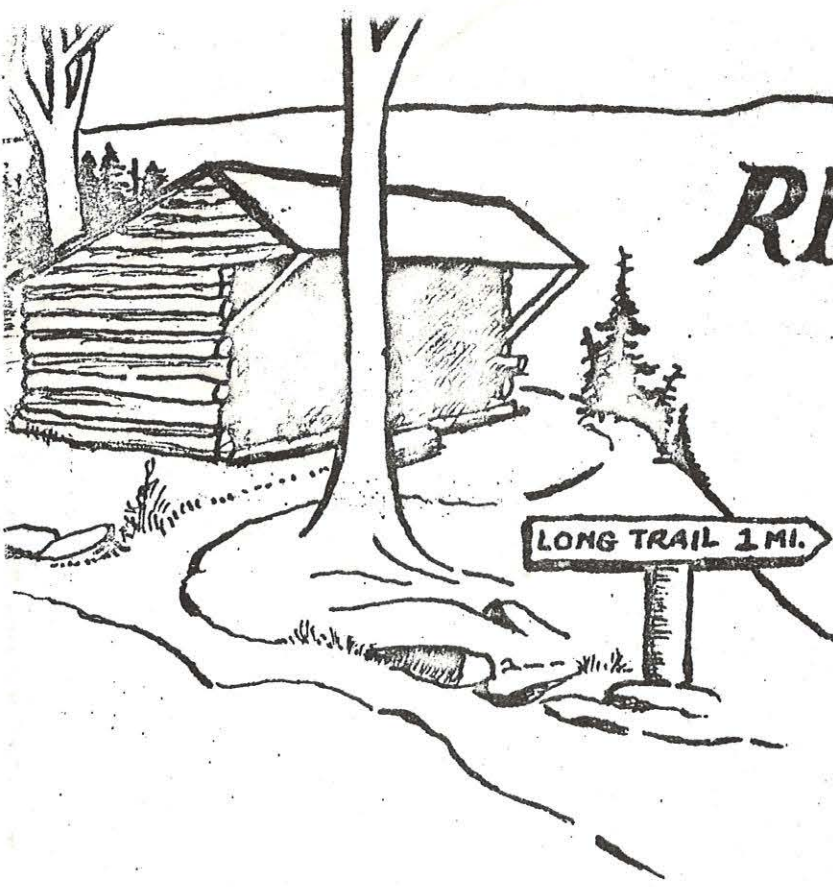


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RIDGE LINES



Volume 1, Number 2

September 1971

Burlington Section/ Green Mountain Club

CARETAKER PROGRAM

Kenn Boyd

Summer has drawn to a close once again with the passing of Labor Day and slowly the caretaker program is grinding to a halt. Caretakers are heading back to college, or, with college behind them, are looking for employment. Two will be staying on at their respective lodges through September and into early October.

The caretaker program by and large went very smoothly and was very successful in terms of work accomplished. Hiker-caretaker communication was especially good regarding open fires, cutting of firewood and camping (all restricted in state forest lands). Most hikers were quick to cooperate when such regulations were explained.

In addition to the everyday chores (keeping lodge and surrounding area livable), all caretakers indulged in trail and shelter maintenance, packing out dumps, constructing outhouses, and acting as hosts to the thousands of hikers who passed through the shelters. Many thanks are extended to all caretakers on the Long Trail for an excellent performance. The awareness of and concern for the many problems threatening the Trail are most appreciated.

Despite the inclement weather inflicted on Vermont by tropical storm Doria, a contingent of caretakers went to the opening weekend of Intersectional to report to the members. A second report was made to the trustees and main club officers describing the heavy use of the Long Trail this past summer and introducing a list of recommendations based on their observations.

I would like to state that it has been a personal pleasure to work with each one of these caretakers. If any hikers have questions, comments, or criticisms concerning the caretaker program, we are most anxious to hear them.

