



FOOTNOTES



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OTTAQUECHEE SECTION

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GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

O-SECTION ANNUAL MEETING REPORT for Friday, Nov.8, 2013

Thanks to the Hartland Winter Trails Association, we were again able to hold our meeting parallel to theirs at Damon Hall in Hartford.

After a shared lively social hour and wonderful potluck dinner, President *Inge Brown* welcomed about 50 “old” and some new section members. **Guests from GMC headquarters** were Dave Hardy, Director of Trail Programs, Maisie Howard, Director of Development, and Joe Sikowitz, Membership and Volunteer Coordinator.

President Inge Brown started the business meeting with a moment of silence for the three members who died in 2013: *Sue Bazaar*, *Paul Magoon*, and *Vic McGee*. She then recalled some of the O-Section’s key events during the past year: Our experience with having adopters for the Appalachian Trail stretch from Killington to Norwich, rather than maintaining it on scheduled workdays. Inge also stressed how much quiet and little known work is done by the “trail angels”, who leave goodies at trail intersections or even open their homes to AT through-hikers to spend a night. One of our president’s special concerns is how to establish a “young adventurers club”, to get more children out onto the trails.

The **Taylor Series** in April at the Montshire Museum attracted about 100 people. This slide show with the theme “Mt.McKinley, Now and 40 Years Ago” was a joint venture of our own octogenarian *Heinz Trebitz* and Norwich Teenager *Kristen Kelliher*.

Secretary’s report: The minutes from the 2012 Annual Meeting, printed in the December Footnotes, were accepted without change.

Treasurer *Patty Spencer* presented her report with the following key figures for the fiscal year 2013: Income \$ 2,474.- expenses \$ 3,734.- This negative balance is due to our contribution of \$ 2,000 to GMC headquarters to support the construction of the Long Trail footbridge across the Winooski River in the Bolton area. Opening balance \$ 4,700; closing balance \$ 3,440. The most recent count of voting members at 354 was slightly up from the previous year (328).

Outings Coordinator *Kathy Astrauckas* reported about more than 180 activities for the past year, led by two dozen dedicated volunteers. Hikes, road walks, cross-country ski trips, snowshoeing, social gatherings, paddling and bicycling were scheduled for all weekends and some weekdays. Kathy stressed that we try hard not to cancel any event. Even if conditions look unsuitable, leaders almost always have a “Plan B”: a different destination, mode of travel, or both. When in doubt, call the leaders!

Trails and Shelter Chairperson *Lee Eastman* reported that we have switched from scheduled workdays to sending out small groups to help with special trouble spots like overgrown sections, fallen trees, or difficult stream crossings. Two years after hurricane Irene, all major bridge replacements are now complete, thanks to the cooperative work of the GMC and the National Forest Service. Included in our area are the Gulf Stream bridge at Rt.12, the Thundering Falls boardwalk, the Stony Brook bridge and a new bridge at Kent Pond. Most of the physical work has been done by private contractors. Lee also stressed how useful the chainsaw course, offered by GMC, turned out to be for him.

Newsletter Editor *Inge Trebitz* reported that 28 of our members have elected to receive the *FOOTNOTES* as an e-version rather than printed.

Section Director *Dick Ruben* passed his report on to *Dave Hardy*, who updated us on the still not finished Winooski Bridge and the possible GMC acquisition of an old camp in the Bolton area. Dave also mentioned the AT improvement work done by a Boy Scout group on Totman Hill, and a group of sixth graders and their teacher from the Pomfret School on the Dana Hill stretch. He also mentioned the new steps up the bank from Pomfret/Woodstock road.

Elections: Secretary *Heinz Trebitz* pointed out how much we need younger people to step into the positions that all of the officers have held by now for a number of years.



Vic McGee remembered

Vic McGee, 77, a member of the O-Section for twelve years, died on Oct.6, 2013 of prostate cancer.



Born and educated in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, Vic's way to the Upper Valley went via Cambridge/England, Princeton and University of Illinois to Dartmouth College in 1969. His interests ranged widely from Mathematics to Geography, Educational Testing to Psychology, Sports to Travelling, and of course nature.

