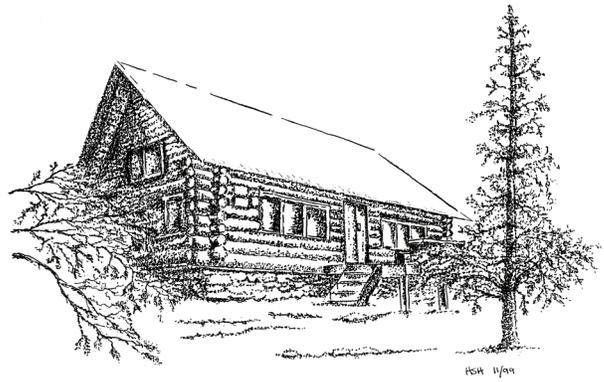


RIDGE LINES



GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB
BURLINGTON SECTION

<http://gmc Burlington.org>

Spring 2013

SPRING IS ON THE WAY!!!

And that means Mud Season and Trail Maintenance!

Mud Season Hiking - We all want to get out on the trails on that first spring day when the sun is shining, there's a breeze from the south, the thermometer hits fifty degrees, and the air is full of the sounds of melting snow. But when hikers step on wet and muddy soil, they can cause irreversible damage. On pages 5 and 6, read the GMC guidelines for hiking in mud season, along with suggestions about low elevation trails close to Burlington.

Trail Maintenance - Every spring, Burlington Section volunteers spend many days repairing winter's damage to our section of the Long Trail and access trails. This year, work dates are **May 4, May 11, May 18, May 25** and a special event to celebrate National Trails Day on **June 1**. The more workers we have, the more miles of trails get cleared – and it's easier and more fun for everyone. There are many different chores, from clipping branches that have grown across the trail to cleaning out water bars and drainage ditches that keep the trails from turning into roaring waterfalls during spring rains. Tools are provided, along with instruction on how to use the tools. This is your chance to get up close and personal with Hazel hoes, crowbars, loppers, folding handsaws and come-alongs. (You can also bring your own favorite saws or clippers.) While you work, you'll be talking and laughing, enjoying spring wildflowers, smelling fresh air, listening to birds, checking out tracks from moose and deer, and in general spending a day that's both fun and useful.

Generally, trail work outings require moderate hiking (5-8 miles, not over 2400' elevation gain). We're usually done by mid-afternoon. Most outings have an early turn-around option for folks who might not be able to go the whole distance or who need to be back earlier than the rest of us. **Please consider coming on one or more of the trail work outings.** We'll meet at 8:00 AM at the UVM visitors' lot off East Ave. in Burlington or at 8:30 AM at the Richmond Park & Ride (just off Exit 11). Contact Pam Gillis, 879-1457, or John Sharp, 862-3941 for more information.

Also in this issue:

Scaling Colorado's 100 Highest Peaks – pages 2, 7 and 8

Reviewing 2012 – Reports on Outings, Trails and Shelters– page 3

Reviewing 2012 – Reports on Membership, Website and from the Director – page 4

Mud Season Hiking – pages 5 and 6

Book Recommendation – page 6

Outings – pages 9-11

The Burlington Section is lucky to have many members who have had amazing adventures in the backcountry. Along with many other hiking expeditions in this country and in far-off lands, Rich Larsen has stood on the summits of Colorado's hundred highest mountains. Valerie Wilkins interviewed Rich and wrote the following article.

Scaling Colorado's 100 Highest Peaks: Rich Larsen

Richard Larsen is a man who knows how to set goals and achieve them. In the 40 years that he's been at this, he's racked up a number of impressive accomplishments:

- **Long Trail End-to-Ender, two times!** In 1975-1979, Rich covered the LT from south to north, and then in the 1990s, he went the other direction, this time accompanying his wife Sheri.
- **Adirondack 46ers, two times!** Rich hiked the Adirondack peaks in the 1980s, and all but one or two peaks again in the 1990s with Sheri.
- **Catamount Ski Trail End-to-Ender** (2008-2011)
- **New Hampshire peaks over 4000 feet** (1980s)
- **New England peaks over 4000 feet** (1980s)
- **New England's 100 highest peaks** (1974 -2001)
- **NY/NE 111 peaks over 4000 feet** (1974-2000s)

Over the years, Rich's playground has extended well beyond New England and New York, and the size of the mountains he has climbed increased to well over 4000 feet. Back in the 1980s, Rich turned his attention to Colorado, and by 1999, **he had hiked all of the Colorado peaks over 14,000 feet – that's 54 peaks!**

Always looking for a challenge, or perhaps because of insanity, Rich decided to take things up a notch soon after that. His new goal was to **hike Colorado's 100 highest peaks**, which meant adding to his list 48 of the highest 13,000 foot peaks. (Yes, the math doesn't quite add up; two of the 14ers don't count in the 100 highest as there is not a 300-foot drop to the saddle, so he had to do two more 13ers to be official.) He hoped to be among the first 200 people to do this, so he had to really keep at it .

