

FOOTNOTES



VOLUME 47

NUMBER 4

December 2025 – February 2026

UPPER VALLEY
OTTAUQUECHEE SECTION
of the
GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

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President's Message - Winter 2025/26

As Stick Season turns to Winter, I am putting on warmer layers and happily looking back at our sun-splashed summer and fall.

Many thanks for all of you who turned out at our well-attended Long Trail Day hike on the Appalachian Trail in Pomfret. It was a gorgeous day with a great group of UVO stalwarts and new members and friends! The Green Mountain Club and I are so appreciative of the generous donations to the club for this hike-a-thon. Well done, UVO!

My heartfelt thanks go out again to all of our leaders for providing such a robust calendar of activities, and to Kathy Astrauckas for her brilliant management of our activities. The UVO Section shines when it comes to outings.

Thanks, also, to our volunteers who completed the puncheon replacement project south of Totman Hill Road. Bob Hagen will provide a thorough review of this work later in this newsletter.

And many thanks to Inge and Heinz Trebitz for generously hosting the memorial "Party-with a capital P" for our dear Past President, Inge Brown. What a great way to share memories and stories of Inge: a walk in the golden woods and cider pressing!

My last thanks is for RAIN. Our forests needed it to recover from the drought as much as possible before winter sets in.



Wendy on Potash Mountain; Background: Mt. Passaconaway Photo: *Phil Robertson*

Notes from the President's Meetings from September and October 2025.

GMC is not experiencing any interruption of functionality due to the federal government shutdown at present. All at GMC are watching closely how this affects their partners and how this might affect future reimbursements.

The GMC 2025 field season was excellent. The exceptionally dry weather did contribute to fine conditions for trail work. Final projects are wrapping up by 11/20/25.

Looking ahead:

The Legacy Restoration Fund (National Park Service) is expected to direct \$15MM for the AT in New England to repair and restore trail tread on the AT. Identifying the areas of focus is underway.

The GMC Governance Review is progressing. Work on the Bylaw changes is nearly complete. All sections will bring their own bylaws into compliance to meet the club's model.

Reports



Photo: Phil Robertson

The AT on the east side of Totman Hill, off Woodstock-Pomfret Rd, passes a slope that is wet at any condition.

This will ensure that GMC and the sections have bylaws which are legally sound in the state of VT. (The UVO section bylaws are already quite solid and I don't anticipate huge changes. Some sections have no bylaws, or bylaws written many decades ago and never updated).

Also, as has been discussed before, the GMC expects to shrink the size of the Board, and we should hear more about this before the end of the year. Stay tuned!

May we have a Winter Wonderland in 2025-2026! Debbie Markus

Trail Work: (from notes by Bob Hagen)

Some ten years ago, the Boy Scouts layed down a series of puncheons for safe footing and keeping your boots out of the mud. They were not well anchored and started floating down hill. They deteriorated after a short while.

On October 8, a UVO crew organized by *Bob* installed new puncheons. This was an all UVO section project: *Bob and Phil* did the scouting and measurements, *John Morton* (the XC trail builder) provided the lumber – our section picked up the tab, except for the spikes. The sills were anchored in the mud, half to a third down as per *Lorne's* (GMC staff) instructions. How long will the job hold up?

Outings: (from notes by Mark Harvey).

September 8 tuned out to be a beautiful day to climb Potash Mountain. The participants were Wendy Jackson, Phil Robertson and myself. The photo of Wendy ascending a slab near the summit shows Mt. Passaconaway looming large behind her, was taken by Phil. It took 4 ½ hours for the 4.4 miles round trip. The elevation gain was 1450'.