For again, the new slate of officers is the same as last year, and of course it was accepted:

President	<i>Inge Brown</i>
Secretary	<i>Heinz Trebitz</i>
Treasurer/Membership	<i>Patty Spencer</i>
Outings	<i>Kathy Astrauckas</i>
Trails and Shelters	<i>Lee Eastman</i>
Newsletter	<i>Inge Trebitz</i>
GMC Section Director	<i>Dick Ruben</i>
Nominating Committee	<i>Heinz Trebitz</i>

After the business part of the meeting, members watched slide presentations by the Trebitz' on the O-Section activities through 2013, and Inge and Patty's (Spencer) walks along Italy's Amalfi coast

Respectfully submitted: Heinz Trebitz, Secretary



*Vic played cricket and rugby in his youth, in his later life switching to tennis and running. In the O-Section we knew him mainly from his fall roadwalks in the Pomfret area. We called them walks, since they took us along roads. However, they were not meant for the Sunday afternoon strollers. Vic had his 6-8 mile loops meticulously planned, up and down beautiful country lanes, with many stops to enjoy the views and contemplate nature. About a week before he died, Vic allowed me to spend some minutes at his bedside. He was sorry not to be able to lead all the trips he had planned. When I mentioned that we might name one of the walks for him, he could not decide which one was his favorite - "Maybe the one on Wild Apple Road? Or when we started on Cloudland Road? I wish I could still send you an email!". And if he had, I am sure he would have signed it the way he always did, with a big **CHEERS!***

Vic designated the GMC as one of the recipients for memorial contributions.

Inge Trebitz

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Dan Guertin

Fred Pond

David and Catharine Newbury

"O" SECTION WINTER ACTIVITIES, DECEMBER 2013- FEBRUARY 2014

Hunting Season continues in NH until 12/8 (Deer Reg. Firearms)

*** Easy on the knees

GMC members only

BACK-COUNTRY ETIQUETTE: NO CELL PHONE USE EXCEPT IN EMERGENCY

Dec 1 Sun	Snowshoe or Hike	Smarts Mtn from Quintown Rd. Daniel Doane Trail. Approx. 7 miles.	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
Dec 3 Tues	Hike or Snowshoe	Bare Rock Vista, Windsor, VT. Futures Trail below Mt. Ascutney. Great views for short hike. 2.4 mi, 700' elev. gain. Short but steep. Easy/Moderate.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Dec 3 Tues	Planning Meeting	Planning Meeting for Spring (Mar. - May) outings at 7:00 p.m. at the Trebitz home. Call Kathy Astrauckas ahead with ideas if you can't join us (802-785-4311).	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Dec 7 Sat	Snowshoe or Hike	Bald Top (1776'), out-and-back from Lake Morey Boat Landing. Views. 6.6 mi, ~ 1400' elev. gain. Moderate. Opt. visit to lovely waterfall adds 0.1 (flat) at end.	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311
Dec 8 Sun	Hike or Snowshoe	Sunday Mtn. (1823') traverse, Orford, NH. Nice little peak on Cross-Rivendell Trail. Good winter views. 3.6 mi, 700' elev. gain. Moderate, with some steep sections.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Dec 10 Tues	Road Walk ***	Woodstock to Taftsville, VT. River Road from Billings Farm, through newly repaired & reopened Taftsville Bridge to Taftsville General Store. 4 mi. Easy. *** Car spot.	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Dec 14 Sat	X-C Ski	Early season snow, hopefully at Hazen's Notch, a real gem operated by former GMC pres. Rolf Anderson. Or Craftsbury if little snow. Easy - Mod, families welcome.	Bob Tucker 802-457-2152
Dec 15 Sun	Snowshoe or Hike	A.T. loop, Trescott Rd. to Velvet Rocks, Hanover, NH. 4.5 mi, ~ 900' elev. gain. Short car spot. Moderate.	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311
Dec 17 Tues	Snowshoe or Hike ***	Pine Park Trail, Hanover, NH. Two mile loop. Snowshoe if there is any, otherwise walk. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Dec 17 Tues	Moonlight Snowshoe	Snowshoe Thetford Academy's hilly 5K cross-country course. Bring snack to share, warm beverage, & headlamp. 3 mi. Easy to Moderate.	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311
Dec 21 Sat	Snowshoe or Hike	Winter Solstice Traverse of Gile Mtn, Norwich, VT. Turnpike Rd to Beaver Meadow Rd, on trail along ridge. 5 - 6 mi, 500' elev. gain. Moderate.	Nick Krembs 802-649-1048
Dec 22 Sun	Snowshoe or Hike ***	Bill Ballard Tr, Norwich, VT. If hike: 4 miles one way (car spot); if snowshoe, we'll do half. Lovely Charles Brown Brook & "Grand Canyon of Norwich". Easy - Moderate.	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Dec 28 Sat	X-C Ski or Snowshoe	Back-country ski or snowshoe in the Thetford, VT area. Leaders' choice depending on conditions. Moderate.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Dec 29 Sun	Snowshoe	East Barnard, VT. 300° views. Approx. 5 miles. Moderate.	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
Dec 31 Tues	Party ###	New Year's Eve Party. Pot Luck Dinner at 7 p.m., road walk (***), return for dessert & to see the New Year in. RSVP. ### (GMC members only.)	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Jan 1 Wed	Snowshoe or Hike w/ Fire	Mid-day New Year's hike & fire (with marshmallows!) at Happy Hill Shelter. Hikes of various lengths to get there (2 - 5 mi. round trip).	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311
Jan 4 Sat	Snowshoe, Ski or Hike	Mimi's Trail, Thetford, VT. Designed by Thetford's John Morton, former Olympic biathlete. Nice views from summit. Approx. 5 miles. Moderate.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Jan 5 Sun	X-C Ski	Stowe, VT area. Trapp Family Lodge or Mt. Mansfield Ski Touring Center, depending on conditions. All ability levels. Trail fee.	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
Jan 7 Tues	Snowshoe	Worcester Mtn. (3293'), Worcester, VT. Excellent views. 5 mi, 1970' elev. gain. Moderate - Strenuous.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Jan 11 Sat	X-C Ski w/ ATA	Joint back-country ski trip w/ Ascutney Trails Assn. South Reading, VT area. Meet behind Town Hall in Felchville, VT at 9:30 a.m. Moderate.	Barbara Rhoad 802-674-2326
Jan 12 Sun	Snowshoe or Hike	New Brushwood Community Forest, West Fairlee, VT. Explore old forests & new trails. Possibly some bushwhacking. 3 - 4 hours. Moderate.	Jane & Skip Brown 802-333-4541

