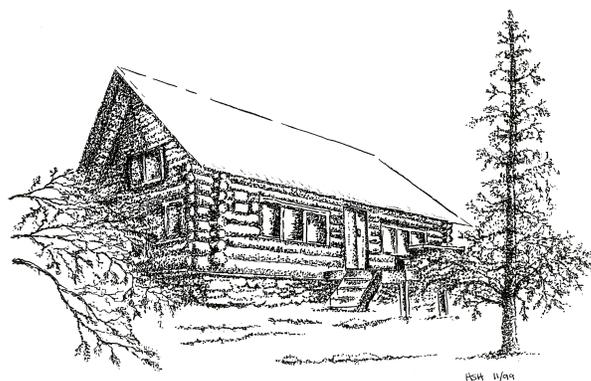


RIDGE LINES

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB
BURLINGTON SECTION

Fall 2016



www.gmcburlington.org
gmc@gmcburlington.org
802-557-7009

In our last issue, historian Bruce Post described an alarming period in the state's history - and a critical turning point that made present-day Vermont possible. His article, *Vermont's Environmental Spring*, elicited several responses from readers.

From Madeline Miles: Bruce Post is an excellent writer and he captured the Vermont's Environmental Spring that I experienced when I moved to Vermont in 1963. I lived there only about a year when Shirley Strong and Rod Rice had me with them in the Governor's Office talking to the governor about protecting the Long Trail. I found that hard to believe. Coming from a larger state like Pennsylvania, it never occurred to me to call the governor and get an appointment to tell him what I thought. These Vermonters knew how to get things done! Thanks to those listed in the article and I'm sure others. We have a lot to be thankful for, and I hope we have a strong commitment to keep what they have given us.

From Bernie Paquette: Shows what one person's vision, effort and tenacity can do. Vermont has had its Loraxes - including Bob Spear, Gov. Deanne Davis and others.

[In case there's a rare person out there who hasn't read Dr. Seuss, the Lorax is the title character of a book about corporate greed vs. the environment.]

On the next page, Dot Myer remembers Shirley Strong, one of Vermont's "Loraxes".

Also In This Issue

New Logs for Historic Taft Lodge - page 3

Memories of New Year's Eves in Taft Lodge - page 3

Tidbits about Some of Our Fall Hike Destinations - page 4

Outings - pages 5-7

Trip Reports in Verse - page 7

Want to save the GMC some expense? And save a tree or two?

Many Burlington Section members have already chosen to receive *Ridge Lines* electronically instead of getting paper copies in the mail. They are reducing paper use and, at the same time, helping the Section to trim expenses. If you'd like to start getting your newsletter as an on-line PDF only, just send us your name, at gmc@gmcburlington.org. Each quarter, you'll get an email message letting you know when the latest issue is posted online and where you can read it or download and print it.

MEMORIES OF SHIRLEY STRONG – by Dot Myer

The last *Ridge Lines* mentioned Shirley Strong and her work in conservation. Some of our older members may also remember Shirley as a very active member of the Burlington Section back in the 1960s.

I remember a hike where Shirley and I got “lost”. Actually we were only off the trail for a very short time and easily found our way back. This was not a big deal and is not worth mentioning or remembering except that Shirley was president of the Section at the time and I was the hike leader. We were the only two who missed the trail.

Shirley was President of the Section in 1965 and 1966. Before that, she was Secretary in 1958 and 1959; Special Events chair in 1961 and 1962, and Vice President in 1963 and 1964. Offices were normally held for two years at that time.

She also went on hikes regularly and led several. Once she led a hike in March, sugaring season. She brought along a bucket of boiled sap. We built a campfire (quite permissible in those days) and heated the sap. Shirley poured it out on the snow and we all ate it. It was much more interesting than having it on a paper plate among a lot of people.

The Burlington Section had occasional trips out of our area. Shirley led one of the best, a week-long trip to Mt. Katahdin. We were known to the park office as the “Strong Party”. We made so many changes in our plans and reservations that Shirley was embarrassed to make more. Helen Farrington offered to say she was “Helen Weak” and make changes. Of course she didn’t really do it.