MT. MANSFIELD SURVEY

Charles Hadden

The Burlington Section of the GMC has completed a survey of Mt. Mansfield begun early this summer. The survey was coordinated by the conservation committee and conducted jointly by the Burlington Section, the Vermont Department of Forests and Parks, the University of Vermont, the main club and the Mt. Mansfield Company.

The purpose of the study was to determine the amount and kinds of use for which the mountain serves. In this way we can determine what efforts need to be made to meet the needs of recreational users and to safeguard the mountain.

In particular we are studying the following: 1) traffic -- patterns, flow, types, routes, time relationships; 2) shelters -- type of users, quantity of use, time of use; 3) trails -- stabilization and degeneration; 4) natural conditions -- geological, biological.

Statistics are being gathered from the following sources: 1) trail survey; 2) trail registers; 3) trail counters (mechanical); 4) reports from rangers; 5) reports from caretakers; 6) Forests and Parks survey; 7) amount of use of Mountain Company facilities.

Mr. William Moulton of the Dept. of Forests and Parks will aid in compiling the statistics this winter. A published report should be forthcoming some time next year.

We wish to acknowledge with grateful appreciation the aid and assistance of the following persons who have either given expert advice or spent numerous hours in gathering data.

Burlington section conservation committee: Jan Page, Rod and Emily Rice, Shirley Strong, Kenn Boyd, Rod Halstead, Bill DeGroot.

For the main club: Shirley Strong, Gardner Lane, Rod Rice.

Vt. Dept. of Forests and Parks; Commissioner Heitman, Bill Moulton, Ben Hoffman.

UVM: Wayne Patterson, Hub Vogelmann, Phil Wagner, Fred Sargent.

Rangers: Kenn Boyd, Dave Buck, Horace C. Squire, Donovan Bowley.

Especial appreciation to Jan Page and Emily Rice for organizing the actual survey and spending many hours on both the telephone and the mountain.

Survey takers: Shirley Strong, Jane Brown, Janet Page, Anne Clark, Marjorie Adams, Cora Hutchins, Art and Reva Spengler, Harris and Jan Abbott, Joel Page, Jim Weaver, Milton Crouch, Elsie Washburn, Rick Unsworth, Sherman Richter, Hugh Putnam, Coralie Magoon, Mary Forrester, Ann Hadden, Betty Myers, Agnes Richardson, Philip Cook, "Pirk" and Dot Pirkanen, Alan McKibbin, Jim Winter, Bill and Faye Nelson, Mary Warhurst, Marshall and Connie Hall, Geoffrey Plunkett, Bill Gabriel, Dot Myer and Karen Unsworth.

MAINE TRIP

Fred Smith

On a trip to Maine from August 5th through 15th planned by Fred Smith, 46 Burlington Section GMC'ers spent two days camping at Baxter State Park. We climbed North and South Brother on Friday and Mt. Katahdin on Saturday with beautiful views of the Knife Edge and Chimney Pond down in the basin.

On Sunday we moved to the New Vinyard summer home of Fran and Francis Bliss whose hospitality was just great. We appreciated the camping facilities, transportation, garden vegetables and other services. From here we climbed eight peaks over 4000 feet. The weather was good every day but Wednesday when the tents and canopies were upset by 50-60 mph winds. Six people who were up on top of Saddleback when the storm hit were right in the middle of the fireworks! The next day three adults and six of Fred's Boy Scouts travelled 25 miles over the Saddleback range.

Four people completed their New England 4000 footers on this trip. They were Newell and Ruth Briggs, Marion Holmes and Fred Smith.

The group travelled about 85.5 miles of trail and a total of 1608.2 man, woman and child miles. About 50 miles of this was on the Appalachian Trail.

CONGRATULATIONS AMANDA

Amanda Smith (age 10) completed on September 11 all 46 of the New Hampshire four thousand or more feet peaks. Amanda is Fred Smith's daughter.

CONCERNED HIKER

The solitude most hikers seek gradually returns to the Long Trail as summer ends.

The Long Trail from Smuggler's Notch to Jonesville received use of record proportions this summer. Examples of this heavy use are reflected by the 1300 plus overnight guests at Taft Lodge and the 900 plus overnight guests at Butler Lodge. Another startling figure is 60 campers at Montclair Glen Lodge on Camel's Hump one evening in July!

