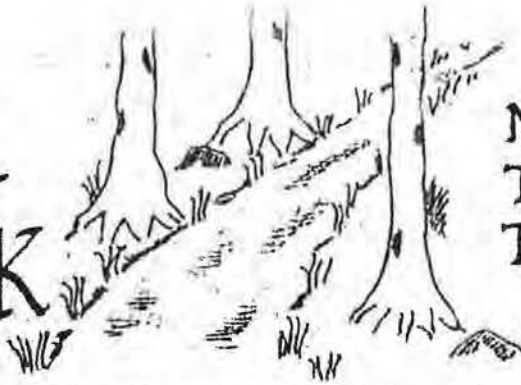


TRAIL TALK



Newsletter of
The Montpelier Section,
The Green Mountain Club

NUMBER 8

JANUARY, 1984

CANOE TRIPS POPULAR FOR GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB MEMBERS

The four canoe trips of 1983 drew an average of 14 plus people per trip, the longest being the Burton Island trip on the July Fourth weekend.

The weather was ideal and the trip over to the island was just choppy enough to make it interesting. The weekend was spent with trips on Lake Champlain and around Burton Island. Fishing was poor, but Paul Wallace-Brodeur had some luck. The evening of the fourth was spent on the lake watching fire works from four or five different towns. Swimming and reading was a favorite especially for Sally Sairs and the Nuquists. The island has some good hiking trails and all of them were explored. Brian and Mary Liss did it the hard way, by coming across St. Albans Bay instead of putting in at Kill Kare State Park. The Gosselins and Sally stayed over an extra night, and came back on a beautiful calm day.

Other canoe trips that drew large turnouts were Marshfield Reservoir and Woodbury Pond.

The Moosalamoo trip was especially interesting. Led by Harlan Farnsworth, who missed the trail planned and headed us several miles away from our cars, he took us on a very interesting trail at the base of cliffs and through narrow chimneys. A spectacular view of Lake Dunmore was also taken in. On arriving at the road, Sally Sairs and Joe Gosselin hitched a ride back to the cars and Gil Blaisdell hitched another ride to his car. We ended the day with a picnic and swim at Branbury State Park.

Joe Gosselin

THE WANDERING REPORTER ASKS: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HIKE?

DOT BABCOCK.....

Approximately fifteen years ago, before the price of beef became an issue, we had a couple of annual winter steak roasts. The most memorable one was to Birch Glen Camp. George and Cynthia Brady charcoaled delicious steaks and Dave and Anne Otis prepared sugar on snow. We also had a couple of bottles of wine which was a no-no in those days. As I remember about ten or twelve enjoyed the sunny winter day with lots of laughing and comraderie.

LORRAINE THOMPSON...

I really can't say that I have a favorite hike. The congeniality of the people of the Green Mountain Club make each one interesting.

PAUL WALLACE-BRODEUR....

Mt. Lafayette in the White Mountains a couple of summers ago.....Good clear day, open views, trail following brook, not many people on the trail....

.....FAVORITE HIKE

BIL BLAISDELL...

I love to climb Camel's Hump due to the mysteries and ideosyncrasies of the beast. What other lion whole allow the public to look at its old air plane, tramp through its garden of arctic tundra or stand on its head? Camel's Hump is surely a mystery from the bottom en route to the top and from the summit.

DICK BABCOCK...

My most memorable outing with the Montpelier Section is the first time we canoed the Saco River in Maine. We camped overnight at Papose Campground. We got up the next morning and put in lower bay on Kezar Lake, canoed down the outlet of Kezar Lake into the old Saco River channel, went up into Charles Pond and back, and then canoed down into the new Saco River channel. We took out at the Route 302 bridge. Swimming was ideal on a warm, sunny day. Sally Sairs and family, Dave Morse, the Bradys, the Babcocks and Doris Washburn were there. This was the first of many trips on the Saco.

S A L L Y : S A I R S W R I T E S F R O M B E T H E L A L A S K A

Bethel... on the Kuskokwim River, a highway summer and winter. The terrain; tundra, flat, treeless, spotted with lakes and sloughs, a mountain range on the eastern horizon. Houses and commercial buildings scattered haphazardly on dirt streets; all sizes, shapes, colors, all off the ground because of the permafrost, made of wood. Hundreds of dogs chained to small doghouses; boats; snowmobiles; piles of lumber; pipes; enormous dish antennas; ravens everywhere. Taxis going from airport to town to hospital endlessly; dozens of small planes coming and going from the villages up river. Population; probably 2/3 native, all but the oldest English-speaking, many in native clothing; at least 50 villages using Bethel for shopping and communication. Three large stores sell everything from food to traps; several restaurants; library; museum; bowling alley. Telephone service limited; messages broadcast daily to people in town as well as in villages. Climate: similar to Vermont but more wind, less snow; 6 hours of daylight now. Hospital, new and modern, busy. Patients mobbed by relatives, everyone knows everyone else. Mothers all sleep in the rooms with the sick kids who mostly have pneumonia, or who have fallen against the oil stove and have a few burns. Lots of badly infected hands; arms, legs; sanitation not the best; since everyone hunts, lots of gunshot wounds, accidental and otherwise; lots of overdoses. The people old and young are still trying to cope with the 20th century. Lots of wonderful Eskimo crafts for sale; baskets, fur clothing, masks, dolls, ivory carving, artwork. Endless possibilities for vacations just in this corner of the state. Thousands of square miles of mountains, lakes, rivers... all accessible by plane and uninhabited. I can hardly wait for summer.

