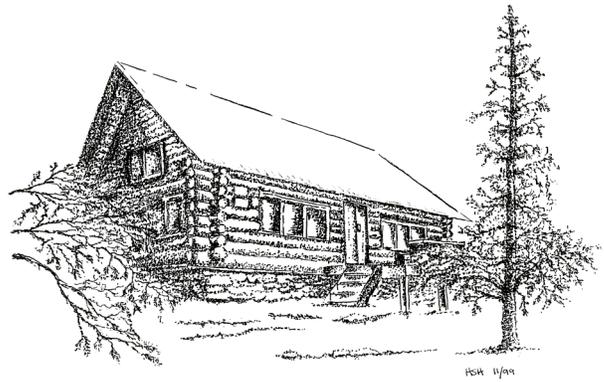


RIDGE LINES



GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB
BURLINGTON SECTION

www.gmcburlington.org

Summer 2012

Correction In the March issue, we mentioned the Green Mountain Parkway (a major road that was proposed from Massachusetts to Canada right over Vermont's mountain summits) and said that James P. Taylor, the "father" of the Long Trail and the Green Mountain Club, was a major opponent of the Parkway. Actually, Taylor was in favor of the road!

On a July 22, 2011 segment of the VPR series *The Long Trail: Vermont's Footpath Through History*, commentator Tom Slayton described the Green Mountain Parkway as the biggest threat to the Long Trail in its 100-year history. He went on to say, "Had it been built, there would now be a high-elevation highway threading its way among Vermont's highest peaks". Dissent about the Parkway eventually forced the Green Mountain Club to reconsider its guiding principles and very reason for being.

In 1934, Taylor was head of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce. The nation was in the grips of the Great Depression. Like many others, Taylor thought that the Parkway would bring construction jobs to the state while it was being built and then tourist money for many years into the future. Others in the GMC were appalled at the idea of blacktop and cars on top of our mountains. The debate raged for two years, at the end of which the club had redefined itself as a primarily environmental and hiking organization. Vermonters as a whole rejected the proposed Green Mountain Parkway by over 12,000 votes, on Town Meeting Day in 1936.

You can read more about this fascinating moment in GMC history by going to <http://www.vpr.net/community/longtrail/index.php>. While you're there, take a few minutes to enjoy the whole VPR series about the Long Trail. There are many "Voices from the Trail", interviews with hikers as they talk about struggles and triumphs on Vermont's mountains. There are also segments about summit caretakers, day hiking, overnights at Taft Lodge, the "Three Musketeers" (young women who hiked the Trail in the 1920s) and a lot more.

We are lucky to have a wonderful article by long-time GMC member Don Cook. Don shares his memories of Roy Buchanan, the founder of the Long Trail Patrol (which is the official trail crew of the Green Mountain Club). We're printing part of Don's memories on pages 2 and 3 and will print more in the September issue.

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Recollections of Working with Roy Buchanan

Don Cook worked with Roy Buchanan on the Long Trail Patrol in the summers of 1950 and 1951. Don grew up in Burlington and graduated from UVM in 1955. After graduation, he entered the military, which took him away from Vermont. He now lives outside Denver, Colorado, but still follows the activities of the Green Mountain Club. In preparing to write these recollections, Don wrote "I did pack a lot of memories in a few brief years, but I loved every minute of it and would do it over again in a 'N.Y. minute'. My only regret is losing contact with the wonderful GMC family."

Valerie Wilkins contacted Don and helped him prepare this article.

If you'd like to share memories of the Long Trail Patrol or your own trail clearing adventures with Don, please contact the *Ridge Lines* editor, Maeve Kim, for Don's contact information.

S'pose We Should Do It This Way?

It was really awesome working with Roy Buchanan, a real dynamo. I have nothing but cheerful, superb, memories. Many are remarkably clear. Fun and hard work come to mind—rewarding because there was a greater good for what you accomplished. Roy preplanned much of what we did, but if he had to look at a sketch or notes, he often perched his little round glasses on his forehead and you might hear him say "You s'pose we should do it this way?" "S'pose" was usually the way it needed to be done. If you knew Roy, he tended to not open his mouth much when he talked. We had great communication and a humor that made him fun to be around. I can say he enriched all of us.