These figures lead to the question: can such use of the Long Trail continue without excessive damage to the environment through which it passes? The immediate answer would appear to be no.

However, planning and a regular program of trail maintenance might possibly solve some of the problems. Regular maintenance would involve more than brushing of trails every two years; water bar construction, corduroying and bridge building become even more necessary with erosion a major problem on foot trails in Vermont. The number of hikers using areas of heavy impact may have to be limited. The policy regarding use of the Trail by large groups (more than six) may have to be made more restrictive.

Granted that restrictive measures may take away a great deal of freedom we have known and enjoyed for many years; however, a simple equation exists between freedom and numbers. The more people, the less freedom. If we are to retain the beauties of hiking in Vermont, then we all should be willing to sacrifice some of those freedoms so we, and future generations, will be able to enjoy the Long Trail as we have known it. What a horrible thought that in another 60 years there might not be a Long Trail.

BURLINGTON SECTION PATCHES



Burlington Section GMC patches (see illustration) are now available for 75¢. Contact Ron Nemcosky, treasurer or Newell Briggs, president.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB/BURLINGTON SECTION
Mrs. Sally Spear
RFD #4
Winooski, Vermont 05404

NEW MEMBERS

A report from membership chairman Mrs. Anne Clark shows that the Burlington Section has grown by 92 since the annual meeting in January. Welcome to the following new members.

Dr. and Mrs. William H. Beardsley; Mrs. Robert A. Beekman; Mr. and Mrs. William E. Bellinger; Jeff Blanchard, Mark Blanchard; Jane Bradbury; Laurie Bradbury; Pauline A. Brechin; Bill Cain; Franklin M. Carpenter; Carol Chipman; Chiou Chen; Sue Chen; Mrs. Laurence H. Coffin; Virginia Collins; Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Cooper; Mr. and Mrs. Warren H. Dayton; Pamela Donovan; Joel Gelinas; Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Gilroy, Chuck, Kathy and Susan Gilroy; Mrs. Harmon S. Graves; Douglas O. Hanau; Rae Marie Highter; Robert Hirss; Mr. and Mrs. Ervin B. Holland; Melrose Huff; Susan Hunt; Louise A. Hutner; Mr. and Mrs. Clifford I. Larvia, Debra, Denise and Jeffrey Larvia; Virginia A. McDonald; Dr. and Mrs. F. Patrick McKegney, Catherine, Kevin, Sharon, Theresa and Timothy McKegney; Frank Mack; Peter Marsh; Mr. and Mrs. John Mathers; Mr. and Mrs. John M. McGinnis, Jr., Frank, John, Martha and Sara McGinnis; John H. Mikkelsen; Lyle F. McGinnis; Joyce E. Morse; Peter Perrino; Ralph W. Preston; Wright C. Preston; Jane Ropulewis; Arnold R. Rogers; Susan St. John; Donald Santaw; Margaret Sharhey; Alton Smith; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A. Spengler; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stanion; Tim Tabor; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Sulva, Anne Marie, Eddie and Michael Sulva; Gordon W. Tennett, Jr.; Cynthia Thomas; Steve Wadsworth; Dr. and Mrs. James G. Welch; Clodius Wills; William E. Wilson; and Donald R. Yandow.

AUGUST CORN ROAST

The 37 people who hiked to Birch Glen for a corn roast in August included Mrs. Carl Hagberg of Worcester, Mass., who is 91, and Amy Shortsleeve, who is 2. If there was a "generation gap," it wasn't noticeable.

The weather was just uncertain enough to keep everyone on his toes. Three hikers who happened to be spending the night in the shelter were in luck when the GMC'ers arrived with lots of fresh corn and homemade ginger snaps!

RIDGE LINES STAFF

Alice Boyd, Kenn Boyd, Newell Briggs, Coralie Magoon, Madeline Miles, Sally Spear. We wish to thank all contributors and the Outing Committee for mailing.