Ridge Lines

Volume 11, Number 1 June 1981

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB
BURLINGTON SECTION

PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

Andy Squires
434-2533

A dissertation on the Need for Workers on a Work Outing (Or Only You Can Prevent Trail Rot)

One of the basic reasons why the Green Mountain Club exists is the maintenance of the Long Trail (LT). The Burlington Section is in the process of a major relocation, the most difficult part of trail maintenance.

Planning for the Bolton re-route began about five years ago with work on the trail starting in earnest in 1979. This summer we intend to clear the entire route, although we probably won't have time for heavy work like waterbars. By the end of next summer, we should have the project completed and ready for the new Guidebook.

The only way this can be done is with your help. We need volunteers to work on the project. The cost of hiring workers, the Long Trail Patrol, for example, is prohibitive, contrary to GMC traditions, and embarrassing to a section with over 300 members.

You don't have to be a superman/woman to do trail work. Anyone can use brush clippers or wield a paintbrush.

So when you see a work outing, like June 20 or July 12, give it some serious consideration. Better yet give it a try!

FACE LIFT FOR BOLTON LODGE

Keith Edson
878-5979

The first shelters' work hike of the season drew an adequate turn out, and once again Bolton Lodge resembles an inviting Long Trail shelter. The day was a complete success as we managed to accomplish all we had set out to do and even finish before the rain started.

Work ranged from a thorough cleaning inside (at least eight trash bags) to patching a hole or two in the roof. Bolton Lodge now has a full complement of wooden shutters with screening in all windows. We learned that it requires slightly more than one gallon of paint to cover the stucco exterior but three sides have a fresh coat of white. The double bunk-deck, which apparently fell victim to the stove this winter, was replaced, and to avoid a similar fate for the other bunks and shutters, etc., we emptied and removed the stove.

The last major project needing attention at Bolton is a replacement for the outhouse. Once this is accomplished, we can turn our attention to our other shelters for the next work hike in August.

The able-bodied volunteers present besides John Sharp and myself were Dot Myer, Andy Squires, Carlene Whitcomb, her pet dachshund Snoopy (who successfully fended off all attacking chipmunks), Tom Brooks, and Ross Ogilvie.

LONG TRAIL CLEAN-UP

Trail workers polished up the Long Trail on a busy work weekend May 30-31.

Twelve workers who showed up on May 30 divided into two groups. One group of eight with leader Gordon Moore hiked from Taylor Lodge south to Puffer Shelter, clearing blowdowns, clipping, and blazing. A second group of four did likewise on the trail in the Bolton area.

On May 31, eight workers including leaders Carlene Whitcomb and Andy Squires, worked on the Long Trail between Smuggler's Notch and Taft Lodge. They cleared blowdowns, clipped, replaced and repaired steps, and cleaned waterbars.

A considerable amount of trail work had already been done by Chris Ward, GMC caretaker at Taylor Lodge, and by Gordon Moore and Arnie Neustaetter; who worked on the trail between Butler and Taylor Lodges.

Trail workers especially express their appreciation to the following people who provided food for both days; Sally Lembke, Agnes Richardson, Marianne Dusold, Liz Farman, Elizabeth Thompson, Arlene Weitzel, Mary Thompson, Connie Stone, Corky Magoon, Judy Lance.

Volunteer trail workers were Julie Alden, Peter Anderson, Paul Beebe, Greg Bostock, Tom Brooks, Mimi Krakoff, Judy Lance, Corky Magoon, Gordon Moore, Dot Myer, Andy Squires, Ike and Katrina Stokes, Bill Tennett, Carlene Whitcomb.

The Burlington Section is responsible for the maintenance of the Long Trail and side trails between Jonesville and Smuggler's Notch.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A GMC RANGER-NATURALIST

Pieter Crow

Peter Zika and I awake to bird calls. While he goes birdwatching outside in the early light, I wipe the top of the Coleman stove -- the mice were busy last night as usual -- and fire it up. There is no refrigerator or running water, no electric lights or hot showers at the Camel's Hump ranger station located at the foot of the Forestry Trail. On the table sits a telephone, reserved for emergencies. Neither one of us owns a car. Our links to civilization are few.

