

Smoke & Blazes

Volume 75, Number 4

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

December 2022



Herb Ogden, Wayne Flewelling, Dave Weeks, Nancy and Louis Gaudreau and Steve Tuckerman replaced planking on the Canty Trail on our put-the-trail-to-bed work day in November. See Larry's report on page 2.

Killington Section Directors:

Term expiration 2023

Sue Thomas*

Wayne Krevetski

Melissa Reichert

Term expiration 2024

Ruth Hare*

Amy Peacock

Maura Wildman

Term expiration 2025

Bill Cooke

Dave Coppock

Herb Ogden

**Second consecutive 3-year term.*

Not eligible for re-election.

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Herb Ogden

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Melissa Reichert

Secretary

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Amy Peacock

History & Archives

Sue Thomas

Outings

Larry Walter

Trails & Shelters

Dave Coppock

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Delegates to GMC Board:

Larry Walter

Director

Ruth Hare

Alternate

Web Site: www.gmckillington.org

Andrew & Isaac Jones *Web Masters*

End of Season Maintenance Day by Larry Walter, co-chair, Trails & Shelters

We had fantastic weather today. Those who helped out included Nancy and Louis Gaudreau, Steve Tuckerman, Dave Weeks, Herb Ogden and Wayne Flewelling. I made a cameo appearance for the first couple hours, but was pretty limited due to post-hernia-operation orders. In other words, swinging small hammers about.

First, we took on the Canty Trail. Wayne F. had hauled all six hemlock planks up to the site a couple days earlier. I think he took about six hours to do that. We hauled a bunch of tools in there along with three new sills and installed everything in a couple hours. Seems we were out of there by 11 or so. I split off from the group at that point and the crew drove up to the Bucklin trailhead. They drug four planks a mile up the trail to about mid-point of the Irene relocation and put them down as well. Not sure when they got out of there. Very productive day. As the captain said in *Das Boot*, "you can't beat a good crew."



The Extra Mile

It's occurred to me that since **Vivian Bebee** retired as Smoke and Blazes editor in the midst of covid when our potluck suppers and in-person meetings were sidelined, she never received the accolades she so richly deserved. Viv spent untold hours producing what I know we all agree is an outstanding newsletter the Killington Section can be very proud of. Since retiring from the job, she has generously helped me as I struggle without so much as a snicker at my technological ineptitude, for which I am forever grateful.

While we're at it, let's recognize a few others who have gone above and beyond in service to the section. No one has put more "extra miles" on their boots than our Trails & Shelters co-chairs, **Larry Walter** and **Dave Coppock**. In addition to leading our scheduled work parties several times a year, they put in many extra hours cutting blowdowns, hauling wood planks into remote areas, and generally doing whatever needs to be done to keep our section of the Long Trail ship shape. They have also volunteered their time to teach saw skills to students at the Allen Street School, hopefully the next generation of trail adopters. Larry spends his indoor time rehabilitating orphaned crosscut saws, bringing them back to useful life for donation to the main club work crews. If you have one collecting dust, give him a call!

If you hike the LT through Shrewsbury and emerge with dry feet, chances are you have **Jerry Parker** to thank. He has spent countless hours on some very impressive stone work north of Governor Clement shelter, laid puncheon in many a swamp, and earned the undying devotion of the Youth Conservation Corps last summer when he hiked in to their worksite with ice cream on a very hot day.

Barb and **Barry Griffith** keep a close eye on trail conditions in Shrewsbury, reporting issues that need attention and have offered their property for storage of excess planking. Barry recently responded to a distress call from an injured hiker at Sargent Brook, more proof that we need to replace the washed-out bridge there.

We rarely see our phantom axe-man **Tom Shanahan**, but the evidence of his work is everywhere along the trail, in piles of wood chips where once a fallen tree blocked the way.

All these volunteer hours are compiled by **Herb Ogden** for use by the main club in applying for grants. It's a nuisance job requiring much prodding of some of us (like me!), but an important one.

Thanks of course also go to all of our hike leaders, who have kept the section active through this unsteady time. Our next schedule will cover March, April and May, so if you have a spring hike you'd like to share, get in touch with me, at suevermont6@gmail.com.

In other news, **Wayne Krevetski** has offered to take on the job of monitoring our email list and sending out periodic updates, reminders of coming events etc., so if you have not yet sent us your address, he's now the one to contact: wkrevetski@hotmail.com.