Jan 14 Tues	X-C Ski & Swim ***	X-C ski & swim at Woodstock Country Club/Spa. All levels & all distances, from easy to challenging. Fee. ***	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Jan 15 Wed	Moonlight Outing	Gile Mtn, Norwich, VT. From Turnpike Rd. to fire tower at summit. Snowshoe or hike, depending on conditions. 1.8 mi. rnd trip, ~ 400' elev. gain. Short but steep.	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311
Jan 18 Sat	Snowshoe (or Hike)	A.T. from Dartmouth Skiway to Goose Pond Road, Lyme, NH. 3.4 mi, 1200' elev. gain. Car spot. Moderate.	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311
Jan 19 Sun	Ski, Hike or Showshoe	Parcel 5, Norwich, VT. Multi-use loop trail designed by John Morton of Thetford. 5k course (3 miles), hilly, twisty, winding. Short but strenuous.	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311
Jan 21 Tues	X-C Ski	Groomed Trails at Craftsbury Outdoor Center. For all levels, all distances. Trail fee; Discount for Catamount Trail Assn. ***	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
Jan 25 Sat	X-C Ski	Podunk Pond, Vershire & South Strafford, VT area. Back-country ski on trails in varied terrain. Some uphill stretches. 8 - 10 mi. Moderate to difficult.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Jan 26 Sun	X-C Ski	Strafford Nordic Ctr, VT. Open fields & some woods w/ elevation, hillside vistas. All levels of difficulty. Trail fee.	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
Jan 28 Tues	Snowshoe	Monadnock Mtn. (3148'), Lemington, VT (Northeast Kindgom). Good views from tower. 5 mi, 2100' elev. gain. Moderate - Strenuous.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Feb 1 Sat	GMC Winter Fest	GMC's 18th Annual Winter Fest. Outings, workshops, nature walks, live music, party, etc. Coordinated from GMC Hdqtrs in Waterbury Center. Adm. fee (free for volunteers!). More info: www.greenmountainclub.org	GMC Hdqtrs 802-244-7037
Feb 1 Sat	X-C Ski or snowshoe	5-8 pm. Tiki Torch Trek on 3 km of lighted Hartland Winter Trails. Food provided by volunteers & local restaurants. Bonfire, music. Adm. fee; free shuttle from pkg. area.	Inge/Heinz Trebitz 802-785-2129
Feb 2 Sun	Snowshoe, Grndhog Day	Amity Pond Nat. Area, Pomfret, VT. 3 mi loop of fields, woods, hill climb. Hot lunch by leader & campfire w/ marshmallow toasting at shelter. Bring bowl/cup/utensils. Mod.	Debbie Marcus 802-457-9047 cell 978-578-4198
Feb 4 Tues	X-C Ski	Backcountry skiing in Groton State Forest.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Feb 8 Sat	Snowshoe w/ ATA	Joint outing w/ Ascutney Trails Assn. on Little Ascutney. Meet at Downer's Store, Corner of Routes 106 & 131, Weathersfield, VT at 9:30. Moderate w/ some steep.	Harry Temple 802-738-8405
Feb 9 Sun	X-C Ski	Lovely backcountry skiing in Moose Mountain area, Etna, NH. Out-and-back on Mink Brook Trail at base of mountain. Approx. 3 hours. Gently moderate.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Feb 11 Tues	X-C Ski ***	Craftsbury Outdoor Center. X-C skiing for all levels, all distances. Trail fee; Discount for Catamount Trail Assn. ***	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Feb 12 Wed	Moonlit Ski or Snowshoe	Parcel 5, Norwich, VT. Multi-use loop designed by John Morton. 5k (3 mi), hilly, twisty, winding. Moderate, w/ lots of steep ups & downs. Ski or snowshoe, based on cond.	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311
Feb 15 Sat	X-C Ski	Union Village Dam loop, Thetford, VT. Backcountry ski partly on snowmobile trails. Approx. 6 miles. Moderate to difficult.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Feb 16 Sun	Snowshoe	Smarts Mtn (3240'), Orford, NH. Loop up Lambert Ridge Tr. (A.T.), down Ranger Tr. Lovely views from ledges & obs. tower at summit. 7 mi, 2400' elev. gain. Mod-Stren.	Debbie Marcus 802-457-9047 cell 978-578-4198
Feb 18 Tues	Snowshoe	Traverse of Sunset Hill (1831'), Newbury, NH. Good views over Lake Sunapee. 2 - 3 mi, ~ 500' elev. gain. Easy - Moderate. Easy car spot.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Feb 22 Sat	Snowshoe	VerShare Snowshoe-a-thon community fundraiser (sm. donation). In woods from Vershire Ctr, VT, fab food stop on way up to free lunch at The Mtn. School. Great fun! 2 mi. uphill, go at your own pace. Moderate.	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
Feb 23 Sun	X-C Ski	Something local in Norwich/Thetford/Lyme area. May be ungroomed. Moderate.	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
Feb 25 Tues	X-C Ski ***	Marshland Farms, Quechee, VT. Groomed X-C trails. Easy. *** Trail fee.	Inge Brown 802-296-5777