We like it that way. The rangers on Mt. Mansfield, on the other hand, live in opulent comfort at the Octagon. And during the day they carry portable radios that squawk and hiss. Out of magnanimous concern for their well-being Peter and I will invite them over to the Hump to experience some real wilderness at least once during the season.

And what wilderness. The State of Vermont made a promise to Camel's Hump: that it will always remain undeveloped, except for some logging at lower elevations. The Green Mountain Club has also made a promise to the mountain: to help the hiking public appreciate and respect the tundra and forest zones in the state park. Peter and I have been hired to carry out this program.

Hikers start to arrive in the parking lot. Peter leaves for the summit where he'll be stationed until I relieve him in the afternoon.

Hiking 40 to 50 miles a week is an enjoyable part of this job. By the end of the season, however, after hiking the Forestry Trail perhaps a hundred times, my enthusiasm for the three-mile hike to the summit will have waned a bit.

This morning I hump forty pounds of bark to Gorham Lodge. The two composting toilets on the mountain require a constant diet of this feed to keep 'em cookin'. The caretakers turn over the pile of bark and human waste every two or three days. At first this task is viewed with disgust, but squeamishness soon turns to pride. As they work the pile over with a spade fork, freeing puffs of steam, the caretakers bask in satisfaction knowing their privies are no longer polluting the earth. I wish the ranger privy were a composting type, too.

Around midday I join Peter on the crowded summit rocks. As we chat with hikers and answer questions, we casually glance at the feet of the new arrivals. Every ranger-naturalist develops this habit to the point of an automatic response. I have seen former rangers casting a furtive glance along with me. Perhaps bootwatching becomes a life-long tic after spending a season on the Hump or Mansfield.

Peter and I are on the lookout for errant soles. We keep watch over tundra like a lifeguard over a beach.

There, I have just seen someone walking upon the sedge meadow. I wander over and strike up a conversation. Sooner or later I bring up the subject of the alpine vegetation. My message in its essence is this: let's walk on the rocks so our children's children may experience this alpine summit undisturbed; otherwise the rare plants will be trampled to death.

Getting the message across takes initiative, tact, and sensitivity. Above all, a ranger-naturalist should not carry an attitude of overbearing authority or superiority. I am an educator, not a policeman; my tools are common sense and the power of persuasion, not regulations and a strident voice.

It pleases Peter and me if someone shows an interest in the alpine environment, and we gladly point out birds and flowers to them. My personal favorite among the flora is Boots Rattlesnake Root. Naturally, I also feel an affinity for crowberry and ravens.

Children are eager to learn about the mountain if approached in the right way. One technique we use is to ask probing questions that guide them in making their own discoveries. Sometimes, especially in June and September, the summit is overrun by dozens of children on a class trip. I cringe if they arrive on top unheralded. Much better if Peter or I have the opportunity to meet with them at the hut clearing for a "tundra talk" before pandemonium breaks loose on top. Better still if they would come to the mountain in smaller groups.

By late afternoon the rush is over. Peter departs for the ranger cabin by way of

Montclair Glen Lodge. On the way down he will record tallies from the trail counters for the week. These counters are pressure-sensitive plates buried under the trail surface at strategic locations. For a time the Club used infra-red beam counters. They were discontinued when someone discovered that they were counting cloud banks as well as hikers. With figures gathered from the plate-counters, the Club has estimated that ten to twelve thousand people a year climb Camel's Hump.

The sun dips toward Lake Champlain. My summit duty over, I hike down the trail to the ranger cabin, pleased there have been no accidents today. In the weeks ahead we will have several mishaps on the mountain requiring stretcher evacuation; luckily none will be life-threatening.

I reach the cabin famished, but I cannot eat yet. A hiker is there to report a lost dog, last seen charging into the woods near the summit. We charge up the mountain hoping to find the stray beast. It could be a long night. What a relief, then, to find the whining dog at the hut clearing.

When I arrive back at the cabin, Peter is reading by candlelight. Food and rest at last. Sleep comes easily. In a few hours dawn will dye the horizon purple and the birds will start singing again.

