



# FOOTNOTES



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OTTAUQUECHEE SECTION

NUMBER 4

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

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## MINUTES O-SECTION ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, November 7, 2014 at Damon Hall in Hartford, VT.

We kept up the tradition of sharing the date and the facilities with our friends from the Hartland Winter Trails Association. After a lively social hour and wonderful potluck dinner, President *Inge Brown* welcomed about 50 O-Section members as well as two guests from GMC headquarters, our new Executive Director *Michael DeBonis*, and *Dave Hardy*, Director of Trail Programs.

**President *Inge Brown*** started the meeting by recalling some of the O-Section's key events during the past year. The Taylor series in April, "119 Days without Sunset on a Frozen Island" at the Montshire Museum attracted about 100 people. Alex Ambros, the daughter of this evening's hosts Andrea and Theo Ambros, showed pictures and talked about "The life and adventures of a cook at McMurdo Station, Antarctica." \*)

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes from the 2013 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 2014: Income \$ 3,238; expenses \$1,930.- Opening balance \$3,440;- closing balance \$4,746.- The most recent count of voting members at 319 was slightly lower than last year. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to

contribute \$1,500 to GMC headquarters for the still not finished construction of the Winooski Bridge and building the adjoining Long Trail.

The O-Section will again give \$250 each to some very deserving trail groups:

Hartland Winter Trails Association,

Rivendell Trails Association,

Upper Valley Trails Alliance and –a new one-Upper Valley Land Trust

We discussed if it would make sense for the O-Section to own a weed whacker, since the boardwalk at Thundering Falls and several of the clearings on our section of the AT need a lot work. So far, our Trails and shelter chairperson Lee Eastman has used his own equipment. The consensus was that problems of maintenance and storage would make it difficult for the O-Section to own equipment. Two section members offered the use of their tools for the future if needed.

A group of fifth and sixth graders from the Pomfret school has done more work on the board walk section of Totman Hill at the AT in Pomfret. They have incurred costs of \$ 300 for lumber, which will be reimbursed by the O-Section.

**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. Some of these events were planned with other organizations, like Rivendell Trails Association, National Parks and the Upper Valley Land Trust.

**contd. on page 2**

(contd. from page 1)

**Trails and Shelter Chairperson Lee Eastman** remarked that, when it was built in 2008, he had been very skeptical about the usefulness of a boardwalk at Thundering Falls. This October, while spending hours of weed trimming along the boardwalk, he talked to many people from all over the country who enjoy the short stroll to the falls. The encounters surely changed his mind. Lee also thanked all the volunteers who work as adopters, border monitors and trail maintainers on our section of the AT.



*Lee Eastman working at the Board Walk  
Photo by Inge Brown*

**Section Director Dick Ruben** stressed the importance of making monetary contributions to the GMC's Winooski Bridge project, which has shown to be much more costly than expected.

**Publicity** is covered by our long time **Newsletter Editor, Inge Trebitz** (no specific report), as well as through the new O-Section web site [www.gmc-o-section.org](http://www.gmc-o-section.org), which is maintained by **Web Master Peter Hope**.

**Elections: Secretary Heinz Trebitz** presented a slate of officers unchanged for the second year, which was accepted unanimously:

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

*Heinz Trebitz* thanked *Inge Brown* for her work as president last year, and *Inge Brown* asked the membership for a round of applause for the section officers.

As has become a tradition over the last years, we were updated on developments at the main club. GMC's new **Executive Director, Mike DeBonis** talked about the search for a new membership and volunteer services coordinator. He also mentioned that the club received \$ 3,000 as 2<sup>nd</sup> price in the *PC-Construction* voting contest.

**Dave Hardy**, Director of Trails Programs, explained the additional trail work at Totman Hill, as well as the plans to clear one of the high fields along the AT in the Pomfret area, which offer an excellent view of Mt. Ascutney.

The official meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.. Thereafter, *Inge Brown* showed a video of her recent visit to Mongolia, while a group of indomitable helpers returned the hall to its normal business setting.

\*) A side note: Though our Taylor series presenter *Alex Ambros* is working in Antarctica again this winter (their summer), she left us something that she created there: Three very colorful and intricately stitched quilts, which will be raffled off in February at Hartland's Tiki Torch event, with the money going to Hartland Winter Trails.