Longtime member **Roma Pulling** has a new address, and would love to hear from her hiking buddies. Roma Pulling, Vista Senior Living, Room 163, 103 US Rte. 4, Killington, VT 05751-4470.

Need help with your Christmas Shopping? Check out greenmountainclub.org for T-shirts, hats, guidebooks water bottles and lots of other outdoorsy stuff. Proceeds support the club and all the important work done year-round to maintain the Long Trail. Perfect for under your tree!

Long Trail Day by Wayne Krevetski, photo by Bill Cooke

Our “Trail Magic” Outreach Event, in celebration of Long Trail Day, took place at the Route 140 trailhead. We set up at about 9:00 a.m. and stayed til around 4:00 p.m. We had nine folks volunteer at the event. Section



Cindy and Wayne chat with a backpacker

members Cindy Taylor-Miller, Bill Cooke, Kim Masterson, Melissa Reichert, Kathy Krevetski, Maura Wildman and myself were present at one time or another during the day, as well as two active hikers/trail angels, Mike Laude and Steve LaBombard, who are not members “yet.” Sue Thomas assisted behind the scenes with Section publicity and preparing some materials to share with visitors.

We had only a dozen hikers come through, three were aware of the Long Trail Day celebration. That said, we were able to chat with all the hikers and share with them the business and mission of the Green Mountain Club, pass out some stickers and information about becoming members, with positive responses from all. We served hot dogs, beverages and snacks which were warmly received. Though the number of people who came through the site was small, I believe the event was enjoyable for all who were there.

Editor’s note: Club-wide, \$30,000 was raised on Long Trail Day, by members gathering pledges for their hikes on the Trail and other donations, with another \$16,000 coming in after the fact.

Where the Money goes

You may wonder what your dues and donations are used for. Of course, some is funneled back to our local section and pays for things like this newsletter you are now reading, and in pre-covid times, venue rentals for our meetings and potluck suppers. The Killington Section is fortunate to have the Kirk Fund, set up many years ago by generous members to fund maintenance of our own piece of the Long Trail, so we rarely have to ask for any assistance from headquarters.

The rest is used by the main club, which now has an operating budget of a whopping \$2.7 million. That may be surprising to those of us who remember simpler times, but how things have changed! The Green Mountain Club, once mostly run by volunteers with only two paid staff, now has 19 full-time and 35 seasonal employees. It maintains 500 miles of trails, with shelters and privies needing constant attention. The club now owns 3500 acres and three rental cabins, as well as the headquarters building and seasonal-staff dormitory in Waterbury.

So, rest assured that when you write out that check you are helping to support the good work of the Green Mountain Club, and ensuring that the Long Trail will be protected for generations to come!

Outing Reports

Long Trail Day Hike, Killington, September 10, by Herb Ogden

Mother Nature favored this outing with a beautiful, cool, sunny day. From the U.S. 4 trailhead, the party hiked South to Jungle Junction, passing a dozen or so others who were enjoying the scenery and the weather. At Jungle Junction, the original plan was to head north on the Sherburne Pass Trail, with a car spotted to return us to the Long Trail, but no car was spotted. Instead, there was a unanimous decision to continue on to Cooper Lodge and then either take the Killington Gondola down to the base station or walk down. It turned out the gondola was out of the question unless one wanted to reach it by going over the peak, because the Summit Walkway was closed for repairs. The party walked down Killington's Footpath C and took The Bus back to the trailhead. Why did I write "the party" instead of "we," and why was our decision unanimous? Easy: I was the only one who showed up!

Hogback Mountain, Goshen, October 8, by Patches, as told to Sue Thomas

Patches here, golly, did we have fun on Hogback Mountain! It was a bit chilly in the morning, but I raced around smelling things and warmed right up, as my two-footed companions dawdled and exclaimed about the beautiful woods and the carpet of colorful leaves – imagine noticing that with all those intriguing smells to investigate and sticks to chew – they're a strange species. They spent a ridiculous amount of time studying bursting milkweed pods, which as far as I can see do nothing but spit out fluff. Back in my youth I did the same after eating a pillow, and Lisa didn't think it was so amusing. Go figure.

When we emerged from the woods onto an open hillside you should have heard them squeal and carry on, you'd think they'd never seen bright red trees or sweeping views before. We climbed a hill for an even better view and they oohed and ahed some more, it was embarrassing! Then the lunches came out, so it wasn't so bad after all, and I found a stick to keep me busy while they gazed like zombies at the view, so all in all it was a great day.