We especially wanted to see moose on that trip. One morning before 6:00 AM we went to Sandy Stream where the moose were supposed to go regularly. We waited an hour. Then another hour. Finally we gave up and went back to camp. About 10:00 someone told us there was a moose at Sandy Stream. We rushed back and saw our moose. We also saw a bear around camp. I started toward the outhouse early one morning. There was a bear between the outhouse and me. I clapped my hands. The bear went a little ways. I went a little closer and clapped my hands again. The bear went a little ways further. This kept on all the way to the outhouse. Afterward I found out the people camping next to us were from Oregon and this was the first bear they had seen across the whole country. I had scared their bear away. I had to apologize to them. (Incidentally I may have been foolishly brave about the bear, but later I screamed when a bee came near me.)

On this trip one day Peggy Pons didn’t want to hike. Instead she stayed at camp and painted the flagpole.

Shirley had short hair which not too many women did in those days. She told of driving up to gas stations and stopping at the tank (in those days people didn’t pump their own gas.) The gas station attendant would come up to her and say “Yes Sir?” or “May I help you Sir?” Shirley solved this problem by wearing earrings (which no men did in those days).

In the early 1960s the Section founded a Conservation Committee. Shirley was probably very active in this and may have been the one who founded it. The committee’s main duties in the ‘60s were a survey of the use of Mt. Mansfield involving 30 people, working against the proposed “Green Mountain Parkway”.

Shirley was a real Vermonter, but she finally left for Washington D.C. where she did more work on conservation or environment.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 1/28/17

Burlington Section Annual Meeting

More info in the December issue.

NEW LOGS FOR TAFT LODGE

The historic significance of the Long Trail and many of its shelters is unquestionable. This spring, Mary Jo Llewellyn, Green Mountain Club's Historic Preservation Consultant, did a Historic Buildings Evaluation Report about Taft Lodge. Here are just a few key points:

Taft Lodge was constructed in 1920 high on the east side of Mt. Mansfield in Stowe. This rustic log building is the oldest surviving shelter on the Long Trail. It's owned by the State of Vermont (Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation) and maintained by GMC. Taft Lodge is listed on the Vermont State Register and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Taft Lodge is a single-story, rectangular, gable roofed, eaves-front structure constructed of round notched logs. The building rests on a mortared fieldstone foundation. The east (front) foundation wall is slightly taller than the rear wall because the site slopes. The roof is covered with green-enameled sheet metal.

Inside Taft Lodge, the log walls, log roof frame, and roof sheathing boards are all exposed. There are built-in two-decker bunks with sleeping space for 24 people. A loft for the Lodge caretaker, in residence during hiking season, is built into the northeast corner of the space.

Like many long-distance hiking shelters, Taft has been repaired and modified several times. At one point, GMC considered demolishing the structure and replacing it with a new building, perhaps on a new site, but the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation stated that "Taft Lodge is perhaps the most significant historic structure associated with the Green Mountain Club and outdoor hiking in Vermont and is a high priority for sensitive historic preservation treatment".

Currently, the bottom two logs in the wall south of the entry door are seriously deteriorated, and Green Mountain Club has received a grant from the National Recreational Trails Fund to replace them. Ms. Llewellyn has visited Taft Lodge on numerous occasions, and reviewed photographs taken by GMC field staff in May 2016. She also completed literature research at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and on-line. She determined that the proposed repairs will have **No Adverse Effect** on the characteristics of Taft Lodge that make it eligible for listing on the National Register.

The building will be jacked up and stabilized, and the two rotting logs will be removed. Then two new spruce logs will be installed, matching the species, length, diameter and taper of the existing logs. The logs will be airlifted to the site after the Bicknell Thrush nesting season has ended. (Bicknell's Thrush is a Tri-National Concern species, a U.S.-Canada Stewardship species, and is on the 2014 State of the Birds Watch List because it is at risk of becoming threatened or endangered without conservation action.)

The repair work at Taft Lodge will be done by the GMC construction crew, which has extensive experience with the repair of historic log shelters, with assistance from the Mt. Mansfield caretakers.

