

**Green Mountain Club
MONTPELIER SECTION**

Annual Meeting

**Saturday, April 9, 2016
Christ Church, Montpelier**

5:30 p.m.: Social Hour

6:00 p.m.: Potluck Dinner

[7:00 p.m.: Re-arrange room for meeting]

7:15 p.m.: Annual Meeting

8:00 p.m.: Heather and Steve Bailey

“The Splendors of the North Cascades” (slideshow)

Note: Your handout includes 2015 annual meeting minutes and written reports from the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, and Trails and Shelters Coordinator; the Director reports quarterly in Trail Talk.

Annual Meeting Agenda

Welcome: *Reidun Nuquist*

Greetings from the Green Mountain Club: *President John Page*

Old Business

1. Approval of minutes of 2015 annual meeting
2. President's report: *Reidun Nuquist*
3. Treasurer's report and proposed budget for FY 2017: *Ken Hertz*
4. Trails and Shelters Coordinator's report: *Steve Bailey*
5. Membership Coordinator's report: *Christie Carter*
6. Vice President's report and annual awards: *Kathy Gohl*

New Business

1. Nominating Committee report: *Priscilla Page*
2. Other new business, announcements

Montpelier Section officers, 2015–2016

Elected: Reidun Nuquist (President), Kathy Gohl (Vice President), Kenneth Hertz (Treasurer), Steve Lightholder (Secretary), Steve Bailey (Trails and Shelters Coordinator), Christie Carter (Membership Coordinator), Michael Wetherell (Director), and Eric Seidel (Alternate Director).

Appointed: John Buddington (Webmaster), Nancy Jordan (*Trail Talk* Editor), and Kevin Ryan (Publicity Coordinator).

President's Report, 2016

The Montpelier Section continued the custom of unfurling its 27-foot Long Trail banner every five years: on July 3, 2015, Morgan Irons, Steve Klein, Eric Seidel, Steve Bailey, and Andrew Nuquist carried it in the city's popular *Independence Day parade*. Joining them and other section members were outgoing GMC president Jean Haigh, incoming president John Page, and executive director Mike DeBonis. Participating in the parade is a fun way to draw attention to the protector and maintainer of the Long Trail: i.e. us.

Mike DeBonis joined us again at our fall *membership meeting* when he gave a special award to Doris Washburn for her many years of volunteer work. After the ceremony, George Longenecker showed slides of "Day Hikes in Utah's Red Rock Country." At our winter membership meeting, Mike Wetherell presented the second members' "All Star Show: Our Favorite Vermont Places." Both meetings were held at the T. W. Wood Gallery, a new venue for us.

Many section members attended the grand opening of the *Winooski River Footbridge* on June 12, 2015. It connects our section of the Long Trail south of the river with that of the Burlington Section to the north. In early fall, GMC staff members white-blazed the *Long Trail relocation* from the boat launch, west of the Bamforth Ridge parking lot, to the footbridge. (Steve Bailey reports on future relocation work.) This new section of the LT, with several stiles, skirts farmers' fields. In late fall hikers could walk past a big flock of white Thanksgiving turkeys and a brussels sprout "forest," surely a Long Trail first!

In February, the Montpelier Section hosted another program in the *James P. Taylor Outdoor Adventure Series*, "*They Call It Walking: Exploring the Trails of the United Kingdom*," presented by Andrew Nuquist and myself. The section donated the take from refreshments to the GMC.

On a more personal note, for this year's Women's History Month in March, the Vermont Historical Society asked me to prepare a talk on *women of the Long Trail*. To illustrate "Green Mountain Girls: Women of the Long Trail," I used historic photographs as well as more recent ones, and I was pleased to include slides of many Montpelier Section women.

In the past year, editor *Nancy Jordan* announced that members can now opt to read *Trail Talk* online, an alternative to receiving hard copies in the mail. About 40 members have so far chosen this cost-saving, and environmentally sensitive alternative. The section alerts members by e-mail when a new issue is available online in PDF format. Back issues are also posted.

Nancy is one of three indispensable, hard-working *appointed officers* of the Montpelier Section. Webmaster *John Buddington* has not encountered a computer problem he could not solve. *Kevin Ryan*, our publicity coordinator, labors every week of the year at posting section events to our e-mail list, to newspapers, and to Front Porch Forum. He has done this for the past seven years. Kevin also produces a trifold outing schedule that he and Christie Carter place at Onion River Sports.