Roy was always the earliest of risers, making super coffee that would raise us all out of our bunks. It smelled good along with a blackened pot full of old fashioned oatmeal covered with Roy's "confluberated" milk as he called it (otherwise known as condensed milk). The crackling and smoky fire was always an effective alarm clock.

Constructing Gorham Lodge

Our first summer started out with construction of Gorham Lodge on the north slopes of Camel's Hump. The old tin huts of yesteryear served as temporary quarters at night. After work, it was a stiff hike up to the "huts" for supper and shuteye. Any heavy rain or hail on the roofs of the tin huts was magnified. These huts were not the most waterproof by any stretch of the imagination.

The Long Trail Patrol members consisted of Roy, Bill Webster (Orleans, Vermont), Larry Gardner Jr., Bill Dingerson, and myself. We got along famously. An unexplainable camaraderie existed working away from the hustle and bustle of everyday society.

We worked in the era BC (before chainsaws). Commonly available tools were axes, bucksaws, and the 2 man crosscuts. Roy and our gang felled many a tree and cleared trail the good old-fashioned way. Today, trail crews work in the AC era (after chainsaws). Volunteers, who still do much of the work today, deserve them.

When the roof was finally secured on Gorham Lodge, we were more than ready to move out of tin city into our new digs down the hill. Planks for flooring, ceiling, roofing materials, etc. all had to be hauled up the east side of "Couching Lion." No helicopters, but maybe a few volunteers along the way. Nobody, however, seemed ready to haul up the new stove. Maybe there was a coin toss or "pick the short straw," I've forgotten, but somehow I made the final pick. We probably switched off occasionally, but somehow I took the reins at the top of the trail, and started gracefully down the north slope of Camel's Hump. Stopping was nearly impossible and I just kept going and going and going—you know the story. I skidded down the final pitch above Gorham and lost my grip on the trail sailing quite some length through wet mud and slippery ferns and thought I was going to land in the front yard of the cabin. Roy thought, maybe the Winooski River would be my "final" resting place.

Recollections of Working with Roy Buchanan – cont.

We left our cookware on a picnic table one night and some “porkys,” raccoons, or other such critter chewed on our aluminum cookware. We surmised aluminum salt in the metal was tasty to those scavengers. Roy on the other hand offered his theory: “Do you s’pose it was the sidehill Wampahoofus?” Thus began a string of tales to explain the frequently unexplainable.

Wampy

Wampaty, Humpaty, Dumpaty Do
Could Wampy be looking for you?
He wamples along two by two
Two short legs “a top a” the track
With two longer downhill ones holding him back.
What a strange little critter
No one has seen him for sure
On his romp around the mountain
He makes his circular tour.

(Poem by Don Cook, for use only with his permission.)

This elusive critter is said to inhabit the slopes and surroundings of many Vermont peaks. One super critter called the “Humpwump” hung out on the environs of Camel’s Hump. He travels round a mountain in one direction, with two small uphill legs and two longer downhill legs. Roy is the only one who I have heard speak much of him. Humpwump is not known to be dangerous.

Gorham Lodge was truly a magnificent location, where you could look down into the valley and observe aircraft flying below you. It was usually very quiet and peaceful, though we enjoyed listening for the night train blowing its signal as it headed down the tracks to Jonesville. We were very sad but proud to leave this location when we finished. As the first tenants we felt a special bond with our mountain home.

Gorham Hideaway

Perched off the mountain top
Hangin’ in the trees
Tin city’s replacement
Always blowin’ in the breeze.
Far enough from the climbers
Just up for the day
Rarely did we see ‘em
Goodly enough, no place for them to stay.
Cool clear spring water
All for us to drink
Surrounded by forest
With nature’s untouched trees.
The trail hung before us
Along the ridge below
With bird calls and deer trails
And tiny remnants of winter’s final snows.

(Poem by Don Cook, for use only with his permission.)

We had another job to do, so soon we packed up and moved to Smuggler’s Notch for the next big effort to rebuild Sterling Pond Lodge. I did make it back to Gorham while hiking that section of the trail in 1952. Quite an exciting visit!

