

President's Report, 2015

As the Montpelier Section enters its 60th year, it continues to hold its place as the second largest section of the Green Mountain Club—only Burlington is bigger. Granted, only a fraction of our 375 members (571 voting members) are visible, that is, attend meetings, join outings, or lead trips. If you have not yet hit the trail with us, let us know what kind of outing might appeal to you. We are grateful for your membership, but would like to get to know you better!

Over the past year, we held two membership meetings to draw out more members. In October, our special guest was Mike DeBonis, GMC's executive director. In January, we put on our first *All Stars Show: Our Favorite Outdoor Places*, a slideshow by members for members, directed by Mike Wetherell, at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Last year, we also made our second appearance at the Farmers Market, where Montpelierites—and others—meet on Saturday mornings. We plan to be there again this year, with another information table.

The Young Adventurers Club (YAC) and the Trekkers are section groups that appeal to different demographics. YAC is for young families who wish to instill a love of the outdoors in their children. The Trekkers appeal to (mostly) retired members who go on their own adventures on week days.

The Montpelier Section is lucky to have a core of dedicated officers, most of whom have served in various capacities over the years: Vice President Kathy Gohl, Trails and Shelters Coordinator Fred Jordan, Treasurer Ken Hertz, Secretary Steve Lightholder, and Membership Coordinator Christie Carter.

Just as important to the running of the section are our three appointed officers. Webmaster John Buddington, with help from Ken Hertz, maintains our website where you can find all you ever wanted to know about the Montpelier Section. Publicity Coordinator Kevin Ryan makes sure section events get public attention. This year he added Front Porch Forum, the neighborhood e-mail list, to his "press" list. If you shop at Onion River Sports, you may have seen his handy trifold that lists upcoming events. Editor Nancy Jordan has been putting together *Trail Talk* for 16 years and is simply irreplaceable!

2015 promises to be a busy year for us. In addition to seasonal trail work in Smugglers' Notch and on Bamforth Ridge, we anticipate a major trail relocation in connection with the new Winooski River footbridge. We shall also be working on new trails in Smugglers' Notch. If you haven't tried trail work yet, I encourage you to join us and experience the great camaraderie that goes with it.

And you must all plan to join us on the *shortest* hike of the year, when we again unfurl the 27-foot-long Long Trail banner and march in Montpelier's annual Independence Day parade on July 3.

Reidun Nuquist
President