



FOOTNOTES



VOLUME 41

December 2019 – February 2020

NUMBER 4

UPPER VALLEY
OTTAUQUECHEE SECTION
of the
GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

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MINUTES of the 41st ANNUAL MEETING of the OTTAUQUECHEE SECTION of the GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

1. Welcome and Introduction:

UVO-Section President *Dick Andrews* called the official meeting at 7:20 p.m., welcoming thirty members and guests, including *Keegan Tierney*, GMC Director of Field Programs. He also thanked *Andrea Ambros* for arranging our use of Hartland's Damon Hall.

2018

2. Approval of 2017 Minutes: The minutes were approved as presented and printed in the Dec. 2018 FOOTNOTES.

3. Committee Reports (highlights only – reports submitted included in the Annual Mtg. package):

Outings: *Kathy Astrauckas:* The UVO-Section's schedule listed 172 events since the end of October 2018. These included 83 hikes, 18 walks (mostly dirt roads), 18 bike rides, one paddling trip, 18 X-C or backcountry ski trips, 30 snowshoe outings, and four work days. There were special interest outings such as the Bethel White Quarry tour, Tucker Mtn. History Hike, birding, our traditional cider hike, Super Bowl Sunday Amity Pond snowshoe and campfire, the annual picnic on Mt. Ascutney hosted by Ascutney Trails Assn., Hartland Winter Trails' Tiki Torch Trek, and our New Year's Eve Party. Our continued collaboration with Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park resulted in eight of their "Boots to Boats" hikes co-led by a park ranger and a UVO-Section leader. We noted that our outings (all led by club volunteers - 22), were more of the easy to moderate type with relatively fewer labeled strenuous.

The outings schedules were generated during four planning meetings. Other notable events included the traditional Mud Season Social, and the Taylor Series presentation at the Montshire Museum on "Vermont's Original Rail to Trail".

Treasury and Membership: *Dick Andrews* read *Iris Berezin's* report: Key figures for the fiscal year 2019: Revenue \$2,166; Expenses \$2,746; Opening Balance \$2,173; Closing Balance \$2,115. According to *Iris'* notes, the lower revenue shown for 2019 is due to membership dues not yet credited by GMC HQ for the months of September and October. As in the 2018 membership report, the low count for voting members (210) may not include the spouses in family memberships. [Secretary's Note: a recent recount including spouses arrives at 305 members.]

Publicity: *Inge Treibitz:* No specific report.

Section Director (*Tom Kahl's* report presented by *Dick Andrews*): The club continues to be strong financially. The club's Capital Campaign (\$ 4 million goal) is in its initial silent phase, and is expected to go public in 2020. Issues of local interest are covered through *Keegan Tierney's* report, below.

Trails and Shelters: *Bob Hagen,* Chair: Thanks to all who value and maintain the trail officially or otherwise. We get good reports from trail runners, thru hikers, section hikers and day hikers, saying the section is a pleasure to use. During the 2019 trail season most of our time and energy was spent on clearing blowdowns.

Stretch coordinator *Nick Krembs* and friend of the trail, *Jim Faughan* were called to a blowdown north of Stage Road, and dispatched 21 trees in a space of 75 yards. *Heinz Trebitz* led a crew of seven to Dana Hill to clear multiple blowdowns. There were lesser known blowdown events as well, but our adopters and a host of volunteers kept the trail open.

A perennial problem is trying to get people certified for operating a chainsaw. We have 5 people ready to take the U.S Forest Service course. Currently the GMC Trail Management Committee is looking at a volunteer training program that could also include first aid.

Partners...:

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, overseen by the Forest Service, did incredible rock work, trail relocations, tread stabilization and water bar construction on various trail locations including a segment south of the Quechee-West Hartford Rd. and sites around Gifford Woods, the shoreline of Kent Pond and the west side of Quimby Mountain.

...and Bears: A steel food storage box was brought into Stony Brook shelter to discourage recent bear activity. No activity reported since midsummer.

Adopters: *Nick Krembs* welcomed two new adopters, but many of our adopters have been with us for a while, and their experience shows. Many go out for more than the suggested three times per year, as they get to know the requirements of their segments and shelters.