When asked: "Is poplar any good for fire wood", the Vermonter replied, "It's better than snowballs."

EXTRA ! EXTRA ! EXTRA !

Films at the Montpelier Section Annual Meeting on April 6 will be: Basics of white water doubles and White water doubles.

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.

Saturday, January 28, 10:00 a.m. at Montpelier High School. Cross country ski in Brookfield. Ice cutting competition (optional), ski, pot luck meal at noon. Medium to difficult. Leader: Brian Liss. Call Esther Farnsworth for information - 223-2240

Sunday, February 5, 9:30 a.m. Cross country ski at Poffenbergers. Intermediate. 5 mile loop morning and afternoon. Bring a cooked ingredient for stone soup. Leader: Andrew Nuquist, 223-3350.

Sunday, February 12, 1:00 p.m. at Norwich Armory. Cross country ski in Roxbury. Easy 2 miles. Bring lunch. Leader: Ken Kidd, 485-7736.

Wednesday, February 15, 7:00 p.m. Cross country ski in full moonlight at Newfane property in Berlin. Easy 2-4 miles. (meet at 7:30, if in Berlin) Leader: Dave Morse, 223-7126.

Saturday, February 18, 9:00 a.m. Cross country ski in Wolcott (Hilltop) Easy to intermediate - take your choice of trails. Donation. Trail lunch. Leaders: Judy Illingworth, 223-6022 and Joe Gosselin.

Sunday February 19, 9:30 a.m. Snow shoe Montclair Glen and Ethan Allen. 7 mile round trip, difficult Forestry and Dean Trails. Trail lunch. Leader: George Longnecker, 426-3878

Saturday, February 25, 9:00 a.m. Ski Mt. Mansfield Ski Touring area. Fee. Trail lunch. Intermediate to difficult. Leaders: Paul Ohman, 229-9496
Esther Farnsworth, 223-2240

Sunday, March 4, 9:30 a.m. Cross country ski at Groton, Chill lunch at 1 p.m. 2 miles in morning, 4 miles in afternoon, intermediate. Call for reservations. Leaders: Dave Morse and Reidun Nuquist, 223-3350.

Saturday, March 10, 9:00 a.m. Ski Highland Lodge in Greensboro. Fee, any difficulty. Bring trail lunch to eat in shelter. Leader: Harlan Farnsworth, 223-2240.

Saturday, March 17, 8:30 a.m. Snow shoe Smuggler's Notch to Sterling Lodge to check shelters. Difficult. Call for conditions. May need crampons. Leader: Dave Morse, 223-7126.

Friday, April 6, 6:00 p.m. ANNUAL MEETING at Baptist Church in Montpelier (School Street). Reservations: Esther Farnsworth 223-2240

Sunday, April 8, 12:30 Hike Mt. Elmore. Easy to intermediate. 4 miles round trip. Leader: Joe Gosselin, 244-7798

Saturday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. White water canoe, intermediate. Place - mystery. Leaders: Brian and Mary Liss. Call during day - Mary, 276-3162; Brian, 728-3376.

Sunday, April 29, 12 noon Mystery bike hike with Paul Wallace-Brodeur. 20 miles, intermediate. Phone: 223-6055

Monday, April 30, 7:30 p.m. Planning meeting at Wallace Brodeur's

Sunday, May 13, 12:30 p.m. Mother's Day Annual Wildflower Hike to Duck Brook Shelter. Easy. Bring lunch or snacks. Leader: Judy Illingworth, 223-6022

Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m. Hike 8 miles of Appalachian Trail from Hartford to Norwich. Intermediate. Trail lunch, Leader: Paul Wallace-Brodeur, 223-6055.

DATES COMING UP

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB ANNUAL MEETING ON MAY 26 AT NORWICH UNIVERSITY
(Don't confuse with Montpelier Section Annual Meeting, which is April 6.)

TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP ON MAY 5,6

MONTPELIER SECTION OFFICERS

President:

Joe Gosselin, R.D. #1, Box 331, Waterbury Center, Vt. 05677
Phone, 244-7798

Secretary

Esther Farnsworth, R.D. #1, Box 136, Maplewood Rd., E. Montpelier, Vt. 05651
Phone, 223-2240

Treasurer

Judy Illingworth, 3 Greenfield Terrace, Montpelier, Vt. 05602
Phone, 223-6022

Trails and Shelters

Paul Ohman, R.D. #4, Montpelier, Vt. 05602
Phone, 229-9496

GMC Director

David Morse, 280 Main St., Montpelier, Vt. 05602
Phone, 223-7126

Summerfolk .. People who summer in Vermont, and miss being here all winter.

Annual Dues: Adults, \$8.00; Juniors (13-18), \$3.00; Children under 13, free.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to Treasurer Judy Illingworth, 3 Greenfield Ter., Montpelier, Vt. 05602. Make checks out to GMC, Montpelier Section.

I wish to join the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club, Inc. I will receive a membership card, the section newsletter, the Long Trail News, and discounts on GMC publications and on lodge fees at overnight shelters.

Name

Address

Phone

Date