For those not familiar with Colorado's mountains, you might think "No big deal", as Rich had already knocked off the 54 highest peaks. But, as he explained, there's an assumption that the 14ers must be harder than the high 13ers because they are higher, which is not the case. The extra 100 or so feet of elevation for the taller mountains is not a big factor when the total elevation you gain on any of these climbs is between 3000 and 6000 feet. Instead, a number of factors actually make many of the high 13ers harder to climb.

First, about 20 times as many people set out to hike the 54 Colorado peaks over 14,000 feet than set out to hike Colorado's highest 100 peaks. There are trails or footpaths with cairns to lead you up the 14ers, but not on the high 13ers. You might get some general idea of the best way up from a guidebook or a trip report, but there's often nothing to mark the way once you're out there. Second, because the trails up the 14ers get more traffic, Rich found them to be "cleaner", meaning previous hikers had removed some of the loose (and dangerous) rock so it was often easier (and safer) climbing. Third, on many of the 14ers, there are often other climbers doing the same hike so you are not alone. With the high 13ers, you might be the only person on the mountain for a week or more, so you must take special care not to get injured. Finally, three of the high 13ers are considered Class 5 technical climbs and are among the hardest mountains to climb in Colorado. So, Rich had set himself a lofty goal by trying to reach the top of Colorado's 100 highest peaks!

Let's cut to the chase, and then fill in more of the details about Rich's hiking experiences. Drum roll, please... On August 25, 2012, Rich reached the summit of Jagged Mountain, elevation 13,824 feet, Class 5, and in the process, **he became the 196th person to complete Colorado's 100 highest peaks!** Rich had reached the goal he set for himself in 1999!

- continued on page 7 -

Each year at the Section's Annual Meeting, committee chairs give summaries of the previous year's activities, challenges and successes.

Outings Committee - Report submitted by Paul Houchens and Kelley Christie

2012 was another successful year for Burlington Section outings. 91 trips were scheduled, led by 21 different people. Trip offerings included everything from bird watching and wildflower walks, to full-day hikes and bike rides, to a multi-day ski and snowshoe trip in the Adirondacks. The number and diversity of our outings keep our members connected and provide opportunities for public outreach.

At each Annual Meeting, we honor volunteers who have lead four or more outings in the previous calendar year. In 2012, we had one ambitious soul who led a dozen hikes, and twelve leaders who scheduled four or more hikes.

Darryl Smith led the pack, with 12 hikes! Kelley Christie had 9 hikes, Dot Myer 8, Russ Kinaman 7, and David Hathaway and Robynn Albert each led 6 trips. Several trip leaders led 5 hikes: Pam Gillis, John Sharpe, Phil Hazen, Rich Larsen, and Sheri Larsen. Lee Wrigley led 4 outings.

We all appreciate the time and effort that our trip leaders put into planning, preparing for, facilitating and leading these trips. We invite all GMC members to try their hand at leading a hike! The only requirements are current GMC membership and a desire to spend time with others who love the outdoors. Contact Paul (houchens@comcast.net) or Kelley (kelleychristie@gmail.com).

Trails Committee - Report submitted by Pam Gillis

In May and early June 2012, we had 5 trail work outings. There were an average of 11 volunteers per outing, which was a very good turnout, even though the National Trails Day work was in wind and rain and cold. We did 300 person-hours of trail work and hiking. There were not too many trees down, but I expect there will be more when we go out on the trails in spring 2013. There have been a few windstorms and we've had some reports of trees down.

Thanks especially to John Pennucci, who went on all the outings, and to Forrest Aldrich, George Long, and Ryan Bean, who each went on 4 outings!

With the building of the Winooski footbridge, planned for this summer (assuming fund raising is successfully completed), we will have a new section of trail and the Jonesville to Bolton Notch Road section will be a side trail. I signed us up for blazing the new trail, though I don't know when that will be. I went on a walk-through of much of the new route and it is going to be a great trail. The club was still trying to get some additional land so that a very steep section could be avoided. I hope we'll be maintaining the new trail in 2014!

Shelters Committee - Report submitted by Linda Evans

I'm always happy when I can report a quiet year for the overnight sites! No major repairs were needed in 2012. We had a scare Labor Day weekend when a fire broke out dangerously close to Taylor Lodge, a building that has already burned twice in its long history. We didn't want to lose it again! Local firefighters contained and put out the fire, with help from GMC field workers who carried in supplies to help the firefighters.