*Heinz Trebitz*, O-Section Secretary

## WELCOME TO THIS YEAR'S NEW MEMBERS

<i>Judy Barwood</i>	<i>Laurie Carver</i>
<i>Gerard Gagnon</i>	<i>John Grout</i>
<i>Thomas Kahl</i>	<i>Mike Landon</i>
<i>Cara &amp; Stephen Liu</i>	<i>Nancy Merrill</i>
<i>Lynn Parker</i>	<i>Betty Steiner</i>
<i>Anne Richter Arnold</i>	
<i>Diane Riley &amp; Ben Silverfarb</i>	
<i>Carol Williams-Suich &amp; Gerry Jo Suich</i>	

## "O" SECTION WINTER ACTIVITIES, DECEMBER 2014- FEBRUARY 2015

<b>Hunting Season continues in NH until 12/7</b> (Deer Reg. Firearms); archery till 12/15		<b>*** Easy on the knees</b>	<b>### GMC members only</b>
in VT 12/6-14 (Muzzleloader & Archery)			
BACK-COUNTRY ETIQUETTE: NO CELL PHONE USE EXCEPT IN EMERGENCY			
Dec 2 Tues	Hike	Thetford, VT area. 3 - 4 mi, Mix of fields, woods, gravel and farm roads. Possibly new private woods trail. No dogs. ### (GMC members only.)	Lynne Miller 802-785-4410
Dec 6 Sat	Hike or Snowshoe	Afternoon German St. Nikolaus-Day hike or snowshoe on uneven, unmarked trails in the hills above the Trebitz home, followed by holiday treats.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Dec 7 Sun	Hike ***	Quechee, VT loop. From Quechee Gorge Bridge on Seven Bridges, Quechee, and Dewey's Pond Trails. ~ 3 mi, gentle grades. Easy. ***	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Dec 9 Tues	Hike or Snowshoe	Bald Top Mtn., West Fairlee, VT. Loop from Blood Brook Rd. Up Cross-Rivendell Trail, down Baldtop Trail. Newly cleared with spectacular views on top! ~ 4 mi. Moderate.	Marcia Dunning 802-333-4340
Dec 13 Sat	Hike or Snowshoe	Sunday Mtn. (1823') traverse, Orford, NH. Nice little peak on Cross-Rivendell Trail. Good winter views. 3.6 mi, 700' elevation gain. Moderate, with some steep sections.	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
Dec 14 Sun	Hike	Loop around woods by Bragg Hill Road in Norwich via Burton Woods and Jericho area. 2-3 hours, 4-5 miles. Moderate. Dog friendly. ajaneway@gmail.com	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988
Dec 16 Tues	Snowshoe or Hike	Appalachian Trail loop, Trescott Road to Velvet Rocks, Hanover, NH. 4.5 mi, ~ 900' elevation gain. Short car spot. Moderate.	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311
Dec 20 Sat	UVLT Hike or Snowshoe	Winter solstice on trails at Lyme Hill Conserv. Area, Lyme, NH, with Upp. Valley Land Trust. Poss. campfire at end. 4 mi, 1000' elev. gain. Moderate. Rain/snow date 12/21.	Jason Berard jason.berard@uvlt.org
Dec 21 Sun	Ski or Snowshoe	Podunk Wildlife Management Area of South Strafford, VT. Back-country ski (6 mi) or snowshoe (4 mi), depending on conditions. Moderate.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Dec 23 Tues	X-C *** or Snowshoe	Cross-country ski or snowshoe around Lake Pineo in Quechee, VT. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Dec 27 Sat	Snowshoe or Hike	Appalachian Trail between Kent Pond and River Road in Killington, VT. 3.5 mi., moderate. Optional stop at Long Trail Inn afterwards.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Dec 30 Tues	Snowshoe or Hike ***	Hanover, NH golf course. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Dec 31 Wed	Party	New Year's Eve party. Pot Luck dinner, then short hike or snowshoe from Trebitz home (bring headlamp), return for dessert and to see the New Year in.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Jan 1 Thurs	Snowshoe or Hike w/ Fire	Mid-day New Year's hike and bonfire (with marshmallows!) at Happy Hill Shelter on Appalachian Trail. Hikes of various lengths to get there (2 - 5 mi. round trip).	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311
Jan 3 Sat	Moonlight Outing	Mt. Tom, Woodstock, VT. Ski, snowshoe or hike (possibly 2 options) depending on conditions. Bring snack to share, beverage and candles for the cabin. Moderate.	Juergen Ewert 802-457-4345
Jan 4 Sun	Snowshoe or Hike	Ore Hill section of the Appalachian Trail, Wentworth / Warren, NH. Pretty section of trail from NH 25C to 25A. 5 mi, 700' elevation gain. Moderate.	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311
Jan 6 Tues	Snowshoe or Hike ***	Quinn Trail, Hanover, NH. 2 miles. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Jan 10 Sat	X-C Ski	Strafford Nordic Center, VT. Open fields & some woods with elevation, hillside vistas. All levels of difficulty. Trail fee.	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988
Jan 11 Sun	X-C Ski	Groomed trails at Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe, VT. All levels, all distances. (Dick will lead intermediate-adv.) Trail fee; discount for Catamount Trail Association.	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
Jan 13 Tues	<b>Planning Meeting</b>	Planning Meeting for Spring (Mar. - May) outings at 7:00 p.m. at Inge Brown's home. Call Kathy Astrauckas ahead with ideas if you can't join us (802-785-4311).	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Jan 17 Sat	Snowshoe w/ UVLT	Snow Mtn, Enfield, NH with Upp Valley Land Tr. Woods roads, some bushwhacking. 3 - 4 mi, 1200' elev. gain. Moderate. Can bring sled to descend! Rain/snow date 1/18.	Doug Brown douglas.brown@uvlt.org