4. Election of Officers: *Heinz Trebitz* substituting for *Annie Janeway*, Nominating Chair:

The proposed slate of officers was accepted unanimously:

President	<i>Dick Andrews</i>
Outings Chair	<i>Kathy Astrauckas</i>
Secretary	<i>Heinz Trebitz</i>
Section Director	<i>Tom Kahl</i>
Treasurer/Membership	<i>Iris Berezin</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Inge Trebitz</i>
Trails and Shelters Chair	<i>Bob Hagen</i>
Nominating Comm. Chair	<i>Annie Janeway</i>

5. Recognitions: *Heinz* thanked *Dick Andrews* for his leadership and promised a real meeting gavel (to replace the hammer used by *Dick*).

Dick Andrews extended thanks to all of last year's officers and volunteers.

6. Old Business: The question was raised whether the 2017 section name change (*Upper Valley*

Ottaquechee) had a notable effect on UVO's recognition in the Upper Valley. Answer: There is no clear evidence.

7. New Business: Contributions to GMC and local organizations: In anticipation of considerable costs for chainsaw training and certification as well as first aid training, a motion was made to forego a contribution to the main club. The contributions of \$200 each to Hartland Winter Trails, Rivendell Trail Association, Upper Valley Trails Alliance, and Upper Valley Land Trust will be continued. Motion approved (12 in favor, 3 against).

8. Comments from *Keegan Tierney*, GMC Director of Field Programs: *Keegan* highlighted developments of immediate interest to the UVO section, including:

GMC's open areas program: *Heinz* asked whether older open fields along the AT in the Woodstock area are also considered for clearing. These fields are growing over fast and views are getting obscured. *Keegan* invited UVO to submit a respective maintenance request.

Chainsaw program: GMC is thinking about an in-house training program geared to the specific trail maintenance activities.

Norwich trails affecting the AT corridor: a decision by the Forest Service on which unauthorized trails in the corridor to approve is expected this winter.

Woodstock Trails Coordinator: a full time GMC employee stationed at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Park to oversee trails in the area and support the UVO Section will be jointly funded by the NPS and GMC.

Logging in the Stony Brook area: GMC and ATC are assessing the damage done as a result of 12 skid trail crossings of the AT in 0.4 miles. *Nick Krembs* checked it on a rainy day, found it less severe than initially feared, and placed plywood blazes.

Inge Trebitz and *Inge Brown* addressed the question of clearing brush and vegetation on both sides of the Thundering Falls Boardwalk. *Heinz* pointed out the need to remove larger trees (more than 2" in diameter) outside the 3' strip that's presently cleared with a weed trimmer.

Adjournment: The business meeting was closed at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by *Heinz Trebitz*, Secretary, on 11/03/2019

"O" SECTION WINTER ACTIVITIES, DECEMBER 2019- FEBRUARY 2020

Hunting Season continues:

in NH until 12/8 (Deer Reg. Firearms); archery till 12/15 in VT 12/1 = Last Day of Firearms; 12/7-15 = Muzzleloader & Archery

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

!!!!!!!!!!!!!! IF CONDITIONS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR SKI OR SNOWSHOE, ASSUME MICROSPIKES AND CALL THE LEADER!!!