I'd like to thank the dedicated shelter adopters who monitor conditions and insure that our lodges, shelters and tenting sites are ready for visitors when the backpacking season starts each spring: Puffer Shelter – Jeff Bostwick; Butler Lodge – Jonathan Boyson; Twin Brooks Tenting Area – Scott Buckingham; Taylor Lodge – David and Zach Ellenbogen; Duck Brook Shelter – Kerstin Lange; Taft Lodge – John Abbott; Buchanan Shelter – Brian Youngberg.

Director's Report – Report submitted by Ted Albers

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

Winooski Valley Long Trail Relocation and Footbridge: Fundraising for this major project is going well, with \$1,300,000 raised in the form of legislative appropriations and gifts from individuals.

GMC Membership: In January 2013, the main club has 10,444 voting members and 180 Business Members. Keeping membership above the 10,000 level is attributed to somewhat better than expected membership retention.

Trails: The big projects for 2013 are the Winooski Bridge and LT relocation in Bolton and a LT relocation in Smugglers Notch near Barnes Camp.

Renewable Energy: The club continues to enjoy a positive balance on our renewable energy accounts. We still have well over \$4000 to cover electric bills through the winter until the sun becomes stronger and we start generating in earnest again.

Group Outreach: During the 2012 season GMC's group outreach program reached at least 32 organizations (with a total of 120 individual groups) that helped to support over 942 hikers' Long Trail backpacking experience. Facebook and Twitter audiences are over 5000 and 1800 respectively. Our monthly online newsletter, the e-Blaze, continues to reach over 9500 homes.

Long Trail Bound: www.LongTrailBound.org is an online resource for parents and educators who want to take their children and students out on the trail. It provides over twenty outdoor activities for kids, a list of suggested hikes, a list of additional resources and a forum for educators to share information. The Long Trail Bound program has gained exposure and momentum in 2012 through both its online presence and educational workshops reaching over 4000 people. Nika, GMC's Americorps staffer, conducted twenty Long Trail Bound Youth Education programs and guided hikes with schools, organizations, and scouting groups reaching more than 830 children and adults across the state.

Burlington Section Website – Report submitted by Ted Albers

Visits to our website <http://gmcburlington.org/> continue to increase. Nearly 80% of visitors are looking for upcoming outings, reading recent trip reports or looking at the photos people submit with reports. There were 11500 visits to our site in 2010, 14000 in 2011 and 16500 in 2012. The busiest month ever was January 2013. I attribute that to people wanting to see the photos of themselves they submitted for publication!

We have enhanced the site with several new links to the main GMC website, including to [Long Trail Bound](#), the educational website of the GMC.

Thanks to all those trip leaders for submitting trip reports!

Membership - Report submitted by Dot Myer

The Burlington Section now has 787 memberships and 1113 members. There are more members than memberships because many memberships are for families.

There was a 20% increase in the number of members during 2012, which was the biggest jump ever.

(During the Annual Meeting, we learned that City Market in Burlington has been supporting GMC by offering benefits to employees who join the club. Thank you, City Market!)

Spring Hiking Tips and Suggestions

Hiking trails are wet and muddy in the spring. When hikers step on saturated soil, they cause irreversible damage. Hikers can make deep gullies and pits that will be there all summer long. If hikers step off the trail to avoid the mud, they increase erosion by creating additional trenches for run-off.

The State of Vermont closes hiking trails on state land (including the trails on Mt. Mansfield and Camels Hump) from mid-April to Memorial Day. The state also joins with the Green Mountain Club, Green Mountain National Forest, and Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation in urging responsible use of *all* of Vermont's hiking trails between sugaring season and Memorial Day.

Stay off Vermont's sensitive summits. The delicate and rare tundra plants on the state's highest peaks are easily crushed or ripped out of the earth by the combination of boots and water (and by canine claws). In addition to the two closed mountains, hikers should avoid Stratton Mountain, Killington Peak, Jay Peak and Lincoln Ridge (Mount Ellen to Appalachian Gap).

Walk through the mud. Don't walk around it. If a trail is so muddy that you have to walk on neighboring vegetation, turn back and find a different place to hike.

Plan lower-elevation hikes. Spring is a great time to explore parks, dirt roads, rail trails and rec paths. Here are some suggested mud-season hikes close to Burlington:

- **Red Rocks** in South Burlington has a network of trails over rocks, along the beach and through woods. In May, the Park is a great place to look at wildflowers. In addition, local birdwatchers visit Red Rocks in the spring because it's a well-known "migrant trap": a place for weary songbirds to stop and feed before heading to nesting grounds.
- **Shelburne Bay Park** on Bay Road (just west of the large fishing access parking lot) has trails near the lake, in the woods, and up over Allen Hill (steep, but small).
- Across the road from Shelburne Bay Park and the fishing access are two mostly flat walking trails: the newly-repaired nature trail along the **LaPlatte River** and the **Ti-Haul Trail**, which marks the route of the ship *The Ticonderoga* as it was towed from the lake to Shelburne Museum.
- **Shelburne Farms** has many scenic walking trails. Most involve hills but there's nothing strenuous. (Note: Check in at the Visitor Center. Past Memorial Day, you'll be asked to pay a small fee unless you're a Shelburne Farms member.)
- The **Winooski Valley Park District** manages many scenic outdoor locations in the greater Burlington area, including the **Ethan Allen Homestead**, **Colchester Pond**, **Woodside Natural Area** and the **Old Red Mill** in Jericho. All of these have walking trails. At Ethan Allen, walk through a swamp and meadows and along the Winooski River. There's a trail all the way around Colchester Pond, taking hikers to a rocky ledge high above the water. At Woodside, follow a loop trail by a large beaver pond. The trails at the Old Red Mill are short but beautiful. For more information and directions, go to www.wvdp.org.
- The **Burlington Bike Path** stretches for about eight miles along the waterfront and connects to trails in Colchester by a bridge across the Winooski River.
- **Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge** – This little-used gem has trails through woods and wetlands and then out into open fields. The Park entrance is off Greenbush Road, north of Charlotte Village and just south of the narrow railroad underpass. [Note: There have been problems with vandalism in the secluded parking area. It might be best to be dropped off and picked up after your walk.]
- **Mud Pond Conservation Area** in Williston – A mile-long trail leads uphill through woods to a little pond with an observation platform. Take Route 2 through Williston village. Turn right on Oak Hill Road. Just over the interstate, turn left onto South Road. After 1.9 miles, turn onto Mud Pond Road. The parking area is on the right. **Mud Pond Country Park** is adjacent to the Conservation Area. The 79-acre forest has well-designed mountain bike trails that are good for walking, too. The trails connect to Williston's Five Tree Hill.

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Spring Hiking Tips and Suggestions – Low Elevation Hikes and Walks, cont.

- **Champlain Causeway** - This unique and beautiful recreation trail just reopened after suffering extensive storm damage in spring 2011. Walk or bike along an old railroad bed extending more than 2 miles across Lake Champlain, almost all the way to South Hero. In the summer, you can extend your trip into the Champlain Islands by getting the weekend Bike Ferry at the end of the Causeway.
- **Mills Riverside Park** in Jericho – Walk on extensive trails through fields and forests. The Park entrance is on Route 15 just outside Underhill Flats.
- **Mobbs Farm** in Jericho – This relatively new nature area has several miles of walking and mountain bike trails in woods and meadows. Check the map at the kiosk on Fitzsimonds Road to find out what trails are open for biking.

Mail to Ridge Lines: Book Recommendation



Hi - After reading the article "Snowshoeing Close to Home" in the December issue of *Ridge Lines*, I wanted to mention another GMC resource for walking/snowshoeing close to home: *The Walker's Guide to Vermont*. The Walker's Guide has several advantages over Local Motion's Trail Finder. It covers all of Vermont, has more detailed descriptions than Trail Finder, and has trails you've never heard of and can't find in other publications. It easily fits in your glove compartment or daypack. It doesn't require an internet connection. The Walker's Guide is a great guide to have with you if you happen to have a couple of hours to kill in, say, Brattleboro and you're not from there. Or if you have relatives visiting from somewhere flat like Kansas and you want to get them out into nature without scaring them too much.

Thanks for mentioning the snowshoe guide and for encouraging members to get out and enjoy winter. Cold weather builds character!

Mary Lou Recor

***The Walker's Guide to Vermont: Rambles for Half an Hour or Half a Day* is now ON SALE at the GMC Store. Drop in at the Visitor Center in Waterbury Center to browse, or visit www.greenmountainclub.org and click on Store and then Books.**

Another great book is *Walking Distance: Extraordinary Hikes for Ordinary People* by Robert and Martha Manning. The Mannings were presenters at the February Annual Meeting. Their book has descriptions of thirty long-distance hikes from six continents, ranging from inn-to-inn to backpacking trips. Each entry features maps, photos, personal anecdotes, natural and cultural history, and suggestions for preparing for hikes and for additional reading.

Scaling Colorado's 100 Highest Peaks: Rich Larsen Interview by Valerie Wilkins – cont.

At this point, you might be saying to yourself “Wow!” and wondering how Rich accomplished this from his home base in Vermont. Reflecting on his experience, Rich explains that the hiking in Colorado is not world-class mountaineering but is a lot harder than hiking in New England and a lot harder than any of the hiking he had done before. The 100 peaks included a mix of non-technical, semi-technical, and technical hiking and climbing. The non-technical peaks were often longer versions of the day hikes you might do in Vermont (but with more elevation gain), while the semi-technical peaks involved steep scrambles or climbs on solid or loose rock. The three hardest peaks required roping up and rappelling off truly vertical sections.

