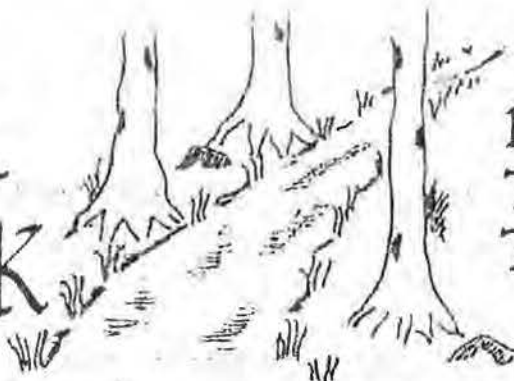


TRAIL TALK



Newsletter of
The Montpelier Section,
The Green Mountain Club

Number 7

SEPTEMBER, 1983

HAVE A SAFE TRIP: CONCLUSION

Five hypothetical examples should have revealed how easily an enjoyable outdoor experience can become threatening. The examples should also have shown how easily dangers can be avoided by knowledge, common sense, cooperation and preparations. Extra socks and wool sweater, a life jacket, a helping hand requested or offered on a steep spot, all can assure nature remains freindly on our various outings. Carelessness, lack of direction, or noncooperation can lead to tragedy.

Besides a rest in a sunny summer mountain meadow, part of my outdoor enjoyment comes from facing the wind-driven snow on Camel's Hump in January. With wool, windbreaker, face mask, and supportive friends, I remain warm and safe. Not owning crampons, I turn back when the summit snow cover has blown away, leaving ice. I also turn back if another hiker is cold or tired. Usually, that is. One fine day in 1983, my impatience led me to carelessly not notice the path-blocking sapling I was sawing was under tension. Two cracked ribs reminded me for months to practice what I preach.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Safe outings require that leaders and every participant assume responsibility for personal and group safety.

Andrew Nuquist.

THANK YOU-----

On behalf of Jean and myself I'd like to thank the Montpelier Section of G.M.C. for the generous gift on the occasion of our wedding. We love you all. We're sorry not to have participated in activities to any extent lately, but see a time when we will renew our activity with the section. Our marriage is excellent and our relationship gets better every day. We are both happy to experience what marriage can be.

Sincerely, Paul Ohman

WELL MAINTAINED TRAILS.....

Dear Mr. Wallace-Brodeur: Some six years ago my wife wrote to the Green Mountain Club requesting information about the hiking trails up Mt. Hunger. As a young girl in the late 1920's she had climbed the mountain with her father several times while he was marking the trail, which was badly overgrown at the time, and she was wondering if the trail was still usable.received a most cordial and helpful letter complete with hand-drawn maps.....You will be interested to learn this past week, with the assistance of your letter and maps, my wife and I, with son and grandsons had the most enjoyable experience of climbing Mt. Hunger....the trails were in excellent shape. Thank you. William Metcalf, Falmouth Mass.

MONTPELIER SECTION GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB OUTING SCHEDULE

Note: Non-members are welcome on our hikes. Advance registration is not necessary, except for meals, but is always useful to the leader and to inform you of any last minute changes. UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, ALL TRIPS WILL MEET AT THE MONTPELIER HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT.

24 September, Saturday, 8:00. Whiteface Mountain via Beaver Meadow. $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles, moderate difficulty. Bring trail lunch. Leader: Harlan Farnsworth, 223-2240.

1 & 2 October, Saturday & Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Work party at Sterling Shelter, Elephant Head and Long Trail. Bring pack frame and your own food. Come for one or both days; some will be staying overnight. Call Paul Ohman at 229-9496, so he can plan on manpower.

9 October, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Hike Worcester Mountain. 5 miles, intermediate difficulty. Bring a trail lunch. We will do some trail clearing. Leader: Cynthia Martin 426-3874.

19 October, Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. - Canoe Woodbury Lake in the moonlight. Pot-luck supper preceeding. Come if you like to eat - plenty of canoes available. Meet at Calais Elementary School at 5:30. Leader: Cynthia Martin, 426-3874.

23 October, Sunday, 12:30 p.m. Meet at Norwich Armory. Hike Paine Mountain. $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, easy. Leader Ken Kidd, 485-7736.

29 October, Saturday, 1:00 p.m. Hike Taylor Lodge. Wear costume; bring snacks to share. 3.5 miles, easy. Leader: Reidun Nuquist, 223-3550.

6 November, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Hike Camel's Hump up Forestry Trail and down Dean Trail. 7.4 miles, difficult. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Leader: George Longnecker. 426-3874.

16 November, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Slide show at Farnsworth's. Bring slides of G.M.C. outings.

19 November, Saturday, 1:00 p.m. at Montpelier High School. Hike at Sally Sairs in Calais. Pot luck meal, overnight available. Easy. Call 223-2240 for reservations.

