mountain.

From a 2500' knob, we had great views of Killington and Pico, with Herrick looming in the foreground and we decided to make that our lunch spot, enjoying the vista. We then followed the ridge to Herrick, bushwhacking through alternating hardwood and spruce glades after the wood road descended back to Ira.

After reaching the summit of Herrick, we signed the register and learned of the untimely demise of Derrick and Eric Herrick in 1879. We bushwhacked down 200' to a wood road which wound around the northeast side of the mountain, bringing us back to our starting point. Final GPS tally: just under 6 miles travelled with 1800' total ascent.

#### **SILVER LAKE, GOSHEN, July 16, 2017, by Sue Thomas, leader**

Somehow in the midst of this very soggy summer, we happened to have a dry and sunny day for the hike to Silver Lake. Recent deluges had not improved the roads, and we were not able to drive to the Voter Brook Overlook, where I had intended to start the hike, but the campground trailhead only added an extra mile . . . and a brook crossing that with all the rain had become a bit challenging. Those of us with shorter legs opted to take off our boots and wade across, with the exception of Burdock, who got a boost from Dad. Just around the bend, we crossed the same brook again! It was smooth going after that though, and it's a lovely trail, winding down alongside the brook to two remote campsites, where we claimed a picnic table for lunch.

Burdock was a hit with the kids who wandered by, running through his repertoire of tricks and collecting pats and treats from his new fan club.

Hooray, we had a bridge for the final brook crossing! From there it was all uphill to the lake, such a beautiful spot that it's more than worth the climb. Mark had a swim while the rest of us lounged on the beach, ate brownies and watched Jerry attempt to catch a tadpole – score: Jerry 0, tadpoles 25. I for one could have stayed all day, but eventually we packed up and made the short climb out. (Pictures on Page 7.)

#### **POULTNEY RIVER PADDLE, WEST HAVEN, July 22, 2017, Barbara and Barry Griffith, leaders**

One of our favorite places to kayak is on the lower Poultney River, which marks the boundary between Vermont and New York. As the river winds its way toward Lake Champlain, it can be disorienting to find New



York to your east and Vermont to your west! We have scheduled and led a Killington Section paddle on this waterway for a decade now, each time joined by old friends from the GMC as well as newcomers wanting to explore a new territory. July 22 followed this pattern. Two non-members called and joined us, bringing along a well-behaved dog. Mrs. Gorp, Larry, Jerry and Burdock completed our ranks.

Unlike last summer, there was plenty of water in the Poultney this time around. We dropped off the boats at our put-in spot, drove the vehicles to the take-out spot, returned in one vehicle and started floating downstream. The width of the river along this stretch allowed us to chat while paddling side by side. We took lunch on the Vermont shore, managing to get up and down a slippery muddy bank without a major catastrophe. The weather was great, the new views around every bend of the river very pleasing. Another good outing courtesy of the Killington Section. We'll do it again next year. (Picture on Page 2.)

### **BOURNE POND, SUNDERLAND, July 29, 2017, by Allison Henry, leader**

Bourne Pond is in the Lye Brook Wilderness, a few miles west of Stratton Pond. It can be reached via the blue-blazed Branch Pond Trail, which is accessed either from Kelley Stand Road or from USFS 70. To cut out a few miles, we started from the trailhead on USFS 70. This trailhead can also be used to access a boat launch at the south end of Branch Pond.

Some background info: In the spring when I put this hike on the summer schedule, I was already signed up for the Volunteer Long Trail Patrol and I knew we'd be working on part of this trail during my week with the crew in early July. While I was working with the VLTP, I then found out that the crew would still be there during our hike! During my week with the crew, we worked on replacing puncheon in a boggy area on the Branch Pond Trail just before the border of the Lye Brook Wilderness and not far from the access area at the north end of Branch Pond. We spent a good deal of time carrying the lumber and sills from the trailhead to the work site, which was about a mile. So, when we set out on the Killington Section hike it felt soooooo much easier to hike with a daypack instead of either lumber or camping gear. We reached the VLTP work site pretty fast, and we knew we were there when we heard the sound of sledgehammers and lots of chatting. I was excited to see the crew leaders and a few volunteers who had been there during my week. Even though only a week and a half had gone by since I'd last seen the work site, I marveled at how much they had accomplished. Almost all of the puncheon were done! Turns out that the crew had gotten permission to haul the puncheon across Branch Pond in a canoe. With the boat launch at the south end of Branch Pond near the trailhead where the puncheon was stacked, and then access to the north end of the pond only a few tenths of a mile from the work site, using the canoe cut out about three quarters of a mile of walking. They had been able to move the rest of the wood in only one day. What a good deal. The work crew was happy to see us, especially when we suggested that they take a break and share our brownies. After our visit, we continued on to the Lye Brook Wilderness and Bourne Pond.

The next section of the trail was mostly flat but very, very, very muddy. Part of this section was an old rail bed and you can still see the ties buried in the mud in some places. We reached Bourne Pond in time for a late lunch, and had a somewhat chilly but pleasant break. Jerry explored the edge of the pond and found some carnivorous pitcher plants, which we all insisted on seeing too. Fortunately, Burdock was not tempted to stick his face inside the flowers and thus was spared.

After our lunch break, we returned to the trailhead via the same route. On the way back we visited the north shore of Branch Pond, which has some public campsites. It is open, grassy and very breezy. We made it back to the cars with no one disappearing into a mudpit so I'd call the hike a success. After the hike, we went to Dutton's in Manchester for maple creamees, where Nancy was harassed by a very friendly cat.



Sharing brownies with the VLTP



Navigating the rocks on pond trail



Pond viewing for alligators



### **TRAIL MAGIC DAY, August 5, 2017, by Barry Griffith**

The Green Mountain Club set Saturday, August 5, for its annual Trail Magic Day celebration and invited Sections to participate. As always, the Killington Section signed on. Wayne Krevetski ("Mad Hatter") has headed up this event in the past, but was on his way to Alaska this year. Usual stalwart Cindy Taylor-Miller ("Mrs. Gorp") was off to an ATC event, and others were on vacation or had other commitments. Not to worry – others stepped up to make it happen.

In the past we have welcomed hikers at the Route 140 parking lot, with a grill and tent supplied by Wayne. With no tent or grill, and with rain in the forecast, we made a last minute decision to set up camp at Governor Clement Shelter in order to take advantage of the cover it afforded. Apologies to any inconvenienced by this change.

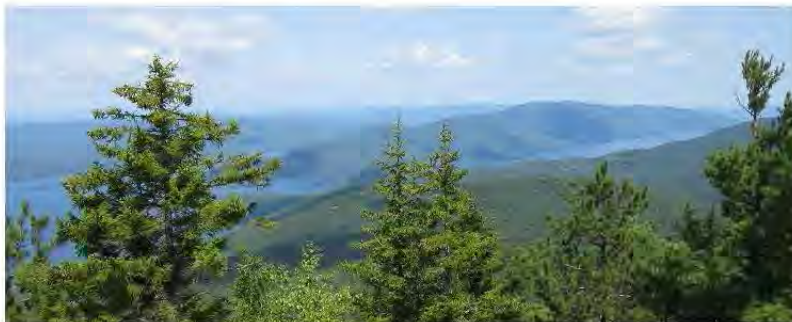
Jerry Parker (pictured below on left) took the lead, cooking hot dogs and sausages for the hungry hikers. Cooked onions, peppers and other condiments could be piled on – a feast rivaling anything you could find at the Vermont State Fair. Other fan favorites included Cindy's watermelon, Kristi's "blondies", Sue's caffeinated beverages, Barry's chocolate toasted coconut cashews, Sandy's fresh fruit and Barb's homemade cookies. Nobody left hungry!

Happily, the promised downpours never arrived to dampen spirits. There were not as many hikers on the trail as we have served in past years – perhaps because most AT NOBO's had already passed through? In any event, those who did come through were pleased when they came upon us and satisfied when they left. We'll do it again next year.



### **BUCK MOUNTAIN, LAKE GEORGE, August 20, 2017, by Sue Thomas, leader**

What a perfect day to be on the summit of Buck Mountain, overlooking Lake George and the Adirondacks. Boats flitted about down below, reminding me of water bugs on the surface of a pond. The paddlewheeler, Minnehaha, chugged by . . . working like a child's toy. A chipmunk came looking for handouts, and butterflies and bees were busy on the alpine flowers. We could easily have lounged around there all day, but finally stirred ourselves for the slippery descent back to real life . . . what a shame! (Picture on the front cover was also taken on this hike.)







Silver Lake - Cooling off!



Bob and Larry clearing trail after some significant wind damage

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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.....\$45  
Family.....\$60  
Senior/Student/Friend.....\$25

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



**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB: KILLINGTON SECTION OUTINGS ([www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org))**

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. **Unless otherwise noted, all trips leave from Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City.** Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call hike leader if you have any questions. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2017**

**September 10, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. in Rutland or 9:30 at Shrewsbury Town Office**

**Shrewsbury/Plymouth Area**

Hike with a view. Moderate, 5 miles.

**Jerry Parker 775-6208**

**September 16, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Mount Equinox, Manchester**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

A long, steep climb with a spectacular view and historical exhibits in the new summit visitors' center, or join us for lunch at the top without the climb by driving up the motor road (fee charged.) Weather dependent. Difficult, route to be determined, 5 ½ - 7 miles.

**September 23, Saturday, 1:30-4:00 p.m.**

**Volunteer Appreciation Picnic, Waterbury**

Help celebrate our volunteers, who keep the trail in shape, man the summits and offices, fund raise, edit publications and so much more. A picnic, awards and music at GMC headquarters, Route 100, Waterbury. Please RSVP by September 8<sup>th</sup> at [www.greenmountainclub.org/picnic](http://www.greenmountainclub.org/picnic).

**September 24, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Bromley Mountain, Peru**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

We did it last winter, now see it in summer. We'll hike in from Mad Tom Notch. Moderate, 5 miles.

**September 30, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Mystery Hike**

Meet at the park and we'll go somewhere – if you have an idea, all suggestions appreciated.

**October 8, Sunday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Rum Street, West Woodstock**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Explore a 19<sup>th</sup> century farm community, where stone walls and cellar holes are all that remain, and hear excerpts from diary kept by a teenager who lived there. We'll follow trails around small reservoir. Moderate.

**October 14, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Shrewsbury Figure 8 Hike**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

We'll hike the Long Trail north from Vt. 103 to the Lottery Road, stopping to enjoy the view from the top of Great Gorge Gulch and to inspect Clarendon Shelter. Then we'll hike west on the Lottery Road and turn south on the abandoned Gaynor Road, taking a short bushwhack detour to the hard-to-find Bullard Cemetery and passing the ruins of the former farm nearby. The Gaynor Road takes us past Clarendon Shelter again and ends at Vt. 103 near where we started. The part from the shelter to Vt. 103 was the Long Trail until around 1986. It passes the site of an animal pen on the pre-Revolutionary Crown Point Road. Moderate difficulty, about 5 miles. Total climb 1,000 feet.

**October 21, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**AT/LT, Killington**

**Cindy Taylor Miller 446-2288**

We'll head north from Route 4 to Maine Junction, then continue on the AT to River Road, with an optional side trip to enjoy the view at Deer Leap. Moderate, 6 miles.

**October 28, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.**

**Mt. Olga, Molly Stark State Park, Wilmington**

**Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

Loop hike to the fire tower at the wooded summit of Mt. Olga. The windows in the tower cabin are said to be glazed, so we can enjoy the 360-degree view shielded from the wind. Mt. Olga is 2,400 +/- feet at the top, but the hike is an easy 2 miles, with approximately 500 feet of elevation gain. There is an option for more hiking as there are additional trails beyond the fire tower.

**November 4, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**“Put the Trail to Bed” Work Party – LT/AT**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510, Wayne Krevetski 282-2237**

Join us for our last-of-the-season work party. Bring lunch, water and work gloves. Tools provided.

**November 11, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Mystery Hike**

Location to be determined, but it will be a safe hunting season hike.

**November 19, Sunday, 1:00 p.m.**

**Annual Fall Potluck**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Join us for our annual hunting season tradition. Bring a place setting and a dish to share. We'll have a slide program after the meal. All are welcome!

**December 2, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Merck Forest, Rupert**

**Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

We will begin by hiking to the newly-renovated Clark's Clearing Cabin and then decide where to go from there. Moderate, 4 miles.

### **THURSDAY HIKE SCHEDULE**

The Rutland Recreation and Parks Dept. sponsors a series of hikes at a less strenuous pace for seniors. Hikes typically cover 2-4 miles, involve limited to moderate elevation gain and try to avoid treacherous footing. Bring water and a lunch, wear sturdy footwear, and be prepared for Vermont weather. Bring bug spray and guard against ticks by wearing long sleeves and pants. Meet on **Thursdays at 9 am** at the Godnick Center on Deer Street to car pool. We return in early to mid-afternoon. **For further details, call hike leader.** All are welcome. NOTE: Hikes are subject to change due to weather and/or trail conditions. ( . . . and please, no dogs). **State Parks: free admission w/Green Mountain Passport or \$4 per person.**

<b>Sept. 7</b>	<b>Long Trail to Aldridgeville, Wallingford</b>	<b>Tom Copps</b>	<b>282-1675</b>
	Hike to the archaeological site of an abandoned logging village. Moderate.		
<b>Sept. 21</b>	<b>Mount Independence, Orwell</b>	<b>Diana Landwehr</b>	<b>458-8114</b>
	Walk through Revolutionary War site. Views of Fort Ti, Lake Champlain. Moderate. (State Historic Site –free hike, fee for museum)		
<b>Oct. 5</b>	<b>Taconic Mountains Ramble State Park, Hubbardton</b>	<b>Bob Perkins</b>	<b>773-0184</b>
	Explore the Falls Trail in VT's new state park; visit the Japanese Garden. Moderate.		
<b>Oct. 19</b>	<b>North Branch of Cold River, Shrewsbury</b>	<b>Edith Kellogg</b>	<b>775-1246</b>
	Hike North Branch Road along the river from Brown Bridge. Moderate.		



# Smoke & Blazes

*Volume 70, Number 4*

*Killington Section, Green Mountain Club*

*December 2017*



**Snake Mountain-view from the edge!**



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Not eligible for re-election.

### **Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee Editor

Larry Walter Assistant Editor

### **Contact Information**

Vivian Bebee

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com)

Sandy Bragg

346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, [sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com](mailto:sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com)

Hilary Coolidge

PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, [hcoolidge@hotmail.com](mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com)

Barry Griffith

68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

Allison Henry

19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, [allisonnorton1@gmail.com](mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com)

Wayne Krevetski

22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)

Herbert Ogden

214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Cindy Taylor-Miller

337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [mrsgorp@gmail.com](mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com)

Sue Thomas

27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Larry Walter

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [lwalter@sover.net](mailto:lwalter@sover.net)

### **Killington Section Officers:**

Barry Griffith

President

Wayne Krevetski

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Sandy Bragg

Treasurer

### **Committee Chairs:**

Vacant

History

Sue Thomas

Outings

Herb Ogden

Trails & Shelters

Wayne Krevetski

Trails & Shelters

### **Delegates to GMC Board:**

Cindy Taylor-Miller

Director

Hilary Coolidge

Alternate

### **Web Site: [www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org)**

Hilary Coolidge

Web Master



Larry, Sue and Jean – Lunch at Lefferts Pond



## **This n' That**

- **To save paper, receive Smoke & Blazes by email. Send request to [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com)**
- **The Killington Section encourages you to volunteer as an outings leader. Our outings are described as “easy, moderate or difficult” and include hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, paddling, biking, overnight camping or a combination thereof. If you think you might like to volunteer, but would like to know more about it first, call Sue Thomas, our outings chairman, at 773-2185.**

### **IN MEMORIAM, by Sue Thomas**

**Dave Hardy:** It is hard to imagine the Long Trail and the Green Mountain Club without Dave Hardy, our long-time trail guru. His official title was Director of Field Programs, but he was so much more. Dave knew every inch of the trail and its shelters like the back of his hand, and maintaining them was a labor of love. He was a mentor to countless interns and trail crews, and the go-to guy for the sections when there was work to be done. He had a passion for the trail, the Club and a good home-brew. The next time you hike on the LT, I'd ask you all to give a thought and a word of thanks to our irreplaceable friend, Dave.

### **TREASURE HUNT, by Herb Ogden**

A guidebook from the 1960's goes to whoever answers this first: Begin at the foundation of a lodge that Gov. Proctor gave to the Green Mt. Club. Go south on what was the Long Trail while the lodge existed, until you reach a view north toward Blue Ridge Mountain. Hike to the top of the nearest mountain, then follow the blue blazed trail that ends there. From the end of that trail, follow a blue blazed trail downhill as far as you can. From that low point, follow GMC trails to the Long Trail. Name the place where you hit the Long Trail.

### **THE WALKERS, by Roma Pulling**

Have you had this happen to you? I did just recently. When I was trying to explain the Green Mountain Club to someone, they said, “Oh, I know, they are the hikers.” Well, that's good enough for me, but there does seem to be more to it than that.

In the old days, groups took off for camping expeditions, also climbing, boating, rock climbing . . . wait a minute! Rock what? Leave me out! Most of our outings are pretty tame. The harder they get, the smaller the group. If I venture out, it is a very large group.

Older groups seemed to be more apt to include campers. These usually were out over at least one night. These outings usually attracted people like my husband and myself, who were working toward completing the whole trail. That was a real thrill.

So, it's safe to say that there is something for everyone and the more the merrier.

## **Outing Reports**

### **MOUNT EQUINOX - - NOT, Saturday, September 16, 2017, by Sue Thomas, leader**

I purposely planned my annual trek up Mt. Equinox in September because I didn't want to tackle such a steep climb in summer heat. Who knew we were in for one of the hottest falls on record -- and hike day dawned with a daunting forecast of 90+ degrees and high humidity. Gleeaps!

I don't blame people for not showing up, if I hadn't been the leader I wouldn't have either. The one person who did turn up had not checked the schedule to see what the destination was -- if she had I'm sure I'd have been standing there alone. It took little (read no) deliberation to change our target to the shorter and much gentler Snake Mountain in Addison. Still a workout in the heat, but not an all-day slog, with the added bonus that when we arrived bedraggled at the summit we would not be the objects of pity from tourists stepping out of air-conditioned cars.

In fact, it was not the best day to be on any summit. The humidity-fueled haze limited the view a bit, but it's still a spectacular panorama (picture on front page), and we watched turkey vultures circling above the patchwork of farm fields while we ate our lunch. I know the Adirondacks were there somewhere because I've been there (though it's possible they had melted), but we could see no sign of them. The lake too had disappeared, but I assume it was also there or we'd have heard by now.



### **RUM STREET, WEST WOODSTOCK, Sunday, October 8, 2017, by Sue Thomas, leader**

Fourteen-year-old Charles Cobb must have been quite a character. He began keeping a diary in 1850, recording the everyday lives of his family and neighbors who farmed along what he dubbed "Rum Street" in West Woodstock. He had a keen eye for their foibles and a wry sense of humor, and no one escaped his scrutiny. My first reaction on reading "Thunderstruck Fiddle," recently published by a descendant, was that I would have loved to have met him. On further reflection though, maybe not . . . I certainly wouldn't have wanted to find myself skewered in his pages!