Rich spent a lot of time planning and organizing the hikes and climbs. For many hikes, he used *Colorado's Thirteeners* by Roach and Roach; for hard peaks he used Internet trip reports as well.

Rich hiked with others whenever he could. He felt comfortable doing any of the 1st or 2nd Class peaks alone, but never the 3rd, 4th, or 5th Class peaks. Rich met hikers on the trail who became partners on future hikes. Peter Cottrell, a fellow GMCer from Essex Junction, joined Rich for many 14ers. Jim Niemeyer from Tennessee drove out and joined on many 14ers and high 13ers. For the last technical peaks, Rich found hiking partners on websites such as www.14ers.com. He carefully screened potential climbing partners for these technical climbs.

In 2011, however, Rich violated most of his own rules. When an expected climbing partner did not show up, Rich climbed the very remote 4th Class Pigeon Peak by himself. As Pigeon Peak is not well-traveled and involves a trail-less backpack segment, Rich took extreme care in climbing this peak solo.

Folks that know Rich know that he is camping-averse. He will often hike many extra miles to get back to a trailhead and to a motel. But the remoteness of some of the peaks required Rich to camp many times. Over the course of completing the highest 100 peaks, Rich estimates that he camped at a trailhead at least 10 times to get an early start the next morning and camped near tree line another 30+ times to be ready to start the final ascent at dawn. Sometimes getting to the trailhead meant taking a mountain train, as there was no vehicle access.

Rich was always thinking about “what could happen” and tried to be as prepared as possible. As he noted, people die in the Colorado high peaks every year, whether due to gravity (falls), lightning, or other events. You must have knowledge, skills, equipment, and common sense to avoid becoming one of them. Rich expressed gratitude for his wife Sheri who was tolerant of his endeavors, even with her knowledge of the potential dangers.

In talking with Rich, I got the sense that there might have been brushes with danger that were not being discussed. He was willing to talk about a time when he was struck by lightning while hiking Handies Peak (elevation 14,048) with Peter Cottrell in 1993. Rich and Peter saw the storm coming in and separated to avoid both being struck, but the lightning found Rich. He was extremely fortunate that his wounds were relatively minor – temporary paralysis, burned body hair, melted socks, a burst eardrum, and a shoulder that did not work right for months. He was able to hike back to the trailhead with some assistance. After being checked out at Lake City Medical Center, and then Gunnison Hospital, he took a day to rest, and then headed back out on the trail the next day. Within 6 months, he had fully recovered.

As Rich completed the hikes, he continued to fine-tune his strategy. He learned that the end of August was his favorite time to hike in Colorado. The snowfields were mostly melted by then, the highest lightning danger had passed, and there were still many hours of daylight. A typical day of hiking began at 6:00 AM and ended by 2:00-3:00 PM. Rich's goal was always to get to the summit and pass tree line on the way down (around 11,800 feet) by noon at the latest (11:00 a.m. even better) to avoid the danger of lightning.

Scaling Colorado's 100 Highest Peaks: Rich Larsen Interview by Valerie Wilkins – conclusion

Rich obviously loves a challenge, and climbing Colorado's 100 highest peaks provided plenty of physical and mental challenges. Even with the challenges, he always enjoyed the above tree line scenery, the occasional wildlife, and the many wildflowers.

Rich and his wife Sheri are very active in the Burlington Section, each leading several hikes each year. Check the upcoming schedules and join them on a hike to learn more about their many hiking adventures. They also enjoy giving slides shows and talks as part of the GMC Taylor Series in Waterbury, highlighting their various travels in the U.S. and abroad. Rich plans to do a presentation on Colorado's 100 Highest as soon as he can get the 25 years of trips assembled into a meaningful story!

Photos of Rich's 2010, 2011, and 2012 climbs can be found at the Burlington Section website (<http://gmc Burlington.org/>) and at Rich's Picasa page: <https://picasaweb.google.com/100980312635535392029?authkey=Gv1sRgCIT7otqYtvGNEg>.

The Burlington Section has many members who've had adventures hiking, climbing, biking, skiing or paddling.

Go to <http://gmc Burlington.org/> to read these tales of adventure from past issues of *Ridge Lines*:

Tales from the Trails – on Vermont's highest mountain with a 9-year-old

Lost on Mansfield! and *Lost on Mount Mansfield*

Lost on Bolton Mountain: "The lostest I have ever been"

Winter Peakbaggers

Clem Holden and Herm Hoffman – Vermont's "Old Goats" serve as trail blazers and shelter adopters

Tragedy on the Lake – encounter with death while skating on Lake Champlain

There are many other stories of derring-do from earlier issues of *Ridge Lines* that will be on-line soon. If you just can't wait, you can get a Word document by contacting editor Maeve Kim (maevulus@surfglobal.net).