Don’s memories will be continued in the September issue of *Ridge Lines*.

Each year at the Section's Annual Meeting, committee chairs give summaries of the previous year's activities, challenges and successes. There wasn't room for all the committee reports in the March issue, so here are two more.

Update on Burlington Section Website - <http://gmcburlington.org/>

Submitted by Ted Albers (ted@ted-albers.net)

Maintaining our website costs \$25 per year (for registering the domain name). The website is actually a blog and is published for free on Wordpress. The number of visitors per year keeps increasing. In 2008, there were 11,346 visitors, about 31 per day. In 2011, we had 14,117 visitors, about 39 a day. Our site includes an activities calendar, trip reports and PDFs of *Ridge Lines*. Outings and trip reports are the most frequently visited pages. The most popular link from our site is to the GMC's youtube instructional Video Channel. Readers can comment on any page at the website or can e-mail comments to Ted. If you have an idea about how to improve the website or how to direct more outdoor enthusiasts to it, let Ted know!

Report from Burlington Section Director

Submitted by Ted Albers

Note: The director is our section's voice at discussions and decision-making at the main club in Waterbury Center.

New GMC Director Will Wiquist has jumped in with both feet. Read the 2011 Annual Report on www.greenmountainclub.org to get an idea. A few highlights from 2011:

- GMC has accepted management responsibility for an additional 22 miles of the Appalachian Trail (AT) in Windsor County.
- The long-awaited Winooski River Footbridge project is nearing completion.
- The club's 100th anniversary was celebrated.

As a Director, most of my 'main club' time has been with the Marketing Committee and the new GMC Marketing Plan, the first phase of which is about growing GMC membership by engaging and educating prospective members. Central to this is how we communicate, and what we say about the GMC when we do. A simple but often missed message is informing prospective members about the relationship between hiking in VT, the LT, and the GMC. Many members of the public aren't aware that the GMC built and maintains many of the hiking trails in the state. 'Marketing' is about how to make the public aware. How could the public not support the GMC after knowing more about this?!

Editor's Note: We can all be informal ambassadors when we meet other hikers. Say that we're with Green Mountain Club (not GMC – an astonishing number of Vermonters have no idea what those initials stand for!). Add something brief but educational, like “Did you know that the Green Mountain Club built this trail and maintains it every single year?”

Volunteers are needed for the 100 on 100 Relay on Saturday, August 18. The 100 on 100 Relay is a team-based distance running experience in which teams run 100 miles on Route 100 from Stowe to Okemo Mountain Resort. It's a fundraiser for Vermont-based youth charities that promote active and healthy lifestyles in support of self-esteem development. Not only is a team of GMC caretakers and staff running the race, but the club's Education Program is also a beneficiary!

As a volunteer, all you'll need to do is be there to help direct traffic, wear a spiffy reflective vest, soak up the summer sun, and cheer on the racers. There will be volunteer stations at Crossett Brook Middle School in Duxbury from 7:40AM-12:30PM, Wadham's Horse Farm in Warren from 9:45AM-2:00PM, Clear River Inn in Pittsfield from 3:15PM-6:15PM and Killington Ski/Sport in Killington from 4:15PM-7:00PM. Contact Mari Zagarins at MZagarins@greenmountainclub.org or 244-7037.

Section Outings

Summer 2012

Unless otherwise specified, call the trip leader to sign up, find out what equipment you'll need, and learn about any changes. Check with trip leader before bringing your pet along. Human guests are always welcome. Trip leaders often arrange carpooling. If you ride along in someone else's car, we recommend reimbursing the driver at the rate of 10 cents a mile.

June 2012

6/2 (Sat) **National Trails Day Work Hike** Clear the Long Trail for summer hiking season. Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools provided or bring your own. Meet at UVM visitors' lot at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride (Exit 11) at 8:30am. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 5-10 miles, 2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis and John Sharp, 879-1457, 862-3941 or gillis1986@gmail.com

6/3 (Sun) **Bike Ride** We'll meet at my house in Jonesville for a moderate ride of approx. 21 miles. The ride is on paved roads which include Duxbury Road, Route 2 and Cochran Road. Call leader for directions, Carlene Squires, 434-2533.