Sunghee, Patches and Lisa...two out of three enjoying the view on Hogback Mountain.

Board of Directors Report 9/17/2022, Waterbury

Submitted by Rep: L. Walter

As usual, my eyes glazed over as soon as they started lobbing financial footballs about our nice, white tent. I do remember that, as anyone else with a portfolio knows, our capital fund took a beating since the last update. Don't worry, as we're in it for the long run. At least no one was yelling Sell! Sell!

When the idea of maintaining our corridor boundaries beyond "just hanging flagging" was proposed, I advised that they contact the Board of Land Surveyors to see what we could legally do. Last I heard, abutting non-licensed individuals could freshen up paint and hang flagging, but anything beyond that would require an LS. I suspect it's still the same. I'm putting in a call with the Board of LS to scare up an opinion. I also suggested that any new boundary surveys be paid by approaching the abutting owners with a possible cost-share cooperative agreement. They didn't seem to think that was too exciting, but the FS does it a lot. Oh well.

Keegan's report:

It's been hard finding experienced "trail leads." Also difficult to locate experienced carpenters for new Stratton Pond Shelter. As for the later, the club can't afford to pay an industry-standard wage. The Northern Trail needs an estimated 40 crew weeks of work to complete needed improvements. Burroughs Trail is turning into a three-year project. There were about 30 people working on it at the height-of-season. The caretakers took a week to work together on trail maintenance and sharpen up their skills. I thought that was a great idea. Volunteer Long Trail Patrol put in six weeks of work, just to the north of the Mass. border. Cooper is on hold until they've settled with the State on the Bromley project. Our pipeline tripping hazard up by Pico (not PICK-oh) Shelter: Molly has kicked this "upstairs" within Killington management. We'll see if anything happens. The sinkhole issue: the existing trail is apparently only about 10 feet below the edge of the corridor, so we'll have to think this through again. I'm not sure how said boundary was determined. Beware of GIS "boundaries."

The club is getting very close to releasing their own GIS system. Beta version is due out soon.

Housing has been an issue, especially on the south end. Some units available at Mt. Tabor, and some Smokey House units may be coming up, but only for short term periods.

Winooski Bridge human waste and graffiti problems have been addressed and are under control for now.

Howard's report:

The club has been working on a re-write of the structure re-naming policy. The club staff and the Forest Service were in favor of naming the new Stratton View Shelter after Dave Hardy. They were not unanimous in this view, however, mainly since Dave's widow, Carol, was not in favor of doing so. An interesting fact: The USFS allows *naming* structures after people, but not *dedicating* shelters to people. Sort of a strange policy, but that's what we're working with. After a lot of debate, the Board voted 11-7, not to name the shelter after Dave. I was one of the nays, (not a neigh...thanks Viv for catching that). The Board voted 16-2 to name the Wheeler Pond Shelter after Jean Haigh.

The Strategic Plan Draft is due out in December (5-year?)

The Herrick Building (to replace the outdated portion of existing headquarters) is through the Act 250 permit process. They have a general contractor and he/she is lining up subs. Hopefully, construction will begin in '23. We have \$1 million saved for this project, but given the cost of labor and materials, it may cost more. We may have to drop the gold-gilded wash basins and platinum-plated coat hooks.

I contacted the Bennington rep while I was at the meeting to organize some sort of car-pool for our next in-person meeting. Will contact the Manchester rep as well. That will be after next year's annual meeting (a year away). The December and March meetings will be like... "virtual," dude (My opinion: "virtual" should mean "can't-tell-the-difference." What a joke, but then it saves us from burning a LOT of petrol...Let's just say by Zoom).

The afternoon was optional but well attended. We had a couple people from CQ Strategies present a diversity workshop. Presenters were Kathy Johnson (she grew up in Bellow Falls) and Sherwood Smith (grew up in NJ and WA). Both very good speakers. We concentrated on the differences between Diversity, Inclusion, Bias, Prejudice and several other terms. I got a lot out of it.

Backtracking

Steve Plumb sent in this photo taken in the mid-60s at Pico Camp:

My father, Robert C. Plumb, who died almost 30 years ago, would have been happy to share his photos. He was always taking us somewhere to hike when my brothers and I were young. It wasn't until much later that I learned about how camping and hiking with his dog Rusty provided him with relief from the stresses of his younger days. The outdoors is still the best tonic for me. The kids are (L to R) Peter Plumb, myself and Jeffery Plumb. We most likely were 10, 11 and 12 at the time.