A Personal PS from the Editor – I spent two memorable New Year's Eves in Taft Lodge. Five people one year, and six the next, had supper in Stowe and then parked at the end of the plowed part of Route 108 to hike up to the Lodge.

One year the woods were full of tracks from skiers and snowboarders, making it somewhat challenging to keep to the trail we wanted. The next year, there had been heavy snow the day before and every tree trunk had a thick coat of white, completely covering the blazes. But both times, being in the woods in the winter night had a feeling of magical beauty.

Once at the Lodge, the men put on crampons and scaled The Chin to watch Burlington's midnight fireworks. The women stayed in Taft, toasted the New Year with a half-and-half mixture of peach schnapps and boiling water, and got into our sleeping bags. (It's hard to do much else when the indoor temperature is in the twenties!)

This quarter's diverse list of outdoor activities includes hiking, walking, biking and paddling. Would you like to know more before planning your autumn calendar?

Here's some information about some of our destinations.

A 10/15 hike includes **Puffer Shelter**, on the Long Trail near Bolton Mountain. Ever wonder how it got such an odd name? It's named after Professor Louis B. Puffer who was an active GMC member and one-time president. The original camp was completed in 1954 but burned in 1974. After the fire, over a hundred Burlington Section members put up a three-sided log structure, completing the entire construction in 24 hours.

An 11/27 hike includes **Cantilever Rock**, just off the Sunset Ridge Trail. This unusual rock formation is a huge finger of stone sticking out like a knife blade from a solid mass of rock. The short, easy hike to Cantilever Rock is a favorite for people with little children.

On 12/3, join GMC trip leader Rose Scavatto for a walk through **Devil's Gulch**, a lightly trafficked loop that offers rich rewards for a relatively short hike. There's a deep ravine with 175-foot-high walls, an A-shaped "gateway" formed by two huge boulders, beautiful hardwood forests, a pond, wildlife and great views.

The day after the Devil's Gulch hike, on 12/4, you can visit **Sterling Pond**. This is a pretty little alpine pond on the side of Mt. Mansfield, accessible by a trail that starts in Smugglers Notch. In summer and fall, it's a popular hike for tourists because it's only about two miles long, provides spectacular views, and includes the opportunity for a refreshing swim. It's a bit more challenging in the winter but just as beautiful.

A 12/11 walk takes hikers through Shelburne Bay Park, into the LaPlatte River Natural Area, and along the Ti-Haul Trail.

The parking lot for **Shelburne Bay Park** is just west of the large state fishing access on Bay Road. There's a flat, packed gravel rec path as well as dirt foot trails on Allen Hill. The latter trail runs along high banks beside the lake.

The **LaPlatte River Natural Area** consists of over 200 acres preserved by The Nature Conservancy. A dirt trail runs along the LaPlatte River and by marshes that provide important habitat for migratory waterfowl. The marshes and floodplain forests, and sometimes parts of the trail, can be flooded when the lake level rises. The site has several species of unusual plants that can survive occasional drownings.

Ti-Haul Trail – The flat, mile-long Ti-Haul Trail is a wide rec path made of cinders. It was originally laid down to move the boat *The Ticonderoga* from the Bay to Shelburne Museum.

Executive Committee

President - Ted Albers ted@ted-albers.net

Vice President – vacant

Secretary - Mary Keenan keenan158@yahoo.com

Treasurer – Joel Tilley jptilley50@gmail.com

Membership - Dot Myer dotmyer@myfairpoint.net

Ridge Lines – Maeve Kim maevulus@surfglobal.net

Shelters – Linda Evans linda.r.evans7@gmail.com

Marketing & Communications – Vacant

Education – Wes Volk wesvolk@gmail.com

Special Programs & Taylor Series - vacant

Section Historian - Dot Myer dotmyer@myfairpoint.net

Outings – Paul Houchens, Dave Hathaway

houchens@comcast.net, David.Hathaway.78@gmail.com

Outings: Young Adventurer's Club – Kelley Christie kelleymchristie@gmail.com

Trails - Pam Gillis, John Sharp gillis1986@gmail.com john.sharp@uvm.edu

Web Site – Dave Hathaway David.Hathaway.78@gmail.com

Director – Michelle Connor

**We're looking
for a Section
vice-president.
If you're
interested,
please contact
[ted@ted-
albers.net](mailto:ted@ted-albers.net)**

Section Outings

Fall 2016

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.