We set out on a day that threatened rain to walk the length of Rum Street, where nothing remains today but stone walls and cellar holes to mark the community. I passed out excerpts from Charles' diary to all the hikers and we took turns reading them as we went along, trying to estimate from a map where each farm and the mill had been, and roasting each inhabitant in turn with young Charles' insights. I must say, it was fun!

We learned who tended to tipple a bit too much, who was lazy about farm work and civic duties, which residents were in touch with the spirit world during New England's séance craze, and which believed dancing on Saturday night to be the work of the devil.

We had our lunch on the banks of the reservoir as the sun made a brief but welcome appearance. Bicycle trails are being developed through the woods, so we took a small detour off Rum Street to explore one that winds along the water and out to a small peninsula, before we rejoined the road for a final climb, which brought us to what would have been a lovely view across farm fields, stone walls and mountains, had the rain not caught up with us there.

Oh well, we almost made it without getting wet, and it was well worth it for a fascinating glimpse into the past. Reentry into the present was eased by a stop for maple creemees on the way home...I'm sure Charles would have had something to say about that!

### **SHREWSBURY FIGURE 8, Saturday, October 14, 2017, by Herb Ogden, leader**

On this beautiful day, a small group hiked north from Vt. 103 and up the Great Gulch stairs to the Clarendon Gorge overlook, where we caught our breaths, enjoyed the view, and deplored the crude graffiti. Coming out onto the Gaynor Road, which was abandoned after the Flood of 1927, we hiked uphill and soon came to a stretch that had just been improved for logging. A structure was being built near the bridge.

We lunched at the big cellarhole of the old Bullard place, looked at the Bullard house photo on Page 94 of Dawn Hance's 1988 history of Shrewsbury, and tried to figure out which way the front door faced. Then we bushwhacked along the stone wall that begins where the woodroad crosses the brook till we found the two-grave Bullard Cemetery. It was in good condition, though the growth of the big old trees has pulled the iron fence apart somewhat.

We continued up the Gaynor Road to the Lottery Road, which we followed east to the Long Trail. Heading south, I pointed out the little old cellarhole just east of the trail at the end of the woodroad that the trail follows south from the Lottery Road. No house shows there on any map I've found. We continued south over Beacon Hill, where the view is now only a memory. Clarendon Shelter was in good shape (picture on Page 7). We finished our return on the Gaynor Road, which was the Long Trail until the 1980s.

### **AT/LT DEER LEAP TRAMP, KILLINGTON, October 21, 2017, by Cindy Taylor Miller, leader**

Thinking back on this trek reminded me of the theme song from the '60's TV show Gilligan's Island. The reason, our moderate six mile three hour tour took six and a half hours to complete six and a half miles. Not that we were lethargic as a group, but we did have two speeds, slow and stopped. The terrain was a challenge for some and not everyone ate their Wheaties for breakfast.

We climbed and descended Big Deer Mountain and ate lunch with 100 other hikers at the Deer Leap overlook. Here the views of Pico and the Coolidge range were outstanding on this clear blue sky day.

Some suffered during the toe-jamming descent to Gifford Woods State Park. Upon reaching Vt. 100, our group of seven was reduced to five. Due to the autumn drought, the falls did not thunder.

We really lucked out on the weather as it truly was one of the best days in October to be out hiking and it seemed like everyone else touring in the Killington area thought so too. This would have been a perfect day to have had an impromptu Green Mountain Club information table at the trail head on River Road. The boardwalk was a constant stream of families and hikers.



**LEFFERTS POND, CHITTENDEN, October 28, 2017 (replacing Mt. Olga/Molly Stark St. Park hike in Wilmington), by Larry Walter and Viv Bebee, leaders**

Two of our prospective attendees were dealing with back and neck issues, so we decided to avoid a long drive and go local. Jean, Sue and Nancy joined us for the hike. The weather was sunny and cool. This is a nice time of year to hike around Lefferts Pond as it's not sno-mo season and the road is pretty much dry (until the end!!!).

Viv had hoped for a loop hike, but Sue said that the other end of the loop that dumped out further along Wildcat Road had been flooded for quite a while due to beaver activity. So we started off at the end closest to the dam. We passed some folks near the dam and another party of four (two of whom were retired from Larry's old employer, GMNF). Our path got more and more soggy as we neared the further end of the loop, so we all decided to back track except Larry, who says he "stubbornly continued to thrash my way through the brush until encountering the main water way that would have involved a very cold, barefoot ford. Not in the cards for this wimp, so I reluctantly doubled back and caught up with ladies just as Viv was bemoaning the fact that her lunch was in my pack."

We had our lunch on some rocks where Lefferts flows into the Chittenden Reservoir and soaked up the sun there for a while (picture on Page 2). We held our photo op's to a minimum (picture on Page 7), but since it was such a pretty spot, several other people stopped to take pictures of each other. I think we were out for about three hours. Very nice little jaunt and a positively beautiful day to enjoy the Pond.

**PUTTING-THE-TRAIL-TO-BED WORK PARTIES, Saturday, November 4, 2017, by Herb Ogden, Co-Chair, Trails & Shelters Committee**

Nine people devoted part of this beautiful cool day to getting our trails ready for winter and for spring runoffs. All told, we spent about 55 hours, including travel time.

Barry and Barbara Griffith cleared everything but a couple big blowdowns between Vt. 103 and the Lottery Road, including cleaning lots of major water bars that had a few years of leaf litter in them and sweeping the many stone steps that ascend the gulch just north of Route 103. That's important because, if you're descending rock stairs covered with leaves, especially wet one, you can slip pretty easily. The next day, Barb and Barry also checked the LT from the Upper Cold River Road to the Clement Shelter Road and found it in good shape.

Larry Walter, Cindy Miller, Eliza Mabry and Bill Cooke removed eight or nine large trees with the cross cut saw and a few smaller trees with hand saws. They cleared all the culverts north of Patch Hollow, but not the side ditches. There was no snow yet to weigh down the leaves they would have raked out so the leaves wouldn't just blow back in. This crew also lopped back quite a lot of limbs that were growing into the trail.

Sue Thomas and T&S Co-Chairs, Wayne Krevetski and Herb Ogden, cleared all the waterbars and side ditches on the Canty Trail up Blue Ridge Mountain, apparently for the first time since the Vt. Youth Conservation Corps improved the trail several years ago. Despite the wind storm that knocked out power in parts of Rutland County, they were pleasantly surprised to find only the usual number of blowdowns and downed limbs. Sue also fueled everyone with delicious muffins before we headed for the woods.

Lest you decide that volunteers like these have everything well in hand so you don't need to help, let me list what we nine did NOT have time to work on

- İ Long Trail from Minerva Hinchey Shelter to Vt. 103
- İ Long Trail from Lottery Road to Upper Cold River Road
- İ Long Trail from Clement Shelter Road all the way north to the end of our section at the Tucker-Johnson shelter side north of US 4 (though Larry Walter and Dave Coppock had gone up a few days earlier and cleared all but the big blowdowns)
- İ Sherburne Pass Trail
- İ Pico Spur Trail
- İ Bucklin Trail (though an adopter will clear waterbars later this month)
- İ Killington Spur Trail

So there's plenty left if you want to tackle a large or small project, and please come out next spring for the next scheduled work parties.

### **HUNTING SEASON MYSTERY HIKE, WOODSTOCK, Saturday, November 11, 2017, by Sue Thomas**

Brrrr, it was cold! When I rolled out of bed that morning, I have to confess I was less than enthusiastic about venturing out. A nice, hot cup of tea and a book . . . but I put that happy little vision aside and dutifully began donning layer upon layer of winter clothes. With a hot thermos in tow, two of us brave souls headed to Woodstock to climb Mt. Tom. We warmed right up and the sun was warm enough on top to sit and enjoy the view without fear of frostbite. Down at the Pogue, however, cowardice took over. Rather than make the whole circuit around the pond, which would have required a long stretch in the shade, we turned around when we ran out of sun and beat a hasty retreat.

### **ANNUAL FALL POTLUCK, RUTLAND, Sunday, November 19, 2017, by Vivian Bebee**

If you weren't at this potluck, you truly missed out. We had a good turn-out, enjoying time with old friends and meeting new ones. The lunch was scrumptious and I, for one, didn't need any supper that night. It's a good thing that we hikers like to cook. Or, is the fact that we really like to eat, the driving force here? Anyway, many thanks to all who contributed to our meal.

The highlight of the afternoon was a slide show and talk by Sandy and Kristi Bragg on their recent trip to Slovenia. The slides were of beautiful, snow-capped mountains, clear mountain lakes, trails they hiked and huts they stayed in, quaint camps and mountain pastures surrounded by higher peaks and a very pretty city, Ljubljana (Slovenia's capital), population 280,000 (a little smaller than Anchorage, AL.) Several of the streets in Ljubljana were used by pedestrians, no vehicles allowed. If all that was not enough, Kristi treated us to some food from Slovenia: a savory soup (recipe below) and Bled Cream Cake for dessert.

#### **Pumpkin Soup:**

500 g winter pumpkin (Hokkaido pumpkins are best)  
½ 1 beef/chicken stock, 2 tablespoons butter, 1 small onion, 2 cloves of garlic  
2 full tablespoons sour cream, 1.5 dl cream  
Salt, pepper, nutmeg  
Pumpkin oil for garnishing

Cook the pumpkin cut into small pieces in salted water (enough water to cover the pumpkin). When the pumpkin turns soft, mash it into a puree, add the stock and mix. Sauté the chopped onion in butter and mix into the stock. To this, add the crushed garlic and the two creams. Season the soup with nutmeg, salt and pepper at the end. When serving the soup, sprinkle it with pumpkin oil. Some toasted bread cubes (croutons) can also be served with it. **Kristi's changes:** I used 3 large pieces of Hubbard squash (I bought them at the farmers' market already cut), rubbed them with a little olive oil and baked in the oven at 400° for about an hour (flesh side down). When it cooled a little, I scooped out the squash and put it in food processor (blender would work too). I had about 4 cups of squash. Purée with one cup chicken broth, then move to large pot and add one more cup broth and one cup water, 2 tablespoons flour, salt and pepper to taste, 1/2 tsp nutmeg. Sauté chopped onion in 1 tablespoon butter and add to soup. Simmer for about half an hour, then stir in 3/4 cup of heavy cream and several tablespoons of sour cream to taste. Main difference is I roasted the squash.







Bob, Larry, Ruth and Winnie on Rum Street



Larry, Nancy and Jean on Lefferts Pond



Larry, Nancy and Herb at Clarendon Shelter



Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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.....\$45  
Family.....\$60  
Senior/Student/Friend.....\$25

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



# Smoke & Blazes

*Volume 71, Number 1*

*Killington Section, Green Mountain Club*

*March 2018*



**Searching for the Biggest Tree – American Ash**



### **Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2018

Hilary Coolidge\*

Barry Griffith\*

Sandy Bragg

Term expiration 2019

Larry Walter

Allison Henry

Wayne Krevetski\*

Term expiration 2020

Herb Ogden\*

Cindy Taylor-Miller\*

Sue Thomas

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

### **Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee Editor

Larry Walter Assistant Editor

### **Killington Section Officers:**

Barry Griffith President

Wayne Krevetski Vice President

Cindy Taylor-Miller Secretary

Sandy Bragg Treasurer

### **Committee Chairs:**

Vacant History

Sue Thomas Outings

Herb Ogden Trails & Shelters

Wayne Krevetski Trails & Shelters

### **Delegates to GMC Board:**

Cindy Taylor-Miller Director

Hilary Coolidge Alternate

### **Web Site: [www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org)**

Hilary Coolidge Web Master

### **Contact Information**

Vivian Bebee 14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com)

Sandy Bragg 346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, [sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com](mailto:sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com)

Hilary Coolidge PO Box 705, Proctor, VT 05765, 773-1657, [hcoolidge@hotmail.com](mailto:hcoolidge@hotmail.com)

Barry Griffith 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-3573, [Griff2VT@Vermontel.net](mailto:Griff2VT@Vermontel.net)

Allison Henry 19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-1627, [allisonnorton1@gmail.com](mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com)

Wayne Krevetski 22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)

Herbert Ogden 214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Cindy Taylor-Miller 337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [mrsgorp@gmail.com](mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com)

Sue Thomas 27 Clinton Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 773-2185

Larry Walter 14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [lwalter@sover.net](mailto:lwalter@sover.net)



How many hikers does it take to get Burdock to smile for the camera?



Taking a break to check out Tall Timbers rental cottage on Half Moon Pond.



## **This n' That**

- To receive Smoke & Blazes by email, send request to [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com)
- **REMEMBERING DAVE HARDY, GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB DIRECTOR OF TRAIL PROGRAMS,**  
by Cindy Taylor-Miller

On January 7, 2018, the record-breaking, below-freezing temperature did not deter family, friends, co-workers, GMC members and agency partners that gathered to attend the celebration of life for Dave at the Waterbury Center Zenbarn. Several folks wore Dave's signature orange hoody. Many were aware of Dave's quiet way of building bridges, both literally and figuratively, and his love of home-brew, but few knew that he was also a cat whisperer. Dave's twenty-five-year legacy of envisioning and building the Long Trail we know today will live on as he now hikes and builds trails on the other side. RIP November 6, 2017.



- April 8, 2017, 12:00 noon, Killington Section annual meeting at Godnick Center, Deer Street, Rutland City (potluck lunch, bring a dish to share and your own place setting).
- Merck Forest and Farmland Center, in Rupert, is offering a SOLO Wilderness First Aid class on April 28 and 29. MF&FC contact is 802-394-7836 or email [info@merckforest.org](mailto:info@merckforest.org)  
8:00 - 5:30 on Saturday & Sunday, April 28 & 29 at MFFC  
\$200 for WFA  
\$240 for WFA + CPR component, plus additional 3 hours of instruction (minimum number of people needed to sign up for CPR for that portion to be held).  
Recertification for Wilderness First Responder is available.

## **Outing Reports**

### **MERCK FOREST, RUPERT, Saturday, December 2, 2017, by Vivian Bebee and Larry Walter, leaders**

We had an excellent turnout for this hike with 13 people and one dog (see picture on next page). After a brief visit to the Merck headquarters, we headed up towards the barn and on up the hill to the Clark's Clearing Cabin via the McCormick Trail and Antone Road. This building has recently been resurrected from an unusable space to a very nice little hut, complete with new roof, skylight, floor, and soon-to-be, woodshed. Looks like it would sleep two or three comfortably. There's a small woodstove that should keep things toasty in the winter and shoulder months. The door has a really fancy wooden latch. We all enjoyed lunch there . . . mostly inside the cabin, with a couple overflow people outside on the bench. After lunch, we worked our way out towards the Nenorod Cabin and took a small side road to the brand new replica of Thoreau's Cabin. Larry was lucky enough to have served on the construction crew this summer. The post and beam members were all taken from Merck's stand of red spruce, broad axe hewn into square units and, when fitted together with



chisel and hammer, formed mortice & tenon joints. The cabin was then pre-assembled before snow last Fall (inside the big sugar house) and then re-assembled it on a stone foundation in May and June of 2017. The windows and door were taken from an 18<sup>th</sup> century building (re-glazed and painted). Walls were hand-split lathe & plaster (lime horse hair). A professional mason came in and built a shallow draft fireplace out of native stone, using the same lime mixture combined with fine gravel. Thoreau had a small root cellar accessed through a trap door in the floor, but I'm not sure if Merck plans to mimic that. There may be too much hard pan to get down too far. Merck plans to rent it out for limited "ceremonial" events during the year. It will be furnished with a chair, table and small bed, in keeping with Thoreau's original setup. The plans were based on his sister's painting of the cabin along with noted dimensions, but a couple details had to be ascertained based on building techniques of the day. Some of the materials were manufactured, such as the wooden shingles, but we tried to keep to traditional methods as much as we could. The broad axe lessons were invaluable, lending some real possibilities for use with remote step work and puncheon construction on the LT. The weather never really cleared off, but it didn't precipitate on us either. A good day, all and all.



The gangs all here! In the background, Merck sugarhouse on left and barns on right.



Ruth & Eliza at Clark's Clearing Cabin



Thoreau's Cabin



Forest View



**PATCH HOLLOW/SPRING LAKE, Shrewsbury, Sunday, December 10, 2017, by Cindy Taylor-Miller, leader**

Larry, Sue and I showed up to hike. It was a beautiful day. We didn't need snowshoes, but there was enough moisture below the snow to create snowballs on my gaiter strap. We found the trail corridor boundary west of Patch Hollow, back-tracked and returned to eat a delicious lunch at Minerva Hinchey Shelter. The snow was perfect for tracking misplaced hikers. Who knew that Spring Lake Ranch has a beautiful color-coded map of their trail system (see Page 7).



Should we have brought our skis?



Every Christmas elf needs a hat like this.

**HALF MOON POND STATE PARK, Hubbardton, Sunday, January 21, 2018, by Larry Walter, leader**

The weather was below freezing, so the snow was fluffy and the sun even came out a bit. Perfect for a nice little loop around Half Moon Pond. Sue, Jean, Sue, Jerry and Burdock rounded out the group. We then did the out-and-back trail to have lunch at High Pond. Saw quite a few deer tracks on both routes.

There are several very nice little cabins for rent along the Half Moon Pond shoreline, as well as Tall Timbers, a larger cottage (picture on Page 2). Viv and I stayed in one for several nights a couple years back right after Labor Day. Very quiet time compared to the summer crowd. The cabin was comfortable, but take auxiliary head lamps if you want to do some reading. I think they had only one bulb in the center of the room. As always, the State runs a tight little ship and the Pond has some very nice shoreline, especially along the southeast end.

For this hike, we lucked out and found the main parking lot open, but had planned to enter from Black Pond Road where the trail crosses if things were jammed up. Sue Thomas has lead walks to the west of BP Road out to Moscow Pond and then southerly along Glen Lake to the parking lot by the dam.



Jerry, Larry and Burdoch walking on water.



Larry on lunch break at High Pond.

### **MYSTERY HIKE, Shrewsbury, Sunday, January 28, 2018, by Larry Walter, Jerry Parker, leader**

Larry, Jean and John joined Jerry and Burdock (the wonder dog) for a woods-road/bushwhack off of Coldham Road (north of Upper Cold River Road). Our primary objective was to measure a really big American ash and then pass the info onto Gary Salmon, our local champion-tree expert.

The temps were hovering around freezing so our snow shoes managed to stay on top of the crust most of the time. It only took about 20 minutes to reach the tree and we got a picture of Jean in front of it (see cover page). Through the use of some logger's methodology and a measuring tape, we determined the height and diameter to be 89 feet and 47.1 inches, respectively. Pretty big tree. It's healthy too. It will be interesting to see what Gary comes up with for measurements since he has better instrumentation.

The rest of the morning we spent hiking mostly along old skid roads, looking for tracks (fisher cat and moose) until we came to an old stone cellar, where we had lunch. The stone work was very well done. Must have been a pretty nice place. After lunch, we hiked out, mostly down-hill, to the cars. The sun came out, so the snow got a little soft. Good thing we had the shoes.

