



FOOTNOTES



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NUMBER 4

UPPER VALLEY
OTTAUQUECHEE SECTION
of the
GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

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Minutes of the 45th ANNUAL MEETING of the UPPER Valley OTTAUQUECHEE SECTION of the GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

1. Welcome and Introduction

On November 3, 2023, at a new location at the Community Hall in Thetford Center, this was the first Annual meeting to be held in person again. UVO-Section President *Dick Andrews* called the official meeting at 5:30 p.m. (social hour), welcoming 27 members and asking for personal introductions.

2. Announcements

Tom McCleary reminded the members of the upcoming, Nov. 4 hike on the Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway. *Lynne Miller* presented a plan for a four-day summer stay at Great Camp Sagamore in the Adirondacks next August. More information will be posted in the FOOTNOTES and on the UVO website.

3. Recognitions:

Kathy Astrauckas was presented with a T-shirt (purple, of course, showing white blazes), and an official ATC trail marker. This was to celebrate the completion of her section thru hike of the Appalachian Trail over many, many years. *)

4. Approval of 2022 Ann. Mtg. Minutes: The minutes as printed in the December 2022 FOOTNOTES were approved unanimously.

5. Committee Reports (highlights only – written reports are available through the Section Secretary).

Outings: *Kathy Astrauckas* - The UVO Section has been busy with our usual jam-packed outings schedule this past year. We listed over 200 activities from November 2022 through October 2023.

This included:

- hikes, road walks, bike rides, paddling
- X-C skiing, snowshoeing, micro spiking
- trail maintenance (those are listed as our "work days")
- a series of 7 A.T. hikes in collaboration with Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park Rangers
- a "Forest Immersion" hike by new member and leader *Amanda Kenyon*
- *Patrick O'Neill's* 5-day trip to Baxter State park. Six people took part; 4 UVO members climbed the mighty Katahdin, including the challenging Knife Edge.

We have had between 3 and 5 outings per week led by 20 volunteer section members. Our outings range from very easy and slow-paced walks to more strenuous hikes to summits.

UVO's large number and wide variety of outings are the envy of many other GMC sections. Other sections often ask me how "I" do it. The credit is of course all due to our 20 volunteer leaders. Thank you all for your time and effort!

Trails and Shelters: *Bob Hagen* - As covered in previous editions of Footnotes, the Section's 46 miles of AT survived the heavy rain storms in good shape. Adopters and small crews were able to get out in April and May, and their work on water bars and blowdowns helped to lessen the damage from the July rainstorms.

*) **Editors Note:** You'll find a detailed story of Kathy A.'s AT adventures on the "Latest News" Page of the UVO Website <https://uppervalleygmc.org/latest-news/>.

The trail was never closed, although Thundering Falls and the boardwalk required some attention. A big hole around the northern abutment of the Route 12 bridge needs to be refilled.

The USFS has taken over responsibility for keeping open areas cleared, a service much appreciated by the adopters and the trail users.

Students from the Rutland Career and Technology Center have adopted the trail segment from Kent Pond to Sherburne Pass. We're still looking for an adopter for Thundering Falls and the boardwalk. Another project we'll need help with is the relocation of the AT just south of Thistle Hill shelter. The plan is to put in a switchback to replace the failing stone staircase.

Adopters are still out checking segments as part of their fall work, but the heart of the field season was framed by a GMC led work day in May and a second one in September. These sessions were designed for members new to trail work and for veterans who had some knowledge of trail maintenance but wanted to gain new experience and techniques.

There's no substitute for you, our dedicated volunteers. During your hikes, take note of places you think could use the help of an experienced crew and let me know. We'll be building a maintenance calendar for the spring.

Thanks to all who participated in trail and shelter activities this season!

Treasury and Membership: *Iris Berezin* - Key figures for fiscal year 2023: Revenue \$ 2721; Expenses \$ 2679; Opening Balance \$ 5070, Closing Balance \$5305. Membership: 344 (active and lapsed; last year 351). Because of duplicate reporting of dues for October 2022, the revenue for fiscal 2023 is overstated. As noted by *Iris*, we actually collected \$ 600 less in dues in 2023 compared to 2022, which is partly reflected in our reduced membership numbers. The report was accepted as presented, although the question was raised whether synchronizing the UVO fiscal year with that of the Main Club would help making the financial report more transparent.