***** Easy on the knees**

GMC members only

Dec 1 Sun	(Snowshoe or) Hike	Bald Top (1776') Traverse, Fairlee, VT. Cross-Rivendell Tr, Blood Brk Rd to Lake Morey. 5.2 mi, ~ 1000' elevation gain. Views (to Franconia Ridge, if clear). Car spot. Moderate.	Kathy Astrauckas/Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Dec 3 Tues	X-C Ski, Snowshoe or Hike ***	Quinn Trail, Hanover, NH. 2 miles max. Easy***. 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Meet at trailhead.	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Dec 7 Sat	Hike	Paradise Park, Windsor, VT. About 4 miles. Easy – Moderate. (No Hunting area.)	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988 ajaneway@gmail.com
Dec 8 Sun	Snowshoe or Hike	Boston Lot, Lebanon, NH. Lovely and local. 2 – 3 hours. Pond, view at top. Moderate (some easy; a couple of steep sections).	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Dec 10 Tues	Road Walk ***	A stroll from the Ledyard Bridge across Dartmouth Campus (Hanover, NH), including a good look at the new building site off Wheelock Street. Easy, some uphill, 10 am to 11:30 am, about 2 - 3 miles.	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Dec 14 Sat	Snowshoe	Spruce Mtn (3037'), Plainfield, VT. Lookouts w/ views; obs. tower at summit. 4.4 mi, 1200' elev. gain (steady climb). Moderate. Cell phone for texts: 802-356-0428 susanstarchild58@gmail.com	Susan Ogden- work Mon-Thurs 7:30-4, 603-442-6770
Dec 15 Sun	Snowshoe or Hike	French's Ledges, Plainfield, NH. Start at Plainfield Elementary School. 2-3 hour meander through woods; short scramble to top of ledges & beautiful view. Moderate.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Dec 17 Tues	X-C Ski, Snowshoe or Walk ***	Lake Pinneo, Quechee, VT. 1.5 mi. Easy ***. 10:00 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Dec 21 Sat	Snowshoe or Walk	First Day of Winter on Sugar River Rail Trail. Claremont, NH to Rte 11. River views, 2 covered bridges. About 4 mi. Flat. Easy. Car spot. duncanlove4024@yahoo.com	Duncan Love 802-226-7697
Dec 22 Sun	X-C Ski, Snowshoe, or Hike	Army Corps of Engineers Union Village Dam Rec. Area, Thetford, VT. Tucker Hill Road to UVD & back. Mode of travel depends on conditions. ~ 5 mi, gently rolling; 1 long hill up to dam. Moderate.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Dec 28 Sat	Snowshoe or Microspike	To Pinnacle Hill in Lyme, NH and back, starting at UVLT parking lot on Highbridge Road. One mile up to a great view, one mile down; partly a loop.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Dec 29 Sun	Snowshoe or Microspike	A.T. loop with Cossingham Road, Norwich, VT. To Happy Hill Shelter. Lovely woods, lots of short ups and downs. About 4 miles, 500' elevation gain. Moderate.	Kathy Astrauckas/Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Dec 31 Tues	New Yr's Eve Party ### ***	New Year's Eve Party. Pot Luck Dinner at 7 p.m., road walk (***) , return for dessert and to see the New Year in. RSVP. ### (GMC members only.)	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Jan 4 Sat	Snowshoe	Townhouse Trail, Strafford, VT. From Strafford village to height of land along Rt. 132 at O'Neill Rd. Exceptional views along ridge line. 4.5 mi, ~ 800' elev. gain, Moderate.	Tom McCleary 802-295-7592
Jan 5 Sun	Snowshoe	Hurricane Forest Wildlife Refuge, White River Jct, VT. Loop on nicely forested pleasant hillside trails. Some views. ~ 3 mi, 400-500' elevation gain. Option for more; depends on if group wants to summit. Easy to moderate. duncanlove4024@yahoo.com	Duncan Love 802-226-7697
Jan 7 Tues	Snowshoe or Microspike	Parcel 5, Norwich, VT. Multi-use loop trail designed by John Morton of Thetford. 5k course (3 mi), hilly, twisty, winding. Moderate.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Jan 7 Tues	Planning Meeting	Planning Meeting for Spring (March - May) outings at 7:00 p.m. at Tom & Linda Kahl's home. Call Kathy Astrauckas ahead with ideas if you can't join us (802-785-4311).	Tom Kahl 207-692-7495
Jan 11 Sat	X-C Ski or Snowshoe	Podunk Pond area of South Strafford, VT. As always, mode of travel depends on conditions. 4 – 5 mi. Moderate. Car shuttle.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Jan 12 Sun	Snowshoe & Microspike	Colette Trail, Enfield, NH. Out-and-back, 4.2 mile round trip. Easy. *** If anyone wants only 2.1 mi, could do a car spot for one-way.	Tom Kahl 207-692-7495