### **MOUNT TOM, Woodstock, Saturday, February 3, 2018, by Sue Thomas, leader**

Mount Tom seemed like a good idea when I planned the schedule, but as usual Mother Nature had her own ideas. When I got up that morning, ice coated the ground and the thermometer read 1°. Even though the weather forecaster promised a warm-up later in the day, no one objected when I suggested staying closer to home on a less treacherously, icy trail.

We decided to explore the trails at the West Rutland Recreation Area, hoping to find them better marked than when Larry and I had been there two years ago. Well, no. But fortunately for us someone had been there before us – many thanks to the unknown hiker whose tracks led us in a loop up the ridge and back down. Whether it was the actual trail or not, we'll never know, but it was just what we needed on that icy day. There was enough snow to show us tracks made by mice, deer and turkeys, and a large area where turkeys had scratched in the dead leaves searching for acorns.

Back at the Recreation Area, we enjoyed watching the big dogs at the dog park, while Burdock disdainfully napped in the car. Who needs a dog park when you can hike with the Green Mountain Club every weekend?

### **WEST HAVEN WANDERING, Saturday, February 17, 2018, by Herb Ogden, Leader**

On a beautiful, above-freezing, sunny day, four people plus Burdock snowshoed into remote parts of West Haven. Crossing the East Bay of Lake Champlain (or the Poultney River), we took the only road that leads west from Vermont into New York, then continued to its end at the former Galick Farm in the Nature Conservancy's Buckner Preserve. The first part of our hike was over still-mowed hayfields, to an old English style barn where the Galicks evidently stored hay till they passed the place to the Nature Conservancy in the 1980s. Luckily, the old farm road farther north had been improved over the summer, so it was no longer a muddy path hemmed in by honeysuckles. Crossing a little inlet on a little causeway, we ascended to a recently brushhogged field, where we had a scenic lunch overlooking the lake. From farther south, we had seen a coyote running across that field, and now we saw its tracks. Earlier, we had seen bobcat tracks, and there were also turkey, deer and hare tracks.

From the lunch stop, a piece of farm road along the base of cliffs past a very short stone wall led us to the "Hundred Acre Field," now mostly overgrown with evergreens and (ugh) honeysuckle. Crossing it, we soon found the old road down to a former dairy farm, which I think was abandoned in the 1950's. I've heard the milk was taken by boat across the very narrow lake to be picked up in New York. A farm had been there since at least 1869. As recently as 15 years ago, the Stewart house was still mostly standing. Now it has collapsed into its cellarhole, and only the foundation of the dairy barn remains. The only crop is now burdock, and poor Burdock the dog acquired quite a lot of it. He tried rubbing his head against the snow to get rid of it, but that only made it worse. He was a good sport and let Jerry pick out what he could. Meanwhile, we admired the view across the lake and saw a young bald eagle soaring over it. On the return trip, we followed more of the old farm road, recently brushhogged, and saw another eagle.

From the parking area, three of us clambered up the hill to the Galick Cemetery and marveled at the number of downed stones the caretaker had marked with blue stakes. There were also a half dozen or so stones still standing.

On the way back, I also pointed out the Stewart and Adams Elbow Cemeteries. There was no point in visiting the Stewart because both stones lie flat on the ground, and no good place to park for the Adams



Elbow. Regarding the Adams Elbow Cemetery, I told the story of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rutland's youth group clearing the prickly ash and restoring the stones about a dozen years ago and finding a coffin handle and a human collarbone in the dirt on top of the biggest gravestone, which lay flat several inches underground. Why were they there? Ask me on our next West Haven trip.

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## Your Invitation to Join

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.....\$45  
Family.....\$60  
Senior/Student/Friend.....\$25

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



## **GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB: KILLINGTON SECTION OUTINGS ([www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org))**

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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City.** Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call hike leader if you have any questions. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**NOTE: Hike destinations may change at the last minute due to various unexpected conditions – always a good idea to confirm with hike leader in case of changes.**

### **MARCH 2018-JUNE 2018**

**March 17, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**LT/AT, Mendon**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

What better day than St. Pat's to go the Green Mountains?! Wear your green and keep an eye out for the leprechauns as we hike north from the Route 4 crossing. The route down will be decided by conditions. Optional stop at McGrath's Pub at the Inn at Long Trail to celebrate the day. Approximately 3 miles, with some climbing. Snowshoes or traction devices may be needed.

**March 25, Sunday, 8:30 a.m.**

**Merck Forest Maple Fest, Rupert**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185, Viv Bebee 775-3855**

They will be boiling sap in the sugarhouse and serving up a hearty pancake breakfast at Merck Forest & Farmland Center. Come meet the animals, take a wagon ride or join us for a hike to work off the meal. \$10 adults, \$5 kids 5-12.

**March 31, Saturday, 9:45 a.m. Rutland or 10:30 East Poultney Green**

**Dean Preserve, East Poultney**

**Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

Hike to an overlook for views of Lake St. Catherine, with option for a longer trek. Moderate, approximately 4 miles.

**April 7, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Coolidge State Park, Plymouth**

**Larry Walter and Viv Bebee 775-3855**

Initially, some steep climbing on the Park road to a view of Mount Ascutney from the open picnic area and then a nice meadow and trail hike back to the cars through a mix of hardwood and conifer forest. Moderate, 3-4 miles.

**April 8, Sunday, 12 noon**

**Killington Section Annual Meeting, Godnick Center, Deer Street, Rutland City**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Bring a dish to share and your own place setting for a potluck meal, followed by a short meeting to update us on trail news and election of officers. All welcome!

**April 15, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Spier Falls, Gansvoort, NY**

**Allison Henry 775-1627**

Climb to a rocky overlook for views of the Hudson River. Moderate, 5 miles.

**April 21, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Birds Eye Conservation Initiative, Ira/Poultney**

**Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

Explore some of the newly acquired public land south of Bird Mountain, with optional extra bit up Spruce Knob. Moderate, 5 miles with 1,400 foot elevation gain.

**April 28, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Rutland or 10:00 a.m. Cuttingsville Post Office  
Shrewsbury area**

**Gerry and Chryl Martin 492-2143**

Destination to be determined. Call leaders for details.

**May 6, Sunday, 8:30 a.m.**

**Mad Tom Brook Trail, East Dorset**

**Larry Walter 775-3855**

We haven't been up this trail since it was resurrected by local townspeople and re-listed as an official GMNF trail. The route runs along the northern bank of the brook through beautiful riparian landscapes. It was once a popular carriage route, complete with extensive stone retaining walls and hand forged railing supports. Remnants of these still remain. Water-level permitting, we'll also wade the stream and visit the ruins of an old pig iron site, including an abandoned boiler. Please call ahead, in case we have to alter our plans for the day. Moderate, 3 to 4 miles total, out and back.

**May 12, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. (rain date May 13)**

**Long Trail Spring Cleaning, Lower Elevation**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510, Wayne Krevetski 282-2237**

All are welcome to help prepare the trail for the summer hiking season. We'll clear water bars, trim brush and cut blowdowns on the lower elevation stretches. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes and lunch. Tools will be provided. Have fun in the woods while doing a good deed.

**May 20, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Boiling Springs, Chittenden**

**Barb and Barry Griffith 492-3573**

Follow old wood roads through the New Boston area to find this unusual site where water bubbles up from the ground. Moderate, 7 miles.

**May 26, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Woodland Hike, Wallingford**

**Jerry Parker 775-6208**

We'll hike to a beaver pond and enjoy a view. Moderate, 3 miles, with some bushwhacking.

**June 2-3, Saturday and Sunday**

**GMC Annual Meeting, Lake Fairlee**

Hosted this year by the Ottauquechee Section. Watch your Long Trail News for details.

**June 9, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. (rain date June 10)**

**Long Trail Spring Cleaning, Upper Elevation**

Clear brush and water bars, paint blazes and cut blowdowns, readying the trail for the summer hiking season.

Join us to work on our local treasure, the Long/Appalachian Trail. Bring work gloves, lunch and bug spray.

Tools provided.

**Herb Ogden 293-2510, Wayne Krevetski 282-2237**



# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 71, Number 2

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

June 2018



Larry, Anna, Vivian, Laurie and Isaac in front and Jerry with Clair on shoulders, Jean and Sunghee in back.



**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2019

Larry Walter  
Allison Henry  
Wayne Krevetski\*

Term expiration 2020

Herb Ogden\*  
Cindy Taylor-Miller\*  
Sue Thomas

Term expiration 2021

Sandy Bragg\*  
Ruth Hare  
Gerry Martin\*Second consecutive 3-year term.  
Not eligible for re-election.**Killington Section Officers:**

Herb Ogden	President
Wayne Krevetski	Vice President
Cindy Taylor-Miller	Secretary
Sandy Bragg	Treasurer

**Committee Chairs:**

Vacant	History
Sue Thomas	Outings
Larry Walter	Trails & Shelters
Wayne Krevetski	Trails & Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Cindy Taylor-Miller	Director
Larry Walter	Alternate

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee	Editor
Larry Walter	Assistant Editor

**Web Site: [www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org)**

Hilary Coolidge	Web Master
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**Contact Information**

Vivian Bebee	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com">vivianbebee@gmail.com</a>
Sandy Bragg	346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, <a href="mailto:sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com">sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com</a>
Allison Henry	19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 779-4404, <a href="mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com">allisonnorton1@gmail.com</a>
Wayne Krevetski	22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, <a href="mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com">wkrevetski@hotmail.com</a>
Gerry Martin	998 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738 492-2244, <a href="mailto:gdmartin2020@yahoo.com">gdmartin2020@yahoo.com</a>
Herbert Ogden	214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, <a href="mailto:hogden@vermontel.net">hogden@vermontel.net</a>
Cindy Taylor-Miller	337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, <a href="mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com">mrsgorp@gmail.com</a>
Larry Walter	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:lwalter@sover.net">lwalter@sover.net</a>



Janet, Lee, Gerry, Nancy, Sue, Chryl and Alex on the Spring Lake-area hike in Shrewsbury.



## **This n' That**

**To receive Smoke & Blazes by email, send request to [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com)**

**LOST CAMERA:** Canon Powershot in charcoal gray soft case. Card inside has owner's contact info. Lost somewhere between Governor Clement Road south towards Gould Brook in Shrewsbury.

### **IN MEMORIAM, by Sue Thomas**

Jean Davies, 90: The Killington Section lost a great friend with Jean's passing in April. Jean and her husband, Charlie, built Camp Betsey Cox for Girls in Pittsford, introducing several generations of campers to outdoor activities and instilling a love and respect for nature. She often invited the club to enjoy the camp on the off-season, hosting ski trips, ice skating and cookouts, and generously loaning the camp's fleet of silver canoes for countless Killington Section paddles. She hosted the main club Intersectional weekend there several times. She also shared her vast knowledge of local history, plants and birds, and taught wild edibles courses for the club. Her cheery disposition and generous nature will be missed by all.

John Hughes, 82: The Killington Section also notes the passing of John, who, with his late wife, Emma, was an avid hiker for many years. They had almost completed the Long Trail in years of day hikes when infirmities slowed them down. John was well known in the group for constructing elaborate (and mostly successful!) contraptions to hang the club coffee pot over our weekly campfire.

We send our condolences to the Hughes and Davies families.

## **Outing Reports**

### **LT/AT, MENDON, March 17, 2018, by Sue Thomas, leader**

I knew we were in for trouble when the region got a generous dumping of snow just a few days before my snowshoe hike. It didn't seem like enough time to expect anyone would helpfully stomp out a trail for us, and the parking lot had not been plowed. I got permission from the Town to park along the highway by the welcome sign and was pleased to see another car already there. "Yay," I thought, "some kind soul has blazed a trail for us!" But no. Before we'd unloaded our gear, two cross-country skiers returned defeated and strapped their skis onto the roof rack. "It's too deep," they complained, and we knew we were on our own.

We took turns breaking trail, but had to switch places frequently as we climbed, thinking evil thoughts about those who were wise enough to stay home – we could have used reinforcements, for sure. Luckily it was a beautiful blue-sky day, and the snow sparkled in the sun and coated the trees, so I think we were the wise ones after all. And, I've found it more and more useful as I get along in years to stop and pretend to be admiring the scenery, when in fact I'm gasping for breath.

At some point, mischievous leprechauns led us astray for a while, but we found our way back to the trail and sank gratefully into the drifts at Maine Junction to have lunch and shamrock cookies by the nearly submerged sign. No one objected to taking the much easier "not a trail" back to the cars. We made a quick stop at the Inn at Long Trail to check out the St. Patty's Day festivities.



**Breaking trail - yikes!**



**Had enough!**



**MERCK FOREST MAPLE FEST, Rupert, March 25, 2018, by Sue Thomas and Vivian Bebee, leaders**

We arrived at Merck to find a packed parking lot with vehicles overflowing on the side nearest the Visitor's Center. There were staff communicating with each other by walkie-talkie at the road entrance to Merck and at the entrance to the parking lot, directing traffic by allowing a few cars through at a time coming in and going out. We brought a crew of seven, plus Burdock. Since we were all anticipating the breakfast ahead, it did not take long to get to the sugar house, which, of course, was also packed. We were pleased that the staff allowed Burdock to come in with us and he behaved like a true gentleman, sitting on the floor next to Jerry and graciously accepting pets from passing admirers.

After a delicious meal, we set off to work it off with a hike, after first paying a visit to a HUGE pig that, for some reason, was living in a barn labeled "small animals." We hauled our pancake-stuffed selves up the hill to Clark's clearing to admire the new cabin there, then continued on to have a look at Ned's Place. By then, the early clouds had lifted, leaving us a beautiful, sunny day. However, there seemed to be an abundance of gravity – as our younger hikers were having trouble staying upright, toppling frequently into snowbanks and lying inert until prodded with ski poles, tho thankfully we older folks were largely able to resist. A good thing, as it would likely take more than ski poles to get us back up.

Back at the sugar house, we were just in time to catch the last ride out in the wagon drawn by two very patient draft horses. I wonder if they noticed that people weighed more going out than coming in?



**Who doesn't like pancakes, sausage and eggs?**



**Catching a ride.**



**Isaac, Sunghee, Vivian, Larry, Clair and Jerry. Do we really have to go get up now???**



**COOLIDGE STATE PARK, PLYMOUTH, April 7, 2018, by Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee, leaders**

We had nice weather with temps hovering around freezing in the morning, a little (OK...very) windy in the afternoon, but sunny. Nine other people (including two kids), plus three dogs, joined us for the hike. The road and woods had about 3 to 4 inches of fresh snow on top of a pretty good base. The sleds had packed things down to an ice slab on the road, so it was fortunate that a fresh layer had fallen the night before. Our tracks were the first on the scene that day.

The kids and dogs were entertaining – so much energy! The kids showed us how it's done, creating snow angels and being human sleds on the banks of the park road. One partially rolled snowman thorax gained weight as we walked up the park road until it proved too heavy to get packed any further.

After steadily climbing for an hour or so, we took refuge from the wind behind the partially-walled portions of the picnic-area pavilion and enjoyed nice views of Mt. Ascutney during lunch. After lunch, we walked out to the exposed rock in front of the pavilion for a photo shoot (see picture on front cover). John and I opted to take the CCC trail through the woods on the way back, while Viv and the rest of the crew returned on the park road. We enjoyed a nice hike on the trail, including several small stream crossings, and then rejoined the others just arriving at the cars. Viv and I had hiked the CCC trail a few days before to be sure of the conditions. She had not forgotten that further along the trail there was a steep ravine with slippery snow on both sides and a water crossing at the very bottom, which she was not eager to repeat and the others agreed. Wimps!!

Tracks sighted: Fisher, squirrels, bunnies, deer and turkeys.



**Snow angel.**



**Human sled.**

**Mad Tom Brook Trail, East Dorset, May 6, 2018, Sandy Bragg, hike leader**

Larry Walter set up this scenic hike before being called away to a saw class. Five hikers and Patches (the Springer Spaniel) shrugged off May sprinkles to sample this former East Dorset carriage trail recently restored by local townspeople and re-listed as an official Green Mountain National Forest trail. We followed the north bank of a roaring Mad Tom Brook (living up to its name! -see next page). Remnants of the original carriage trail, built by the Equinox after the Civil War to entertain 'summer people,' were visible throughout the trip, including cast iron supports for railings along the sections closest to the brook. About a mile from the trail head, an old boiler is visible on the south bank of the brook.

Mark and his friend waded across the brook to continue over to Bromley, where they had spotted their car. Lisa, Kristi and I turned around at that point and went back the way we came. Despite the rain, I think Lisa and Kristi enjoyed themselves (and I'm certain Patches had a great time). Total distance was a little over 4 miles with elevation gain of about 800 feet.



**Mad Tom Brook**



**Barry and Larry – trail maintenance on the LT**



## **Killington Section Directors' Meeting**

Minutes of Directors' Meeting

March 21, 2018

By Cindy Taylor-Miller, Secretary

The meeting of the board of directors was called to order by President, Barry Griffith, at 7 p.m. on March 21, 2018 in Rutland at the Walter/Bebee residence.

**Directors present:** Barry Griffith, Wayne Krevetski, Cindy Taylor-Miller, Sandy Bragg, Larry Walter, Allison Henry, Sue Thomas and Herb Ogden. **Guest:** Vivian Bebee. **Director absent:** Hilary Coolidge.

**Approval of Minutes:** The April 9, 2017 meeting minutes approved. Motion by Henry/Ogden.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report:** Approved by voice vote. Motion by Taylor-Miller/Krevetski.

### **Main Club Director's Report** by Taylor-Miller

Highlights: Income and expenses tracked close to the FY18 budget plan. A Director of Field Programs will hopefully be hired by late spring. There will be a 2019 Capital Campaign. The Beaver Dam Cabin (rental cabin) on Wheeler Pond will be replaced. The board approved to purchase the solar panels at HQ. The Personnel Policy Manual received an external legal review and with minor edits the new policy was approved. The Ottauquechee Section is now the Upper Valley-Ottawuechee Section.

### **Trails and Shelter Report and Planning**

Tucker Johnson Shelter will be rebuilt in the fall of 2018. The privy at Clarendon Shelter will be replaced with a moldering privy. Clarendon Shelter needs an adopter. The blazes need a fresh coat of paint from Sherburne Pass to Jungle Junction. A sector checker is needed from U.S. Rte. 4 to Churchill Scott Shelter.

### **Smoke and Blazes, Outings Reports and Facebook Reports** by Walter/Thomas/Henry

### **Open Issues**

No decision by the directors at this time to assist in the independent funding of the 2018 Coolidge Ridge Runner.

### **New Business**

Herb Ogden will write outreach letters to the local colleges and high schools to recruit new volunteers. Herb has compiled the Sherburne Pass Trail registers from just south of Sherburne Pass and is looking for assistance in compiling or otherwise dealing with various shelter registers. Sue Thomas will reach out to the Rutland Recreation Department to work on a congruent 100 steps/100 day program in hopes of introducing new members to the GMC. Larry Walter is teaching a cross-cut saw course May 30-31, 2018 at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Station in N.H.