Since this photo was taken, a small porch has been added by the door, the foundation has been shored up, the stove is long gone, and the Long Trail has been rerouted. You can visit Pico Camp now on the Sherburne Pass Trail.

I've had a wonderful time reading through a treasure trove of old Smoke & Blazes, dating back to 1948, which Bob Perkins painstakingly compiled and put into notebooks for the Rutland Historical Society, now digitized and available at the Society's website. Thank you, Bob! I thought those who know me now would get a kick out of my very first hike report, written in 1983...it should encourage anyone who is reluctant to lead to give it a try!

The weather was somewhat windy and cold on Dec. 17, but a good-sized crowd turned out anyway for the annual moonlight hike, this year to Clarendon Shelter. This was my first attempt at leading a hike, and I did a truly inspiring job of it, missing the shelter completely. Those stupid enough to follow their leader might have turned ugly about the time we reached Killington had not Steve Pulling reeled us in as we passed.

Despite a lack of firewood in the area, we soon had a comforting fire and water a-boil for hot drinks, and goodies donated by several hikers. After Christmas caroling around the fire, most returned to their nice warm beds, leaving the usual nuts (the Fanatical Four?) to brave the cold overnight. All survived, however, and it was well worth it for the roasted pineapple provided by the Careys in the morning....All in all it was a great weekend, the campfire, Christmas carols and cocoa all hit the spot and made it a very warm evening, no matter what the thermometer said! I may even lead another hike,,,someday.

Sue Thomas

Sue Thomas, Editor
219 Church Street
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KILLINGTON SECTION

Your Invitation to Join **Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

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Make check payable to "GMC" and mail with this application to:

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GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB: KILLINGTON SECTION OUTINGS www.gmckillington.org

December 2022 – February 2023

Bring water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for weather changes. Distances are round trip and approximate, as are elevation gains. Hike leader has discretion to refuse anyone who is not adequately prepared. Call the hike leader for meeting place and time, and if you are unable to go, please let the leader know ASAP so that someone else can take your place if space is limited. Leaders may require covid vaccination. If you are sick or have any symptoms, please stay home and join us next time.

December 4, Sunday – SLATE VALLEY TRAILS, Poultney

Bring snowshoes or skis if it snows, hiking boots if it doesn't, to explore this varied and beautiful network of trails. Options include woods, a pond or a scenic view, leader will decide based on weather and trail conditions. Vaccination required. 5-6 miles, moderate. **Diane Bargiel, 413-687-1109**

January 14, Saturday – CHAPMAN FARM SITE & CEMETERY, West Haven

Depending on the weather, we will hike, snowshoe or ski from the Nature Conservancy Buckner Preserve trailhead at the Galick Farm across used and unused farm fields and through a little woods to a farm site overlooking Lake Champlain. We'll walk down to a little cemetery near the shore, where some of the Chapmans are buried. It was rediscovered in a honeysuckle thicket by the preserve caretakers a couple years ago and restored by the Vt. Old Cemeteries Association in 2021. 4 miles round trip, with a total 400' climb. If you want to carpool, please have your covid vaccines up to date. **Herb Oden, 802-293-2510**

January 22, Sunday – SPRUCE PEAK, Manchester

We'll head south on the Long Trail, ascending the ridge and with a short, steep scramble at the end to reach a scenic view. Snowshoes and/or traction devices will be needed depending on conditions. 4.8 miles, moderate with some steep bits. Vaccination recommended for carpooling. **Allison Henry, 802-779-4404**

February 4, Saturday – HOT DOG ROAST, Lake St. Catherine State Park, Poultney

We're reviving a Killington Section mid-winter tradition! Bring hot dogs or whatever you'd like to roast over the fire, and snowshoes or spikes for a short hike. Vaccination recommended for carpooling.

Larry Walter & Vivian Bebee, 802-353-3976

February 11, Saturday – CADWELL TRAIL, Pittsford

Snowshoe or ski along Otter Creek, where we may see otter tracks and slides. 2.5 miles easy to moderate, and if it's too nice a day to go home, we have the option to add another nearby trail. Vaccination recommended for carpooling. **Sue Thomas, 802-773-2185**



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Maura Wildman

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A note from your reluctant and entirely unqualified editor

Please bear with me as I venture forth into the strange new world of computer graphics...it'll be a bumpy ride I'm sure, but I look forward to learning new skills, and with some coaching from Viv and a former co-worker, I hope I will be able to get this first issue out to you with a minimum of cursing and my computer screen intact. Hopefully each issue will get a little easier...at the moment it feels a bit like climbing Camels Hump in the dark!