Jan 14 Tues	Snowshoe or Hike	Section 5, Quechee, VT. 2 - 3 hours on hilly, maintained trails in woods that pass a cellar hole, ponds & previous blow downs, but does not offer views. Moderate.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Jan 18 Sat	Snowshoe	Mt. Cushman (2750'), Rochester, VT. From Randolph side. Old road beds; ridge walking. Views. 6 mi. 1254' elev. gain. Moderate. Cell phone for texts: 802-356-042 susanstarchild58@gmail.com	Susan Ogden- work Mon-Thurs 7:30-4, 603-442-6770
Jan 19 Sun	X-C Ski or Snowshoe	Mimi's Trail in Thetford. Starting at the elementary school, to the top of Houghton Hill and back, 5.2 miles; some challenging turns; great views. Moderate.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Jan 20 Mon	Snowshoe ***	Old Plymouth Road. Shrewsbury VT. Pretty road walk with views. Out & back, 4 mi. Mostly level. Easy. Lunch after, at famed Pierce's Store. duncanlove4024@yahoo.com	Duncan Love 802-226-7697
Jan 21 Tues	X-C Ski or Snowshoe	Millstone Nordic Center, E. Barre, VT. Abandoned marble quarries, lovely hardwood forests, views. 5 - 6 miles; Moderate. http://www.millstonehill.com/touring/	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Jan 25 Sat	Snowshoe & Microspikes	Bridal Veil Falls, Franconia, NH. Coppermine Trail, Coppermine Shelter. Gorgeous ice formations on falls. 5 mi, 1200' elevation gain. Moderate.	Kathy Astrauckas/Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Jan 26 Sun	Snowshoe	Downer State Forest, Sharon, VT. Out-&-back on state forest road, 7.6 mi, ~700' elev. gain. Or option to walk back to start from end of the state forest road via Beaver Meadow & Downer Roads, 8.4 mi. Moderate.	Tom McCleary 802-295-7592
Jan 28 Tues	Hike or Spike	Lost Mine Trail, a little-used loop through the Chester, VT Town Forest; a few steep spots. 2.3 mi, 700' elevation gain. Easy to moderate.	Dick Andrews 802-885-3201
Feb 1 Sat	Tiki Torch Trek	X-C ski or snowshoe on the Hartland Winter Trails lit by Tiki Torches; enjoy bonfire, music, hot chocolate and baked goods. New time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Admission fee \$ 5.-, free under 12, family \$ 15.-. Free shuttle from parking area.	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988 ajaneway@gmail.com
Feb 2 Sun	Snowshoe & Campfire	Super Bowl Sunday AND Groundhog Day at Amity Pond Nat. Area, Pomfret, VT. Fields, woods, town roads. Hot lunch by leader at shelter. Bring bowl/cup/utensils. 3 mi, moderate, with a steady climb. 802-457-9047	Debbie.marcus57@gmail.com 978-578-4198 cell
Feb 4 Tues	Snowshoe	Crown Pt. Rd. and Skitchewaug Mtn. (1720'), Springfield VT. Revolutionary War cemetery, Conn. Valley view. 2-3 hours, few hundred feet ascent. Easy to moderate.	Dick Andrews 802-885-3201
Feb 8 Sat	Snowshoe	Paine Mtn (2411'), Northfield, VT. Lollipop loop from the south. 3.5 mi, 1200' elev. gain. Moderate. Cell phone for texts: 802-356-0428 susanstarchild58@gmail.com	Susan Ogden- work Mon-Thurs 7:30-4, 603-442-6770
Feb 9 Sun	Moonlight Walk	Full moon - Mostly dirt road walk in Thetford, VT. Sargent's Corner to Union Village Dam Short car spot.	Lynne Miller 802-785-4410
Feb 11 Tues	Snowshoe	Appalachian Trail, Rte. 100 to River Rd, Killington, VT. Kent Pond shore, Thundering Falls, wetland boardwalk. 2.4 mi, 365' descent; brook crossing. Easy. Short car spot.	Dick Andrews 802-885-3201
Feb 15 Sat	Snowshoe & Microspikes	A.T. over Moose Mtn. (2300'), Etna & Lyme, NH. From Three Mile Rd to Goose Pond Rd. S. Peak, ridge to Moose Mtn. Shelter & N. Peak. 5.8 mi, 1500' elevation gain. Car spot. Mod - Stren.	Tom Kahl 207-692-7495
Feb 16 Sun	X-C Ski	Lovely backcountry skiing, Moose Mtn area, Etna, NH. Out-&-back on Harris Trail at base of mountain. Little elevation gain; a mildly tricky spot or two. ~ 3 hrs. Moderate.	Kathy Astrauckas/Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Feb 17 Mon	Snowshoe	President's Day in the Mt. Tom, Woodstock, VT area. Route based on conditions. Easy to Moderate. duncanlove4024@yahoo.com	Duncan Love 802-226-7697
Feb 18 Tues	Snowshoe	Mt. Ascutney (3150') via Windsor Trail. 5.4 mi., 2,520' elevation gain. Lean-to shelter on the way; observation tower with views if we make it all the way up. Strenuous.	Dick Andrews 802-885-3201
Feb 22 Sat	X-C Ski	Strafford Nordic Center, VT. Open fields & some woods with elevation, hillside vistas. All levels of difficulty. Trail fee. ajaneway@gmail.com	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988
Feb 23 Sun	Snowshoe	Blueberry Mtn (2662'), Glenclyff, NH. Out and back. 5.2 mi round trip, 1300' elev. gain. Fabulous views from ledges. Moderate.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Feb 29 Sat	Snowshoe (Sled opt.)	Leap Year! at Little River State Park, Waterbury Center, VT. Loop on Dalley & Stevenson Brk Trls. Historical, formerly settled area. 6+ mi. Moderate. (Almost easy, but a climb at beginning.) Option: sled back down (BYO sled). Cell phone for texts: 802-356-0428 susanstarchild58@gmail.com	Susan Ogden- work Mon-Thurs 7:30-4, 603-442-6770