Jan 18 Sun	Snowshoe or Hike	Okemo Mtn (3343'), via Healdville Trail. Back side of mtn. Firetower, 360° views. 6.5 mi, 1950' elev. gain. Steep but not rough; may also need microspikes. Moderate.	Diane/Ed Orecchio 603-542-0322
Jan 19 Mon	Snowshoe (MLK Day)	Lebanon/Hanover, NH. Up fr. Wilder Dam thru Boston Lot, along Indian Ridge; down into Mink Brook Nat Area. 3 - 4 mi, a few hundrd ft elev gain. Easy-Mod; easy car spot.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Jan 20 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 24 Sat	Snowshoe	Boston Lot, Lebanon, NH. Approx. 4 - 5 mi. Moderate.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Jan 25 Sun	X-C Ski	Union Village Dam loop, Thetford, VT. Backcountry ski partly on snowmobile trails. About 6 miles. Moderate to difficult.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Jan 27 Tues	Snowshoe	Bridal Veil Falls, Franconia, NH. Coppermine Trail, Coppermine Shelter. Gorgeous ice formations on falls. 5 mi, 1200' elev. gain. Moderate w/ a few short, steep sections.	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311
Jan 31 Sat	X-C Ski	Quechee, VT golf course. Groomed trails, rolling hills and nice open stretches. About 5 miles. Easy to Moderate.	Juergen Ewert 802-457-4345
Feb 1 Sun	Snowshoe & Campfire	Amity Pond Natural Area, Pomfret, VT. Fields, woods, town roads. Hot lunch by leader at shelter. Bring bowl / cup/ utensils. 3 mi, moderate, with a steady climb.	Debbie Marcus 802-457-9047 978-578-4198 cell
Feb 3 Tues	X-C Ski ***	Craftsbury Outdoor Center. X-C skiing for all levels, all distances. Trail fee; discount for Catamount Trail Association. ***	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Feb 7 Sat	<b>GMC Winter Fest</b>	<b>GMC's 19th Annual Winter Fest.</b> Outings, workshops, nature walks, live music, party, etc. Coordinated from GMC Headquarters in Waterbury Center. Admission fee (free for volunteers!). More info: <a href="http://www.greenmountainclub.org">www.greenmountainclub.org</a>	GMC Hdqtrs 802-244-7037
Feb 7 Sat	<b>X-C Ski or snowshoe</b>	<b>5-8 pm. Tiki Torch Trek</b> on 3 km of lighted Hartland Winter Trails. Food provided by volunteers & local restaurants. Bonfire, music. Adm. fee; free shuttle from pkg. area.	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988
Feb 8 Sun	X-C Ski or Road Walk	Thetford, VT area. Varied ski distance and ability levels. Rolling fields. Private land with rules. No dogs. ### (GMC members only.)	Lynne Miller 802-785-4410
Feb 10 Tues	X-C Ski	Morse Farm, East Montpelier, VT. Groomed trails at a lovely ski touring center. Fee charged; discount for Catamount Trail Association and seniors.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Feb 14 Sat	Ski or Snowshoe	Valentine's Day on Mimi's Trail, Thetford, VT. designed by Thetford's John Morton, former Olympic biathlete. Nice views from summit. About 5 miles. Moderate.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Feb 15 Sun	Snowshoe or Hike	Appalachian Trail from Dartmouth Skiway to Goose Pond Road, Lyme, NH. 3.4 mi, 1200' elevation gain. Car spot. Moderate.	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311
Feb 16 Mon	Snowshoe Pres day***	Springfield, NH. Fr NH-114 on SRK Greenway & woods rds past Star Lake Farm to viewpoints on Pitcher Hill. 3-4 mi, few hund ft. elev gain. Easy-mod, easy car spot. ***	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Feb 17 Tues	X-C Ski ***	Marshland Farms, Quechee, VT. Groomed X-C trails. Trail fee. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Feb 21 Sat	Snowshoe	VerShare Snowshoe-a-thon community fundraiser (\$10 - \$20 suggested donation). Through woods & fields from Vershire Ctr, VT. Great food stop on way up to free lunch at The Mtn. School. Great fun! 2 mi. uphill, go at your own pace. Moderate.	Marcia Dunning 802-333-4340
Feb 22 Sun	Snowshoe	A.T. east of Rte 12 in Woodstock, VT. Lots of ups and downs, some steep; maybe some bushwhacking in open hardwoods. Approx. 5 mi. Moderate.	Dave Hardy 802-343-9017
Feb 24 Tues	X-C Ski or Snowshoe	Flagpole Hill, Vershire, VT. Back-country ski or snowshoe. Loop of 5 mi on Rivendell Trail and back roads.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Feb 28 Sat	Moonlight Outing	Mt. Tom, Woodstock, VT. Ski, snowshoe or hike (possibly 2 options) depending on conditions. Bring snack to share, beverage, & candles for the cabin. Moderate.	Juergen Ewert 802-457-4345