I cannot say enough in praise of our appointed and *elected officers*: all are hard working and dedicated. Vice president *Kathy Gohl* has for the past three years compiled our outing schedule, a job that often involves nudging trip leaders into action. *Ken Hertz* has also come to the end of his allowed three terms as treasurer. Ken never puts off to tomorrow what he can do today—he keeps us on our toes. Secretary *Steve Lightholder* has a long history as section volunteer as does membership coordinator *Christie Carter*; I am glad both are eligible for additional terms. *Steve Bailey*, trails and shelters coordinator, scored points last fall when he brought teams of hard-working college students to our work hikes. Our representative on the GMC's board of directors, *Mike Wetherell*, is in his second 3-year term, keeping us well informed about board decisions. *Eric Seidel* is his alternate.

I have come to the end of my last term, having served a total of 8 years as president—in the 1980s, the 1990s, and for the past three years. I wish the new president, vice president, and treasurer welcome onboard. It feels good to welcome new officers with fresh ideas, while still having the benefit of returning officers and thus some continuity.

If I can be allowed two wishes for the future of the Montpelier Section, it is that (1) we can convince more members that leading section outings is a rewarding experience; and that (2) we can find young parents who can revive our Young Adventurers Club (YAC). It has been ailing lately, and as our YAC was the first within the GMC, it would be sad to see it disappear.

Reidun Nuquist
President

Budget Report (FY 2016) and Budget Proposal (FY 2017)
(FY 2017 is April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017)

Income

	2016 Approved	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed
Dues	\$4,285	\$4,767	\$4,887
Donations	0	161	0
Taylor series	0		0
Interest	30	50	50
Product sales	0		0
Total income	\$4,315	\$4,978	\$4,937

Expenses

	2016 Approved	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed
Annual meeting	\$250	\$295	\$350
Communications, <i>Trail Talk</i>	1,300	1,236	1,300
Taylor series	0		0
Trails and Shelters	200	125	200
Website	220	100	220
Training	380	0	380
Misc. supplies and postage	100	0	100
Additions		41	
<i>Total Operating Budget</i>	\$2,450	\$1,797	\$2,550
Donation to GMC	4,000	4,000	4,000
<i>Total Expenses</i>	6,450	5,797	6,550

Accounts

	Start FY 2016	End FY 2016
Checking (TD Bank)	\$6,000	\$5,113
CD (VSECU, 1.74%)	3,022	3,071
VSECU base account	100	100
Total Cash Assets	\$9,122	\$8,284

Treasurer's Report
Budget Narrative for FY 2017

Our fiscal year begins April 1.

The proposed budget for FY 2017 is not greatly different from what was proposed for FY 2016.

The treasurer pays authorized expenses, that is, those specified in the approved budget.

The section president can authorize additional spending of up to \$100 (such as Trail Magic expenses, donation to the *Montpelier Bridge*, etc.) without approval of the executive committee, although consultation is always recommended.

Our checking account is at TD Bank and our savings account at VSECU. The federal ID on the accounts is that of the Green Mountain Club: the GMC technically “owns” our money. Caution: Other GMC sections may have an account at the same bank, using the same federal tax ID. (This recently caused some confusion.)

Our accounting is “cash basis”: recording revenue when received and expenses when paid, aligning with checkbook/bank statements.

Annual Meeting expenses include room rental, awards, table decorations, some food items, disposable utensils, paper goods, etc. These costs are recorded for two different fiscal years, depending on when they are paid.

Communications, Trail Talk includes printing and postage for *Trail Talk*, publicity items such as outings trifolds, and expenses for section membership meetings. Postage for *Trail Talk* is about \$65 and printing about \$200 for each issue. The editor gets a sizeable discount from L. Brown and Sons Printing; without that discount, printing costs would be higher. (Members now have the option of receiving *Trail Talk* electronically: e-mail your request to newsletter@gmcmontpelier.org, with the subject line "Opt Out" and your name in the body of the message.)

Training allows us to cover tuition at first aid classes for active section trail workers and trip leaders.

We have met our established *reserve requirement* of 150% of the operating budget (plus another \$3,000 in savings), and sent the approved \$4,000 donation to GMC.

