

# Trail Talk

GMC Montpelier Section Newsletter  
Summer, 2019 ~ No. 131

## MINUTES OF THE MONTPELIER SECTION ANNUAL MEETING

The Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club held its 64<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on May 4, 2019, at Christ Church in Montpelier. Following a social time and potluck dinner, Section President Steve Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in traditional fashion by banging a wooden spoon on the old camp coffee pot. Steve welcomed 36 members and special guests Thomas Condon, GMC President, and Michael DeBonis, GMC Executive Director. Tom reported that the club's finances are in good shape, and thanked Montpelier Section member and GMC treasurer Steve Klein. He also thanked the Montpelier Section for hosting the Main Club annual meeting, noting that Nancy Thomas will be joining the board. He recognized the efforts of Doris Washburn and Ken Hertz, volunteers, George Longenecker, GMC Director, and trail maintainers. Mike reported that the club is ready for the field season, with a staff of caretakers and Long Trail patrol crews. The big focus this year will be on converting pit privies to moldering or compost privies. Mike thanked Andrew Nuquist for his efforts in finishing the "Big Dig," and noted that the boardwalk in Smugglers' Notch was completed. The crew will continue to work on the Sterling Pond Trail. Other projects include implementing the strategic plan and starting up the capital campaign, improving trail conditions north of Rte. 15, trying to acquire a one-third acre tract in Johnson, and implementing a plan for a new headquarters. One of the events at the annual meeting, which is being hosted by the Montpelier Section, will be storytelling from former caretakers, as this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the caretaker program. Mike also reported that August 3rd will be the second annual Long Trail Days. The club is trying to get individuals to hike sections of the LT so that the entire trail will be hiked in one day.

### Old Business

1. Ken Hertz moved to approve the minutes of the 2018 meeting. Heather Bailey seconded.
2. Steve Bailey, in his president's report, highlighted events of the past year, including three well-

attended membership meetings, whose speakers were Phyllis Rubenstein, Zack Porter, and Andrew Nuquist. Steve thanked everyone who participated in work hikes and acknowledged the work of the officers and committee chairpersons. Notably, Nancy Jordan has been editor of *Trail Talk* for 20 years, Kevin Ryan has served as publicity chairperson for 10 years, and John Buddington has been webmaster for 15 years.

Our section is hosting the 109th Annual Meeting of the GMC, Friday, May 31, to Sunday, June 2 at Windridge Camp in Roxbury. We need volunteers Friday late afternoon to early evening and Saturday. Most of the activities have trip leaders. Sue Morse will be the guest speaker on Saturday night. Thanks to a donation from a member and negotiations with the main club, the lunch and meeting are free to members. You can register online.

3. Steve reported on behalf of Treasurer Morgan Irons, that we have a little more income from dues and lower expenses than budgeted. We are in good financial health and have more than 150% of our operating budget on hand. The budget proposes donating \$4000 to the GMC. Nancy Thomas ac-

(See Minutes, page 5)

### GMC's 109th Annual Meeting Windridge Tennis & Sports Camps Roxbury, VT

Friday, May 31 – Sunday, June 2, 2019

The Montpelier Section is hosting the 109th Annual Meeting on Friday, May 31 – Sunday, June 2, at Windridge Tennis & Sports Camps, Rte. 12A in Roxbury, a half hour drive from Montpelier.

The Schedule of Events, Business meeting, and Board of Directors meeting details are in the Spring issue of the *Long Trail News*, pages 28 and 29. Register soon by calling GMC's membership coordinator Kristin McLane, 241-8324, (M-F), 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Details also appear on the GMC website: [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org) and our website: [gmcmontpelier.org/GMC-Meeting](http://gmcmontpelier.org/GMC-Meeting)