September

9/3 (Sat) **Whiteface Mt. from Smugglers Notch** From the top of Smugglers Notch we'll climb to Sterling Pond, then follow the Long Trail over Madonna and Morse Mountains, continue to Whiteface Mountain and return. Difficult hike. Moderate pace. 11 miles. 4000' elevation gain. David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or 899-9982.

9/10 (Sat) **Shelburne Pond Paddle** Let's take a walk through the paths in UVM's Achilles Natural Area at Shelburne Pond then go for a paddle. Lying in the heart of one of the more developed parts of Vermont, this area encompasses freshwater wetlands, forested uplands, an agricultural lands. Our one-mile walk will take us through parts of these environments. Then into our paddle-crafts to explore the various natural areas and points of interest around the pond (of which I am no expert but will have guidebook handy). Lets hope for a cool clear day! Easy walk & paddle. Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net.

9/17 (Sat) **Three Ferries Ride (Lake Champlain)** From the King Street Dock in Burlington, we'll ride on bike path north to Local Motion's bike ferry to South Hero. After following West Shore Road (gravel), we'll cross over to New York on the Grand Isle/Cumberland Head Ferry. We'll then head south on Rte. 9, which has a wide shoulder, through Plattsburgh to the ferry dock at Port Kent for our final water crossing. Moderate bicycle. 42 miles. Group limit 10. Mary Lou Recor, 660-2834 or mlrecor@myfairpoint.net.

9/24 (Sat) **Mount Mansfield** We'll head up the Butler Lodge Trail for a little snack at Butler Lodge. And then it is the Wampahoofus Trail to the Forehead. And then, and then . . . The Chin with great views! Difficult hike. Moderate pace. 10 miles. 3000' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Phil Hazen, 355-7181 or philhazen@comcast.net.

October

10/1 (Sat) **Camels Hump** With crystal clear skies and fresh autumn colors, it is up the Monroe Trail, the Dean Trail, north on the Long Trail to the summit. Difficult hike. Leisurely to moderate pace. 8 miles. 2500' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Phil Hazen, 355-7181 or philhazen@comcast.net.

10/2 (Sun) **Mansfield Forehead** We'll ascend via the Butler Lodge Trail and the Long Trail North and descend via the Maple Ridge and Rock Garden back to Butler Lodge and out the Butler Lodge Trail. Difficult hike. Strong pace. 6 miles. 2100' elevation gain. Mark McLane, mmclane44@gmail.com.

10/8-9 (Sat-Sun) **Bonds & Twins, NH** Great trip for any White Mtn. Peak baggers. Prime foliage season White Mountain backpack outing. Weather permitting, We'll leave VT early Saturday morning and do a car drop at the North Twin Trail off of route 3 NH. We'll then head over to Lincoln Woods Trail off the Kangamangus Highway and hike into Bondcliff, and then over to Mt. Bond and West Bond. Then we'll camp out at Guyot Campsite, watch the sunset on top of Mt. Guyot and then Sunday head over to South and North Twin and out North Twin Trail. Difficult backpack. 18 miles. Kim Farone, kfarone@yahoo.com.

10/8 (Sat) **Camels Hump Loop** We'll take Forest City Trail to Montclair Glen Lodge, then climb the Long Trail to the Camels Hump summit and return along the Burrows Trail. Difficult hike. Moderate to strong pace. 6 miles. 2400' elevation gain. David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or 899-9982.

10/9 (Sun) **Mt. Mansfield** With a hint of winter in the air and maybe a little color of Autumn still left, we'll hike the Butler Lodge Trail, the Wampahoofus to the Forehead and on to the Chin via the Long Trail. And then find a path down. Difficult hike. Moderate to strong pace. 10 miles. 3000' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Phil Hazen, 355-7181 or philhazen@comcast.net.