Section Director: According to *Tom Kahl* the GMC approved the 2023-2028 strategic plan including:

- Protecting and maintaining trail resources
- Operational excellence
- Prioritizing people resources.

Also approved were a Code of Conduct (volunteers' rights and responsibilities) and a Strategic Conservation Plan.

Copies of respective documents can be obtained from Tom (tomlinda.kahl@gmail.com). Other noted

accomplishments were the 2023 trail projects, discussions about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), and a collection of \$ 69,000 in donations for the Long Trail Day. UVO-Woodchuck members contributed \$ 1,118.

Publicity: *Inge Trebitz*: The bulk (approx. 180) of our FOOTNOTES is still being sent as printed copy; some 50 members are receiving the newsletter via e-mail. Printing and mailing of the FOOTNOTES amounts to a annual cost of \$ 865.

Heinz reported on the UVO Website. It is up-to-date except for the Hiking and Trail Work page which still needs improved trail maps for our section of the AT. The question was raised who would continue to manage the website in case of personal changes. *Heinz* pointed out that there is an alternate webmaster with full access to the site. It was recommended to document the website processes to facilitate a seamless continuation of website services.

Kathy Astrauckas suggested more advertising for our outings at local list serves (e.g. Upper Valley).

6. Election of Officers: *Heinz Trebitz*, on behalf of *Annie Janeway*, Nominating Chair, presented the following slate of officers, which was accepted unanimously.

President	<i>Dick Andrews</i>
Secretary	<i>Judy Danna</i>
Treasurer/Membership	<i>Iris Berezin</i>
Outings	<i>Kathy Astrauckas</i>
Trails and Shelters	<i>Bob Hagen, Chair</i>
Newsletter	<i>Inge Trebitz</i>
GMC Section Director	<i>Tom Kahl</i>
Nominating Committee	<i>Annie Janeway</i>

7. Old Business: None raised.

8. New Business: Members approved the following donations to fellow organizations in the Upper Valley and GMC HQ: \$ 200 each to Hartland Winter Trails, Rivendell Trails, Upper Valley Trails Alliance and Upper Valley Land Trust; \$ 500 to GMC. *Iris* noted the positive response from Rivendell regarding present and future trail maintenance plans.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was closed at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by *Heinz Trebitz* (substituting for *Judy Danna*, Secretary). Nov. 13, 2023

Happy Holidays !

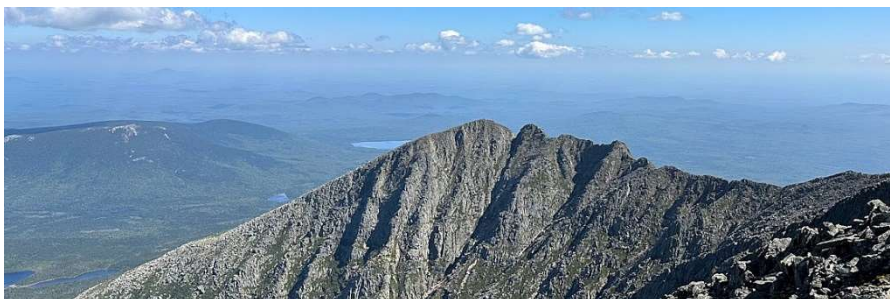
"O" SECTION WINTER ACTIVITIES, DECEMBER 2023 – FEBRUARY 2024