* * *

Pieter Crow worked as a GMC ranger-naturalist in 1977 and as a caretaker in 1976. He is presently living in Burlington.

THE SHIRT UPDATE

Judy Lance
985-2914

Tee-shirt sales keep moving along, and thanks to Gardiner Lane and his "print shop", our volunteer crew of printers, and Janice Lange, official tee-shirt saleswoman, we're able to fill orders as they come in.

Just how much profit are we making on these shirts that we sell for $5 or $6 each? My calculations result in figures of .60 profit for each dollar of revenue from colored shirts, and .55 profit from each dollar of revenue from white shirts.

In July, 1979, we purchased 20 dozen white tee-shirts for $320, or $1.33 each. A little more than a year later, we purchased 60 dozen colored shirts for $1.63 each. Our total cost for all 80 dozen shirts was just under $1500.

To the actual cost of the unprinted shirts we must add our other expenses. These include freight, sales tax, a new silk screen, ink, postage, and envelopes. These expenses bring the average cost of a finished shirt up to about $2.25.

Printing tee-shirts is a labor intensive operation, and our labor is free. As a result we are able to make a good profit and still offer a high quality product at a fair price. Our shirts are 100 percent cotton and are screen-printed with non-fading, non-peeling artist's silk screen ink. The Dartmouth College Print Shop has provided us with professionally made screens at nominal cost. These fine screens facilitate the printing process and insure sharp quality printing.

When all the shirts are sold, we expect to show a total profit of approximately $3000. Our aim is to sell $1700 in shirts each year, showing an annual profit for the section of $1000. If we're going to accomplish this in 1981, we need to boost our sales effort. During the first five months of this year, we took in about $350, only about one-fifth of our annual goal.

Your tee-shirt committee would like to hear your creative marketing ideas. Contact Gardiner, Janice, or any of your officers with your suggestions as to how we can increase our sales and get our profits in the bank. We're also anxious to hear and see your ideas for an additional tee-shirt design. Let's have some input!

And -- if there is anybody out there who doesn't yet have a GMC tee-shirt, send in an order or give Janice a call.

GMC ANNUAL MEETING '81

Connecticut Section hosted the GMC annual meeting on May 23rd at the Mendon Community Church. Well over 100 members participated in the meeting and the afternoon program on mountain rescue and enjoyed the dinner and evening's slide shows. Members heard President Doug James report that section membership is up, at-large membership is up, and the excellent financial support from both groups brought the budget into the black, producing a surplus this year.

Fifty Years Ago

Some members were taken back further than their memories could go in viewing pictures on display from the 1931 era when the Long Trail was completed at Journey's End. The display recognized the 50-year anniversary of completion of the Trail. A several-person committee was established to plan suggested celebration activities starting at Intersectional, August 22nd to 30th. Long-time member John Paulsen had a copy of the Burlington Free Press news article about the March 12, 1910 first GMC meeting as well as an attendance record and minutes of that meeting. Interesting pieces of history!

Awards and Slide Shows

It was a day for awards as a Distinguished Service Award was presented to

Bob Hagerman, outgoing editor of the Long Trail News from August 1974 to May 1981. This is only the fifth such award to be presented for outstanding service to the Club since the award's inception in 1977. Members met new Long Trail News co-editors Jeffrey Silman and Paul Denton. Doug James received on behalf of the Club a Forest Service 75th Anniversary Award certificate which was provided by the chief of the Forest Service to GMC, Inc., "In appreciation of your significant contributions to forestry and conservation."

And it will be a year for slide shows as a new GMC show on what the GMC is and does is hoped for completion by fall. The Public Information Committee has been diligently working on this for many months. Trail maintenance methods will be the subject of the second show to be completed this summer. This is made possible through a grant from the ATC, a grant which has already provided a mattock for each section's use in trail work.