4 December, Sunday, 12:30 p.m. Hike Redstone on Terrace St. 4 miles, easy. Leader: Andrew Nuquist, 223-3550.

10 December, Saturday, 9:30 p.m. Ski (Conditions permitting) Hilltop in Wolcott. Fee. Easy, ski at your own pace. Bring trail lunch. Leader Joe Gosselin, 244-7798.

17 December, Saturday, 1:00 p.m. Christmas party at Duck Brook Shelter. Bring snacks to share and gift under \$2. Leader: Sally Sairs, 223-3550.

New Year's Eve, 2:00 p.m. Ski a seven mile loop in East Montpelier. Return for pot luck meal and party. Intermediate. Leader: Esther Farnsworth, 223-2240. Call for reservations.

8 January, Sunday, 12 noon. Ski 6 mile loop in East Montpelier. Intermediate.
Leader: Paul Wallace-Brodeur, 223-6055.

9, January, Monday, 7:30 p.m. Planning meeting at Wuquist's. Bring ideas for interesting hikes.

15 January, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Ski Sherman Hollow. Fee. Bring trail lunch.
All abilities. Leader: Dave Morse, 223-7126.

21 January, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Ski 4 miles in Calais, easy. Bring lunch
Leader: Tom Kastner, 456-7030.

MONTPELIER SECTION OFFICERS:

President: Joe Gosselin, R.D. #1, Box 331, Waterbury Center, Vt. 05677

Secretary: Esther Farnsworth, R.D. #1, Box 136, Maplewood Rd., E. Montpelier 05651

Treasurer: Sally Sairs, Box 66, Calais, Vt. 05648

Trails and Shelters: Paul Ohman

GMC Director: David Morse, 280 Main St., Montpelier, Vt. 05602

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Mail to Treasurer Sally Sairs, Box 66, Calais, Vt. 05648
Make checks out to GMC, Montpelier Section
Adults, \$8, Juniors (13-16) \$3

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____ Date _____

HISTORY OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB, MONTPELIER SECTION by SALLY SAIRS

(The first part of this history appeared in January, 1983 issue of Trail Talk)

Canoeing was added to the list of scheduled activities in 1959. Trips include intermediate white-water in the spring and family excursions in the summer months. Favorite events have always been the Oyster Stew, which used to be enjoyed jointly with the Burlington Section until the number of participants exceeded the capacity of the Lodge. Moonlight snowshoe and ski hikes are popular in the winter months. Annual pilgrimages to the top of Camel's Hump and Mt. Hunger are always well attended. Beginning this year the Montpelier Section will maintain the trails on Mt. Hunger, a job that was done almost singlehandedly by the late Gene Bamforth for many years. In addition to Long Trail hikes, the Section travels to the White Mountains occasionally and also to the Adirondacks for climbing and canoeing. (More on back page.)

History...(continued)

In 1969, the Montpelier Section hosted the Intersectional at Camp Wihakowi in Northfield, under the direction of Dave Otis, Doris Washburn and Dave Morse. In 1970 and 1971 Section members policed up an assigned roadway as part of Governor Davis' Green-Up campaign.

In April, 1972, a fire destroyed Sterling Pond Lodge. For many years prior to its demise the Lodge had been heavily vandalized during the winter months, probably by skiers from nearby Mt. Mansfield and Madonna Mt. Every spring we had bunks and windows to clean up. The dump was closed and the refuse hauled away, thanks to a group of Scouts and Dave Otis using four-wheel drive vehicles. During the summer of 1972 it was decided to replace the Lodge with an open shelter having a table and bunks for 8 on the original site. Gardiner Lane deserves the credit for his liason work with the Madonna Corporation and the Plant and Griffith Lumber Co. All the necessary lumber and material were delivered to the Madonna Corporation base lodge just prior to the 1972 Intersectional which was held at Mt. Norris Boy Scout Reservation in Eden. The Madonna Corporation then hauled the materials to the top of their chairlift. Many GMC members from other sections were on hand to help haul everything to the construction site, among them George Pearlstein, Bob Poole, Dane Shortsleeves, Rany Meade, Marion Codling and Chuck Whaller. Montpelier Section members, who were on hand during most of the week of actual construction, were Dave Morse, Dave Otis, Doris Washburn, Jon and Chris Sairs and Andrew Nuquist. Roy Buchanan was on hand for general supervision. At the end of the Intersectional the Shelter was almost complete and the Montpelier Section finished the remaining work the following two weekends. Sterling Pond Shelter was christened the weekend of September 23, with a group hiking in for an overnight stay. As of this writing we have had no problems with vandalism..

Montpelier Section membership has ranged through the years from 15-60, with current membership of 50. Our Annual Meeting takes place in April. At present we have six active End-to-Enders, the youngest being Allan Bristow who finished at age 8.taken from old records.....Sally Sairs

Green Mountain Club
c/o Esther Farnsworth
R.D. #1, Box 136
Maplewood Rd.
East Montpelier, Vt. 05651