Puncheon timber for trail near Keifer Road will be purchased and stored at the Griffith's.



## **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by President, Barry Griffith, at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on April 8, 2018, this concurs with the Killington Section annual meeting, at the Godnick Center, Deer St., Rutland, Vermont.

# **Killington Section 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

Minutes of Annual Meeting

April 8, 2018

By Cindy Taylor-Miller, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President, Barry Griffith, at 1 p.m. on April 8, 2018 at the Godnick Center on Deer St. in Rutland.

**Directors present:** Barry Griffith, Wayne Krevetski, Cindy Taylor-Miller, Larry Walter, Allison Henry, Sue Thomas and Herb Ogden.  
**Directors absent:** Hilary Coolidge, Sandy Bragg. **Special Guest:** Michael DeBonis, Executive Director.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The April 9, 2017 annual meeting minutes approved. Motion by Henry/Ogden.

## **Approval of Treasurer's Report**

Approved by voice vote. Motion by Walter/Krevetski.

## **Executive Director's Report** by Michael DeBonis.

Despite the loss of Dave Hardy, the work of the Club carried on due to our incredibly capable group of employees and volunteers. There will be 16 weeks of Long Trail Patrol. In the Killington area, work will begin this Spring to replace the Clarendon Shelter privy to a moldering privy within the trail corridor. By autumn the Tucker Johnson Shelter (George Pearlstein style) will be rebuilt by volunteers led by Jonathan Bigelow of Manchester. The VYCC will work on the upper Bucklin Trail near Cooper Lodge. Volunteer coordinator Rob Rives updated the renewal system for shelter and trail adopters in an effort to improve the assignment and records accuracy. Only six miles of the entire Long Trail remains unprotected. The club is gearing up for the 2019 Capital Campaign.

## **Trails and Shelter Report and Planning**

Herb reports that the Cooper Lodge saga continues nothing new to report on this building. He seeks someone to compile information from his stash of shelter logs. A sector checker is needed from Churchill Scott to US 4. Barb Griffith reports that the Governor Clement privy is full.

## **Outings Reports**

Bob Perkins reports that the Thursday hikes will continue once the weather warms up.

## **Website Report**

Cindy Taylor-Miller recently completed a hiker services list which was uploaded to the KS website.

## **New Business**

Lower elevation work trip is May 12<sup>th</sup>. The GMC 108<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, hosted by the Upper-Valley Ottauquechee Section is June 1-3 at the Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee, Vt. Sue Thomas is working with members of the Rutland Recreation department's "100 miles in 100 days" program and needs leaders/co-leaders for hikes. Mike suggested we contact GMC Communication coordinator, Kristin McLane, to assist in our outreach initiatives.

## **Election of New Directors**

Slate for new directors, Sandy Bragg, Ruth Hare and Gerry Martin, voted in as presented. The directors held a brief meeting to elect officers. The 2018 officers are: President-Herb Ogden, Vice President-Wayne Krevetski, Treasurer-Sandy Bragg, and Secretary-Cindy Taylor-Miller. Main Club Director-Cindy Taylor-Miller and alternate Larry Walter. Larry Walter will replace Herb Ogden to co-chair with Wayne on the Trails and Shelter committee.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by President, Barry Griffith, at 3 p.m.

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## KILLINGTON SECTION

Your Invitation to Join

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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.....\$45  
Family.....\$60  
Senior/Student/Friend.....\$25

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



## **GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB: KILLINGTON SECTION OUTINGS ([www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org))**

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 MAIN STREET PARK, OFF THE EAST END OF THE FIRE STATION SOUTH OF CENTER STREET IN RUTLAND CITY.** Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call hike leader if you **have any questions. HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**NOTE: Hike destinations may change at the last minute due to various unexpected conditions – always a good idea to confirm with hike leader in case of changes.**

### **JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2018**

**June 16, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Mt. Olga, Molly Stark State Park, Wilmington**

**Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

Loop hike to the fire tower at the wooded summit of Mt. Olga. Climb the fire tower to enjoy the 360-degree view. The summit of Mt. Olga is 2,400 +/- feet at the top, but this hike is a moderate 2 miles, with approximately 500 feet of elevation gain.

**June 23, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Hikers' Choice**

Come to the park with ideas and decide there where the hike will be. So many possibilities!

**June 30, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Rutland or 9:30 a.m. Cuttingsville Post Office off Route 103**

**Bear Mountain, Wallingford**

**Gerry and Chryl Martin 492-2244**

Trek north on the LT/AT over Bear Mountain to Spring Lake. Moderate, 4 miles.

**July 8, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Spier Falls, Gansvoort, NY**

**Allison Henry 779-4404**

Hike to a rocky overlook for views of the Hudson River. Moderate, 5 miles.

**July 21, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Hapgood Pond, Peru**

**Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

This will be our annual "hot dog" roast for 2018. Hapgood Pond and campground is a Green Mountain National Forest recreation area, which is located east of Manchester. The swimming area is nice and there is a pleasant loop trail around the Pond for hiking. Bring your own eating utensils, beverage and what you would like to roast. Leaders will provide chips, cookies and condiments.

**July 29, Sunday, 9:00 a.m., former Sears parking lot, Diamond Run Mall, Rutland**

**Paddle the Poultney River**

**Barb and Barry Griffith 492-3573**

A relaxing paddle on the Poultney River along the scenic Vermont/New York border. Suitable for canoes, kayaks or paddle boards.

**August 4, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Rutland or 10:00 a.m. East Clarendon AT/LT parking lot off Route 103**

**Airport Lookout/Clarendon Gorge**

**Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

A short, sweet hike up the LT to Airport Lookout for a valley view, followed by a dip in one of the best swimming holes in Southern Vermont. Moderate, 2 miles.

**August 11, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Long Trail Day Hike**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

To be determined. Call leader for details.

**August 18, Saturday, 8:00 a.m., parking lot by the Mendon Tow Clerk's Office on Route 4**

**Grafton Pond, Grafton, NH**

**Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

We led this paddle in 2010 and enjoyed it so much, decided to do it again. Clear, deep water and scenic hillsides make this gorgeous pond one of the premier paddling destinations in New Hampshire. There are several rocky islands and marshy inlets to explore. As wildlife abounds there, it is possible to see loon, osprey, great blue heron, beaver, otter, mink and moose. Gasoline motors are prohibited, which makes for a very pleasant paddle. Sorry for the early meet-up time, but the parking lot by the Pond can fill up quickly. However, once you are on the water, it doesn't feel crowded at all.

**August 25, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Mystery Hike**

**Jerry Parker 775-6208**

Call leader for details. Undecided at presstime.

**September 1, Saturday**

**Mystery Hike**

**Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

Call leader for details. Undecided at presstime.

### **THURSDAY HIKE SCHEDULE**

The Rutland Recreation and Parks Dept. sponsors a series of hikes at a less strenuous pace for seniors. Hikes typically cover 2-4 miles, involve limited to moderate elevation gain, and try to avoid treacherous footing. Bring water and a lunch, wear sturdy footwear, and be prepared for Vermont weather. Bring bug spray, and guard against ticks by wearing long sleeves and pants. Meet on **Thursdays at 9 am** at the Godnick Center on Deer Street to car pool. We return in early to mid-afternoon. **For further details, call hike leader.** All are welcome.

NOTE: Hikes are subject to change due to weather and/or trail conditions. (.....and please, no dogs). **State**

**Parks: free admission w/Green Mountain Passport or \$4 per person**

<b>June 14</b>	<b>Otter View Park and TAM, Middlebury</b>	<b>Diana Landwehr 458-8114</b>
	Watch for wildlife on woods and boardwalk trails, then TAM. Easy/moderate.	
<b>June 28</b>	<b>Otter Creek/Caldwell Trail Pittsford</b>	<b>Lyn Drigert 775-7038</b>
	Follow Otter Creek from Gorham to Cooley Bridge; Caldwell Trail. Easy/moderate.	
<b>July 12</b>	<b>Aitken State Forest, Mendon/Shrewsbury</b>	<b>Tom Copps 282-1675</b>
	Follow old woods road from old Girl Scout Camp to the Brown Bridge. Moderate.	
<b>July 26</b>	<b>Mt. Saint Catherine, Wells</b>	<b>Tom Copps 282-1675</b>
	Hike through woods on this Nature Conservancy loop trail. Moderate.	
<b>Aug. 9</b>	<b>Hogback Mountain (and blueberries?), Goshen</b>	<b>Tom Copps 282-1675</b>
	Hike thru woods between Hogback and Romance Mts. to blueberry patch. Moderate.	
<b>Aug. 23</b>	<b>Cookout-Emerald Lake State Park, North Dorset</b>	<b>Lyn Drigert 775-7038</b>
	We'll have a fire. Bring some food to share. Hike (moderate, opt.!) Swim! Relax!	



# Smoke & Blazes



*Volume 71, Number 3*

*Killington Section, Green Mountain Club*

*September 2018*



Paddling on the Poultney River (article on Page 6)



### **Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2019

Larry Walter  
Allison Henry  
Wayne Krevetski\*

Term expiration 2020

Herb Ogden\*  
Cindy Taylor-Miller\*  
Sue Thomas

Term expiration 2021

Sandy Bragg\*  
Ruth Hare  
Gerry Martin

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

### **Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee Editor  
Larry Walter Assistant Editor

### **Contact Information**

Vivian Bebee	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com">vivianbebee@gmail.com</a>
Sandy Bragg	346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, <a href="mailto:sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com">sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com</a>
Ruth Hare	<a href="mailto:vt_rh@protonmail.com">vt_rh@protonmail.com</a>
Allison Henry	19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 779-4404, <a href="mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com">allisonnorton1@gmail.com</a>
Wayne Krevetski	22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, <a href="mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com">wkrevetski@hotmail.com</a>
Gerry Martin	998 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738 492-2244, <a href="mailto:gdmartin2020@yahoo.com">gdmartin2020@yahoo.com</a>
Herbert Ogden	214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, <a href="mailto:hogden@vermontel.net">hogden@vermontel.net</a>
Cindy Taylor-Miller	337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, <a href="mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com">mrsgorp@gmail.com</a>
Larry Walter	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:lwalter@sover.net">lwalter@sover.net</a>

### **Killington Section Officers:**

Herb Ogden	President
Wayne Krevetski	Vice President
Cindy Taylor-Miller	Secretary
Sandy Bragg	Treasurer

### **Committee Chairs:**

Vacant	History
Sue Thomas	Outings
Larry Walter	Trails & Shelters
Wayne Krevetski	Trails & Shelters

### **Delegates to GMC Board:**

Cindy Taylor-Miller	Director
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### **Web Site: [www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org)**

Hilary Coolidge	Web Master
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Jeanne, Jerry, Sue, Kaden, Larry, Amanda and puppy, Aja (article on Page 6).



## **This n' That**

- **To receive Smoke & Blazes by email, send request to [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com)**
- **November 18, 2018, 1:00 p.m., Killington Section Annual Fall potluck at the Godnick Center, Deer Street, Rutland City. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. After lunch, there will be a slide presentation and maybe a short walk.**

- **National Trails System Act, by Cindy Taylor-Miller**

October 2nd marks the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act. The intent of this law and its amendments was to authorize a national system of trails and define four categories of trails, National Scenic Trails, National Historic Trails, National Recreation Trails and Connecting or Side Trails. There are eleven National Scenic Trails. The Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails became the first two trails to receive this distinction in 1968; followed by the Continental Divide Trail in 1978; North Country and Ice Age Trails in 1980; Florida, Natchez Trace and Potomac Heritage Trails in 1983; and Pacific Northwest, New England and Arizona Trails in 2009.

While completing the Florida Trail, author/photographer Bart Smith made the monumental decision to complete end to end and photograph all of National Scenic Trails. As he approached the end of his 16-year quest, three new trails were added to his to-do list. He is the first person to have completed all eleven trails. Bart's photography of these trails is featured in the 2014 award winning book *America's Great Hiking Trails: Appalachian, Pacific Crest, Continental Divide, North Country, Ice Age, Potomac Heritage, Florida, Natchez Trace, Arizona, Pacific Northwest, New England*, written by Karen Berger. This year he hopes to complete all 19 National Historic Trails in time to celebrate on October 2nd.

- **Long Trail Trivia, by Herb Ogden** (answers on Page 7)

1. How long is the Long Trail?
2. Who first conceived of the Long Trail and founded the Green Mountain Club?
3. List the five 4000 footers of VT.
4. Why is it called Smugglers Notch?
5. In what town is the Green Mountain Club headquarters located?
6. What are the three types of backcountry privys the GMC maintains?
7. What is the farthest north peak on the Long Trail?

- **Trail Magic Meals Distributed, by Barry Griffith**

In January 2015, the Killington Section hosted a James Taylor Lecture Series event at the Rutland Free Library featuring long distance hiker, Bill Cooke, speaking about his recent book on the Colorado Trail. Fast forward. Bill has since relocated to Rutland and is a new GMC Killington Section member. Bill and partner, Pam Masterson, a certified food processor, collaborated on making gourmet meal packages for long distance hikers. Before leaving to spend the summer in the Rockies, Pam and Bill donated several dozen of these packages to us, which Killington Section members passed along as "trail magic" to through hikers traversing our section of the AT/LT. The accompanying photo shows just a few of the grateful recipients. Thanks for your wonderful generosity, Bill and Pam. We'll see you on the trail this fall.



**Barry with AT through hikers (L to R) Bunny Tracks, Easily Forgotten, Bear and Sassy.**



◦ **Clarendon Shelter Has a New Privy, by Barry Griffith**

This past winter Killington Section members accompanied a team of GMC staff and partners to Clarendon Shelter to locate a suitable site for a new privy. The project was completed this summer with Killington Section assistance. It is possible to drive a high clearance truck to the shelter over private property, and permission was obtained to do so. Local resident, Steve Johnson, has been an unofficial caretaker of the shelter for many years, running errands for and otherwise assisting through hikers stopping there. Steve showed us the best way to gain access, and Jerry cleared the way with his trusty saw. On July 26, two trucks and a trailer loaded with materials arrived from Waterbury Center. With some help from Steve and Barry, a GMC crew headed by Kurt Melin shuttled the lumber to the site and unloaded it. It took all day with the trucks, but we agreed that was much easier than the alternative of carrying it in on our backs! The following week Kurt returned with Sam Kinney, Maggie Doubman and Michael Dillon. The GMC construction crew camped at the site for a week and assembled the new structure. Very impressive indeed. If all goes well Gov. Clement may also get a new composting privy this fall. Stay tuned!



## **Outing Reports**

**BIRDS EYE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE, April 21, 2018, Sandy Bragg, leader**

A dozen sun-starved hikers (see picture on next page) enjoyed an early spring ramble through wood roads lacing the 2,870 acres recently added to the Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area through efforts of The Conservation Fund. After weeks of overcast skies, everyone was grateful for the mild sunny day.

We started from the end of Hampshire Hollow Road in East Poultney, climbing on a snowmobile trail heading east toward the ridge connecting Herrick Mountain and Spruce Knob. As we ascended, the terrain reverted to well-packed corn snow, obviating the need for snowshoes. After climbing around 700', our wood road leveled out, giving views of Bird Mountain to the north.

After a lunch break, we bushwhacked down a few hundred feet, expertly led by the youngest hikers in our group, Isaac and Claire, assisted by Springer Spaniel, Patches. After gaining the lower wood road safely, we had an easy return to the snowmobile trail and our trailhead. Final GPS tally: 4 miles and 700' elevation gain.



**Front:** Chyrl, Patches the dog, Sunghee with Claire & Isaac.

**Back:** Jonathan, Kristi, Madeline, John, Lisa, Larry, Gerry, Eliza.



#### COOLIDGE RANGE WORK PARTY, June 9, 2018, Herb Onden, leader

Though the weather was beautiful and the bugs were scarce, only five people showed up for the highland work party. Allison Henry and Jerry Parker put in the longest day: seven hours each, clearing the Long Trail from US 4 to Jungle Junction, a round trip of 7.6 miles. Dave Coppock, Dave Skidmore and I worked on the Sherburne Pass Trail from Sherburne Pass to Jungle Junction. The five of us cleaned out all the over one hundred waterbars and side ditches and some minor blowdowns. We also lopped some branches that had grown into the trail or hid paint blazes. Given the shortage of volunteers, we did nothing about the LT from Gov. Clement Shelter north to Jungle Jct., the Bucklin Trail, the Pico Link or the Carty Trail. Trails & Shelters Co-Chairs, Wayne Krevetski and Larry Walter, probably will contact members in June and July to organize more work parties for those trail stretches.

#### MT. OLGA, MOLLY STARK ST. PK. WILMINGTON, June 16, 2018, Larry Walter & Viv Bebee, leaders

Viv and I would be camping at the Molly Stark State Park on the day of this hike and decided to put Mt. Olga on the hike schedule. We were concerned that no one would want to drive to Wilmington, but our friend, Laurie, graciously agreed to meet anyone who arrived at the Park in Rutland, and bring them down. We were pleasantly surprised when Anna and Jeanne joined Laurie for the trip down. Mt. Olga is a nice little hike with one trailhead within the State Park and another trailhead a little further along Route 9 near a lookout area and tourist shop for travelers going east on Route 9 towards Brattleboro. The trail within the State Park is just shy of a 2-mile loop from the campground, with about 500 feet of climbing. Some of us climbed to the top of the fire tower for the 360-degree view.

After lunch at the base of the fire tower, Laurie and Viv finished the loop back to the campground and then drove east on Route 9 to pick up Anna, Jean and myself as we elected to hike down the other side of Mt. Olga to the tourist shop area where we all enjoyed some ice cream. You can actually see the tourist place from the top of the fire tower. The east end/backside of the tourist shop houses a little natural history museum that Viv and I visited later in the week.

The trail from the tower eastward is basically the access road for the utility companies (lots of towers with microwave and other expensive-looking things up there). It runs through what was a ski resort that was still running into the 80's, and there are several old lift buildings, towers and cables still intact. The ski trails are slowly growing in with Hayscented ferns which are indeed "fragrant when crushed." The State has placed several flora and fauna signs on the access road, along with information about the old resort. Very nicely done. There's also an extensive trail network to the east that merits further exploration. A note: It's not easy to find the trail head near the tourist shop. It takes off from what appears to be the back yard of a large house/building to the right of the tourist shop and lookout parking area.



Viv, Jeanne, Anna and Laurie.