From April 2004 - *Triumph Comes in Many Flavors* - Camels Hump climb during which the hiker has to overcome her fear of heights and dislike of hiking over steep or rocky terrain.

From July 2004 – *Portrait of Dane Shortsleeve* - long-time member recalls being caretaker at Bolton Lodge in 1940

From October 2004 – *A Fun Day in the Woods* – a trail work novice helps to build a privy

From October 2005 – *Interview with Shelter Caretakers* – spending all summer in a LT shelter

From January 2006 – *Animals You Won't See on the Long Trail* – Burlington Section member visits the Amazon and the Galapagos Islands

From July 06 – *Would You Believe There Was Once Electricity at Bulter Lodge???*

SHARE YOUR ADVENTURES WITH OTHER GMCers

Do you have a story about an adventure in the wild? We'd love to publish it!

You can write your story yourself or contact Maeve for an interview.

Section Outings

Spring 2013

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.

March

3/2 (Sat) **Mt. Abraham via Battell Trail** Depending on the weather conditions, we'll hike or snowshoe to the top of Mt. Abraham via the Battell Trail. If it's icy, crampons or microspikes and poles will be necessary. Difficult hike, moderate pace, 6 miles round trip 2500' elevation gain. Group limit 12. Contact leader by 2/28. Sheri Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com

3/3 (Sun) **Camels Hump Loop** We'll take Forest City Trail to Montclair Glen Lodge, then climb the Long Trail to the summit and return along the Burrows Trail. Difficult hike, moderate to strong pace, 6 miles, 2400' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 3/1. David Hathaway, David.Hathaway.78@gmail.com or 899-9982.

3/9 (Sat) **Jay Pass South - III** We'll head south from Jay Pass (Rt. 242) to Hazens Notch (Rt. 58). Look forward to a long day and considerable snow. Difficult snowshoe, pace 1 mph average, 6.8 miles. Distance may be another mile or two to wherever winter parking is. Group limit 10. E-mail leader by 3/7. Darryl Smith, dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com

3/10 (Sun) **Butler Lodge, Wampahoofus, Maple Ridge Loop** We'll snowshoe from the Stevensville trailhead near Underhill Center to Butler Lodge on the south side of Mt. Mansfield. From Butler Lodge we'll climb the Maple Ridge on the Wampahoofus Trail and then descend via the Maple Ridge and Frost Trails. Interesting, little-used trail on Mt. Mansfield and outstanding views from the ridge. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 5.1 miles, 2200' elevation gain. Contact leader in advance. Peter Cottrell, 879-0755 or pcottrel@myfairpoint.net

3/16 (Sat) **LaPlatte River Marsh Plus** Snowshoe the LaPlatte River Marsh Natural area, Shelburne Bay Clarke Trail and perhaps some of the Ti-Haul Trail, all in Shelburne. Total distance to be determined by the group, between four and five miles, mostly flat. Meet at the public boat launch, Shelburne Bay, on Bay Road at 9:00 AM. (On Google Maps, search for: 1135 Bay Road, Shelburne VT. The boat launch is 1/2 mile east of the entrance to Shelburne Farms, at Harbor and Bay Roads.) Easy hike or snowshoe at a leisurely pace, 4 to 6 miles, no elevation gain. Group limit 5. E-mail leader in advance. Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net

3/17 (Sun) **Mt. Hunger and the Reservoir** Snowshoe up this smooth white-carpeted rocky trail like it was just an easy stroll. Return via a visit to the Reservoir. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 4.4 miles, 2500' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader for details. Phil Hazen, 355-7181 or philhazen@comcast.net

3/23 (Sat) **Cross Country Ski in Burlington Intervale: Kid Friendly** Immaculately maintained trails right here in Burlington! Easy, flat terrain, approx. 3 miles. Contact leader by 3/22. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or kelleymchristie@gmail.com

3/31 (Sun) **Butler Lodge** From the Stevensville trailhead, we'll snowshoe up Butler Lodge Trail to Butler Lodge. If we're ambitious, we may continue up the Wampahoofus Trail to the Forehead of Mt. Mansfield. Moderate hike, moderate to strong pace, 3.6 miles, 1500' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 3/29. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com

April

4/6 (Sat) **Sunset Knob Bushwhack - Underhill State Park** Shortly before the Cantilever Rock cutoff on the Sunset Ridge Trail, have you ever noticed the rocky knob to the north, on your left? From Underhill SP winter parking, we'll make a mile and a half beeline to this knob. Sunset Knob is at the western end of Sunset Ridge and provides a close up view of Mount Mansfield, the ridge, as well as the sounds and silhouettes of hikers. Moderate terrain, moderate pace, 5 miles roundtrip, 1400' elevation gain. E-mail leader by 4/5. Darryl Smith at dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com (or 522-2516).