Current Projects

A new edition of the Guidebook is planned for the spring of 1983. Each section will be asked to verify accuracy of the present Guidebook with the portion of LT for which it is responsible, and volunteers will be sought to go over the portions of Trail for which no section has responsibility to assure Guidebook descriptions that fit the Trail. Members heard reports from committee members to the effect that the ranger and caretaker positions will be about the same this summer as last, and persons will soon be in place with the one-crew Long Trail Patrol starting work on July 8th. The Adopt-A-Shelter program is working well. There are presently 19 adoptors; five more are needed. Ideas are wanted for an outing for the Excursions Committee to plan for 1983. Speak with Keith Edson.

President James reported that GMC's proposed Management Plan for the LT-AT was very well received at a recent ATC meeting when all clubs responsible for portions of the AT were asked for plans for their sections. This is thanks to the hours of work put into the plan by Harry Peet and the Trails and Shelters Committee. Directors are now reviewing proposed trail standards and a copy can be provided for interested members through contact with a director.

New Officers Elected

As a final order of business for the meeting, new officers elected for the coming year were James Wilkinson, Jr., president; Preston Bristow, vice president; Joe Cook, treasurer; Ginger Boynton, secretary; John E. Keyes, auditor; and Keith Edson and Herbert Reed, at-large directors.

FOR HIKE LEADERS — Andy Squires 434-2533

Recently many outings have not been announced in the Burlington Free Press. Hike leaders must contact the publicity chairperson Elizabeth Thompson ten days before the outing. This advance notice is required by the Free Press. Please don't make Elizabeth try to track you down.

The extra publicity in the newspaper is quite valuable in bringing in new members. Many people -- more than we usually realize - watch the paper for this, and a good outing has gained us new members more than once.

COMING OUTINGS

For weekly announcements of outings, watch the Burlington Free Press. For additional information, call the hike leader listed on the schedule or one of the outing committee chairpersons (Dot Myer, 863-2433, or Mark Mancuso, 862-3216).

Appalachian Trail Overnight. July 3-5.

We are planning a three-day backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail starting from Sherburne Pass and ending in South Pomfret. Plan to meet at the UVM Dairy Science Building on July 3 at 7:30 am. Itinerary is July 3, 8.1 miles, Stony Brook lean-to; July 4, 8.3 miles, Gulf lean-to; July 5, 6.29 miles, South Pomfret. Reservations should be made before June 30.

For more information, call Andy Squires and Carlene Whitcomb at 434-2533.

Scrag Mt. and Warren Parade. July 4.

This should be an interesting outing, especially in view of the fact that the "leader" has neither attended a Warren parade nor climbed Scrag Mt. However, she does know that the parade, rumored to be one of the best in the area, begins at 10 a.m., and she will scout out the Scrag Mt. trail prior to the 4th. So let's meet at the UVM Dairy Science Bldg. at 8:30 a.m., lunch in hand (or in pack), and we'll have a leisurely, fun day. Leader, Elizabeth Thompson, 862-4537.

Biking in Grand Isle. July 25.

Enjoy a relatively flat bike ride through Grand Isle. We'll meet in Burlington, then drive to the Islands, and ride approximately 30 miles. For more information, call Andy Squires and Carlene Whitcomb at 434-2533.

Lake Placid Trail. August 1-2.

A few years ago I spent my vacation hiking the Northville-Lake Placid Trail. On August 1 and 2, I'd like to share one of my favorite parts of it with any GMC'ers who would enjoy a long -- about 10 miles each day, partly on a road unfortunately -- but not very steep hike.

We'll camp at Cedar Lake, which I found to be the nicest campsite on the Trail. The lean-to's look out over a lovely wilderness lake where we can listen to the loons and swim if we wish.

We'll start early Saturday morning or possibly Friday night. Please make reservations by July 29. I'll even guarantee the weather won't be as bad as the last time I was there! Call Dot Myer at 863-2433.

Grand Manan. August 5-14.

This is going to be a trip of discovery and sightseeing, somewhat different from our regular mountain hiking. Three New Brunswick islands will be explored, as much as time permits, with the goal of spending a few days on Grand Manan, famous for its sea bird population. Other features of our trip will include meadow hiking and beach combing, rock hounding on Deer Isle (maybe), and appreciating F.D.R.'s former summer island residence of Campobello. New Brunswick has a system of ferries to take us across, including a free one between Deer Island and Letete.