## THEY CALL THIS A PATH?

Or: What goes into a trip rating.

When we cobble the outings schedule together at the quarterly planning meeting, the leaders try very hard to assign ratings of difficulty to the trips. But on what basis is it done? Personal experience? Guidebook? Length of trip? Altitude gain? All of the above? And what about weather and trail conditions, time of year, age and fitness of the participants? - We try our best, but it isn't always easy.



I had to think of that when I read my own notes about day hikes on the LT and compared them with other peoples' comments. Consider the end of the section from Lincoln to Appalachian Gap:

I wrote: *"The trail was not easy, but beautiful; along an extended ridge, by several ski lifts; one of the best days".*

The Long Trail Guide states: *...descending very steeply, using a ladder at one point, to a spur ...continue steep descent...drop sharply...use caution when crossing Vt.17.*

And here is an excerpt from Jan Leitschuh's 2003 end-to-end journal *"The Ordinary Adventurer"* about the same section: *"The descent to Appalachian Gap was a pure jaw-sagger... We were astounded to discover what constituted a "path" in these parts - steep, near vertical rock in places... it boggled our flatland minds. In a city park, such terrain would be roped off, topped with concertina wire, and guarded by Dobermans against liability. Here in Northern Vermont it was the damn blazed trail!"...*

Another example, Tillotson Camp to Hazen's Notch :

My notes say: *"The trail turned into a string of puddles; the descent from Haystack Mountain was awful, wet and slippery; no more than 1 mile/hour possible."*

The Long Trail Guide states: *"From Haystack Mtn. continue downhill at a moderate, though uneven grade along the ridge, then drop very steeply to... unpaved VT.58 at Hazen's Notch."*

And from Jan's journal: *"The two-mile walk to Hazen's Notch was easy enough..."*

So don't blame it on the leader, if a trip does not quite measure up to the way it was rated!

It is all in the eyes (and the legs) of the beholder!

Inge Trebitz

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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

**OTTAUQUECHEE FOOTNOTES**

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http://gmc-o-section.org

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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.

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***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