More reports on Page - 5 -

"O" SECTION WINTER ACTIVITIES, DECEMBER 2025 - FEBRUARY 2026

 Hunting
 VT:
 12/1 – 15 Archery
 NH:
 11/12 - 12/7
 Deer Reg. Firearms

 Season
 12/6 – 14 Muzzleloader
 9/15 - 12/15 Archery: Deer & Turkey

If conditions seem iffy, contact the leader; they usually have a "Plan B" alternate. BACK-COUNTRY ETIQUETTE: NO CELL PHONE USE EXCEPT IN EMERGENCY

Brok Gook Wil Eriade Field Gele Friend Good Broef Fire Emerication							
Dec 2	Microspike/	Long Trail north from US-4 to Rolston Rest Shelter & return. Also passes by Tucker Johnson Shelter. Very pretty stretch of trail. 10 miles, but only 1700' climb, nothing steep. Moderate. If snowshoes/unbroken trail, or too many slippery leaves, or people just don't want to go that far, we'll shorten trip considerably. Or maybe up Deer Leap Mountain from the back, instead. Call us with your preferences!	Kathy Astrauckas/ Bob				
Tues	Snowshoe?		Hagen 802-785-4311				
Dec 5	Hike/	Morey Mtn, conserved by Upper Valley Land Trust. Great view down CT River Valley. Little work for a lot of reward. 4 mi, 840' climb, one steep pitch. Moderate.	Iris Berezin				
Fri	Microspike		802-295-2294				
Dec 8	Hike/	Cossingham Road Farm Trail, Norwich, VT. Loop designed by John Morton: lots of trail in little space. 3.2 mi. Steep & hilly. Moderate.	Iris Berezin				
Mon	Microspike		802-295-2294				
Dec 9	Snowshoe/	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				
Tues	Microspike		Hagen 802-785-4311				
Dec 13	Hike/	Lyme, NH Town Forest traverse. Semi-exploratory. 4 – 5 mi. Moderate. Car spot.	Lynne Miller				
Sat	Microspike		603-643-6194				
Dec 14 Sun	Hike/Spike/ Snowshoe	Norwich, VT. Sugartop Rd to Burton Woods Rd. Snowmobile trail / woods road. 4 mi. Gentle hills, the easier end of Moderate. Car spot. PLEASE WEAR ORANGE.	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988 ajaneway@gmail.com				
Dec 16	Hike/	Quechee Lakes Section 5 Wilderness Trails network, Quechee, VT. 5 mi, 300' elev. gain. Moderate. Mcclearytom54@gmail.com cell: 802-356-0890	Tom McCleary				
Tues	Snowshoe		802-295-7592 home				
Dec 19	Snowshoe/	Bald Top (1776') traverse, Fairlee, VT. On Cross-Rivendell Trail from Blood Brook Rd to Lake Morey. 5.2 mi, ~ 1000' elev. gain. Views (to Franconia Ridge, if clear). Moderate. Car spot.	Kathy Astrauckas/ Bob				
Fri	Microspike		Hagen 802-785-4311				
Dec 21	Snowshoe/	First Day of Winter on Moose Mtn south ridge (NOT the summit). Views!!! possibly including Mt. Washington; great view over Mascoma Lake at turn-around point. 7.0 mi, 1400' climb, but all short, mild ups and downs, mostly gentle ridgeline. Moderate.	Kathy Astrauckas				
Sun	Microspike		802-785-4311				
Dec 23	Microspike/	Paradise Park, Windsor, VT. Field, gazebo, Lake Runnemede, ridge trail, brooks, great views of Ascutney. Some short steep sections. ~ 4.5 mi. Easy – Moderate. kpmhoneill@gmail.com	Patrick O'Neill				
Tues	Snowshoe		802-291-3208				
Dec 30	Snowshoe/	Little Ascutney, Brownsville, VT. Narrow trail with some steep parts, to great lookout & cliff face at Stapleton Pt. Overlooks Town of Reading with views of Green Mtns. 3.1 mi, 1000' climb. Moderate. kpmhoneill@gmail.com	Patrick O'Neill				
Tues	Spike/Hike		802-291-3208				
Jan 1	Snowshoe /	New Year's Day on Mimi's Trail, Thetford, VT. Up & back, gentle grade, interesting route through pines & hardwoods. Nice views from summit. ~ 5 mi. Moderate. Footgear depends on conditions.	Kathy Astrauckas/ Bob				
Thurs	Microspike		Hagen 802-785-4311				
Jan 3	Spike or	Farnum Hill, Lebanon, NH. Trail mostly through forested area. View from ridge & power line. 4.5 mi, 400' climb. Moderate. ajaneway@gmail.com	Annie Janeway				
Sat	Snowshoe		413-374-0988				
Jan 6 Tues	UVO Qtrly & Planning Meeting	UVO Quarterly Planning & Business Meeting for Spring (March - May) outings. 7:00 p.m. via Zoom, because it works so well. Call or email Kathy Astrauckas ahead with ideas if you can't join us. kabh@myfairpoint.net	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311				
Jan 9	Snowshoe/	Brookmead Conservation Area, Norwich, VT. Lovely woods loop of 3+ miles, \sim 1000' climb. Moderate.	Iris Berezin				
Fri	Microspike		802-295-2294				
Jan 10	X-C Ski or	X-C ski at a local Upper Valley area if there's snow. Skier's choice over easy/moderate area. Otherwise, road walk in Lyme, NH area, ~ 4 mi, Moderate, w/ long, gradual hill to begin. Car spot.	Lynne Miller				
Sat	Road Walk		603-643-6194				
Jan 12	Spike/	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				
Mon	Snowshoe		Hagen 802-785-4311				
Jan 13	Snowshoe/	Colette Trail, Enfield, NH. Lovely ice formations, beautiful rushing stream. Lollipop loop, no big hills. 4.2 mi. round trip. Easy-Moderate, depending on conditions. <u>Mcclearytom54@gmail.com</u>	Tom McCleary				
Tues	Microspike		802-356-0890				
Jan 17 Sat	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 up/dns). Moderate.	Nick Krembs 802-649-1048 Page - 3 -				