If interested, call Irena Case at 482-2420. Participation is limited to two carloads. Registration deadline is June 18 with a fee of $10.

Corn Roast. August 16.

Corn will be served at 5 p.m. However, those who wish to wade or dunk in Lewis Creek, fish, stroll through the woods, play badminton, croquet, horseshoes, or frisbee, will meet at 2:30. Location is beautiful rural Starksboro, Vermont. There will be a charge for corn and butter as in the past. Coffee and dessert will be furnished. Those attending should bring their own eating utensils. A charcoal grill will be available for those wishing to bring hot dogs or hamburgers.

In event of rain, roast only will be held at 5 p.m. indoors. Reservations required. Contact Dot and Pirk Pirkanen at 453-3966 or Sally Spear at 893-7962.

Baxter State Park. September 4-7

Labor Day weekend -- Baxter State Park: a perfect combination for a great GMC outing! Be sure to make your reservation early as space is limited. This unique geological attraction is a favorite for many people, so the trip will fill up quickly.

Tentative plans are these: two nights at Roaring Brook with a climb of Baxter and the Knife Edge on Saturday; on Sunday, a hike to Russell Pond (a haven for moose) with an evening camp there and return on Monday.

Please note: we will be leaving Friday, September 4, a change from the dates on the outing schedule. For information and reservations, call Mark Mancuso, 862-3216, or Keith Edson, 878-5979.

Autumn Outing. September 19-20.

We are happy to be able to have the main Club Autumn Outing at Mountain Meadows again this year. For those who aren't acquainted with the area, it's a beautiful campground near the foot of Mt. Abraham. GMC'ers will have the campground to themselves since the regular camping season there is over.

This year a committee of Burlington Section members, headed by Dot Myer, will be planning the outing. Carlene Whitcomb and Mark Mancuso are organizing some interesting hikes, both easy and difficult, for the weekend. Anyone who has a suggestion for a hike or who would like to lead a hike, please contact Carlene (434-2533) or Mark (862-3216) Andy Squires and Keith Edson will be planning an evening program for Saturday night. We hope to have slides of the Yellowstone trip. Also working on the committee are Judy Lance, Corky Magoon, and Betsy Schneider.

Past Autumn Outings have always been very enjoyable weekends. Plan to join us this year on September 19 and 20. Further details and registration forms will be in the Long Trail News.

GMC'ERS PEDAL ON

GMC'ers rode bikes, ran checkpoints, and sponsored riders in support of the Vermont Diabetes Association Bike-a-Thon on May 3.

The Winooski checkpoint was a busy place since many riders began their 30-mile (or more) ride there. GMC'ers Rose Bloomhardt, Corky Magoon, Kari Jo Spear, and Elizabeth Thompson worked on the morning shift, and Keith Edson, Elise Palmer, and Ron Whipkey in the afternoon. A bowl of bright-colored hard candies, flowers, and a table cloth decorated the card table set up in the urban renewal area adjacent to Main St. Dunkin doughnuts and fruit juice made a good excuse to stop, rest, and chat, before heading out Malletts Bay Ave. and tackling Lavigne Hill. Some riders reported difficulty threading their way out to Malletts Bay Ave.; maybe the signs blew down. The remainder of the route through Colchester, Essex Junction, Williston, and South Burlington/Burlington was easily followed.

With beverages and snacks available at each of the checkpoints, some riders found themselves eating their way around the loop. At the checkpoint on Hinesburg Road and Kennedy Drive, Erma Cameron, Greg Chrisman, and Bobbi Conquest were on hand in the morning and in the afternoon Det and Ron Nemcosky and Al Perkins.

Approximately 125 people rode in the bike-a-thon. Ralph Gibbs and Dot Myer probably rode the greatest distance among the GMC'ers with Ralph doing three laps and Dot

two and a half. Other known members who rode included Tom Brooks, who had a flat tire soon after starting, Arnie Neustaetter, Denis Renaud, Karla Renaud, Sally Spear, Andy Squires, and Carlene Whitcomb.