Hunting Season	VT: 12/2 – 10 Muzzleloader 10/1 – 12/15 Archery	NH: 9/15 - 12/15 Archery, Deer & Turkey 11/8 - 12/3 Deer Reg. Firearms	
*** Easy on the knees BACK-COUNTRY ETIQUETTE: NO CELL PHONE USE EXCEPT IN EMERGENCY			
Dec 2 Sat	Microspike/ Snowshoe?	Long Trail north from US-4 to Rolston Rest Shelter & return. Also passes by "new" Tucker Johnson Shelter. 10 miles, but only 1700' climb, nothing steep. Moderate. (If snowshoes / unbroken trail, we'll shorten trip considerably.)	Kathy Astrauckas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Dec 4 Mon	Hike	Section 5 loop in Quechee, VT. Different tree types, a stream, foundation, stonewalls, ledges. Interpretive signs: info on geology, area's early inhabitants, remnants of settlements. 3 hours. Moderate.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Dec 5 Tues	Hike ***	Hartford Town Forest, Hartford, VT. Loop in woods, 1 – 2 mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Dec 5 Tues	UVO Qtrly & Planning Meeting	UVO Quarterly Planning & Business Meeting for Spring (March - May) outings. Call or email Kathy Astrauckas ahead w/ ideas if you can't join us. kabh@myfairpoint.net Details to follow; contact Kathy if you don't receive them.	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311
Dec 8 Fri	Hike	Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Hist. Park, Woodstock, VT. Start at Billings Farm overflow parking area, walk on carriage roads to South Peak w/ side trip along Pogue Brook. Return w/ side trip past mother-in-law house & family swimming hole to parking lot. 3+ hrs. Moderate.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Dec 9 Sat	Hike	Ely Mountain Conservation Area, Thetford, VT. Woods trail, gentle hills. Keep a sharp eye for unusual natural things. Double lollipop loop. 3 – 4 mi. Easy to Moderate.	Lynne Miller 603-643-6194
Dec 11 Mon	Snowshoe or Hike	Lyme Town Forest, Lyme, NH. From Orfordville Rd to Rt. 10. Beaver Pond, Western Forest, Waterfall, and Clay Brook Trails. 4 miles, 500' climb. Moderate. Car spot.	Tom McCleary 802-295-7592 cell 802 356 0890
Dec 12 Tues	Hike ***	Hurricane Forest, Hartford, VT. 1 – 2 mi, some up, but mostly down. Car spot. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Dec 15 Fri	Hike	Brookmead Conservation Area, Norwich, VT. Lovely woods loop of 3+ miles, ~ 1000' climb. Moderate.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Dec 16 Sat	Snowshoe/ Spike	Little Ascutney, Brownsville, VT. Narrow trail w/ some steep parts, to great lookout & cliff face at Stapleton Pt. Overlooks Town of Reading w/ views of Green Mtns. 3.1 mi, 800' climb. Moderate. kpmhoneill@gmail.com	Patrick O'Neill 802-291-3208
Dec 17 Sun	Walk or snowshoe	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Union Village Dam Rec. Area, Thetford, VT. Loop of about 4 mi; gentle ups and downs. Moderate.	Inge/ Heinz Trebitz 802-785-2129
Dec 19 Tues	Snowshoe/ Microspike	Long Trail south from Brandon Gap, backcountry uphill track to Goshen Mtn (3292'); views! Descend & continue south on LT to site of new (relocated) Sunrise Shelter; return on LT. 6.5 - 7 mi, 1600' climb. Moderate with some steep parts up Goshen Mtn.	Kathy Astrauckas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Dec 19 Tues	Walk ***	Thetford Academy Trails, Thetford Hill, VT. Woods Trail, wide and relatively smooth. Out-and-back. 1 – 1.5 mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Dec 26 Tues	Snowshoe or Walk ***	Mascoma River Trail, Lebanon, NH. Between Alice Peck Day Hospital & Lebanon, NH. Out-and-back. 1 – 1.5 mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Dec 30 Sat	Hike	Black Mtn (1280') Natural Area, Dummerston, VT. Beaver pond, bridges over rocky stream, cascades, views of Mount Monadnock, rugged granite ridgetops that are home to plant communities unique in VT. Protected by The Nature Conservancy. 4 mi, 1,000' elev. gain. Moderate. More info: https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/black-mountain-natural-area/	Amanda Kenyon 802-289-0108 ailee2120@gmail.com
Dec 31 Sun	New Year's Eve Party ***	New Year's Eve pot luck At Inge Brown's, games, & an invigorating local walk before dessert & Champagne at midnight. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Jan 1 Mon	Snowshoe/ Microspike	New Year's Day on A.T. Loop from Cossingham Road, Norwich, VT, to Happy Hill Shelter. Lovely woods, lots of short ups & downs. ~ 4 mi., 800' elev. gain. Moderate.	Kathy Astrauckas/Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Jan 2 Tues	Snowshoe ***	Quinn Trail, Hanover, NH. Out-and-back, 1.5 mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Jan 6 Sat	Hike/Spike/ Snowshoe	Mimi's Trail, Thetford, VT. Up and back, gentle grade, interesting route through pines and hardwoods. Nice views from summit. ~ 5 mi. Moderate.	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988 ajaneway@gmail.com