Jan 19 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 20 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 Astrauckas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Jan 24 Sat	Snowshoe	Smith Pond Shaker Forest, Enfield, NH from NH-4A. Upper Valley Land Trust trails. Loop highlighting remnants of Shaker's old dam & canals, 2 waterfalls, Smith Pond. 6.1 mi., ~ 1000' climb. Moderate with a couple steep areas. debbie.marcus57@gmail.com	Debbie Marcus 978-578-4198
Jan 27 Tues	Snowshoe/ Microspike	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 Astrauckas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Jan 31 Sat	Snowshoe/ Microspike	Whitcomb Hill, Strafford VT loop: Furnace Flats Tr to Whitcomb Hill, down Cross Town Tr to Rt 132, on Rt 132 for 3/4 mile to cars. Great views fr Whitcomb Hill. 5 mi, 1,000' elev. gain. Moderate. Co-leader Tom McCleary.	Tom Kahl 207-692-7495
Feb 1 Sun	X-C Ski	Groomed ski trails at French's Ledges, Plainfield, NH. 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 3 Tues	Snowshoe	Ore Hill section of A.T., Wentworth/Warren, NH. Pretty section of trail from NH 25C to 25A. 5 mi, 700' climb. Moderate. Car spot. (If car spot not feasible or conditions difficult, we'll modify.)	Kathy Astrauckas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Feb 7 Sat	Snowshoe or Spike	Lyme, NH loop. Open fields & woods; steep ascent to outlook. 3 - 4 mi. Moderate. Mcclearytom54@gmail.com cell: 802-356-0890	Tom McCleary 802-295-7592 home
Feb 8 Sun	Snowshoe + Bonfire	A UVO Tradition! Annual Super Bowl Sunday outing at Amity Pond Natural Area, Pomfret, VT. 3.2 mile loop w/ steep uphill return to build appetites. BYO lunch, water, hot drink, snack to share. 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 Fri	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
Feb 14 Sat	X-C Ski, Snowshoe, or Rd Walk	Valentine's Day! If lake is frozen & there's snow, X-C ski & snowshoe at a local pond or lake. Distance is up to the individual. If weather doesn't cooperate, hike with spikes or road walk.	Lynne Miller 603-643-6194
Feb 15 Sun	Snowshoe	Okemo Mtn. (3343'), Mt. Holly VT. Via Healdville Trail. Fire tower, nice views. Steep but not rough. 6.2 mi, 2350' total climb. Moderate. kpmhoneill@gmail.com	Patrick O'Neill 802-291-3208
Feb 17 Tues	X-C Ski or Snowshoe	Thetford Academy Trails, Thetford, VT. Mode of locomotion AND trail choice depend on conditions: if GOOD snow, X-C ski on John Morton's hilly, winding cross-country running and skiing trails. If snowshoe, we'll use Thetford Hill State Park access road and back-country Glebe Trail. Call leader for details. $\sim 4-5$ mi. Moderate.	Kathy Astrauckas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Feb 21 Sat	Snowshoe- a-Thon	Snowshoe or spike at the 29th Annual VerShare Snowshoe-a-thon in Vershire, VT. Annie Janeway will be on site & coordinating participants from UVO Section (but will not accompany the group since she'll be organizing). Donations of any level are encouraged to support the VerShare summer camp for kids. https://vershare.org . Pre-register on web site or at the event. Lunch is delicious, it's a festive and fun event, & you get to take part in a GMC UVO tradition.	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988 ajaneway@gmail.com
Feb 24 Tues	Snowshoe	Moose Mtn (S Peak), Etna, NH. Loop: north on AT from Three Mile Road to South Peak; continue north on AT to Wolfeboro Road w/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
Feb 28 Sat	Snowshoe	Mt. Ascutney (3150') via Brownsville Tr. Old quarry, observation tower w/ 360° views. 6.4 mi, 2400' climb. Strenuous. kpmhoneill@gmail.com	Patrick O'Neill 802-291-3208

