



FOOTNOTES



VOLUME 36

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2014

OTTAUQUECHEE SECTION

NUMBER 3

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

O-SECTION ANNUAL MEETING

The annual Meeting of the O-Section will be held on **Friday, November 7, at Damon Hall in Hartland, Vt.**

Directions: Take IS 91 to exit #9. Go north on Rt.5 to Hartland Five Corners. Damon Hall is the brick building right across from the intersection of Rts. 5 and 12.

Schedule: We will begin the evening with social hour at 5:30 pm. A pot-luck dinner at 6:30 will be shared with members of the Hartland Winter Trails Association.

POT-LUCK DINNER

Please bring dishes according to the alphabet, and provide your own plates, silverware and glasses.

- A – F Main course
- G – M Salad
- N – Z Appetizers or dessert

ELECTIONS

After dinner, the meeting will start with the yearly reports of the chairpersons, followed by the election to our section positions.

PRESENT OFFICE HOLDERS:

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

If you are interested in a section position or would like to suggest someone else, please call Heinz Trebitz at 802-785-2129 or e-mail him at ih63@wavecomm.com.

Our new O-Section Website

is up and running! The web address is <http://www.gmc-o-section.org> - do visit it soon and often! It is new and updated, and in keeping with advancing technology.

That said, we are always open to any suggestions to further enhance its appearance and usefulness. We are very grateful to our Webmaster, Todd Sears, for the massive effort he has put into this project!

Please do continue to send Calendar updates to Heinz Trebitz, ih63@wavecomm.com or (802)785-2129, so he can post them to the O-Section list-serve.

Peter Hope will assume day to day management of our O-Section website. He will post Calendar changes (sent to Heinz) on the Calendar page, highlighted in red. And please do send photos (in .jpg or .tif format) and reports of trips and events directly to Peter at phope@worldpath.net for posting to our website.

Todd will manage any significant website problems - but please notify Peter first.

Notes by Peter Hope

Thoughts from Dick Ruben, your GMC Board

Director: August, especially a cool, wet August, brings thoughts of fall and nostalgia. For one, I have watched our outing participation wane. Even perennial favorites have been sparsely attended, much to the chagrin of us leaders. Is it us, are we not meeting your needs, desires or expectations? Let me or the section officers know. Or sign up to lead an outing you'd like to share. Meantime, I'm personally going to try to take a cue from the response to a bike ride I led in the Chester/Grafton area for another organization.

(Continued on page 2)

We stopped at a country store in a quaint town (Saxtons River) for lunch, checked out the Grafton environs and the cheese shop and stopped as a group for beer and edibles at a Scottish Pub in Chester, a mile from the end. Folks had a welcoming and social time and still enjoyed the exercise and scenery. I am looking forward to similar trips with you this fall.

Where NOBO and SOBO Meet

Each summer about this time the hills of Prosper Valley are alive, but it's not with Julie Andrews singing the Sound of Music. The hills are alive with the annual crossing of NOBOs and SOBOs on the Appalachian Trail.

The Prosper Valley is the stretch of Route 12 north of Woodstock village where the four towns of Barnard, Bridgewater, Pomfret and Woodstock meet. Named for the hamlet of Prosper, all that remains of Prosper is the stone Prosper Community House at the junction of Route 12 and the North Bridgewater Road where the annual Prosper Chicken Pie Supper is held in September.

The 2,180-mile Appalachian Trail (AT) begins at Springer Mountain, Georgia and wends its way up the eastern seaboard and eventually through the Prosper Valley and the towns of Barnard, Bridgewater, Pomfret and Woodstock before ending at Katahdin in Maine. Although the AT through the Prosper Valley is normally a quiet stretch of trail, lacking the charisma of the nearby Green and White Mountains, a unique pageant is played out in the Prosper Valley every year at the close of July into early August that few locally are aware of.

A NOBO is a "northbound" hiker. Every year, about 1500 eager hikers start out from Springer Mountain in Georgia hoping to hike the entire Appalachian Trail, a feat that takes about six months. A SOBO is a "southbound" hiker. Every year, another 500 or so hardy souls start out from Katahdin in Maine, hoping to hike the entire AT heading south.

A NOBO hiker generally begins in Georgia within the first three weeks of April. A SOBO hiker, however, must wait until the snow recedes and Maine's Baxter State Park opens, and therefore usually starts within the first three weeks in June. A NOBO hiker can average 14 miles a day through the relatively moderate Mid-Atlantic States while a SOBO hiker tackles the most challenging part of the AT through Maine and New Hampshire first,

averaging about 10 miles a day.