### **SPIER FALLS, GANSVOORT, NY, July 8, 2018, Allison Henry, leader**

This hike was on the West Ridge Trail overlooking the Hudson River and Spier Falls Dam in the western section of Moreau Lake State Park, and the hike is colloquially known as "Spier Falls." I led this hike 5 summers ago with much success. There was some arguing over the directions, but otherwise it was a great outing. Great views...great company...we ended the hike with the same number of people we'd started with...and we witnessed one of the highest elevation diaper changes in Saratoga County. I had put this hike on the schedule in April 2018, but had to cancel due to ice! The reschedule date of the hike turned out to have perfect weather. A few of us met at the usual rendezvous point in Rutland, then we met a few more participants at the main Trailhead for the hike. Our group included five K Section regulars, a Burdock, an old friend of mine from the Saratoga area, and said friend's five year-old human and six month-old puppy. Because the hike involved a car spot, as usual it took us extra time to figure out which cars should end up where and there was the usual confusion as to where we were starting and where we were finishing. It was further complicated by dogs and the car seat-requiring five-year-old. We managed to get ourselves and some of the cars to the starting point unscathed, and the hike seemed easy after all the cognitive effort necessary at the beginning. As we set off, Jerry picked some raspberries and offered them to young Kaden, who said, "I hope they aren't poisonous," thus setting the tone for the day. The six-month-old, sixty-pound puppy was very interested in playing with Burdock, but Burdock was far too dignified for that and attempted to keep his distance for the rest of the hike. He did run back to us a few times to make sure we were all still coming. The trail was well-maintained and dry, and we climbed for about two miles before reaching the first set of ledges overlooking the Hudson. I hoped for a historical re-enactment of the High Elevation Diaper Change but Kaden, the participant in the original event, haughtily reminded me that he wears big boy underwear. Soon after the first set of ledges, there appeared to be a new trail with the same color blazes as the original trail. A short cut? A relook in which the old trail was not yet brushed out? Thus, began more of the usual arguing, discussion, and warnings. The new trail/shortcut and the old trail intersected several times until we eventually ended up on a consistent trail again and reached more ledges in time for a leisurely lunch. On the way down, we encountered some mountain bikers who were riding their bikes on a steep part of the trail, right along a rocky ridge. We weren't sure whether to be impressed or appalled. Later, during the descent, we came upon a 6-inch diameter blowdown blocking the trail. Fortunately, Larry had his saw so we were able to proceed rather than being trapped forever. By then, Jerry and Burdock had gotten far ahead, tired of waiting for our meandering pace. When we reached the Trailhead, they were gone along with Jerry's car. We assumed that Burdock had driven off leaving Jerry in the dust, but we weren't sure whether dogs know how to start a hybrid.

### **HAPGOOD POND, PERU "HOT DOG ROAST," July 21, 2018, Larry Walter & Viv Bebee, leaders**

We thought we were so smart. I would drive down early to secure one of the gazebos and Viv would follow with whoever came to meet us at the Park in Rutland. Turns out, one of the campers had placed various items in the gazebo to claim it for later use. Not sure they can do that, as the day use area was supposed to be first-come-first-serve, but it worked out better for our small group anyway. We found a secluded table with a barbeque grill right on the water with ample shade & sunshine and no gazebo cigarette smoke. I lead the loop hike around the Pond with Laurie, Jerry and Burdock, Bob, Claire and Sunghee. Those of us hiking had a pretty good age-range of less than 10 and more than 90. Even Burdock is probably going on 80 dog years. Several semi-intoxicated butterflies provided entertainment for us out on the dam. The trail is easy and enjoyable, with shade from several large hemlocks and other trees. Jerry and I competed on who could produce the biggest lies for Claire's benefit (age 7ish). I think she was onto us though. Claire was making new friends and still splashing about in the pond under the watchful eye of her Mom, Sunghee, while the rest of us left by mid-afternoon.

### **POULTNEY PADDLE, July 29, 2018, Barry & Barbara Griffith, leaders**

There were 6 paddlers on this trip, 5 kayaks and 1 canoe. The weather was splendid and very warm when off the water. Barry and I were worried that, with the dry hot summer we have been having, the river would be too low to paddle. We had a wonderful day with welcomed camaraderie, with no major (or minor) catastrophes! We put in on the New York State side and took out in Vermont, near the Galick Farm.

There were numerous water birds along the way: Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, Ducks (what breed ?), Kingfishers, Bald Eagle...Osprey. The riverbanks are lined with cottonwood and silver maples. Cardinal flowers and Jerusalem artichoke were in bloom. The Lower Poughkeepsie is a nice quiet paddle. The river tends to be shallow and is much wider than Otter Creek to paddle on. A lot of the land alongside the Poughkeepsie River area is owned by the Nature Conservancy. As one travels downstream, Vermont is on your left and New York on the right. One of those rare anomalies because if you know your geography, NY is left of VT on a map!!

On this trip, there were numerous sand bars so we were fortunate to have lunch in the shade watching the river move slowly by. Anglers were out at various places and we called greetings back and forth. Seems small mouth bass were the catch of the day. Jerry was "catching and releasing" along the journey, one time untangling a riverbank



fisherman's lure from a branch on the opposite bank only to exclaim they were using the exact same lure as he. Cindy and I saw one huge fish jumping out of the water..."it was THIS BIG" we said to all.

The group was saved by Jerry's sharp eyes at our "pullout" as everyone tried to get a good look at tree-large, shelf fungi at eye level that had a very active yellow jacket colony becoming agitated by all our activity. We were soon out of their way!

### **THE ELBOW, LONG TRAIL DAY HIKE, August 11, 2018, Herb Ogden, leader**

For the first annual Long Trail Day, four humans plus small dogs Burdock and Ivy hiked from Route 4 north to The Elbow and then walked the Old Turnpike Road (otherwise known as the Elbow Road) to a car we had spotted about a mile north of the Cauty Trailhead. This was 3.3 miles on the LT and about two on the old road, but Ivy must have run at least twenty miles and never ran out of steam. The trail was in excellent condition. North of US 4, some kind soul had cut a wide swath through the huge field of nettles. Much rock work had been added north of the Tucker-Johnson Shelter site since we had last hiked that stretch a couple decades ago. We saw the beginnings of the new Tucker-Johnson Shelter: rows of Sonotubes waiting for floor joists. The new handicapped accessible privy was already finished, awaiting its first airdrop of someone in a wheelchair to use it. (The federal requirement of requiring handicapped accessibility at places that never will be reached by a handicapped accessible trail is nuts, but the GMC was wise to spend money on privies rather than lawyers.) The privy is far from the shelter. Given the new bear warning signs on this part of the trail, we wondered whether anyone would venture from the shelter to the privy at night.

The Elbow is so named because, at the high point where the Long Trail crosses the Old Turnpike Road, the road makes a turn like an elbow. This is where the 1869 *Beers Atlas of Rutland County* shows a railroad from White River Jct. to Rutland crossing the mountains before heading northwest more or less along the Wildcat Road. It was built only as far as Woodstock, however. This greatly confused Madeline Fleming, a GMC member in the 1960s. She saw the map and decided she'd go trace the old railroad bed. Of course, it wasn't there, and she couldn't figure out how a mountain railroad could disappear without a trace. The Old Turnpike, on the other hand, really was there, unlike many roads that are named Old Something nowadays. It was a toll turnpike that was built from Rutland to Stockbridge in the early 1800s, and it was a U. S. Mail route until the Flood of 1927. The boggy part north of the Wildcat Road junction has been abandoned and replaced by a modern gravel logging road at a slightly higher elevation to the southeast. On the Town of Killington side, the old turnpike joins Vt. 100 in North Sherburne and more or less follows it to Stockbridge.

### **LONG TRAIL TRIVIA ANSWERS**

- 1 . Approximately 273 miles. Minor trail relocations happen regularly, slightly altering the length of the trail. Tallying up the fractions of a mile is tedious work so...this is our best guess.
2. James P. Taylor. At the time Taylor conceived the Long Trail, he was the assistant headmaster at Vermont Academy in Windsor. The Hamilton, NY native later became the Vermont Secretary of Commerce and one of his chief goals was to make the still remote State of Vermont a more attractive and accessible place for tourists.
3. Mount Mansfield (Stowe) - 4,393 feet  
Killington Peak (Killington) - 4,235 feet  
Mount Ellen (Warren) - 4,083 feet  
Camel's Hump (Duxbury) - 4,083 feet  
Mount Abraham (Warren) - 4,006 feet
4. Smugglers' Notch derives its name from activities precipitated by a request of President Thomas Jefferson to prevent American involvement in the Napoleonic Wars. The Embargo Act of 1807 forbade American trade with Great Britain and Canada, but proximity to Montreal made it a convenient trading partner. The Act caused great hardship for Vermonters, many of whom continued the illegal trade with Canada, carrying goods and herding livestock through the Notch. Fugitive slaves also used the Notch as an escape route to Canada. The route was improved to accommodate automobile traffic in 1922 thus providing a route for liquor to be brought in from Canada during the Prohibition years.
5. Waterbury, Vermont since 1992.
6. Composting, moldering and pit privy.
7. Jay Peak - 3,862 feet.

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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.....\$45  
Family.....\$60  
Senior/Student/Friend.....\$25

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



# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 71, Number 4

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

December 2018

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Roof repair on Minerva Hinchey shelter. See "Two-Way Trail Magic" on Page 4.



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### **Contact Information**

Vivian Bebee	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com">vivianbebee@gmail.com</a>
Sandy Bragg	346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, <a href="mailto:sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com">sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com</a>
Ruth Hare	vt_rh@protonmail.com
Allison Henry	19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 779-4404, <a href="mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com">allisonnorton1@gmail.com</a>
Wayne Krevetski	22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, <a href="mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com">wkrevetski@hotmail.com</a>
Gerry Martin	998 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738 492-2244, <a href="mailto:gdmartin2020@yahoo.com">gdmartin2020@yahoo.com</a>
Herbert Ogden	214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, <a href="mailto:hogden@vermontel.net">hogden@vermontel.net</a>
Cindy Taylor-Miller	337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, <a href="mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com">mrsgorp@gmail.com</a>
Larry Walter	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:lwalter@sover.net">lwalter@sover.net</a>



See "Put-the-Trail to Bed Work Party" on Page 3.



## **This n' That**

- **To receive Smoke & Blazes by email, send request to [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com)**

- **Long Trail Trivia, by Herb Ogden** (answers on Page 7)

1. Where was the vision for the Long Trail (and later, the Appalachian Trail) conceived?
2. What mountain range stands west of the Greens in southern Vermont?
3. What is the only undeveloped mountain over 4000 ft. in Vermont (no roads or ski resorts)?
4. What is the lowest point on the Long Trail?
5. What is the tallest mountain in Vermont **not** in the Green Mountain range?
6. What is the trail junction called where the Appalachian Trail and Long Trail split?
7. How many editions are there of the *Long Trail Guide*?

- **GMC Volunteer Appreciation Day, September 22, 2018, by Barry Griffith**

We had a good time at the volunteer appreciation picnic held at the GMC headquarters in Waterbury Center. Our own saw bum, Larry Walter, was honored as GMC's Volunteer of the Year. As all of us in the Killington Section know, this recognition was well-deserved. See pictures below taken by Barb Griffith.



- **"Put the Trail to Bed" Work Party, November 3, 2018, by Larry Walter**

We had a very nice turnout, especially considering the weather forecast looked horrible. Besides myself and Wayne Krevetski (Co-Chairs of Trails and Shelters), the following people showed up to share the work load: Spencer Wilson, Allison Henry, Dave Coppock, Sandy Bragg, Mike Parisio and Herb Ogden. On Herb's suggestion, we broke up into two groups. One group installed a new sign on Route 4 for the AT/LT/CT trailhead (**pictures on Page 2**) and the other group installed new planks and sills just to the north of Keiffer Road in that swampy field a little south of Cold River Road. Everyone's hard work was very much appreciated.



### Two-Way Trail Magic, by Gerry Martin

Early one afternoon Chryl and I walked in to check on Minerva Hinchey and were surprised to find a man and his dog settled in. Hippie (from Virginia) explained that he was south bound to Virginia where he would complete his thru AT hike as a flip-flopper. He had reduced his miles for a day or so because his dog, Haywood, had lost weight and needed some extra rest. Hippie had swept out the shelter, which he saw as his "rent payment." He also pointed out a large wet area on the floor toward the back. A journal check revealed a note about the leaking roof from about 10 days earlier. On inspection from behind the shelter, a 4 to 5-inch hole in the roof about 4 feet from the ridge and similar distance from the right shelter wall was clear. As there was no sign of a meteorite, a tree limb seemed the likely cause. With the forecast of additional rain for the next day Chryl and I quickly drove home and brought back a ladder and all the potential repair/patch items we could find. On our return to the shelter, Hippie quickly grabbed the 7-inch-wide starter shingle roll, sprang to the rooftop and cleaned off the area around the leak. He positioned the shingle roll under the ridge cap at the top, peeled off the paper backing and stuck it down to the metal roof. He walked it down a foot or so below the hole and trimmed it off. He went over the roll several times to insure its adhesion. Fifteen minutes and a good temporary patch (it was in place and there was no more water leak a week later). **See picture on cover page.** Turns out, Hippie was a roofer. Talk about Trail Magic!! We were delighted to pass a couple of meals and some cookies along. Hippie also said Vermont got his personal award for the best constructed and maintained trails of any of the states he had hiked.

## Outing Reports

### WHITE ROCKS LOOKOUT, WALLINGFORD, September 8, 2018, Sandy Bragg, leader

On a temperate, early fall day, nine bipeds and one quadruped hiked from the White Rocks Picnic area up the Keewaydin Trail, a short (.4 mile) connector from the picnic area to the Long Trail. Led by tireless trekker, Claire, we followed the Long Trail south to the magical rock garden at the junction of the steep, but short (.2 mile) White Rocks Cliffs spur trail. Along the way, we met as many SoBo through-hikers as those heading north-bound. We lunched overlooking vistas of the Route 7 valley, the Taconic Mountains and the Adirondack Mountains in the distance. Some early migrating hawks passed below us. After lunch, Jeanne, Jerry and John headed up to the north end of the outlook, where they viewed a bald eagle. On our return to the picnic area, Claire and Isaac frolicked while the adults rested wearily.



Left to Right: Jerry, Claire, Isaac, Sunghee, Koko the dog, Jeanne, with John in back, Kristi, Nancy.



**WEST HILL CAIRNS, ROCHESTER, September 15, 2018, Larry Walter, leader**

There were some last-minute personnel changes for our trip to this puzzling assortment of rock piles. Bill Powers stepped up and did a great job guiding us through a large area containing over 100 cairns, some the size of a dog house and some larger than a garage foundation and several feet high. I had seen these several years ago with Dave Lacy (Forest Archeologist) when we were both employed by the Green Mountain National Forest.

We had a good turnout for this trip, with nine people and two dogs (Burdock, being a Cairn terrier, was obliged to attend) and several stuffed animals, including Leo the Lion.

Bill has an amazing knowledge of this area, including the history of the Smith farm and of their neighbors. We had the usual debate as to who built the cairns, some of which featured stones weighing way more than anything that could be lifted without some mechanical advantage (tripods, plus block & tackle and a lot of hemp rope). We agreed that perhaps the Smith boys were a bit eccentric. They managed to free up some extra grazing land with their careful assembly of large stone walls with smaller debris thrown in the middle, but was it worth hundreds of hours and all that extra sweat? Most of the cairns were built on existing outcrops, so it seemed obvious that they were centered about agricultural interests. None of them appeared to have served as loading docks for livestock. Many of them ran in a non-linear direction.

We finished the hike with a walk through the old Smith farm homestead. There were several cellar holes and some of the apple trees were still alive. Bill said they had never found a well, but there was evidence of a small dam up the hill. Wooden pipes to the house? They were ambitious enough. Definitely worth the trip.



**Herb, Sunghee, Sue and Bill taking a break.**

**SHEWSBURY PEAK, SHREWSBURY, September 29, 2018, Barb and Barry Griffith, leaders**

We had a great trip up Shrewsbury Peak -- good foliage and views. We met a hiking group from UVM bound for Cooper Lodge for the night. They almost headed off the wrong way from the peak, but we set them straight and shared some trail magic. A good time was had by all. **See picture at top of next page.**





**Linda, Diane, Rene, Chryl, Nancy, Gerry, John, Isaac, Sunghee and Claire on the Peak.**

#### **DORSET AREA HIKES, October 14, 2018, Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee, leaders**

The weather was crisp and sunny. Perfect for hiking. Sue, John and Cindy joined us. For our first hike, parking was on the "Green" near the Dorset Inn. From there, we did a pleasant road walk to the trailhead on the West Road. We hiked about a mile up a newly established mountain bike trail off of West Road (Northshire Area Trail Systems) to a narrow, but pleasant view of Dorset Village. These trails are on private property, so if you visit, please don't take any side-trips. The leaves were down, and we had the trail all to ourselves. There are about 6 miles of trail up there comprised of two adjoining loops. It would be fun to snowshoe up there, although it may be hard to find the trails.

Our next stop was to The Pinnacle (off of Pinnacle Lane just south of the Dorset Inn on Route 30). There is a cool stone & mortar tower at the top, built in 1910 at the request of Miss Cecelia deNottbeck (great granddaughter of John Jacob Astor) to "replicate a 'ruin' from the English landscape." It has obviously been restored. The land immediately around the tower was cleared of most vegetation, which provided us with two nice views. There were also some benches available that provided us with a nice spot for lunch. There's a decent little trail system in and around the hill top with color-coded maps available on the web. Not all of the colors were accurate, but it's easy to figure out. The Town of Dorset acquired the property in 2005 through the generosity of the late Robert and Margaret Keeler.

Next on our list was a trip through the Cutler Memorial Forest off of Peace Street, which was just a short drive from Pinnacle Lane. The trail is probably around a mile, fairly flat and includes a footbridge over the Mettawee River. Would be a nice place to just have a club picnic as the Mettawee River runs through the middle of the park and there are several nice benches and even a barbecue near the footbridge. The property was given to the Town of Dorset in 1976 by a Mrs. Isabella Cutler.

Last on the trip list was a hike up to Gettysburg Quarry via Black Rock Lane and Ken's Camp Road, both off of Route 30. There are several quarries off this dead-end parking lot in what's known as Owl's Head Town Forest. There's a short, but stiff hike (0.45 miles, 800' elevation gain) up the old quarry road to the Gettysburg Quarry and a side trail to a stone bench with a nice view.

From there, the ladies chose to call it a day and left John and I to our own devices. We decided to hike on up the hill in search of the Gilbert Lookout. Viv and I had tried to find it a week earlier with no luck. We passed another couple who had also been searching in vain. The leaves had melted off enough to see the actual rock, so we were able to scramble up something that loosely resembled a trail to the lookout, following directions within the Owl's Head website. It proved to be worth the effort as we perched on an anvil like rock that juts out from the southwesterly face of Owl's Head. We noticed that another trail took off to the northwest so we followed that as it descended northwesterly along a flagged preliminary trail location that eventually wound its way back down to a new sign (Owl's Head and Gilbert Lookout) and a



much better, newly constructed trail. We followed that back to the north (all new construction), east and south to where it eventually wound its way to the summit of Owl's Head. The last 1000' was just a pin-flag line. I suspect they'll finish that section next year. The funny thing is, when walking back on the trail we came in on from aforementioned sign, it never quite met up with the first trail we were on. We passed a marked boundary, so suspect they're waiting for an OK from the owner to build the final little connector. From what we could ascertain, the intent is to build a trail on out to the northeast to other peaks. John and I passed another couple on the way out who confessed they had unsuccessfully searched for Gilbert Lookout several times. I hope they found it based on our instructions.