YOUNG PEOPLE WORKING ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

If you have ever hiked our section of the AT between Pomfret Road and Rt.12, you must remember Totman Hill, that sloping, water-logged field, where hikers sank into the mud up to their knees, and desperately tried to find a way around. Not anymore!

In spring of this year, a scout by the name of Graham Melville was looking for a trail to work on as his Eagle Scout project. When **Totman Hill** was suggested, it seemed to be an impossible piece of work. But in a joint effort between Green Mountain Club, Forest Service, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, and the Scouts (and their parents) it all came together.

On a weekend in August, Graham's scouts dug trenches, lugged boards and tools, and built a series of steps and boardwalks all the way up the hill. You can now walk up (almost) without getting your boots wet. It is not quite finished, but what an improvement! Check it out!

Photo: Heinz Trebitz



Another group of students improved a section of the Appalachian Trail this fall. Several sixth graders and their teacher Rob Hanson from the Pomfret school, with help from the Green Mountain Club and the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, spent a day on **Dana Hill**, east of Stage Road in the Pomfret area. As part of a week-long "A Trail to Every Classroom" unit, the students learned the history of the Appalachian Trail, hiked a Pomfret section including the newly improved Totman Hill stretch, participated in a trail grading workshop, and had the opportunity to give back to the AT.

Photo: Marie Hanson

Story: Inge Trebitz

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !

OTTAUQUECHEE FOOTNOTES

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http://lab.dartmouth.edu/gmc-o-section

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AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

Who are we? Founded in 1910, the Green Mountain Club was established "to make the mountains of Vermont play larger roles in the lives of people". To meet that goal, the club constructed the 272-mile Long Trail (LT). The GMC is responsible for developing policies and programs aimed at preservation, maintenance, and proper use of hiking trails for the benefit of the people of Vermont.

What is the Ottauquechee Section? Our section, one of 14 chapters of the GMC, is located in and around the Upper Valley. We schedule activities all year round for those who enjoy the outdoors, including hikes, bike trips, canoe outings, cross country skiing and snow shoe hikes. The "O" Section is responsible for the maintenance of 46 miles of Appalachian Trail (AT) between Maine Junction at Willard Pass near Killington and the Connecticut River at Norwich, VT, including four trail shelters.

We invite you to join! If you wish to participate in our activities, meet friendly, outdoors loving people and contribute to the maintenance and quality of Vermont's hiking trail system, the Ottauquechee Section welcomes you.. Through the quarterly GMC Long Trail News and the "O"Section Footnotes you will get information about section and main club activities and issues of interest. For more information, call Patty Spencer at 802-333-3571.

For membership, fill out the application below and send to Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677, att. Joe Sikowitz. Please enclose a check, payable to the Green Mountain Club.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I (we)wish to join the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club.

A check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Name(s)_____Date_____

Address_____

Telephone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Dues per year are \$ 45.- for adults and \$ 60.- for families