*****I

A Reminder

Thank you to everyone who sent your email address to Viv, if you haven't already, please do so, at vivianbebee@gmail.com. We need to compile an email list of all our members, as a way of updating you between newsletters, posting reminders about upcoming events, and to rally the troops to deal with trail maintenance among other uses. You can also opt to receive Smoke & Blazes via email if you would prefer. I'm also still hoping that someone will come forward to take on the position of membership coordinator and/or publicity. Any takers?

Covid Update

Covid is still with us, alas, and it's anyone's guess what the fall and winter will bring. We are committed to continuing to offer outings, so please contact me if you have a trip you are willing to lead on the next schedule. We will continue with a few common-sense safeguards: leaders will have the option to require vaccination; you will still need to call ahead in order to limit group size and enable notification if a participant later tests positive; and with colder temps coming, leaders may discourage carpooling or require masks...the guidelines say windows open, but obviously whoever wrote that has not experienced a Vermont winter!

Outing Reports

Burton Cemetery and Old Weston Road, Mt. Tabor, June 18, by Herb Ogden, leader

Four of us enjoyed a pretty easy hike in the wilds of Mt. Tabor. Leaving our cars at Devil's Den, we followed the abandoned highway southeast toward Weston. This was the only road east from Mt. Tabor until the CCC built the present Forest Road 10 south from Devil's Den during the Depression. We followed it past several farm cellar holes and the foundation of a one-room school, then turned west on an obscure old road that led us to the Burton Cemetery, nicely maintained by the VFW Lodge in Manchester. It has at least 42 headstones and was used from 1831 to 1879. From there, it was less than a mile back to Forest Road 10, past the remainders of yet another old farm. Arriving back at our cars, we had plenty of time to inspect the odd geology of Devil's Den. Luckily the proprietor did not put in an appearance.

Slate Valley Trails, Poultney, June 25, by Diane Bargiel, leader

Gail Helfer joined me for a nice c. 5-mile loop in the Slate Valley Trail system (slatevalleytrails.org, Country Club Trailhead button and click "Endless Brook to Fairgrounds" for the map). We started at the SVT parking lot along route 30 that the Lake St. Catherine Country Club has been so gracious to share. From there, we walked up the country club driveway to the back of the cart shed, where the Dog Leg Trail starts. That winds its way through some really nice forest (at times the trail runs alongside the golf course, so please be mindful of being quiet in those areas, and also watch for wayward golf balls overhead! I've found three on the ground so far.) The trail comes to a "T" at Groves Way, which we took to Pond Road to walk up to Maple Run, then up to the western side of the Overlook Loop to the vista overlooking Lake St. Catherine. From there we came down the Back Nine to the Fairgrounds Connector back to Groves Way. The weather was perfect, and the woods were beautiful and varied.

Spring and Summer Work Parties, submitted by Larry Walter, summarized by editor

Turnout has been strong for work parties this spring and summer and much was accomplished: waterbars were cleared, blowdowns dispatched and shelters spruced up throughout our section of the Long Trail, which runs from Route 140 to Route 4. The Sargent Brook crossing in Shrewsbury has been studied east to west to north to south and upside down, but no solution has yet been found that satisfies all parties involved, so watch S&B for the next chapter in this continuing saga. On the Sherburne Pass Trail, the sink hole is once again attempting to devour the trail, so our crews have flagged a reroute, pending a look at the easement wording by the main club. Larry has also whacked the weeds at the Route 4 crossing, making the parking lot more visible and hopefully safer from vandals. Larry and Dave have been training a crew from the Allen Street School, a much-needed infusion of young energy behind the saws!



Chittenden Brook Trail, Rochester, July 16

Patches, Lisa and Allison at the Long Trail junction.



Upper Michigan Road, Pittsfield, August 14

Nancy enjoys a lunch break beside the brook.

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by Larry Walter, co-chair, Trails & Shelters

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KILLINGTON SECTION

Your Invitation to Join **Killington Section, Green Mountain Club**

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

ANNUAL DUES:

Individual\$45
Family\$60
Senior/Student/Friend\$25

Contact us for information on life memberships
and categories for giving at a higher level.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

I also enclose a contribution of \$_____ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

___trail work, ___shelter work, ___sign making, ___publications, ___leading outings, ___publicity, ___education

Make check payable to "GMC" and mail with this application to:

Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury – Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677