**Art's Bench and view near Gettysburg Quarry.**



**Gettysburg Quarry.**



**Partial view from the Pinnacle Tower site.**



**Mettawee footbridge.**



**Hiking up mountain bike trail.**



**Partial view from mountain bike trail.**

#### **LONG TRAIL TRIVIA ANSWERS**

1. The Summit of Stratton Mountain. The AT was conceived by Benton Mackaye.
2. Taconic Mountains.
3. Camels Hump.
4. The Winooski River, 326 feet.
5. Mount Equinox, 3840 feet, Bennington County, Taconic Range.
6. Maine Junction.
7. 28 editions. First edition published 1917 and most recent is the centennial edition, published 2017



Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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.....\$45  
Family.....\$60  
Senior/Student/Friend.....\$25

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



## **GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB: KILLINGTON SECTION OUTINGS ([www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org))**

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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City.** Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call hike leader if you have any questions. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**NOTE:** Hike details may change at the last minute due to various unexpected conditions – always a good idea to confirm with hike leader in case of changes.

### **DECEMBER 2018-MARCH 2019**

**December 1, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**The Pinnacle, Westminster**

**Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

Loop trail to a ridge top and eventual summit of the Pinnacle with lean-to and beautiful views. The peak is 1,683 feet high, but the elevation gain for this hike is 643 feet. Moderate, 3.9 miles. The driving distance is approximately 2 hours, so if weather conditions are poor, we will reschedule this hike for another time. The view and the lean-to are worth the distance.

**December 8, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Mystery Hike**

No leader. Just meet at the Park and decide on a destination.

### **Happy Holidays to All!**

**January 5, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Rutland, 10:00 a.m. Shrewsbury Town Offices**

**Shrewsbury Trails, Shrewsbury**

**Gerry & Chryl Martin 492-2244**

Hike or snowshoe depending on conditions. Traction devices may be helpful. Moderate, 3-5 miles.

**January 12, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Long Trail, Route 4, Mendon**

**Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

We will hike to the newly-constructed Tucker-Johnson shelter, with option of continuing on to Deer Leap. Moderate, 3-5 miles.

**January 19, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Buckner Preserve, West Haven**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

Depending on snow or its absence, this could be an easy hike or moderate snowshoe or a moderate x-country ski tour. We'll go from the Old Galick Farm on easy grades about two miles north on recently brush-hogged farm lanes to a Lake Champlain overlook. We'll then return either by the same route or one with a bit more of up and down.

**January 26, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. Rutland, 10:30 a.m. Shrewsbury Town Offices**

**Shrewsbury Snowshoe, Shrewsbury**

**Barry & Barb Griffith 492-3573**

Conditions permitting, we'll snowshoe approximately 3 miles.

**February 2, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Notch Road Loop, Mendon**

**Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

We'll head east from the end of the maintained section of Notch Road, crossing North Fork of the Cold River Road, then follow the river south before heading over a north-south version of Notch Road (labeled Northam Road on some maps) and return. Snowshoes or traction devices may be needed. Moderate, about 4 miles.

**February 10, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Black Mountain Ponds, New York State**

**Allison Henry 779-4404**

Snowshoe to a chain of scenic, backcountry ponds. Moderate, 4-5 miles.

**February 17, Sunday, 10:20 a.m. Rutland, 11:00 a.m. East Poultney Green**

**Snowshoe Trek, East Poultney**

**Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

Destination to be determined by conditions. Call leader for details.

**February 23, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Snake Mountain, Addison**

**Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

Hike on old woods road and trails to top of the north-south running ridge with beautiful views of Addison County farms below, Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks in the distance. Moderate, 3.6 miles with approximately 950 feet of elevation gain.

**March 2, Saturday**

**Winter Trails Day, Londonderry**

**GMC Headquarters (802) 244-7037**

See your *Long Trail News* for details about this annual event. It's a great chance to try out equipment, meet folks from other sections and drink hot cocoa! Details can also be found at [www.geenmountainclub.org](http://www.geenmountainclub.org).



# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 72, Number 1

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

March 2019



Eliza (with Koko), Cynthia (with Millie), Kristi and Larry on the Notch Road hike.



**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2019

Larry Walter  
Allison Henry  
Wayne Krevetski\*

Term expiration 2020

Herb Ogden\*  
Cindy Taylor-Miller\*  
Sue Thomas

Term expiration 2021

Sandy Bragg\*  
Ruth Hare  
Gerry Martin

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

**Killington Section Officers:**

Herb Ogden	President
Wayne Krevetski	Vice President
Cindy Taylor-Miller	Secretary
Sandy Bragg	Treasurer

**Committee Chairs:**

Vacant	History
Sue Thomas	Outings
Larry Walter	Trails & Shelters
Wayne Krevetski	Trails & Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Cindy Taylor-Miller	Director
Larry Walter	Alternate

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee	Editor
Larry Walter	Assistant Editor

**Web Site: [www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org)**

Hilary Coolidge	Web Master
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**Contact Information**

Vivian Bebee	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com">vivianbebee@gmail.com</a>
Sandy Bragg	346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, <a href="mailto:sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com">sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com</a>
Ruth Hare	<a href="mailto:vt_rh@protonmail.com">vt_rh@protonmail.com</a>
Allison Henry	19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 779-4404, <a href="mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com">allisonnorton1@gmail.com</a>
Wayne Krevetski	22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, <a href="mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com">wkrevetski@hotmail.com</a>
Gerry Martin	998 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738 492-2244, <a href="mailto:gdmartin2020@yahoo.com">gdmartin2020@yahoo.com</a>
Herbert Ogden	214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, <a href="mailto:hogden@vermontel.net">hogden@vermontel.net</a>
Cindy Taylor-Miller	337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, <a href="mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com">mrsgorp@gmail.com</a>
Larry Walter	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:lwalter@sover.net">lwalter@sover.net</a>



Fresh snowfall at the Tucker Johnson shelter.



## This n' That

- To receive Smoke & Blazes by email, send request to [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com)
- **April 13, 2019, 5:30 p.m., Killington Section annual meeting at Godnick Center, Deer Street, Rutland City (potluck supper, bring a dish to share and your own place setting).**
- **Annual Fall Potluck Lunch on November 18, 2018, by Herb Ogden**  
This delicious potluck was attended by only a dozen Killington Section folks, but that worked out perfectly to form four, three-member teams to compete in a Section-oriented quiz with 33 questions that I cooked up. A bonus point went to the team that composed a question that stumped the other three teams. The winning team, with 22 points and a bonus, was: Bob Perkins, Sue Thomas and Larry Walter. The prize was . . . a mention in *Smoke & Blazes*. Congratulations!

## Outing Reports

### **THE PINNACLE, WESTMINSTER WEST, December 1, 2018, Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee, leaders**

We usually have great weather for the recon hike and really bad weather for the actual event. Not the case this time, as the forecast called for clearing skies in the afternoon. It's a two-hour drive to Westminster West, so I think that spooked some folks. Plus, it's shopping-for-unnecessary-plastic-objects season (Oh, the ribbons, boxes and bags!). We had three hardened GMCers show up: Bob, Sunghee and Claire. Viv and I had scouted out the route about a week ago (before snow) and figured out all the wrong ways to get there. Best route considering Route 103 construction: Routes 7 to 11/30, 11 to 121 to Westminster West Road to West Road and finally to Windmill Hill Road N to the trailhead. The roads were a little sloppy, so the ladies talked me into driving the Jones-mobile which could easily accommodate Bernie Sanders' entire campaign staff, plus snowshoes.

Vermont had experienced a pretty sloppy snow storm two days before our hike. Hence, the road crews were still out clearing the roads and lines. There was about 12" of snow in the parking lot, with a clearly trodden snowshoe path. A larger group with three dogs had arrived just before us, and I casually reached out to one of the dogs and was rewarded with two warning nips. Thankfully, he was on his leash. No harm done, but I'll have to revise my all-dogs-are-like-Burdock assumptions for future encounters.

This park is well maintained by local volunteers (Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association). Since the snowfall, someone had already been through with a saw. On the trail, we managed to stay ahead of the larger group on the way up to the view and 3-sided shelter at the Pinnacle. We enjoyed a quick lunch at the picnic table inside the shelter and then spent some time outside enjoying the fantastic views south, west and north. Even though shelter is an open-air design, there is a larger fireplace that would provide plenty of heat during the shoulder months.

We had taken the Holden Trail up to the Pinnacle (1.4 miles). The loop continued by going down the Ridgeline Trail (1.2 miles) and then turning onto the Headwaters Trail (0.8 miles), which eventually joined into the last 0.5 miles of the Holden Trail. No tracks had gone down the Ridgeline Trail yet, and a lone skier showed up when we were getting ready to leave. The skier decided to take the longer way back, out the ridge, so Bob and I figured we'd do the same while Viv, Sunghee and Claire returned on the Holden Trail. Unfortunately, we missed the return trail sign for the Headwaters Trail, despite retracing our steps. After failing in our efforts to find the elusive 'blue' trail sign, we followed the compass back to the Holden Trail and managed to make it back to the car a half hour later than the ladies.





SHREWSBURY TRAILS, January 5, 2019, Gerry and Chryl Martin, leaders

Shrewsbury's Northam trails beckoned to a Killington section outing assembling at 10 am at the Town Office. A light dusting of snow with 20 degrees greeted 15 walkers and 5 dogs who started on the Old Plymouth Road. A five-mile journey, much of it within sight of Shrewsbury Peak, included parts of 5 trails (Lee's Large Loop, The Big Easy, School House Meadows Trail, Rave and Run and La De Da). Lee Wilson, chief trail developer and maintainer, provided expert guidance and Jerry Parker identified and interpreted a multitude of animal trails. A visit to Pierce's Store concluded the invigorating trip.



Yikes! Did she really do it???

LONG TRAIL TO TUCKER JOHNSON SHELTER, MENDON, January 12, 2019, Larry Walter, leader

Viv was looking forward to seeing the newly-constructed shelter, but the temp was hovering around 7 below that morning and she wisely decided this was not going to be her day. I wasn't sure either if anyone would show up at the park and, sure enough, after ten minutes of listening to vintage Chuck Berry on the car radio, no one did. I decided that it was going to be really nice up there as it had just snowed, so I might as well drive up and give it a whirl. While traveling at my usual 45 mph, getting passed by the 80 mph travelers up the mountain, I noticed a sleek black Nissan suddenly appear behind me, only to stubbornly refuse to pass. Due to my superior intellect, I deduced that it must be a fleeing fugitive from some credit union holdup, looking to switch cars once this obviously incapacitated old person ran off into a snow bank. Predictably, when I threw on the turn signal for the LT parking lot, said Nissan from hell followed suit. In a near panic, I skidded to a stop on the side of the road, left the engine idling, jumped out and began running up the road yelling "you can take the car!" The Nissan driver overtook me, rolled down the passenger window and offered me a brownie. It was hard to see the occupant, being totally covered with about 16 layers of wool and mystery-synthetics, but



only one person I know offers brownies to me and that's Sue (well, and Viv). So Sue and I decided to shoe-up and head out just as there was a merciful 5-second gap in the Route 4 traffic stream.

The woods were absolutely beautiful. A couple of people had post-holed up to the final bog bridge, but not too much further. The snow was fluffy on the top five inches but solid underneath, so it was much easier than Sue's hike up here last winter. I think there was over two feet of powder to deal with that time. When we hit Willard Gap, we saw several tracks heading in from the Not-A-Trail to the shelter. Didn't run into anyone the whole time, although someone had hiked most of the way out to the shelter only to turn back. Weird. The shelter is all finished now (see picture on Page 2), with a nice coat of paint (stain?). The new outhouse is really fancy (see below), although one of the hinges is broken.

Sue offered to take the Not-A-Trail and Robinwood Road back out to her car for an eventual rendezvous at the Inn at Long Trail. I took my time walking out the AT past the Deer Leap spur trail and out to the upper parking lot. There are a couple blowdowns waiting for us in that section. Sue had run into some treacherous footing along the Robinwood Road, since it had been scraped down to the equivalent of a 20-degree tilted ice hockey rink. Ha . . . that'll teach her for not braving the ice encrusted boulders I had to butt-skid over! When I got back to the Inn, I shed my pack along with 3 pounds of snow and walked in. Sue was waiting for me, having finished six drafts of Guinness along with two Michener novels and a crossword puzzle. I opted for a hot apple cider and warmed up a bit.

This above-described account is accurate to the best of my knowledge, although Sue may voice slight differences as to what actually transpired. Pay no attention to that woman behind the 16 layers of insulation!



#### BUCKLIN, NOT BUCKNER, January 19, 2019, by Herb Ogden, Leader

I had hoped for enough snow to lead a ski tour or snowshoe hike to the north end of the Nature Conservancy's Buckner Preserve in West Haven. Not only did my local informant tell me there was scant snow, but also the weather forecast was for bitter cold winds. So, the three of us who showed up on this wintry day decided to hike a couple miles up the Bucklin Trail, turning around where it leaves the Brewers Brook valley. The trail had already been snowshoed so much that we didn't need our snowshoes, but micro spikes came in handy in some places. There were some wide ski tracks as well as snowshoe tracks, proof that folks have been skiing down from Killington despite the out of bounds signs that basically say "All hope abandon, ye who enter here." Killington Rescue has wisely put up some signs telling wayward skiers how to reach Brewers Corners. They will remove them when hiking season arrives. We were a little concerned that skiers and some snowshoers have been trying to follow the pre-Irene part of the trail, which requires steeply slabbing the side of the valley at first. As we were leaving, a half dozen out-of-state snowshoers were about to head up that way till I pointed out the present blue blazed trail.

#### NOTCH ROAD LOOP, MENDON, February 2, 2019, Sandy Bragg, leader

Five bipeds and two quadrupeds (see picture on front page) braved the polar vortex on a straightforward loop along the Upper Cold River and back (amazingly no bushwhacking!). Billed as a Notch Road Loop, this might have been deceptive advertising. The original intent was to park in the lot at the end of Notch Road, near the trailhead to Bald Mountain, and begin our hike on the extension of Notch Road heading east, but a section of the road washed out in Irene. Although there is a passable trail across, it is not recommended for anyone with acrophobia because it is narrow and falls steeply down to the river bank. It had iced up in the cold temperatures so we prudently drove around, parking on what some maps refer as the Notch Road Extension and others label 'Northam Road' (and some old-timers owning camps on the road refer to as 'Russellville Road'). Whatever the name, we descended on a snowmobile trail to the bridge over the Upper Cold River leading to the real Notch Road, diverting south along the river before reaching the bridge, entering the upper spur of the Jim Jeffords State Forest. No snowmobiles had been on the trail yet, so we had a pleasant walk along the river, which was running green over its ice flows. At the half-way mark, the majority vote was to head up a side trail leading to the so-called Notch Road Extension rather than continuing along the river, keeping the outing to a short and sweet two miles.



### **BLACK MOUNTAIN PONDS, NEW YORK STATE, February 10, 2019, Allison Henry, leader**

The Black Mountain Trailhead is several turns off Route 22 between Whitehall, NY and Ticonderoga, NY. This trail network is in the Lake George Wild Forest and includes Buck Mountain, Shelving Rock Falls, Sleeping Beauty, and a bunch of other hiking destinations, most of which are usually accessed from the south end at the Hogtown Trailhead. Yes, I tend to lead hikes in NY but it's really not that far away! The drive to the Black Mountain Trailhead is less than an hour from Rutland.

The day of the hike was sunny and about 25 degrees with occasional wind. We had a small party of three humans and one dog. The dog was calm and well-behaved, with a tendency toward eating sticks. Two out of the three humans were also well behaved. The third one has a tendency toward eating sticks.

Both at the rendezvous point in Rutland and at the trailhead, we had the usual discussion of "snowshoes or spikes?" The snow at the trailhead was packed and icy, but my concern was that deeper in the woods the trail would have a crusty top with unpredictable soft spots and we'd be sinking to our knees every third step or so. We ended up carrying our snowshoes and never put them on. I think mine enjoyed the ride though.

The first part of this hike is a well-traveled woods road leading to a junction with the Black Mountain summit trail. We briefly discussed doing the loop (which would include the peak and Black Mountain Pond), but decided not to because of the likelihood of ice at the top. From the junction we continued on toward the ponds.

There are three ponds within a short distance of the trailhead including Black Mountain Pond, Millman Pond, and Lapland Pond. At the next junction, we chose the trail leading toward Black Mountain Pond because it was packed down.

At some point during the hike Larry mentioned that he is planning a long-distance bike trip. Thus ensued a discussion of how I could sneak into their house and do things to make Vivian feel like Larry was still around. Some of the best ideas included a trail of dirty socks through the house, leaving crosscut saws on the couch, leaving the toilet seat up, and banana peels on the floor. Right before we reached Black Mountain Pond, we found a medium-sized blowdown, partially frozen into the ground, which Larry happily sliced up even though most of the limbs had to stay where they were because they were frozen into the ground.

We had lunch at the campsite by the Pond, which is a huge rock slab overlooking the pond, with a lean-to back in the woods. We returned to the trailhead via the same route and, as usual, the hike out seemed a lot shorter than the way in. According to our various electronic devices, the hike was a little over six miles.



**Black Mountain Pond**



**Woe is me! I know that pond is around here somewhere.**



**SNAKE MOUNTAIN, ADDISON, February 23, 2019, Larry Walter, leader**

Viv, our friend Jeff, and I did this hike a couple of weeks before scheduled group hike. Today was one of those rare instances when the test-hike weather wasn't as nice as the official one since some recent snow had been people-pounded into a nice solid surface without being icy. Perfect for the micro-spikes. Luckily, the ATV riders hadn't torn up the road like they had a couple weeks ago when it was all wet and then froze into large ruts that made it difficult to maneuver with micro-spikes or snowshoes.

Our group consisted of Burdock and Ivy, plus six humans (me, John, Jerry, Sue, Diane and Darby). Since the trail is so much nicer than the old road route, we decided to take it up and back. This is a relatively easy to moderate hike that gives you a wonderful view over the valley and into the western Adirondacks. Jerry got Ivy to climb a cantilevered log to show off her areal talents. Burdock, being the fine 12-year-old gentleman he is, stayed on grounda-firma. We passed several other people coming and going to the viewpoint. It's a popular destination for good reason. We'll repeat in the future for sure.



**Jerry and Ivy**



**Darby, Sue, John, Diane and Jerry (with Burdock and Ivy)**

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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.....\$45  
Family.....\$60  
Senior/Student/Friend.....\$25

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



## **GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB: KILLINGTON SECTION OUTINGS ([www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org))**

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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City.** Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call hike leader if you have any questions. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**NOTE:** Hike details may change at the last minute due to various unexpected conditions – always a good idea to confirm with hike leader in case of changes.

### **MARCH 2019-JUNE 2019**

**March 9, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Mendon Peak, Mendon**

**Sandy Bragg 492-2143**

Snowshoe to the 3,840-foot summit for spectacular views. A strenuous climb with some bushwhacking, approximately 6 miles.

**March 16, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Buckner Preserve, West Haven (rescheduled)**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

Depending on snow or its absence, this could be an easy hike or moderate snowshoe or a moderate x-country ski tour. We'll go from the Old Galick Farm on easy grades about two miles north on recently brush-hogged farm lanes to a Lake Champlain overlook. We'll then return either by the same route or one with a bit more ups and downs. As this is a Nature Conservancy preserve, dogs are prohibited.