6/9 (Sat) **Mt. Ethan Allen** We'll hike on the Forest City Trail and Long Trail. 5 miles round trip, moderate pace, 1900' elevation gain. Contact Lee Wrigley, 318-6281 or leewrigley@myfairpoint.net

6/10 (Sun) **Honey Hollow Botany Walk** We'll try to identify all the June wildflowers, ferns, and fungi, while moving along at a decent pace. (We'll identify the flora but not "stop to smell them" too much.) Moderate hike, moderate pace, 5 miles, 1000' elevation gain. Group limit 15. Contact leader by June 8. Richard Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com

6/16 (Sat) **Sterling Pond** We will hike up from Route 108 in Smugglers Notch to Sterling Pond and have lunch at a scenic overlook facing Mt. Mansfield. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 4 miles round trip; 1000' elevation gain. Call leader by Thursday, June 14 for information and to sign up. Russ Kinaman, 879-6666.

6/17 (Sun) **Worcester Range - Skyline Trail** We'll climb the Middlesex Trail to the summit of Mt. Hunger, then follow the Skyline Trail to Mt. Worcester, returning on the Worcester Mt. Trail. Difficult hike, moderate pace, 11 miles, 3000' elevation gain. Contact leader by Friday 6/15. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com

6/23 (Sat) **Breadloaf Wilderness Loop** We'll head up the Cooley Glen Trail to the Long Trail, then south through Breadloaf Wilderness Area before returning on the Emily Proctor Trail. Moderate hike, strong pace (1.5 mph average), 11.2 miles, 3700' elevation gain. Contact leader by 6/22. Darryl Smith, 522-2516 or dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com

6/24 (Sun) **Taylor Lodge via Lake Mansfield Trail – Kid-Friendly, Dog-Friendly** An easy hike up to Taylor Lodge where we'll enjoy a snack break. We'll look for beavers at the beaver pond, identify wildflowers, listen for frogs, and try to spy some brightly colored newts. Easy with easy pace, 3.0 miles, 750' elevation gain. Limit 3 dogs. Contact leader by 6/23. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or kelleymchristie@gmail.com

6/30 (Sat) **Manfield's Forehead** We'll head up Frost and Maple Ridge, and Long Trails. We'll come down Long Trail to Butler Lodge then down the Butler Lodge Trail. Difficult, 5.5 miles. Contact Lee Wrigley, 318-6281 or leewrigley@myfairpoint.net

July 2012

7/1 (Sun) **Bamforth Ridge** We'll get a fairly early start and climb from the Bamforth Trailhead south on the LT to the summit of Camels Hump, and return. Difficult plus, 12.5 miles, about 4400' total climbing. Strong pace, long day. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 6/29. Rich Larsen, larsen007@aol.com or 878-6828.

7/7 (Sat) **Mt. Abraham** Mt. Abe is one of the nicest hikes one can do and still get above 4000' and with almost 360-degree views. Moderate hike, 2500' elevation gain, 5.8 mi. round trip via the Battel Trail. Moderate pace. Contact leader by Thursday, July 5. Russ Kinaman, 879-6666 or russkin34@comcast.net

7/8 (Sun) **Brandon Gap to Middlebury Gap** We will hike the Long Trail through the "green tunnel" of the Breadloaf Wilderness. Outing includes foot soaking in Lake Pleiad. Moderate to difficult, 9.9 mi. Group limit 10. Mary Lou Recor, 660-2834, mlrecor@myfairpoint.net.

July 2012 – cont.