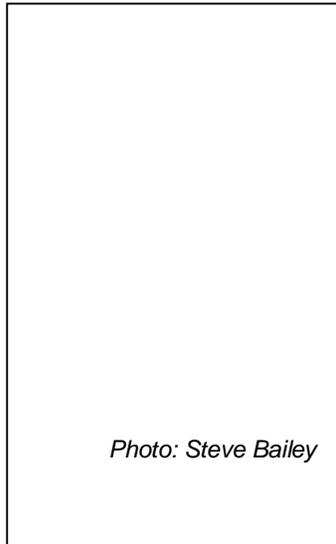
## TRIP REPORTS

### February 14, 2019 - XC Ski Craftsbury by Mary Garcia

It was a great day for our ski trip. New snow fell yesterday, the sun was shining, the scenery was beautiful. We had nine join our group. Three of us arrived at the center where we waited for four more to join us. When they arrived, two people had to get rentals so it was decided that three of us would ski the Duck Pond Loop and then come back to the center for lunch. We had a nice short ski before lunch. When we arrived to have lunch, another couple had come to join us, however, they wanted to ski before having lunch so they skied on their own. In the meantime, the other four came back from their Duck Pond ski to have lunch. We waited for them so that we could all ski the Bailey Hazen trail together. On the way back, three of us decided to ski some of Lemon's Haunt. Everyone enjoyed the day. It was a perfect day.

### February 16, 2019 - Laraway Mountain Snowshoe Trek by Morgan Irons

On Saturday, February 16 eight snowshoers took turns breaking trail through deep snow up the Long Trail North from the Codding Hollow trailhead to the ice-curtained ledges on Laraway Mountain, and beyond to the Lamoille Valley overlook. The day featured perfect temperatures, trail finding challenges, a great group of compatible shoers, stunning ice formations, and even a bit of sunshine as we headed down.



*Photo: Steve Bailey*

### February 23, 2019 - Stevenson Brook Snowshoe by Cynthia Martin & George Longenecker

It's a satisfying feeling after planning a trip three months in advance to wake to a perfect weather day for a scheduled event. It was such a day for the snowshoe outing on the Stevenson Brook trail at Little River State Park in Waterbury. The single-file trail was well-packed and meandered over several bridges with views and sounds of the stream below. Our destination was the Old Sawmill site. Rusted metal pokes out of the snow, parts of old farm and mill machinery from the community that thrived here, where the land has grown back to forest. The question came up of whether

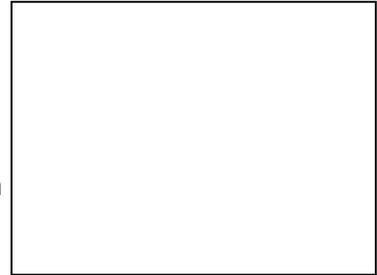
these are historic artifacts or junk that should be removed. Slowly the forest takes back all signs of what was here more than a century ago.

### March 3, 2019 - Sleepy Hollow XC Ski by Steve and Heather Bailey

Five skiers made the trip to Sleepy Hollow Cross Country Ski area in Huntington.

They had great snow conditions and 35 km of well-groomed trails. The highlight

of the trip was the Butternut Cabin on top of a hill with a great view of Camel's Hump to the east.



### March 6, 2019 - XC Ski at Stowe Mountain Resort by Mary Garcia

Four people enjoyed the afternoon on a cool crisp day. We started from the outdoor center, went out the Timberlane Trail to Old Bear which took us back to the Burt Trail and returned to the Center via Crosscut 2. The conditions were very good, and we managed to stay warm.

### March 16, 2019 - Highland Lodge to Craftsbury Ski Trip by Phyllis Rubenstein

On Saturday, March 16, six of us skied about 12 miles

from Highland Lodge in Greensboro to the Craftsbury Outdoor Center. Despite the rain on

Thursday and Friday and temperatures above 50 degrees on Friday, the trails were in very good shape – mostly packed granular snow, which made the skiing fast! In any condition, this is a challenging route with plenty of long ascents and descents winding through woods and farmland, as well as some more moderate terrain. The temperature dropped from 32 to 30 degrees, but a stiff wind made it feel much cooler. Some of the skiers saw what they thought was an "albino squirrel," which was later determined to be an ermine or weasel in its winter coat.



## SECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by George Longenecker

The big news for the main club is the capital campaign, now in its beginning stages. The goal is to raise \$4,000,000 over the next four years. If fundraising goals are met, half of this money will go into GMC's endowment. This will allow us to have more capital for the future, and to rely less on investment returns for operations.