**March 24, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Ira to Middletown Springs Road Walk**

**Larry Walter 775-3855**

We will spot cars for this Class 4 dirt road walk beginning at the Ira Town office and ending at the Middletown Springs park across from the village store. Come prepared for snow, ice or mud. Moderate, 6 miles, with some climbing on the eastern flank of Herrick Mountain and Spruce Knob.

**March 30, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Rutland, 10:00 a.m. Cuttingsville P.O. off Route 103**

**Bear Mountain, Wallingford**

**Gerry and Chryl Martin 492-2244**

Follow the Long Trail/AT north over Bear Mountain to Spring Lake. Snowshoes or grippers may be needed. Moderate, 4 miles, with a few steep climbs and descents.

**April 7, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Pharoh Lake Wilderness, Ticonderoga, NY**

**Allison Henry 779-4404**

Exact route will be determined by conditions. There are several beautiful ponds to choose from. Moderate, 5-6 miles.

**April 13, Saturday, 5:30 p.m.**

**Killington Section Annual Meeting**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

We will meet at the Godnick Center on Deer Street in Rutland City for a potluck supper, followed by a short business meeting with a report from the Main Club and election of officers. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. All are welcome! A great introduction to local opportunities to hike and maintain the LT/AT.

**April 20, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Return to Rum Street, West Woodstock**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Back by popular demand – explore a 19<sup>th</sup> century farm community where stone walls and cellar holes are all that remain, and hear excerpts from a diary kept by a teenager who lived there. Optional loop around a small reservoir. Moderate 2.5 - 3 miles.

**April 27, Saturday, 10:30 a.m.**

**Merck Forest and Farmland Center, Rupert**

**Larry Walter and Vivian Bebee 775-3855**

We have not decided which trails yet, but most likely a view will be available. We have also reserved the Barn Cabins for those of us who want to stay one or two nights. There are wood stoves in the Cabins and wood is provided. The Cabins are only a half mile from the Visitor Center, so we can unload our gear and enjoy our hike with a lighter load. If you would like to stay overnight, please call us to reserve a spot. There is no charge as this was a gift to Larry.

**May 4, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. (rain date, Sunday)**

**Boiling Spring, Chittenden**

**Barb and Barry Griffith 492-3573**

Follow old wood roads through the New Boston area to find this unusual site where water bubbles up from the ground. Moderate, 7 miles.

**May 11, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. (rain date, Sunday)**

**Long Trail Spring Cleaning**

**Larry Walter 775-3855, Wayne Krevetski 282-2237**

All are welcome to help prepare the trail for the summer hiking season. Bring your gloves, water and lunch. Tools will be provided. Have fun while doing a good deed.

**May 19, Sunday, 10:15 a.m. Rutland, 11:00 a.m. East Poultney Green**

**Haystack Mountain, Pawlet**

**Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

Spectacular views of the Mettawee River Valley and the Taconic Range from the summit. Moderate 3 miles with some steep pitches. 1,000 feet of elevation gain. Sorry, no dogs are allowed at Nature Conservancy preserves.

**May 31 – June 2, Friday through Sunday**

**Green Mountain Club Annual Meeting** – Held this year at Windridge Tennis and Sports Camps in Roxbury. See your *Long Trail News* for details or visit [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

**June 8, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. (rain date, Sunday)**

**Upper Elevation Work Party**

**Wayne Krevetski 282-2237, Larry Walter 775-3855**

Join us to do spring cleaning and maintenance on the higher stretches of the LT/AT. Bring work gloves, water and lunch. Tools will be provided.



# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 72, Number 2

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

June 2019



Melissa and Spencer on the trail - enjoying a job well done (article on Page 5).



### **Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2020

Herb Ogden\*  
Cindy Taylor-Miller\*  
Sue Thomas

Term expiration 2021

Sandy Bragg\*  
Ruth Hare  
Gerry Martin

Term expiration 2022

Larry Walter\*  
Allison Henry\*  
Spencer Wilson

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

### **Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee Editor  
Larry Walter Assistant Editor

### **Contact Information**

Vivian Bebee	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com">vivianbebee@gmail.com</a>
Sandy Bragg	346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, <a href="mailto:sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com">sanfordbbragg@yahoo.com</a>
Ruth Hare	<a href="mailto:vt_rh@protonmail.com">vt_rh@protonmail.com</a>
Allison Henry	19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 779-4404, <a href="mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com">allisonnorton1@gmail.com</a>
Wayne Krevetski	22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, <a href="mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com">wkrevetski@hotmail.com</a>
Gerry Martin	998 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738 492-2244, <a href="mailto:gdmartin2020@yahoo.com">gdmartin2020@yahoo.com</a>
Herbert Ogden	214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, <a href="mailto:hogden@vermontel.net">hogden@vermontel.net</a>
Cindy Taylor-Miller	337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, <a href="mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com">mrsgorp@gmail.com</a>
Larry Walter	14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, <a href="mailto:lwalter@sover.net">lwalter@sover.net</a>
Spencer Wilson	353-3969

### **Killington Section Officers:**

Herb Ogden	President
Cindy Taylor-Miller	Vice President
Allison Henry	Secretary
Sandy Bragg	Treasurer

### **Committee Chairs:**

Vacant	History
Sue Thomas	Outings
Larry Walter	Trails & Shelters
Wayne Krevetski	Trails & Shelters

### **Delegates to GMC Board:**

Larry Walter	Director
Ruth Hare	Alternate

### **Web Site: [www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org)**

Hilary Coolidge	Web Master
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Jonathan, Lisa, Jerry, Karen and John on Mendon Peak (article on Page 3).



## **This n' That**

- **To receive Smoke & Blazes by email, send request to [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com)**
- **AUGUST 3, 2019 – LONG TRAIL DAY:** Individuals and groups will hike segments of the Long Trail to complete the entire 272-mile trail in one day, all while raising money for the GMC to continue the Club's work caring for the mountains and trails of Vermont. Then continue your adventure with other hikers at local watering holes across the state to celebrate the completion of the trail. Details to be announced at [www.greenmountainclub.org/longtrailday/](http://www.greenmountainclub.org/longtrailday/), or contact Kristen McLane at 802-241-8324, [kmclane@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:kmclane@greenmountainclub.org).
- **The Inn at Long Trail Community Event held on February 24, 2019, by Cindy Taylor-Miller**  
The GMC Membership Committee asked committee members to search for local venues to host a community event. Our goal, to spread awareness of the GMC and support our local businesses at the same time. The Inn at Long Trail agreed to sponsor the GMC and hosted a very special event on a blustery and snowy February day. It just happened that the premiere Vermont Irish band "Extra Stout" would be performing in McGrath's Irish Pub at the Inn on this same day! Great advertising from the Mountain Times and Rutland Herald had folks filling the Pub on this wintry day. The door raffle sales were a success and attendees enjoyed two simultaneous slide show programs, one in the Pub and the other in the living room area of the Inn. Afterwards, several members enjoyed a delicious dinner at Rosemary's Restaurant at the Inn. The Killington Section is very thankful to have The Inn at Long Trail as a supportive business member of our hiking community. Thank you, Patty and staff!

## **Outing Reports**

### **MENDON PEAK, MENDON, March 9, 2019, by Sandy Bragg, leader**

Because the Eddy Brook trail leading to the saddle between Mendon and Little Killington is heavily used by back-country skiers during the winter, we snowshoed a more direct route up the southwestern slope of Mendon. After a spell of bitter cold earlier in the week, the day of the hike was bright, sunny and mild with bluebird skies. Six bipeds and three quadrupeds participated.

We began from a parking area just south of the Wheelerville parking spot, which has a short connector trail to the main VAST 7 snowmobile trail. We followed the snowmobile trail south until reaching the point where the Catamount trail splits off to the south. We stayed on the Catamount, which was largely unbroken save for my pre-hike snowshoe prints, until we crossed VAST 7 again and then shortly after diverted to begin a gradual ascent along the south face of the western Mendon ridge.

The terrain is very pleasant, with a series of terraced plateaus, gladed with beech and maple and increasing views of Robinson Hill and points south. As we neared the final ascent up the peak, we passed through extensive moose sign in a natural clearing in the balsam and spruce. Jerry diverted briefly looking for shed antlers. The final trudge led us to the 3,840-foot peak displaying the plastic capsule containing the register, well grooved by porcupine teeth.

We had a leisurely lunch on the lee south side of Mendon, savoring crystal panorama of Stratton, Magic Mountain, Okemo, Cardigan to the east and the Adirondacks to the west. Without a doubt, Mendon offers some the best views in the Killington section and we couldn't have had a better day for it. With some reluctance to drag ourselves away, we began our descent, in places breaking new trail before retracing our route back to the Catamount and the waiting cars.

Total distance was just under 5 miles with over 2,000 feet of elevation gain.

### **IRA TO MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS ROAD WALK, March 24, 2019, by Larry Walter, leader**

I originally scheduled this hike with the intention of staying off of muddy trails, but it turned out to be a snow-covered event. Ten humans and two dogs hit the trail out of Ira after spotting Jerry's car at the Middletown Springs end. The sun was out most of the day, so it's a good thing I smeared on some SPF30 in the morning. This is an old Class 4 road that's now a part of the VAST system. We were surprised when we didn't see any snow machine tracks once we passed the last full-season home (see pictures below this article). There were a couple stems blown onto the trail. The group sort-of stayed together for a while, until three folks, due to prior commitments, headed back to the parking lot at Ira. At that point, the group broke into two sections, which was fine, because the lead group had time to shuttle another car up North Road to pick up the trailing group, which had pretty much walked enough. We were passed by about 4 snow



machines near the end of the hike on the Class 4 section. They must have been packing a chainsaw. This is a nice hike to take in the winter, with good views of Herrick and Spruce Knob along the way. The grades are easy, but I was a bit off in the total distance. Probably more like 7+ miles, one-way.



**PHAROH LAKE WILDERNESS, TICONDEROGA, NY, April 7, 2019, Allison Henry, leader, photo by Larry Walter**



**This tree has nothing to worry about from either Sue's hiking pole or Allison's hand saw. Really!**

**RUM STREET, WEST WOODSTOCK, April 20, 2019, by Sue Thomas, leader**

We had another wet hike on Rum Street, with the added bonus this time of some large patches of snow and ice still lingering. But thanks to my intrepid crew, we had a good time inspite of unrelenting rain, and a few laughs as everyone pitched in to read snippets from the diary of Charles Cobb, who lived on Rum Street from 1842-1854 and began recording his observations at the age of 14. He was mercilous in his depictions of his neighbors, which provided for entertaining reading today, but I'm grateful he wasn't there to comment on our soggy selves.

Maybe third time's the charm and the next time we visit, the sun gods will smile on us.



### **LONG TRAIL SPRING CLEANING, May 11, 2019, by Larry Walter, trails and shelters co-chairman**

We had such a nice sunny day, with a turnout of four workers: Dave Coppock, Dave Skidmore, Melissa Reichert, Spender Wilson and myself. Collectively, we cleared all of the blowdowns from Upper Cold River Road to about 1.5 miles short of the Governor Clement Shelter and we pretty much cleared most of the waterbars. We were on the trail for about 5 hours. See picture on the front cover. The tree trunk next to Spencer is the root wad end and when they finished making the cut, it popped up taller than Spencer.

I lost my pocket calendar on the trail and went back later to try and find it, but with no luck. That evening, I got a phone call from a couple who had found it on the trail and said they would leave it at Little Harry's (restaurant in downtown Rutland). A great place to eat, by the way. Turns out one of the hikers was the daughter of the restaurant owner. If you are reading this, thank you again! More trail work pictures below.



The right tool for the right job.



Walking the plank . . . or, in this case, the blowdown.



How long did you say this would take?



Wait a minute . . . you pull first.

### **HAYSTACK MOUNTAIN, PAWLET, May 19, 2019, by Larry Walter, substitute leader**

Viv and I scouted out this hike the day before and the weather was absolutely fantastic. The actual hike day proved to be a bit muggy, but the T-Cells held off longer than forecast. Sue, Nancy, George and I filled out the list. Unlike the day before, the trailhead parking was open, so we parked and chugged up the farm road, dodging cow splatter (the honey wagon had just gone up the hill when Viv and I were walking out on Saturday). Once we were off the road, things got a lot quieter. The Nature Conservancy has built a very nice bridge over the major brook crossing. We hit it early enough to avoid most of the blackfly hatch, plus it was fairly windy. I'll never tire of the view from the top. It's grown



in a bit to the northwest, but we still had a good 300 degree panorama at the top. The final ¼ mile is a pretty steep little climb. The Conservancy isn't really in the trail business, but they've done some nice work on some sections to slow down future erosion problems. Other places pretty much follow the old tread into the saddle, with zero switchbacks. I hope there are some locals who take this nice little trail under their wings.



Haystack on left, turn left onto Conservancy trail at the top of this farm road.



Sunbathing on the trail is never easy.



Violets



Trout Lilly



Where's the chippy?

## **Killington Section Directors' Meeting Minutes**

April 13, 2019

by Cindy Taylor-Miller, Secretary

Herb Ogden called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

Directors present: Herb Ogden, Wayne Krevetski, Cindy Taylor-Miller, Sandy Bragg, Larry Walter, Sue Thomas and Ruth Hare. Directors absent: Allison Henry and Gerry Martin.

Approved the Minutes of the April 8, 2018 Board of Directors. Motion by Thomas/Walter.

A brief discussion was held of possible nominees for one board member opening and for representative to the Main Club.

Discussion of trip-leader rules and how to deal with dog issues. Suggestions were to add a current edition of the leader handbook to the back of the sign in book and place basic guidelines for leaders on the Killington Section website.

There will be a "Best Practices for Trip Leaders" workshop on Sunday morning of the GMC annual meeting on June 2, 2019 in Roxbury.

Meeting adjourned 5:30 p.m. for pre-annual meeting potluck dinner.



# **Killington Section 108th Annual Meeting Minutes**

April 13, 2019

by Cindy Taylor-Miller

President Herb Ogden called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

Directors present: Herb Ogden, Wayne Krevetski, Cindy Taylor-Miller, Sandy Bragg, Larry Walter, Sue Thomas and Ruth Hare. Directors absent: Allison Henry and Gerry Martin.

Special guest: Tom Candon, GMC President.

Approval of Minutes: The April 8, 2018 annual meeting minutes approved. Motion by Griffith/Thomas.

GMC President remarks by Tom Candon: As we near the end of FY 2019 with a small surplus, contributions are up and membership is down. On track in the second year of our five-year strategic plan. Working on the acquisition of a 6.5-mile tract of land, "Coddington Hollow" in Johnson, Vermont. We are in the "silent" phase of a four million dollar capital campaign to be publicly announced in 2020. GMC will be launching a new marketing campaign, Hike VT-Love GMC. The board approved an initial design concept to renovate and improve the Herrick building. We now have electronic versions (e-pubs) of some of our maps and guides. The Bromley Tower rebuild will go forward now that funds have been secured for this purpose. The club will hire a southern field assistant this season. The board approved a policy in line with NPS restrictions for unmanned aircraft "Drones".

Approval of Treasurer's Report presented by Sandy Bragg. Total assets as of 3/31/2019 are \$27,934. The report was approved by voice vote. Motion by Miller/Walter.

Main Club Director's Report by Cindy Taylor-Miller. In addition to President Candon's comments, the board approved three more items: the 2020 budget of 1.8 million dollars; a policy in line with NPS restrictions for unmanned "drone" aircraft; and to reduce the range of the annual endowment distribution for operations from 4-6% to 3-5%.

Smoke & Blazes Report by Vivian Bebee: Please submit your trip reports and pictures to Vivian. To help reduce the cost of producing the quarterly newsletter, members are asked to sign up for the electronic version (e-pub) of S&B.

Outings Report by Sue Thomas: We've had great trips on almost every weekend. Please get information in to me for upcoming schedules as early as possible so that Viv can get the newsletter out on time. I would also welcome new hike Leaders to contact me and give it a try.

Trails & Shelter Report by Larry Walter and Wayne Krevetski: Several blowdowns reported from Route 73 to Clement Shelter. Pico Camp needs repairs to benches, table and roof. Governor Clement privy will be replaced this summer.

Website Report: The Killington Section Hikers Services pdf was recently updated.

New Business: The Inn at Long Trail community event held in February raised \$250 for the club.

Upcoming Events: Annual Meeting in Roxbury, Vermont is June 1st and Long Trail Day is August 3rd.

Election of New Directors: Nominations accepted for one vacancy on the board. Spencer Wilson elected by voice vote.

The directors met to elect officers and a new representative to the Main Club Board of Directors. Killington Section officers are: President, Herb Ogden; Vice President, Cindy Taylor-Miller; Treasurer, Sandy Bragg; Secretary, Allison Henry. Larry Walter is the KS representative to the Main Club Board of Directors and Ruth Hare is alternate.

Adjournment.

Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



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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



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**NOTE:** Hike details may change at the last minute due to various unexpected conditions – always a good idea to confirm with hike leader in case of changes.

### **JUNE 2019-AUGUST 2019**

**June 15, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Rutland, 10:00 a.m. Cuttingsville P.O. off Route 103**

**Bear Mountain, Wallingford**

**Gerry and Chryl Martin 492-2244**

Follow the Long Trail/AT north over Bear Mountain to Spring Lake. Moderate, 4 miles, with a few steep climbs and descents.

**June 22, Saturday, call for meeting place and time**

**Dean Preserve, East Poultney**

**Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

Hike to an overlook for views of Lake St. Catherine, with option for a longer trek or a swim afterward at the State Park.

**June 30, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.**

**Stratton Mountain/Stratton Pond Loop, Stratton**

**Allison Henry 779-4404**

A long hike with fire tower views and a beautiful pond. Moderate, 10.6 miles

**July 7, Sunday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Pittsford Trails, Pittsford**

**Jerry Parker 775-6208**

Explore a new trail to a viewpoint, with a possible extra adventure – call leader for details! Moderate, approximately 3 miles.

**July 13, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Around Wilder Mountain, Mount Tabor**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

Hike old highways and wood roads past long-abandoned farms, with some views, making a loop around Wilder Mountain. Moderate, 6 miles, 600' total climb.

**July 21, Sunday, 8:30 a.m.**

**Hunger Mountain, Worcester**

**Allison Henry 779-4404**

Climb via the Waterbury Trail to the rocky 3,539' summit for excellent views of the Greens and Whites. Difficult, 4.4 miles with 2,290' elevation gain.

**July 28, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Around the Reservoir, Chittenden**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Follow old wood roads from the former settlement of New Boston, winding down to Lefferts Pond. Bring a swim suit for a dip in the reservoir, if you'd like. Moderate, approximately 4 miles.

**August 3, Saturday**

**Long Trail Day – Statewide**

Individuals and groups will hike segments of the Long Trail to cover the entire 272 miles in one day. Go to [greenmountainclub.org/longtrailday](http://greenmountainclub.org/longtrailday) for information and to sign up.