Where does the NOBO bubble, beginning in Georgia in April, and working its way north at 14 miles per day, and the SOBO bubble, beginning in Maine in June, and working its way south at 10 miles a day, meet? In the Prosper Valley!

There are, of course, many variables. Not all hikers start at the same time. Not all hikers hike at the same speed. Trail times are different each year due to weather. The meeting of the NOBOs and SOBOs is not like the swallows at Capistrano. Not only that, statistically only about one-quarter of the hikers who begin an Appalachian Trail through-hike will finish it.

Still, that means that somewhere around 700 hikers will cross Route 12 between the last week of July and the third week of August. We're so used to the pageant that we tend to think it's normal to see all these serious backpackers at road crossings around the end of July and into early August, but it's only normal here.

Woodstock is not well known as a "trail town." It's somewhat out of the way for hikers. Hikers can easily resupply at in Hanover (the AT passes through the center of town) or they can ride "The Bus" (the Marble Valley RTD's Rutland-Killington "Diamond Express") from the Long/Appalachian Trail crossing at Route 4 in Mendon into Rutland for a day in civilization.

There are ways, however, that locals can show hospitality to through-hikers by being "trail angels" or by practicing "trail magic." A trail angel is an individual who delivers a good deed to a long distance hiker in need, often in the form of transportation. Trail magic is a random act of kindness like a box of cookies left at a trail crossing or a six-pack of beer found in a cold stream (most hikers will say they prefer the beer).

As you see hikers with heavy packs in the next few weeks at Route 12 and other road crossings throughout the Upper Valley, remember that, for a brief time, the hills are alive and this is where the NOBO and SOBO meet.

By Preston Bristow

Preston Bristow, a member and past president of the O-Section, coordinated the federal protection effort for the Appalachian Trail in Vermont from 1978-1986 and was president of the Green Mountain Club from 1983-1985. He is currently a member of the Woodstock Select Board. Want to support maintenance of the Appalachian Trail in the Prosper Valley? Learn more about the Ottauquechee Section (or chapter) of the Green Mountain Club by visiting our website at www.gmc-o-section.org.

"O" SECTION FALL ACTIVITIES, SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2014

Hunting Season	VT: 10/4 - 26 Bow & Arrow Deer 11/8 - 9 Youth Deer Wkend 11/15 - 30 Deer Rifle Season	NH: 9/15-12/15 Deer Archery 10/25 - 26 Youth Deer Wkend 11/1 - 11 Deer Muzzleloader	11/12 - 12/7 Deer Reg. Firearms
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***** Easy on the knees** BACK-COUNTRY ETIQUETTE: NO CELL PHONE USE EXCEPT IN EMERGENCY