Annie Janeway's late October Hike in Sharon

On November 2 thirteen GMC members and trip partcipants walked 3.2 miles of woods roads on the "My Walden" property conserved (1999) and finally donated to the Upper Valley Land Trust 2024 by Shiela and Steve Swett. The 236-acre property is near Downer State Forest and has many paths to explore, but no signs by design. The picture (by *Annie Janeway*) shows the group at an overloook that has benches and a memorial sculpture. A fabulous view included the first snow-covered ski slopes at Killington. Many of of those along for the hike had the pleasure of experiencing this tranquil spot for the first time. *A.Janeway*





Reports: More on Outings

Iris' Hike on Marsh Billings All photos: A.Janeway Monday, November 3 was a great day for a walk/hike on the trails at MBRNP. Nine members of the UVO Section gathered in the Prosper Road parking area before heading out on the lesser traveled trails. The beauty of these trails is that you can enjoy the park without encountering any or many other people, and there are four benches for stopping to sit, snack and enjoy the scenery. The colors had faded, but the view of iconic Mt. Ascutney did not disappoint. Although the park was closed due to the government shutdown, the trails are always open and free to walk on. Iris Berezin

Patrick's Climb of Owl's Head

On October 26, 2025, seven UVO friends and Whidbey the dog signed up for a popular "52 with a view" hike up Owl's Head that would also include a peakbag of Mount Martha. The weather forecast that morning predicted a twenty percent chance of precipitation with both rain and snow showers possible. We decided to go for it, but made sure to caution all to pack for winter weather. We began the hike up Owl's Head Trail with a drizzle that turned to a light rain as we gained elevation.

The twenty percent precipitation forecasted was clearly one hundred percent in our location and as we approached



the summit of Owl's Head it changed to snow, with about an inch of accumulation on the ground that made for some slippery footing. The summit was socked in (see picture), but we stopped there anyway for conversation and a quick lunch. The precipitation wasn't slowing and since we knew there wouldn't be any view to enjoy, we all agreed to skip the planned hike over Martha's Mile to Mount Martha, and instead turn around to hike back to the parking lot and call it a day. On the way down the newly fallen snow on the trees made for some beautiful winter forest views, and we were treated to a flock of loudly yelping turkeys that Whidbey particularly enjoyed!

All things considered it was a great day, and the hot cup of coffee we stopped for on the way home really hit the spot! *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 reponsible 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 M	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							