7/14 (Sat) **Vermont's Toughest Ten Miles** We'll ascend the steep Hell Brook Trail, cross Mansfield's Adam's Apple and Chin, and then circle Mount Mansfield on the Cliff, Lakeview, Canyon, Subway and Profanity Trails. Difficult, 10.2 miles, 3600' elevation gain, moderate pace (1.25 mph average). E-mail leader by 7/13. Darryl Smith, 522-2516 or dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com

7/15 (Sun) **Laraway Loop** From Davis Neighborhood we'll head over to Coddington Hollow, follow the Long Trail up over Laraway Mt., and return via Davis Neighborhood Trail. Moderate, ~8 miles, ~1600' elevation gain. Contact leader by 7/13. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com

7/20 (Fri) **Monroe Skyline** Please join in this 12.3 mile ridgewalk along the famed " Monroe Skyline ". With a little luck we should be treated to expansive views in all directions as we proceed north on the Long Trail beginning at Lincoln Gap. Once the height of land is achieved on Mt. Abraham, we'll enjoy an undulating walk over several 4000 footers. Pace will be moderate with snacks and beverages provided at App Gap, courtesy of your trip leader. Plan on a full day for this one. Please call Pete Saile, 658-0912.

7/21 (Sat) **Sterling Pond – Good for Kids and Dogs** Any kid will love this short but steep hike to the pond. We can break for lunch along the pond and enjoy views from Smugglers Notch. Bring plenty of water for your pooch and kiddos. Moderate, 2.5 miles, 780' elevation gain. Limit 3 dogs. Contact leader by 7/19. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or kelleymchristie@gmail.com

7/22 (Sun) **Rock Garden on Mt. Mansfield** We'll go up the Frost Trail to Maple Ridge with lots of views to the west, then over Rock Garden with its fascinating rock formations to Butler Lodge for lunch. Down Butler Lodge Trail. Moderate hike, 1500' elevation gain, 4.3 mi. Moderate pace. Contact Russ Kinaman by Friday, July 20, russkin34@comcast.net or 879-6666.

7/28 (Sat) **Pyramid & Gothics - Adirondacks** From the Ausable Club we'll have an easy walk to Lower Ausable Lake, then climb Pyramid and continue to Gothics, one of the Adirondack's 46 high peaks. Difficult hike, moderate pace, 12.5 miles, 3100' elevation gain. Contact leader by 7/26. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com

7/29 (Sun) **Montclair Glen, Beaver Ponds and Allis Trail** This hike features the many cascades of Brush Brook and two very different views of Camels Hump, a spectacular one from the beaver ponds to the east of the LT and one through trees from the Allis Trail. Moderate, 5.5 miles. Dot Myer, 863-2433 or dotmyer@myfairpoint.net

August 2012

8/4 (Sat) **Blueberry Cobbles - ADK** This short Adirondack hike leads to open ledges with great views of the Dix Range and, if we're lucky, plentiful blueberries (according to the Adirondack guidebook "enough to make blueberry cobbler for an army"). Bring pails for blueberry picking. For people who want to hike farther and spend less time picking blueberries, the trail continues on to Mason Mountain with more blueberries. Moderate hike, slow pace, 3.8 miles. Dot Myer, 863-2433 or dotmyer@myfairpoint.net

8/11 (Sat) **Bamforth Ridge** We'll head south on the Bamforth Ridge section of the Long Trail to Camels Hump and return. The trail climbs 3700', making it Vermont's highest ascent, and crosses numerous open ledges. Moderate to difficult, 12.4 miles, moderate pace (1.5 mph average). E-mail leader by 8/10. Darryl Smith, 522-2516 or dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com

8/12 (Sun) **Jay Range in the Adirondacks** We'll take the Charlotte ferry over to NY State and drive to the trailhead in Wilmington. The trail, which is really a well-used herd path, climbs through the woods for about 1.5 miles until it reaches an open ridge. The trail continues on the ridge for another 1.5 miles, although we might stop a bit short of that if the group prefers. On top of the ridge there are terrific 360-degree views. We'll return the same way we went up. Moderate to difficult hike, moderate pace, approx. 6 miles, approx. 2000 vertical feet. Contact leader by 8/10. Sheri Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com

8/18 (Sat) **Burrows Trail on Camels Hump** Burrows is the shortest route to the summit with spectacular views all around. Moderate hike, 2500' elevation gain, 4.8 mi. round trip. Moderate pace. Contact Russ Kinaman by Thursday, August 16 at russkin34@comcast.net or 879-6666.

8/19 (Sun) **Mobbs Farm Walk – Good for Kids and Dogs** Walk in beautiful preserved farmland near Jericho Center. Lunch at the riverside "beach". Easy hike, easy pace, approx. 3 miles, rolling hills. Limit 3 dogs. Contact leader by 8/17. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or kelleymchristie@gmail.com

August 2012 – cont.