Jan 7 Sun	Snowshoe/ Spike	Mt. Ascutney (3150') via State Park (paved) auto road (no cars in winter) & trail to summit. Views. 7.4 mi, 2250' climb. Summit trail adds 1.4 mi & 400' elevation gain. Strenuous (steady uphill). kpmhoneill@gmail.com	Patrick O'Neill 802-291-3208
Jan 9 Tues	Snowshoe	The Long Tr. in winter. Clarendon Gorge to Minerva Hinchey Shelter & return. Beautiful gorge, views of Adirondacks from Airport Lookout. 5.4 mi., 1000' elev. gain. Moderate.	Kathy Astraukas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Jan 9 Tues	X-C Ski ***	Quechee, VT. Lake Pinneo Loop, usually well groomed. 1 – 1.5 mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** (This loop can be repeated.)	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Jan 13 Sat	Snowshoe	Moose Mtn (S Peak), Etna, NH. Head north on AT from Three Mile Road to South Peak; continue north on AT to Wolfeboro Road with quick detour to Moose Mtn Shelter. Down Wolfeboro Road to Harris Trail & back to cars at Three Mile Road. 4.4 mi, 900' climb. Moderate.	Tom Kahl 207-692-7495
Jan 15 Mon	Snowshoe	Martin Luther King Jr. Day at 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
Jan 16 Tues	Snowshoe	Long Trail northbound from Brandon Gap to Gillespie Peak (3366') & return, including Great Cliffs of Mt. Horrid & Cape Lookoff Mtn. Beautiful, varied landscape. 6.8 mi, 1500' climb. Moderate.	Kathy Astraukas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Jan 16 Tues	Walk ***	Norwich, VT. Roads around Hawk Pine Road. 1 – 1.5 mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Jan 20 Sat	Snowshoe	Lyme, NH loop on Stone House Farm Trails. Open fields & woods, steep ascent to outlook. 3-4 miles. Moderate.	Tom McCleary 802-295-7592 cell 802 356 0890
Jan 21 Sun	Snowshoe/ Microspike	Norwich, VT loop connecting Parcel 5, Brookmead Conservation Area, Ballard Trail. Lovely section along Charles Brown Brook. 7 mi, 1200' elev gain (many short ups/downs). Moderate.	Nick Krembs 802-649-1048
Jan 23 Tues	X-C Ski ***	Norwich, VT. Huntley Meadow loop, if groomed. 1 – 1.5 mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** (This loop can be repeated.)	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Jan 26 Fri	Snowshoes/ Microspikes	Bridal Veil Falls, Franconia, NH. Coppermine Trail, Coppermine Shelter. Gorgeous ice formations on falls. 5 mi, 1200' climb. Steadily up, but nothing steep. Moderate.	Kathy Astraukas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Jan 27 Sat	X-C Ski	Green Woodlands, Lyme/Dorchester NH. Various loops for a few hours on groomed terrain. Moderate.	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988 ajaneway@gmail.com
Jan 29 Mon	Snowshoe	Blueberry Mtn (2662'), Glencliff, NH. Out and back. 5.2 mi round trip, 1300' climb. Fabulous views from ledges. Moderate.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Jan 30 Tues	Snowshoe ***	Quechee, VT. From US-4 bridge over Quechee Gorge to Dewey Pond & back. 1 – 1.5 mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Feb 3 Sat	Snowshoe	Flag Pole Hill, Vershire, VT. Western terminus of the Cross Rivendell Trail. From Taylor Valley Rd. to summit of Flag Pole Hill (1.2 mi). Return via Mclver Rd. to starting point (1.8 mi). Total distance 3.0 mi, little elevation gain, easy (moderate if need to break trail).	Tom McCleary 802-295-7592 cell 802 356 0890
Feb 4 Sun	X-C Ski	Groomed ski trails at French's Ledges, Plainfield, NH, a new adventure for UV-O. Most trails are easy, but a few venture up hill near the famous "Ledges" which cannot be navigated on skis. Bring spikes or snowshoes if you would like to see the view from the top. 2 - 3 hours.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Feb 6 Tues	Snowshoe	Ore Hill section of A.T., Wentworth/Warren, NH. Pretty section of trail from NH 25C to 25A. 5 mi, 700' elev. gain. Moderate. Car spot. (If car spot not feasible, we'll modify.)	Kathy Astraukas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Feb 6 Tues	X-C Ski ***	Quechee, VT. Lake Pinneo Loop, usually well groomed. 1 – 1.5 mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** (This loop can be repeated.)	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Feb 10 Sat	Snowshoe	Tucker Mountain Town Forest, from East Corinth, VT. West entrance. 1 mile to spectacular view!!! Lollipop loop ~ 4 mi with descent on Putnam Trail and returning on Tucker Mountain Road. Moderate; a few hills.	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988 ajaneway@gmail.com
Feb 11 Sun	Snowshoe	A UVO Tradition! Annual Super Bowl Sunday outing at Amity Pond Natural Area, Pomfret, VT. 3.2 mile loop with steep uphill return to build appetites. BYO lunch, water, hot drink, & snacks. Campfire & s'mores provided by the leader at shelter near the road, weather permitting. debbie.marcus57@gmail.com	Debbie Marcus 978-578-4198
Feb 13 Tues	Walk ***	Norwich, VT. From Norwich Inn up to Hobson Rd, down Elm St. 1 – 1.5 mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017