4/7 (Sun) **Sterling Pond at Smuggler's Notch** From the parking lot on Rt. 108 in Stowe, we'll walk up the Long Trail 2 miles to Elephant's Head then 1.2 miles to Sterling Pond and the shelter. Several wonderful views, a few steep spots. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 8 miles, 1200' elevation gain. Group limit 5. Contact leader for car pool details and times. Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net

4/13 (Sat) **Bike Vergennes to Middlebury** Enjoy an early spring bike ride on back roads, with stops to take in the scenery and rest our posteriors. Lunch in Middlebury. 25 moderately hilly miles at a moderately moderate pace. Group limit 10. Leader: Mary Lou Recor, mlrecor@myfairpoint.net or 660-2834.

April – cont.

4/13 Sat) **Biking in Burlington** Ride Burlington's "other" bike path, the Route 127 path, to Ethan Allen Homestead. Take a break and hike some of the trails there, then back on the bike. Option 1 (longer ride - about 20 miles): From the end of the 127 trail, take roads for a short distance and join the bike path along the waterfront at Leddy Park. The distance on this path depends on time and participants' interest. It can include the new bridge, interesting carvings near the Waste Treatment Plant, a stone "clock", the tree house at Red Rocks, etc. The ride can continue on to the South Burlington Bike path and end at Dorset Street Park. Option 2: (shorter ride – about 10 miles): If we don't have enough interested people to either get transportation from Dorset park or to ride bikes along roads back, we can just go to Ethan Allen Homestead and back the same way. *Important: Please call leader by April 11 so that we can arrange for someone to take riders from Dorset Street (or other point along the way if people want a shorter ride) back to their cars at the Salmon Hole parking lot; otherwise it will be a longer bike ride on roads.* Dot Myer, 863-2433.

4/14 (Sun) **Mount Abe** We'll hike the LT to Mount Abe if Lincoln Gap Road is open; otherwise we'll go up Battelle Trail. Snowshoes required. 5 miles, moderate pace. Richard Larsen, larsen007@aol.com or 878-6828.

4/20 (Sat) **Map & Compass Workshop** Learn the basics of reading a map and using a compass to get from Point A to Point B. We'll then do a little hike and bushwhack near Colchester Pond to test our skills. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 5 miles, 100' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Phil Hazen, 355-7181 or philhazen@comcast.net

4/21 (Sun) **Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail** We'll start in St. Albans and bicycle the full 26-mile length of the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail to Richford, and return. Difficult because of distance, moderate to strong pace, 52 miles. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 4/19. David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or 899-9982

4/27 (Sat) **Snake Mountain: Kid and Dog Friendly** The trail is an Old Carriage Road so it's wide and easy to follow. It includes Red Rock Pond on the descent. The summit has 180-degree views of the Adirondacks and the Champlain Valley. Easy with easy pace, 4.1 mile loop, 980' elevation gain. (The first half-mile is mostly flat.) Approximate hike time is 2 hours but can vary with children. Limit 4 dogs. Contact leader by 4/25. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or kelleymchristie@gmail.com

4/28 (Sun) **Wildflower Hike at Niquette Bay State Park** We'll hike the trails on the perimeter of Niquette Bay State Park while looking for early spring wildflowers. Easy hike with relatively gentle ups/downs and stairs, 3.5 miles, moderate pace. Group limit 15. Contact leader by 4/26. Sheri Larsen, larsen007@aol.com or 878-6828.

May

5/4 (Sat) **Spring Trail Work** Help clear the Long Trail (and some side trails). Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools provided or bring your own. Meet at UVM visitor's lot at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride (Exit 11) at 8:30am. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 4-10 miles, 2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com, and John Sharp, 862-3941.

5/5 (Sun) **Bamforth Ridge East Slope Bushwhack** Heading north on I89 thru Waterbury, while admiring Camels Hump, have you ever notice the crags in the midground? From Duxbury Road we'll gradually ascend southwest, a ridge for two miles or so, through a mature maple forest. The last quarter mile onto Bamforth Ridge is steep and slippery, but it leads to awesome views of the Winooski Valley, Worcester Range and Camels Hump. Moderate to difficult terrain, moderate pace, 6 miles roundtrip, 1500' elevation gain. E-mail leader by 5/4. Darryl Smith at dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com (or 522-2516).

5/11 (Sat) **Spring Trail Work** Help clear the Long Trail (and some side trails). Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools provided or bring your own. Meet at UVM visitor's lot at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride (Exit 11) at 8:30am. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 4-10 miles, 2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com, and John Sharp, 862-3941.