Donation to GMC limits how much we can give; the reserve requirement imposes another limit. In FY 2017 we should be able to donate almost as much as last year. We are able to donate \$1,000 right now.

Note: Zeroed-out lines in the budget are retained to facilitate year-to-year comparisons.

Ken Hertz
Treasurer

Trails and Shelters Coordinator's Report, 2016

The Montpelier Section maintains the Long Trail on Bamforth Ridge from Gorham Spring to the Winooski River and from Smugglers' Notch to Chilcoat Pass, as well as the Bamforth Ridge and Sterling Pond Shelters.

During the 2015 trail work season, section trail workers volunteered an amazing 307 hours. Thanks to all of the following for your help: Alex Brandon, Ruth Brown, John Buddington, Steve Bailey, Kirsten Cotter, Joy Facos, Alex Frayer, Kathy Gohl, Petra Halsema, Dave Hardy, Ken Hertz, Steve Hill, Gabe Ingraham, Morgan Irons, Nathan Irons, Dorothy Kinne-Landis, Ben Lange, Steve Lightholder, George Longenecker, Robert Lorenz, Sam Marano, Cynthia Martin, Andrew Nuquist, Reidun Nuquist, Alan Paschell, Kevin Roberts, Elijah Santos, Eric Seidel, Ian Squirell, Sophie Velrtop, Katherine Vosie, and Colby Yee, among others. I hope this trend continues in 2016.

The hours of these workers were divided between scouting (Bamforth Ridge, 8 hours; Smugglers' Notch, 8 hours; Chilcoat Pass, 6 hours) and work hikes (Bamforth Ridge, 125 hours; Smugglers' Notch, 162 hours).

It is important for us to keep track of all scheduled and unscheduled trail work and the hours worked. The main club uses this information in many ways, including as a basis for fund raising. Therefore, any additional hours of trail work not performed as part of a work hike should also be reported to the new trails and shelters coordinator at trails@gmcmontpelier.org, to be included in future reports.

I also thank those who have adopted various sections of the trail and the shelters on those sections, for which we are responsible :

Morgan Irons, Barnes Camp to Sterling Pond
Eric Seidel, Duxbury Road to Bamforth Ridge Shelter
Ben Lange and Petra Halsema, Smugglers' Notch to Sterling Pond
Steve and Heather Bailey, Sterling Pond to Chilcoat Pass
Fabienne Pattison, Sterling Pond Shelter

The GMC opened the new footbridge over the Winooski River this past year, and has also opened a new section of the LT to replace 1.1 miles of the road walk along Duxbury Road south of the Winooski River. I encourage members to try out the new trails!

I am looking forward to your help with the upcoming work hikes this spring:

Bamforth Ridge, May 7

Smugglers' Notch, May 14

Steve Bailey
Trails and Shelters Coordinator

Membership Report, 2016

Our membership has held steady through recent years, at well over 300 memberships (and over 500 voting members).

Membership Counts

	2009 (Dec)	2010 (Nov)	2011 (Nov)	2012 (Mar)	2013 (Mar)	2014 (Mar)	2015 (Mar)	2016
Business-\$100			1	2	2	1		
Business-\$150				1	3	3	3	2
Business-\$250						1	1	2
Complimentary*	7	10	12	13	12	11	11	10
Defender	8	3	5	6	5	10	21	23
Dual life	4	4	5	5	5	6	7	8
Family transfer								
Family	105	116	123	137	137	136	133	131
Friend	25	31	24	26	35	31	39	35
Group							1	2
Guardian	1	1	1	1		2	1	2
Individual	129	132	138	155	132	128	136	135
Life	11	11	11	10	9	9	10	10
Protector	10	12	14	19	19	11	4	4
Sponsor transfer								
Sponsor	14	7	12	11	6	6	6	7
Steward			2	2	2	1	2	2
Members (total):	313	326	347	387	367	356	375	373
Voting members:	NA**	NA	515	576	558	543	571	561

*We no longer offer complimentary memberships as a way of receiving our quarterly newsletter for free because *Trail Talk* is now available online at our website. We do, however, continue to send complimentary copies of *Trail Talk* to presidents of other GMC sections, all section newsletter editors, and to the GMC archives at the Vermont Historical Society.