8/25 (Sat) **Camels Hump Beaver Pond** We'll go up the Forest City Trail, Long Trail and Dean Trail to beaver pond. 4 miles, 1000' elevation gain. Lee Wrigley, email leewrigley@myfairpoint.net

September 2012

9/1 (Sat) **Beaver Meadow Trail** Beaver Meadow Trail to Chilcoat Trail, LT to Whiteface Mountain, then return to the Beaver Meadow Trail via the Whiteface Trail. Moderate to difficult, 8.5 miles. Group limit 10. Dogs welcome. Carlene Squires, 434-2533.

9/2 (Sun) **Hedgehog Brook to Burnt Rock Mountain** We'll go up the Hedgehog Brook Trail (Fayston area) for 2.0 mi. and 1500' elevation gain to the Long Trail. Then we will go north on the Long Trail for another 0.6 mi. and 500' elevation gain to Burnt Rock Mt. Moderate hike, moderate pace. Beautiful views almost all around. Contact Russ Kinaman by Friday 8/31. russkin34@comcast.net or 879-6666.

9/3 (Monday – Labor Day) **Mt. Abraham via Battell Trail** We will hike to the top of Mt. Abraham via the Battell Trail. We'll stop at the Battell Shelter for a snack and then continue to the top for lunch. After eating lunch and enjoying the great 360-degree views on the top, we'll return the same way. Moderate to difficult, moderate pace, approx. 6 miles round trip, 2500' elevation gain. Contact leader by 9/1. Sheri Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com

9/8 (Sat) **Journey's End** We'll cross Jay Peak shortly after starting from Route 242 and then continue north to Journey's End and take the trail down. Requires car drop and car pooling. Moderate to difficult, 14 miles, 3600' elevation gain, moderate to fast pace (2 mph average). E-mail leader by 9/7. Darryl Smith, 522-2516 or dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com

9/9 (Sun) **Honey Hollow Botany Walk** We'll walk the loop from the Honey Hollow Trailhead, up the HH trail and down the HH road. We will attempt to identify the wildflowers, ferns, trees, mushrooms, but will move along at a decent pace. Easy to moderate hike at a moderate pace. 5 miles, about 1000' of climbing, Group limit 15. Contact leader by 9/7. Rich Larsen, 878-6828, larsen007@aol.com.

9/15 (Sat) **Mt. Ellen via the Jerusalem Trail** We'll go up the Jerusalem Trail to the Long Trail, 1800' elevation gain and 2.4 mi., then south on the Long Trail for another 1.8 mi. and 800' elevation gain to the summit of Mt. Ellen. Moderate hike, moderate pace. Contact leader by Thursday, 9/13. Russ Kinaman, russkin34@comcast.net or 879-6666.

9/16 (Sun) **Cantilever Rock and Cook-Out** A 2.7 mile hike about half-way up Mt. Mansfield leads you to Cantilever Rock. As you approach the area, look up and see this amazing blade of rock 60 feet above you sticking out of a 100-foot cliff. If you've never seen it, you'll want to go on this hike. The hike will be followed by a cookout at Underhill State Park. Everyone should bring something for themselves to cook and something to share with the group. There is a fee to hike in the park at this time of year. Moderate hike, slow pace, 5.4 miles. Dot Myer, 863-2433 or dotmyer@myfairpoint.net

9/29 (Sat) **Jay Pass to Route 105** Enjoy beautiful fall colors and views of the Vermont and Quebec countryside as we hike the northern part of the Long Trail over the summit of Jay Peak. 9.3 miles at a moderate pace. Contact Peter Cottrell, 879-0755

9/30 (Sun) **Glimpses of Fall from Stowe Pinnacle - Good for Kids and Dogs** Relatively short but steep hike leading to a bald open summit with spectacular views and signs of fall over the Green Mountains and the Worcester Range. Moderate, 2.8 miles, 1520' elevation gain. Limit 3 dogs. Contact leader by 9/28. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or Kelleymchristie@gmail.com

Ridge Lines

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