5/12 (Sun) **Bolton-Richmond Bike Ride** This will be a 25-mile bike ride beginning in Jonesville and passing through Bolton and Richmond. Bring a helmet, lunch and water. Contact leader to sign up. Carlene Squires, carlene@gmavt.net

May – cont.

5/18 (Sat) **Spring Trail Work** Help clear the Long Trail (and some side trails). Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools provided or bring your own. Meet at UVM visitor's lot at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride (Exit 11) at 8:30am. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 4-10 miles, 2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com, and John Sharp, 862-3941.

5/19 (Sun) **Honey Hollow Botany Walk** We'll walk the Honey Hollow trail and road, identifying ferns and wildflowers, and trees if anyone knows them. 4 hours, moderate pace but lots of stops. Group limit 15. Contact leader by 3/14. Richard Larsen, larsen007@aol.com or 878-6828

5/25 (Sat) **Spring Trail Work** Help clear the Long Trail (and some side trails). Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools provided or bring your own. Meet at UVM visitor's lot at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride (Exit 11) at 8:30am. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 4-10 miles, 2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com, and John Sharp, 862-3941.

5/26 (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, ~11 miles, ~3000' elevation gain, moderate to strong pace. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 5/24. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com

5/29 (Weds) **Walk Among the Sounds of Spring** A nature walk with a focus on sounds - We'll hear (and watch) birds as they coo to their mates, yell about territory and squabble with nest mates. Leisurely walk with many stops, mostly flat ground. Group limit 8. Maeve Kim, 899-4327 or maevulus@surfglobal.net

June

6/1 (Sat) **National Trails Day Work Hike** Help clear the Long Trail of fallen branches, rocks, etc. Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools provided or bring your own. Meet at UVM visitor's lot at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride (Exit 11) at 8:30am. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 5-10 miles, 2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com, and John Sharp, 862-3941.

6/2 (Sun) **Easy Snake Mountain Hike for Beginners, Kids and Dogs** One of the easiest rewarding wilderness summits in VT, Snake Mountain offers an interesting history, open views, a unique natural lake close to the summit and easy walking along an old carriage road. Easy hike at a leisurely pace, 3.6 miles, 900' elevation gain. All ages and fitness levels are welcome to join. Contact leader in advance about meeting place and time. Wolfgang Hokenmaier, 343-8175 or wolfgang.hokenmaier@gmail.com

6/8 (Sat) **Stowe Pinnacle-Mt Hunger Loop** We'll make the easy ascent to Stowe Pinnacle, then backtrack a bit to the Ridge (Hogback) Trail for the climb up to the Skyline Trail on Worcester Ridge. From here, south two miles to Mount Hunger and down to the Waterbury trail head to pick up cars or bikes that were dropped off on our way to Stowe. Moderate to difficult terrain, moderate pace, 7 miles, 1400' elevation gain. E-mail leader by 6/7. Darryl Smith at dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com (or 522-2516).

6/9 (Sun) **Bike Kingsland Bay** We'll take our road bikes out for a beautiful ride through the Kingsland Bay area. Feel free to bring your kids in a trailer. There should be minimal traffic. Easy, flat, approx. 20 miles. Contact leader by 6/7. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or kelleymchristie@gmail.com

6/15 (Sat) **Long Trail Between VT 118 and Cross Road** We'll hike from VT 118 south on the Long Trail through Devil's Gulch to the Davis Neighborhood Trail at Corliss Camp. We'll then descend to Cross Road. Difficult hike, moderate pace, 11.1 miles, 3000' elevation gain. Group limit 12. Contact leader by 6/14. Peter Cottrell, 879-0755 or pcottrel@myfairpoint.net

6/22 (Sat) **Mt. Ethan Allen** Escape the crowds and enjoy the views on this prominent peak just south of Camels Hump. Moderate pace, 5 miles, 2000' elevation gain. Lee Wrigley, leewrigley@myfairpoint.net or 318-6281.

6/23 (Sun) **Sawteeth, Pyramid, & Gothics-ADK** From the Ausable Club we'll have an easy walk to Lower Ausable Lake, then climb Sawteeth and Pyramid. We'll continue to Gothics, one of the Adirondack 46 high peaks. Difficult, ~12.5 miles, ~3100' elevation gain, moderate to strong pace. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 6/21. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com

6/29 (Sat) **Taylor Lodge: Kid and Dog Friendly** This is a great family hike, with good views along the trail, beaver dams and a waterfall. Taylor Lodge has an open-faced "porch" with picnic tables that look out over the notch. Easy, 3.2 miles, 700' elevation gain. Limit 4 dogs. Contact leader by 6/27. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or kelleymchristie@gmail.com

Ridge Lines

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Green Mountain Club

4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road

Waterbury Center VT 05677

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