** Not available.

Section Business Members are:

Old Stagecoach Inn
Onion River Sports
Stowe Cabins
West Hill House B&B

Christie Carter
Membership Coordinator

Outings Report, 2016

From April 2015 through March 2016, GMC Montpelier members led and attended 60 section events. Of these outings, 5 were work hikes (as opposed to 4 last year), and 15 were Trekkers events (19 last year). The total also included 38 hikes and road walks (29 last year), 2 backpacks (0 last year), 3 paddles (2 last year), 12 bike trips (13 last year), 2 snowshoes (7 last year), and 2 ski trips (11 last year). In addition, there was a combined hike, paddle, and picnic at Lake Elmore. About 10 events were canceled because of bad weather or insufficient interest. The significant growth in the number of hiking and walking trips and the dearth of ski and snowshoe trips are thanks mainly to this winter's disappointing weather.

There were an unusual number of out-of-the-ordinary trips this year. These include Manny Garcia's Montpelier history walk last October and his East Montpelier history walk in May, complete with old photographs. Others were Ken Hertz's series of walks, including perambulations of Chickering Bog with Rose Paul of the Nature Conservancy and of the East Montpelier town forest with local guide Kimberly Pierce. Other adventures, led by Phyllis Rubenstein, included several Long Trail backpacks and an off-trail hike up Scrag Mountain. Other delights included quintessential Nuquist trips: Acres of Apples—a bike ride in New York—and a midsummer celebration of hiking, paddling, and picnicking at Lake Elmore.

There was almost a tie for the most popular outing, with 15 people walking the Bear Swamp loop with the Nuquists in late April. A close second was George Longenecker and Cynthia Martin's wildflower hike to Little River State Park in mid-May, which attracted 14, and Mary Garcia and Mary Smith's walk in Adamant in mid-April, which attracted 13. Clearly there was a lot of spring fever last year. Also, in late May Ken Hertz had 11 on a Little River history walk, and in October Phyllis took 11 up Scrag Mountain. Also, in an unusual turn, the two fall work hikes attracted 14 and 16 hikers, respectively. Not counting work hikes, this year's average attendance per trip was 6.7, which is up from last year's 5.5.

Reidun and Andrew Nuquist led the most outings with a total of 16; Mary Garcia and Mary Smith were second with a total of 10. Steve and Heather Bailey led 6 (not counting work hikes, which would push Steve up to 10). Mike Chernick also led 6, and Ken Hertz led 5. The rest of us led 2 or 3.

Linda Trono was the most active member, participating in at least 13 outings this past year. Mary Garcia was second: she went on 9 trips, not including the 10 trips she also led. Ron Merkin, a nonmember, went on 9 trips; Steve Lightholder, 8; Cynthia Martin, 8; George Longenecker, 7; Anne Miller, 7; Steve and Heather Bailey, 6; and Margaret England, a new member, 6.

We are grateful to all of our trip leaders, who in 2015–16 included Jill Aspinall, Heather Bailey, Steve Bailey, Charlene Bohl, John Buddington, Michael Chernick, Manny Garcia, Mary Garcia, Kathy Gohl, Ken Hertz, Steve Lightholder, George Longenecker, Cynthia Martin, Andrew Nuquist, Reidun Nuquist, George Plumb, Phyllis Rubenstein, and Mary Smith.

If there is anything I've learned over three years as vice president it is that we need to be constantly encouraging new trip leaders and not simply depending on the old ones. We need the

new ideas and new energy that new trip leaders bring. In this spirit, I'd like to encourage you to consider leading a trip. If you've gone on 5 or 6 or 10 GMC trips but have never led one, maybe it's time for you to give it a try. There's information on the website about trip leading, and your incoming vice president will be delighted to hear from you.

Kathryn Gohl
Vice President

Nominating Committee Report, 2016

The Nominating Committee of the Green Mountain Club, Montpelier Section, recommends the following candidates for nomination at the 2016 section annual meeting:

President: Steve Bailey
Vice President: Sharon Plumb
Membership Coordinator: Christie Carter
Treasurer: Morgan Irons
Secretary: Steve Lightholder
Trails and Shelters Coordinator: Andrew Nuquist
GMC Alternate Director: Eric Seidel

GMC Director Mike Wetherell is in his second 3-year term and is not up for election this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Garcia
Andrew Nuquist
Priscilla Page