**August 10, Saturday, 9:00 a.m., Diamond Run Mall, Rutland**

**Paddle the Poultney River**

**Barry & Barb Griffith 492-3573**

This relaxing paddle along the scenic Vermont/New York border has become an annual event. Bring binoculars for bird watching! Meet at the former Sears parking lot at the Diamond Run Mall, Rutland.

**August 17, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Little Rock Pond, Wallingford**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Hike in to this beautiful pond for a swim with the loons (optional!). Will go in via Wallingford Pond and out down the Homer Stone Brook Trail. Moderate, 5 miles.

**August 25, Sunday, 1:00 p.m. (rain date – Sunday, September 1)**

**Hawk Hill Trails, Brandon**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

We'll begin at Otter Valley High School and climb Hawk Hill via Frohloff's Loop and the Old Brandon Road to visit a cemetery that goes back to the Revolutionary War. Anyone who has transportation, may return at that point, hiking about 1.5 miles round trip. The official hike will continue north on the Old Brandon Road past several cellar holes, then return by the Rossiter, Cutler and Ambier Trails, for beautiful views west and east from the rocky ridge and then a walk along the base of the cliffs.

**THURSDAY HIKE SCHEDULE**

The Rutland Recreation and Parks Dept. sponsors a series of hikes at a less strenuous pace for seniors. Hikes typically cover 2-4 miles, involve limited to moderate elevation gain, and try to avoid treacherous footing. Bring water and a lunch, wear sturdy footwear, and be prepared for Vermont weather. Bring bug spray, and guard against ticks by wearing long sleeves and pants. Meet on **Thursdays at 9 am** at the Godnick Center on Deer Street to car pool. We return in early to mid-afternoon. **For further details, call hike leader.** All are welcome. NOTE: Hikes are subject to change due to weather and/or trail conditions. (.....and please, no dogs). State Parks: free admission w/Green Mountain Passport or \$4 per person.

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	Visit this wildflower (Showy Lady's Slippers!) and bog site & historic Rum Rd. Easy.	
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	Follow logging roads to abandoned hotel site at summit. Spectacular views of Lake Champlain Valley. Some steeper sections. No snakes! Moderate	



# Smoke & Blazes

Volume 72, Number 3

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

September 2019



Herb and Melissa enjoying view of Wallingford Pond (see "Around Wilder Mountain" on Page 6).



**Killington Section Directors:**

Term expiration 2020

Herb Ogden\*

Cindy Taylor-Miller\*

Sue Thomas

Term expiration 2021

Sandy Bragg\*

Ruth Hare

Gerry Martin

Term expiration 2022

Larry Walter\*

Allison Henry\*

Spencer Wilson

\*Second consecutive 3-year term.

Not eligible for re-election.

**Killington Section Officers:**

Herb Ogden

President

Cindy Taylor-Miller

Vice President

Allison Henry

Secretary

Sandy Bragg

Treasurer

**Committee Chairs:**

Vacant

History

Sue Thomas

Outings

Larry Walter

Trails &amp; Shelters

Wayne Krevetski

Trails &amp; Shelters

**Delegates to GMC Board:**

Larry Walter

Director

Ruth Hare

Alternate

**Smoke & Blazes:**

Vivian Bebee Editor

Larry Walter Assistant Editor

**Web Site: [www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org)**

Sunghee Jones

Web Master

**Contact Information**

Vivian Bebee

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com)

Sandy Bragg

346 Russellville Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, 492-2143, [sanfordbragg@yahoo.com](mailto:sanfordbragg@yahoo.com)

Ruth Hare

[vt\\_rh@protonmail.com](mailto:vt_rh@protonmail.com)

Allison Henry

19 Hillside Road, Rutland, VT 05701, 779-4404, [allisonnorton1@gmail.com](mailto:allisonnorton1@gmail.com)

Wayne Krevetski

22 Roberts Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 282-2237, [wkrevetski@hotmail.com](mailto:wkrevetski@hotmail.com)

Gerry Martin

998 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738 492-2244, [gdmartin2020@yahoo.com](mailto:gdmartin2020@yahoo.com)

Herbert Ogden

214 South End Road, Mount Tabor, VT 05253-9756, 293-2510, [hogden@vermontel.net](mailto:hogden@vermontel.net)

Cindy Taylor-Miller

337 East Street, Wallingford, VT 05773, 446-2288, [mrsgorp@gmail.com](mailto:mrsgorp@gmail.com)

Larry Walter

14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, [lwalter@sover.net](mailto:lwalter@sover.net)

Spencer Wilson

353-3969



Board of Directors: Sue, Sandy, Ruth, Spencer, Larry, Herb and Cindy (Gerry and Allison not pictured)



## **This n' That**

- To receive Smoke & Blazes by email, send request to [vivianbebee@gmail.com](mailto:vivianbebee@gmail.com)

**November 17, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., Killington Section Annual Fall potluck at the Godnick Center, Deer Street, Rutland City. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. After lunch, there will be a slide presentation and stories to be told by Larry Walter of his coast to coast bicycle trip this past summer.**

### **August 3, 2019, Long Trail Day a Huge Success**

This year's Long Trail Day (8/3/19) raised \$38,691 in donations to support the Long Trail and the Green Mountain Club! Kudos to Killington Section members for their efforts. Treasurer, Sandy Bragg, was the overall top fund raiser "Long Trail Champion" award winner bringing in \$2,300. Vice President, Cynthia Taylor-Miller, reached the "Long Distance Hiker" milestone at \$725 and President, Herb Ogden, reached the "End-to-End" milestone at \$450. That's an overall total of \$3,475 from Killington Section directors! Nice job Killington Section! After hiking that day, Cindy and her husband, Larry, were trail ambassadors at the Long Trail Brewery and signed up 10 new members to the GMC.



Kristi, Mark, Connie, Chryl, Gerry, Blanche and Sandy (and canine friends: Mr. Finch, Sedge, Sadie and Koko)

### **August 9, 2019, Wayfair Volunteers Improve the Way, by Herb Ogden**

We recently had a lot of help from fifteen volunteers whose day job is in Boston with the big home furnishing e-commerce company, Wayfair. The company employs more than 14,500 people as of June 30, 2019 and is headquartered in Boston, with operations throughout North America and Europe. It gives its employees one paid community service day per year. Back in the spring, Wayfair employee, Alexandra Rigobon, contacted me to see if the Killington Section would like some volunteer help. Of course, the answer was yes. We settled on Friday, August 9, and decided to improve the Long Trail in the swampy area a mile north of Gov. Clement Shelter. So, on the day before, 15 Wayfair folks drove up to Killington so they could spend the night there and arrive fresh and ready to work at a meeting place on Clement Shelter Road. Our Trails & Shelters Co-Chair, Wayne Krevetski, trucked digging and prying tools and bog



bridging up to where the LT diverges from the old road. Jerry Parker had already been hard at work on site with a couple of come-alongs to yank boulders into place. Jerry, Burdock, Wayne, Dave Coppock, Barry Griffith and I joined the 15 Boston-area volunteers. In less than six hours, we created four stretches of big stepping stones and turnpiking, both replacing some stretches of rotted bog bridging and turning others into a secure dry footpath. (No more "footpath in the wilderness," here!) This piece of trail is now in the best condition I can remember since I first hiked it around 1960. Jerry plans further improvements, including replacing the bog bridging over Government Brook before it rots. He plans to do this with an arch shaped rock that looks like it weighs half a ton! Stay tuned. Maybe this will be the next Wayfair project. Their organizer, Alexandra, summed up the day by writing . . . "our group had a lot of fun learning from you guys and though we are pooped right now, everyone seems excited about the idea to come back next year again." Many thanks to this group for an important job well done!



(L-R) Front – Quinn Nguye, Arey Doursounian, Stefano Barbier, Alexandra Rigobon, Jaime Dominguez, Jackson Yang, Dave Coppock and Burdock; Middle-Jerry Parker, Wayne Krevetski, Yifan Sun, Brianna Kincaid, Michelle Lin, Michaela Murray, Tracy Chen, Scott Schechner and Dan Snyder; Back-Adi Jagdish, Adhi Raiasimhan and Barry Griffith

## Outing Reports

### **NOT STRATTON MOUNTAIN LOOP, June 30, 2019, by Allison Henry, leader**

I had been looking forward to this hike for weeks, not only because I haven't been to Stratton Mt. and Stratton Pond in a few years, but also because it was going to be one of my first official hikes of summer. In the days leading up to the hike the weather forecast was iffy and I received zero inquiries from interested parties. The morning of the hike, it was humid and drizzly. I made a halfhearted attempt at getting myself prepared for a hike just in case anyone showed up for it. When I got to the rendezvous point at the park, no takers at first. Then right at 8 am a cairn terrier and his human showed up!

As we headed south on Route 7, right near Emerald Lake we saw a bobcat cross the road! That's only the second time I've ever seen one. Definitely a highlight.

At some point we were looking at the cloudy sky and the nearby peaks all socked in, and decided it wouldn't be worth it to drive all the way to Stratton Mountain to hike in rain and fog. We chose Lye Brook Falls instead, deciding that



the falls would be great in rainy weather. There were very few cars at the trailhead when we started out. The hike to the Falls is not very difficult and we set out at an easy pace while Burdock covered twice the ground by running up and down the trail. We had heard that the spur trail to the Falls had had a washout during Irene. When we got up there, it was quite the sight, even after almost eight years. It looked like someone had dumped a load of rocks and dirt down the side of the mountain. The trail across the washed-out area was certainly passable, but required a little scrambling.

When we got to the Falls, the view was great, as expected. We talked about whether Irene had changed the Falls at all, and neither one of us was sure. I have a photo from about 10 years ago with my friend's dogs and kid sitting on a rock right at the bottom of the Falls, and I don't think that same rock is there anymore. I took a picture of how it looks now so that I can compare the two. I guess I still haven't done that yet. We didn't stay at the Falls for too long because Burdock was way too interested in going close to the edge.

On the way back to the car, we started running into more and more people despite the on-and-off rain showers. With each hiker we passed, cheerful comments were exchanged like "great day for a hike," "this weather is perfect for hiking to a waterfall," and "the people sitting at home don't know what they're missing!" Burdock ran up to almost every hiker in typical fashion and while most patted him and told him what a good boy he was, a few people held back. Once Jerry gave his elevator pitch to each person, including Burdock's age and the number of surgeries he had, along with pointing out his missing eye, even the hardest hearted anti-dog people were on the ground showering Burdock with affection in seconds.

The drive back home was uneventful and we were home a lot sooner than if we'd gone to Stratton. The weather never cleared up, so we told ourselves we'd made a good choice.

**PITTSFORD TRAILS, PITTSFORD, July 7, 2019, Jerry Parker, leader, photos by Sue Thomas**

Enjoying the Pittsford trails on a beautiful day.



Jerry and Burdock



Diane



Nancy



### **AROUND WILDER MOUNTAIN, MOUNT TABOR, July 13, 2019, by Herb Ogden, leader**

Only two other people showed up for a hike on this nice, sunny day. The deer flies and mosquitoes did their best to reduce the party as we walked, but copious amounts of insect repellent and one hiker's head net let all three of us end the hike fairly unscathed. From the Wallingford Pond trailhead in Wallingford, we headed southeast on the original road to South Wallingford. Where it disappears into the woods, we took the more modern and easterly route that more or less parallels it, through a cleared area with a view of Wilder Mountain, the object of our circumambulation. Passing a cellar hole where the 1869 *Beers Atlas of Rutland County* shows the house of "H. Stone" (presumably Homer Stone), we turned west and soon came to a junction. The right fork is the road to Aldrichville and South Wallingford along Homer Stone Brook. A right turn from that fork leads back to where we started, making a nice ski tour.

Since the snow was very thin, we took the left fork, crossing into Mt. Tabor before coming out on Forest Road 60 where it turns east and starts to climb. We then had a pleasant green road walk to the turnaround, followed by some tricky wet footing on the wood road that continues northeast. It eventually improved, possibly because it became the highway shown on the 1869 atlas. Soon we reached a big cellar hole and barn foundation, probably where the 1869 atlas shows the house of "H. Wilder." (The atlas shows it in Mt. Tabor, but we had already re-crossed into Wallingford. This part of the old atlas does not seem reliable.) Continuing over a low ridge, probably on the old highway because it was bordered by a stone wall, we reached a junction just east of another cellar hole and barn foundation shown on the old atlas as "Mrs. Wilder." The right fork, bordered by a stone wall, heads downhill toward Fifield Pond. We took the left fork through pleasant woods, noting two other stone walls. Unfortunately, ATVs had created some long mudholes on this road. Stepping around them, we eventually came to the present east end of the Wallingford town highway, where a quarter mile branch leads to the west lobe of Wallingford Pond. The pond view was pretty and included a blue iris.



Sue and Melissa inspect the foundation of what probably was H. Wilder's barn, as shown in the 1869 Beers Atlas.



Herb checking the Atlas.

### **AROUND THE RESERVOIR, CHITTENDEN, July 28, 2019, by Sue Thomas, leader**

Driving in to beautiful downtown New Boston is a bit of a challenge these days, ruts in the forest road threaten to swallow small cars like mine, and a few superfluous parts from the undercarriage may have been sacrificed, but very worth it for a pleasant hike on a summer day. The route begins at a large rock foundation -- a barn? a mill? I've heard several theories, but a substantial building it certainly was.

From there we wound our way down on an old wood road, pausing to allow an industrious inch worm to measure Jerry's pack, and from time to time to grab the kids as they were being carried away by enormous deer flies and mosquitoes. Head nets and ample spraying finally held the varmints at bay.

As we crossed over the fish ladder at Leffert's Pond, Isaac's sharp eyes spotted two ducks perched mid-way, enjoying a leisurely lunch. We'd brought our own, so did the same at the small beach by the reservoir, for my money one of the prettiest spots around. Some swam as the rest of us snacked on cold watermelon in the shade -- what more could you ask for on a hot summer day?

Claire found a boulder just perfect for reading a book, while Isaac made the ultimate sacrifice and toppled into the water for the sake of a photo op. Patches splashed about searching for fish and frogs -- Lisa says she's never caught any, but, as with fishermen everywhere, I guess hope springs eternal. Burdock, older and wiser, thought his chances were better on shore and scored a few handouts from our lunch bags. It was such a pleasant place to be, it was hard to head back into town. See pictures on Page 7.





The road less traveled.



Duck lunch.



Is that a fish I see . . . or maybe a frog?



Isaac enjoying a swim with a view.

### **SHREWSBURY TRAIL WORK, August 17, 2019, by Sue Thomas, leader**

The scheduled hike to Little Rock Pond was rerouted by predicted violent storms that, naturally, didn't arrive til long after we were safely indoors – but who knew? Sigh. Two people had opted out due to the forecast, but three of us, plus the ever-enthusiastic Burdock and Ivy, decided on a shorter drive with a quicker escape route to check out trail improvements made recently by Jerry and a volunteer crew from Wayfair (see article on Page 3).

We parked below Governor Clement and walked up the road, interrupting a college orientation group having brunch at the shelter. By the time we got there, the dogs had already made a play for the goodies, but cuteness buys a lot of forgiveness.

We headed up the AT/LT from there, entertained by Ivy, who never met a culvert she didn't like - in one end, popping out the other. She also demonstrated her tree-climbing prowess and a general inability to be still - if only she could dig waterbars . . .

After oohing and ahing appropriately over the size of the boulders moved into the mudhole that was the trail (huge improvement . . . thank you Jerry and crew), we headed back down. As it was still not raining, we hiked further up the road to have lunch at a snowmobile bridge, where the dogs enjoyed a good soak in the brook. The same group was still at the shelter when we passed by again and, incredibly, eating again, but this time they were ready for the invasion and held their food up out of reach. You win some, you lose some . . . sorry dogs!



Vivian Bebee, Editor  
14 Belmont Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701



## 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 .....\$45  
Family .....\$60  
Senior/Student/Friend .....\$25

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



## **GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB: KILLINGTON SECTION OUTINGS ([www.gmckillington.org](http://www.gmckillington.org))**

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 Main Street Park, near the east end of the fire station off Center Street in Rutland City.** Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Trips vary considerably in level of difficulty. Call hike leader if you have any questions. **HIKE LEADER HAS DISCRETION TO REFUSE ANYONE WHO IS NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED.**

**NOTE:** Hike details may change at the last minute due to various unexpected conditions – always a good idea to confirm with hike leader in case of changes.

### **JUNE 2019-AUGUST 2019**

**June 15, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Rutland, 10:00 a.m. Cuttingsville P.O. off Route 103**

**Bear Mountain, Wallingford**

**Gerry and Chryl Martin 492-2244**

Follow the Long Trail/AT north over Bear Mountain to Spring Lake. Moderate, 4 miles, with a few steep climbs and descents.

**June 22, Saturday, call for meeting place and time**

**Dean Preserve, East Poultney**

**Diane Bargiel 413-687-1109**

Hike to an overlook for views of Lake St. Catherine, with option for a longer trek or a swim afterward at the State Park.

**June 30, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.**

**Stratton Mountain/Stratton Pond Loop, Stratton**

**Allison Henry 779-4404**

A long hike with fire tower views and a beautiful pond. Moderate, 10.6 miles

**July 7, Sunday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Pittsford Trails, Pittsford**

**Jerry Parker 775-6208**

Explore a new trail to a viewpoint, with a possible extra adventure – call leader for details! Moderate, approximately 3 miles.

**July 13, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Around Wilder Mountain, Mount Tabor**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

Hike old highways and wood roads past long-abandoned farms, with some views, making a loop around Wilder Mountain. Moderate, 6 miles, 600' total climb.

**July 21, Sunday, 8:30 a.m.**

**Hunger Mountain, Worcester**

**Allison Henry 779-4404**

Climb via the Waterbury Trail to the rocky 3,539' summit for excellent views of the Greens and Whites. Difficult, 4.4 miles with 2,290' elevation gain.

**July 28, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Around the Reservoir, Chittenden**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Follow old wood roads from the former settlement of New Boston, winding down to Lefferts Pond. Bring a swim suit for a dip in the reservoir, if you'd like. Moderate, approximately 4 miles.

**August 3, Saturday**

**Long Trail Day – Statewide**

Individuals and groups will hike segments of the Long Trail to cover the entire 272 miles in one day. Go to [greenmountainclub.org/longtrailday](http://greenmountainclub.org/longtrailday) for information and to sign up.

**August 10, Saturday, 9:00 a.m., Diamond Run Mall, Rutland**

**Paddle the Poultney River**

**Barry & Barb Griffith 492-3573**

This relaxing paddle along the scenic Vermont/New York border has become an annual event. Bring binoculars for bird watching! Meet at the former Sears parking lot at the Diamond Run Mall, Rutland.

**August 17, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Little Rock Pond, Wallingford**

**Sue Thomas 773-2185**

Hike in to this beautiful pond for a swim with the loons (optional!). Will go in via Wallingford Pond and out down the Homer Stone Brook Trail. Moderate, 5 miles.

**August 25, Sunday, 1:00 p.m. (rain date – Sunday, September 1)**

**Hawk Hill Trails, Brandon**

**Herb Ogden 293-2510**

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