2023 Winter Outings – Continued from Insert (Pages 3 & 4)

Feb 15 Thurs	Snowshoe	Strafford, VT. From Moody Hill Road to frozen Miller Pond & across it to car spot at fishing access. Following old trails, mainly gently down. 4 - 5 mi. Moderate.	Inge/ Heinz Trebitz 802-785-2129
Feb 17 Sat	Snowshoe-a-Thon	Come snowshoe or spike at the 27th Annual VerShare Snowshoe-a-thon in Vershire, VT at 10 a.m. Annie Janeway will be on site & coordinating participants from UVO. <u>Donations</u> of any level are encouraged to support the VerShare summer camp for kids https://vershare.org . There is pre-registration at the web site or you can register at the event. Lunch is delicious, it's a festive and fun event, and you get to take part in a GMC UVO tradition.	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988 ajaneway@gmail.com
Feb 19 Mon	Snowshoe	Presidents Day on Bald Top Traverse, Fairlee, VT. Cross-Rivendell Trail east from Blood Brook Rd to Bald Top. Continue on down to parking lot at Lake Morey. 5.2 mi, 1,000' climb. Moderate.	Tom Kahl 207-692-7495
Feb 20 Tues	X-C Ski ***	Woodstock Country Club, Woodstock, VT. Groomed trails. Trail fee, & half price to swim afterwards. Quechee, VT. 1 – 1.5 mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** (Participants can increase distance easily if so desired.)	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Feb 24 Sat	X-C Ski	Post Mills, VT. Many loops to choose from. Easy w/ some gentle, short hills, but mostly flat. Mileage depends on which loops you choose & how long you want to ski.	Lynne Miller 603-643-6194
Feb 25 Sun	Snowshoe/ Spike	Mt. Kinsman Trail to Bald Peak, Easton, NH. Steady climb to lookout with fine views. 4.6 mi, 1350' climb. Strenuous. kpmhoneill@gmail.com	Patrick O'Neill 802-291-3208
Feb 27 Tues	Snowshoe or Walk ***	Wilder, VT. Bicycle/pedestrian path along Route 5 from Dothan Brook School to Kilowatt Park. Car spot, or out-and-back. 1 – 1.5 mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017



Clockwise:

Collecting Cider from Vermont apples

Photo: Heinz Trebitz

Collecting Compost from Happy Hill privy

Photo: Lily LaRegina

Collecting Peaks: Knife Edge from Baxter

Photo: Patrick O'Neill

OTTAUQUECHEE FOOTNOTES

Upper Valley Ottauquechee Section
Of the ©Green Mountain Club
<https://uppervalleygmc.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 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 "UVO" Section is responsible for the maintenance of 46 miles of the 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 "UVO"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, attRick Dugan/Membership. 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