Final figures are not all in but it is estimated that the amount raised will approximate $12,000.

VLA "TREKS"

The Vermont Lung Association will hold three "Treks for Life and Breath" this summer on the Long Trail. The 25-kilometer Treks are led by experienced guides. Night shelter and food is provided with the aid of a grant from MONY. Trekkers are asked only to raise a minimum of $125 in pledges from sponsors to help support programs for Vermonters with lung disease. Dates are July 24-26, August 14-16, or September 11-13. Call the VLA at 863-6817 or toll-free at 1-800-642-3288.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR (and Family Campout) June 26-28 Groton State Pk.

Free-lance photographer Chazz Sutphen is offering a photography seminar in combination with a weekend of camping fun. Topics to be covered are how to take landscapes, the intimate world of close-ups, how to fine-tune with filters, and a "bag of tricks" used by pros. For details, contact Chazz Sutphen at 862-5912.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

A photo album which may stir memories of long-forgotten places and events has been acquired by the Burlington Section. At this point, the origin and history of the album are still somewhat of a mystery.

Ken Fisher, who has been examining the photos, recognizes himself and friends in some and thinks that some are pictures he may have snapped. The album will be circulated among members, and we hope other long-time GMC'ers will be able to help in identifying the people and places and in contributing their memories of past events.

The album was purchased at an auction and sold to the Burlington Section in July 1979.

EXEC MEETING SET -- All Welcome
Andy Squires
434-2533

The next executive committee meeting will be June 23, 7:30 p.m., at Judy Lance's, 42 Longmeadow Drive, mailbox no. 21410, Shelburne. All topics of current business are discussed at these meetings as well as plans for the future.

NEW MEMBERS
Rose Bloomhardt
864-7903
Elise Palmer
658-0372
Membership

The Burlington Section welcomes the following new members.

Debby Berigow, RFD 1, Braelock Rd., Milton, VT 05468; Mary Burnard, 185 Pine St., no. 3, Burlington, VT 05401; Jud Cutting, RFD 1, Box 255B, Huntington, VT 05462; Barbara Dangman, 967A Pine St., Burlington, VT 05401; Robin Harris, 220 Curtis Ave., Burlington, VT 05401; Joan Ingersoll, 248 College St., Burlington VT 05401; Ted and Jo Kircher, RFD 1, Box 313, Beaver Brook Hill, Underhill, VT 05489; Shirley Knoff, Tanya Knoff, 13 Deane St., So. Burlington, VT 05401; Hilary Kornblith, 220 Curtis Ave., Burlington, VT 05401; Rose Lapointe, 120 West St., Essex Jct., VT 05452; Robert Pettinga, RFD 2, Box 2397, Shelburne, VT 05482; Rick Peyser, RFD 1, Box 41B, Hinesburg, VT 05461; Beth Roberts, 46 Maple St., Essex Jct., VT 05452; Judith Saurman, David and Ann Saurman, 38 Woodbine Rd., Box 2656, Shelburne, VT 05482; Janet Schneider, 6 Pleasant Ave., Queen City Park, So. Burlington, VT 05401; Harriett J. Scott, 348 North St., Burlington, VT 05401; William A. Sharp, 175 Church St., Burlington, VT 05401; Peg Shearer, 500 Pine St., Apt. 3B, Burlington, VT 05401; Frank W. Smith, III, 61 East Allen St., Apt. 7, Winooski, VT 05404; William Zalubski, 54 So. Willard St., Burlington, VT 05401.

RIDGE LINES

Ridge Lines, the Burlington Section newsletter, is published June, September, January, and March. Send news items to Sally S. Spear, RD 4, Colchester, VT 05446. Notify Ridge Lines or membership chairpersons of address changes or corrections.

Contributors to this issue: Rose Bloomhardt, Irena Case, Pieter Crow, Keith Edson, Judy Lance, Corky Magoon, Dot Myer, Dot and Pirk Pirkanen, Kari Jo Spear, Sally S. Spear, Andy Squires, Elizabeth Thompson, Ann Thornhill.