Sept 1 Mon	Hike	Crotched Mtn (2066'), Francestown, NH. Climb from Crotched Mtn Rehab Center in Greenfield. Excellent views. 3.8 mi, 876' elevation gain. Moderate.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Sept 2 Tues	Bike Ride ***	Groton State Forest, VT. On rail trail, 7 mi. each way, from Ricker Pond to Owl's Head. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Sept 6 Sat	Leader's choice	Bike Ride, Walk or Hike	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988
Sept 7 Sun	Bike Ride	Tour de Taste Pedaling Picnic sponsored by Upper Valley Trails Alliance. Join GMC group of bikers. 16 mi. Pre- registration required: www.uvtrails.org	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Sept 7 Sun	Hike with Sierra Club	Wilderness-50, Peru Peak, VT. From USFS 58 to Long Trail at Griffith Lake and south into wilderness; over Peru (3429') & Styles (3394') Peaks to USFS 21. Views from outlooks. 7.1 mi, ~ 1100' elevation gain. Moderate. Easy car spot.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Sept 9 Tues	Hike	Pitcher Hill, Springfield, NH. SRK Greenway & woods roads. Past Star Lake to short Pitcher Hill Trail, good view. 4 mi, a few 100s ft elev. gain. Easy-Mod; easy car spot.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Sept 13 Sat	Bike Ride	Bradford, VT to East Topsham, VT. Out and back. About 30 miles. Moderate.	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
Sept 14 Sun	Hike with Sierra Club	Wilderness-50: Giant Mtn (4267'), NY. Loop from St. Huberts, NY. Roaring Brook Falls, Giant's Nubble. Great views! 7.2 mi, 3800' elevation gain. Strenuous.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Sept 16 Tues	Bike Ride ***	Bridgewater (VT) Country Store to Calvin Coolidge Memorial State Park. Out and back, 12 mi. round trip. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Sept 20 Sat	Hike with UVLT	Mt. Ascutney (3144') traverse. Up Weathersfield Tr, down Windsor Tr. 5.6 mi, 1900' elev. gain. Moderate. Part on land conserved w/ Upp. Vall. Land Trust. Rain date 9/21.	Jason Berard jason.berard@uvlt. org
Sept 21 Sun	Hike with Sierra Club	Wilderness-50, Ripton, VT. Skylight Pond & Long Tr. to Breadloaf Mtn (3835'). Views at summit and from Skyline Lodge. 6.8 mi round trip, 1915' elevation gain. Moderate.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Sept 23 Tues	Hike ***	Celebrate the Fall Equinox on West River Trail, Brattleboro, VT. Newer section of rail trail from Marina to Rice Farm Rd. in Dummerston. 3.5 mi, fairly level. Easy. ***	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Sept 27 Sat	Volunteer Apprec. Picnic	GMC volunteers (in any and all capacities), come celebrate GMCers' hard work and dedication. At GMC Headquarters, Waterbury Center, VT. RSVP for food planning.	GMC Hdqtrs. 802-244-7037
Sept 27 Sat	Hike	Rivendell Ramble, Orford, NH. 5-mi hike or 10K run. Free meal after. Rivendell Trail Assn. fund raiser. Join O-Sect. team, support local trails. www.crossrivendelltrail.org	Marcia Dunning 802-333-4340
Sept 28 Sun	Wilderness Celebration	Celebrate 50th anniversary of Wilderness Act at Middlebury Coll. Breadloaf Campus near Long Trail at Mdbv Gap, Ripton, VT. www.greenmountainclub.org for more info.	GMC Headqtrs 802-244-7037
Sept 30 Tues	Hike	Mt. Mansfield the easy way: drive up auto road (sm. fee), walk along ridge to highest point in VT on Chin (4393'). 3 mi, 500' elev. gain. Easy but rocky; all above tree line.	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Oct 4 Sat	Hike w/ UVLT	Galusha Hill, Topsham, VT. Hike up to see sunset, hike down in moonlight (bring headlamps!) 4.5 mi on trails & woods rds, 700' elev gain. Moderate. Rain date 10/5.	Jason Berard jason.berard@uvlt. org
Oct 5 Sun	Hike	Join a Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park Ranger on short A.T. hike near Woodstock, VT, starting at Pomfret Road. 2-3 miles with some hills.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Oct 7 Tues	Bike Ride	North Thetford, VT to Haverhill, NH. Loop of 30+ miles. Moderate.	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
Oct 7 Tues	Planning Meeting	Planning meeting for Winter (Dec - Feb) outings. 7 p.m. at the home of Dick Ruben. Call Kathy Astrauckas ahead with ideas if you can't come (802-785-4311).	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707