COMMUNICATION ISSUES – WHEN AND WHERE SHOULD WE Yield?

At our Oct.26, 2019, Annual Meeting the question was brought up if the name change to "Upper Valley" O-Section made us more visible or recognizable within our local community and beyond. While we could not pinpoint any clear results, we discussed again how to improve the way we communicate and advertise what activities our section is involved with.

According to the Oct. 2019 membership list, we have 305 members, 88 of whom are listed with a partner. This means that the three-monthly newsletter and the outings schedule gets sent to 217 addresses, either by email (47) or by postal mail (170). Besides the official newsletter, *Heinz Trebitz* maintains an unofficial and optional email list, used to make the participants aware of trip changes or spur-of-the-moment planned activities.

But what if members of other GMC sections or of the general public would like to find out about our trips and possibly participate? How do they get the information?

They could go to the GMC website, find the individual sections, click on Upper Valley Ottauquechee Section and then on FOOTNOTES (newsletter), which includes the schedule for three months. *Peter Hope* always transfers the newest edition onto the website, as soon as the newsletter editor sends it to him.

However, this system does not work if someone just wants to know which activities are planned **for a certain date** anywhere within the GMC community. You would have to go to the "GMC Calendar of Outings and Events". This **google calendar** features squares for each day of the month. Within the square, a section's outing shows up with a heading on a color-coded bar. The O-Section is represented with a brown bar. For Nov.2, 2019, for example, it said "Elmore Mtn.". If you clicked on it, the description of the trip appeared similar to what it looks in our newsletter.

Good idea, but: Right now, this description has to be typed in for each event, because our schedule is put together in a "Word" format; it could not be automatically transferred to a Google calendar. We are working hard to find a solution to bridge this gap

and eliminate the tedious work of individually typing in each trip. The change may take some time, and it may involve switching the format of our O-Section schedule to "Google Excel" in the near future. STAY TUNED!

Inge Trebitz

"RUN! RUN! RUN!"

Little *Reuben* called as soon as he was released from his mother's carrier. On Nov.2, *Susan Ogden's* grandson and daughter *Hannah* had joined a group of O-Section hikers on a beautiful fall day loop to the fire tower of Elmore Mountain. First a wide and gently climbing CCC road, then a twisting and somewhat wet and slippery trail up to the ruins of the warden's cabin. Finally a steep ascent to the gorgeous view of the Worcester Range and beyond from the tower.

A somewhat easier and longer trail took us back down. By the time we reached the wide road again, we could hardly keep up with *Reuben's* running energy!

We wish we had more young people to join our trips and fire us up!

Inge Trebitz

Photo: *Annie Janeway*



OTTAUQUECHEE FOOTNOTES

Upper Valley Ottauquechee Section
of the © Green Mountain Club
<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 Vermont mountains play a larger part 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 Upper Valley 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 Upper Valley 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 Iris Berezin at 802-295-2294.

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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I (we) wish to join the Upper Valley 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