About one million of the money will be used for northern Long Trail improvements, especially from the Canadian border south to Mount Mansfield. Many sections of trail are wet, rough and poorly drained. It's time for the north to get the same level of maintenance that the Appalachian Trail has received.

Another approximately one million of funds raised will go for a major renovation of club headquarters. While the new visitor center is energy-efficient and in good shape, the Herrick Building, housing the offices, is virtually the same as when acquired in 1992. It's run down and inefficient. That portion of the headquarters will be replaced. New office space and new visitor/ member spaces are in the planning stages. The present entrance, which in winter is like walking the trail without snowshoes, will be moved and reconfigured to be ADA accessible. Staff will at last have comfortable workspaces.

The Montpelier Section is in need of an alternate director. Andrew Nuquist, who served as alternate for my first year, is moving to section president. The alternate attends meetings in my absence, including the Board of Directors and the Trail Management Committee. He or she is also a voting member of the Montpelier Section Executive Committee. Though I haven't missed any meetings yet, it's good to have a backup. The alternate director is also welcome to attend meetings with me. It's a good way to learn about the section and the main club, and is not a lot of work. This would be a two-year commitment for the remainder of a three-year term. Email Andrew or me if interested. Our addresses are on page 2.

Trails and finances have been my interests this first year as director. My assessment is that the club is doing well. The biggest challenges: buildings, membership, money and mud are in the long range plan.



## In Memoriam SVEA Camp Stove

Long Trail – Sucker  
Brook Shelter  
August 12, 2007



It rained hard yesterday at Middlebury Gap.  
Deep footprints in the mud  
will soon enough disappear.  
The ridge line is enchanted with morning mist,  
pines blurred by fog.

My old friend died last night,  
my SVEA camp stove,  
whom I have lit for 40 years.  
She perished in explosive flames.

SVEA and I have had good times –  
snow camping in the High Sierras  
with my girlfriend – our hot bodies  
warming us, our kisses desperate  
in the valley of death.  
SVEA and I have had bad times –  
snow camping in the High Sierras  
with my girlfriend near Donner Pass,  
where snow-bound starving humans in 1846  
cannibalized each other in desperation.  
We almost died of hypothermia and exhaustion  
when SVEA was new and I was 20-something.

She was brass plated like gold.  
I was always glad to see her  
before a camping trip or just winking at me  
for no reason, from her basement shelf.

Maybe there are but a few years left for me  
to leave a footprint in the wilderness.  
I shall miss it as much as breathing.  
I'll keep dearly departed SVEA on that shelf,  
like an urn holding cremated ashes,  
and we'll wink at each other,  
my companion in the wilderness,  
or the basement darkness.

Jack Mayer

Jack Mayer is a writer and physician who founded Rainbow Pediatrics in Middlebury. He's the author of non-fiction, poetry and a novel, *Before the Court of Heaven*. He's hiked most of the Long Trail, which he returns to each year with his son Alex.

**TRAIL TALK**  
**GMC Montpelier Section**  
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road  
Waterbury Ctr., VT 05677  
Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
WATERBURY CENTER,  
VT 05677  
PERMIT NO. 2



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We encourage you to join or renew your membership in the **Montpelier Section** of the **Green Mountain Club**.

<b>Annual dues are:</b> Individual - \$45.00	Life (1 adult) - \$1,000.00 (one time)
Family - \$60.00 (inc. children under age 18)	Dual Life (2 adults) - \$1,500.00 (one time)
Friend/Senior/Student - \$25.00	Sponsor (Individual or Family) - \$75.00

**Renewals: MAILED ON ANNIVERSARY DATE OF JOINING GMC**



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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

I/We wish to join the **Montpelier Section** of the **Green Mountain Club, Inc.** and you will receive a membership card, the Section quarterly newsletter (*Trail Talk*), the GMC quarterly (*Long Trail News*), a discount on **GMC** publications and merchandise, and reduced overnight fees at selected shelters.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- I/We are interested in helping with trail maintenance.
- I/We enclose a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation to the Montpelier Section.

**Please make check payable to the "Green Mountain Club" and mark it for the Montpelier Section.**

**Mail to: Green Mountain Club, Inc.**  
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677  
(802) 244-7037 • [www.gmc@greenmountainclub.org](http://www.gmc@greenmountainclub.org)