Oct 11 Sat	Hike	Thundering Falls, Killington, VT. Appalachian Trail from Kent Pond to board walk. 3.5 mi, very little elevation gain, mostly gentle downhill. Easy.	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Oct 12 Sun	Hike	Black Mtn (2830'), East Haverhill, NH. Chippewa Trail. Steep, with many incredible views, esp. from summit toward Moosilauke. 3.6 mi, 1550' elevation gain. Mod-Stren.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Oct 13 Mon	Hike with Sierra Club	Wilderness-50: Columbus Day traverse of Bald Mtn , VT (2857') from Woodford to Bennington, VT. Good views. 6 mi, 1580' elev. gain. Moderate. Car spot.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Oct 18 Sat	Bike Ride	Buffalo Rd (Wentworth, NH) to Quincy Bog (Rumney, NH) for lunch & back. About 18 mi. total; some dirt. Moderate. Option to climb Rattlesnake Mtn.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Oct 19 Sun	Hike	Wilderness-50: Battell Wldrnss. LT south fr Mdby Gap. Worth Mtn (views); descend via LT & Sucker Brk Tr to USFS-67. 5.5 mi, ~1100' elev. gain. Moderate. Car spot.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Oct 21 Tues	Hike ***	Mink Brook area, on the north side of Mink Brook, Hanover, NH. Approx. 3 mi. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Oct 25 Sat	Dirt Road Walk	Quintown Rd, Orford, NH. Thompson Woodlands to Pickerel Ponds. ~ 6 mi, 600' elev. gain; maybe a little off rd on trails to bog & pond. Steep. Moderate. Wear blaze orange (youth deer hunting weekend).	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
Oct 26 Sun	Bike Ride	White River Junction, VT to Lebanon, NH, then north to Storrs Pond Recreation Area; back through Norwich and White River Jct. ~ 21 mi. Easy.	Angie Emerson 802-299-5866
Oct 28 Tues	Hike	Clark's Lookout & Phillips Preserve, New London, NH. 2 short hikes, great views over Lake Sunapee & Otter Pond. 2+ mi, a few 100 ft. elev. gain. Easy. Shuttle betw. hikes	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Nov 1 Sat	Hike	Blueberry Mtn (2365') traverse from Glenciff, NH over rocky ledges to Limekiln Rd area, East Haverhill. Beautiful views. 4.5 mi, 1050' elevation gain. Moderate.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Nov 2 Sun	Hike with Sierra Club	Mourn the end of Daylight Saving Time with another Wilderness-50 hike to Bristol Cliffs, VT. Off-trail hike in Bristol Cliffs Wilderness. Call leader for details.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Nov 4 Tues	Hike ***	Albert Schweitzer Trail near DHMC. Attractive little hike, fairly flat but with roots underfoot, in the woods next to the hospital. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Nov 6 Thurs	Full Moon Hike	Moonlight walk on Hanover Conservancy's Balch Hill. 2 mi, easy. Option: add 1.5 mi for more straight up and down. Bring headlamp or flashlight in case moon is balky.	Angie Emerson 802-299-5866
Nov 7 Fri	ANNUAL MEETING	Annual Ottauquechee Section (members and guests) Meeting and Potluck Dinner at Damon Hall, Hartland, VT. 5:30 social hour, 6:30 dinner. See details, front page.	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Nov 8 Sat	Hike w/ UVLT	Walk through UVLT conserved lands in historic Cornish Art Colony area. Mostly woods roads, some bushwhacking. 5 mi, 700' elev. gain. Moderate. Rain date 11/9.	Jason Berard jason.berard@uvlt.org
Nov 11 Tues	Hike	Veteran's Day A.T. hike from River Rd (Killington, VT) to Stony Brook Rd (Barnard, VT) over Quimby Mountain. 5 mi, 1300' elevation gain. Strenuous.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Nov 15 Sat	Hike	Hurricane Wildlife Refuge, White River Jct. VT. (No hunting) Several loops possible, nice trails but no views. Approximately 3 miles, 600' elevation gain. Easy.	Dick Andrews 802-885-3201
Nov 16 Sun	Walk	Lyme, NH road walk (mostly dirt) ending with a section of the Grant Brook Trail. A loop of about 5 miles, with some hills.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Nov 18 Tues	Road Walk ***	Old Turnpike Road from Dartmouth Skiway, Lyme, NH. Out-and-back, 4 mi. round trip. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Nov 22 Sat	Road Walk	Lovely, bucolic Dogford Road from cemetery in Etna to Hanover Center, NH. 4.7 mi, all paved, some hills. Moderate. Short car spot.	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311
Nov 23 Sun	Road Walk	Leaders' choice in the Thetford / Lyme / Fairlee area; 5 - 6 miles	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Nov 25 Tues	Road Walk ***	In Wilder, VT. Out-and-back to Wilder Dam. Approx. 4 mi. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-296-5777
Nov 30 Sun	Road Walk	Thetford, VT. Campbell Flats loop: Ompompanoosuc River and Union Village Dam. Approx. 6 mi, mostly dirt roads. Easy - Moderate; some steep sections.	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311



Picture courtesy of Dickey Drysdale, *The Herald of Randolph*

The O-Section on Mt. Ascutney, at the Ascutney Trails Association Picnic on May 24, 2014

What is a Wilderness?

Our trip listings marked as “Wilderness-50” celebrate the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Wilderness Act. The definition of wilderness in section 2 was written in 1964 by Howard Zahniser, director of the Wilderness Society during the 1950s and early 1960s:

Quote: “ A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is ...an area of undeveloped

Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation... and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation...”

Most of us have hiked stretches of the AT/LT designated as wilderness area. From what you remember, do these or other wilderness areas in Vermont fit H.Zahniser’s vision?

Inge Trebitz

OTTAUQUECHEE FOOTNOTES

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http://www.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.

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