10/15 (Sat) **Bolton to Puffer** We'll hike up an old abandoned section of the Long Trail from Bolton Valley ski area. At the intersection with the current Long Trail we'll go north over Bolton Mountain to Puffer Shelter and enjoy the most stunning views on the Long Trail. Difficult hike. Moderate pace. 7 miles. 2500' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Phil Hazen, 355-7181 or philhazen@comcast.net.

October Outings – cont.

10/16 (Sun) **Skyline Trail** We'll hike up to Stowe Pinnacle to Hogback Mountain to Mt. Hunger along the Skyline Trail. This will require car drops at the Mt. Hunger trailhead and the Stowe Pinnacle trailhead. Difficult hike. Moderate to strong pace. 6.3 miles. 2200' elevation gain. Lindsay Pokorak, lpokorak@gmail.com or 607-242-7420.

10/22 (Sat) **Mt. Mansfield** We'll ascend by the Halfway House Trail and pick up the Canyon North and Canyon North extension trails, perhaps Subway to the ridge and then on to the summit. We'll descend by Sunset Ridge. Slippery conditions will alter trail selection. Difficult hike. Strong pace. 6.5 miles. Mark McLane, mmclane44@gmail.com.

10/23 (Sun) **Stimson Mountain** Let's follow the new Stimson Mountain Long Trail relocation from the Winooski Bridge parking lot up and up the LT (north) to a cutoff (which does not actually exist) and bushwhack the last ½ mile (some up, some up and down) to the 'summit' where there is an abandoned Airway Tower. The Long Trail up is through some wonderful mixed forests and passes a popular rock-climbing location. The trail is in good condition with many switchbacks as it is steep in places. A nice workout. The last part of the walk is a bushwhack as there is no trail whatsoever to the airway tower. Once there, the view south down the Winooski River valley is somewhat obscured by trees. About 2 to 2½ hours up - maybe a bit longer if we get lost thrashing through the woods looking for the airway tower. We'll return the same way. Moderate hike. Moderate to strong pace. 6 miles. 1800' elevation gain. Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net.

10/29 (Sat) **Mt. Abe** The hike to Mt. Abraham will begin at the Battell Trail head ascending the west side of the mountain to the Battell Shelter then to the summit along the Long Trail and return the same way, taking about 4.5 hours. Difficult hike rewarded with spectacular views on the summit. 5.8 miles, 2533' elevation gain. Max Seaton, maxyseaton@yahoo.com or 999-3945.

10/30 (Sun) **Jerusalem Trail to Mt. Stark** We'll follow the Jerusalem Trail through a mostly hardwood forest, connecting to the Long Trail at Orvis Lookout, then heading north to the summit of Mt. Stark. Moderate hike. Moderate to strong pace. 6.8 miles. 2049' elevation gain. Lindsay Pokorak, lpokorak@gmail.com or 607-242-7420.

November

11/5 (Sat) **Tillotson & Belvidere** We'll loop up the Frank Post Trail to Tillotson Camp and on to Tillotson Peak, then go back south on the LT to Belvidere Mountain, and return on the Forester's Trail. Difficult hike. Moderate to Strong pace. 8.5 miles. 2400' elevation gain. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com

11/6 (Sun) **Mt. Hunger** We'll hike up Mt. Hunger from the Waterbury Center side of the mountain. This trail goes up pretty steadily with a few scrambles near the top. Estimated hiking time is 2¼ hours up and 1¼ hours down. Moderate hike. Moderate to strong pace. 4.4 miles, 2290' elevation gain. Group limit 12. Contact leader by 11/4. Sheri Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com.

11/12 (Sat) **Mansfield via Haselton Trail** We'll ascend the Haselton Trail, through the center of Stowe Mountain Resort, to the toll road and Welcome Center, then head north to the Chin and descend on the Long Trail to Rt. 108. It is hunting season - so wear something colorful and BRIGHT! Difficult hike. Strong pace, 5 miles, 2500' elevation gain. Robynn Albert, robynnalbert@hotmail.com.

11/13 (Sun) **Camels Hump via Monroe Trail** We'll ascend and descend the Monroe Trail. Moderate to difficult hike, 4.5 miles, 2500' elevation gain. Kim Farone, kfarone@yahoo.com.

11/19 (Sat) **Mansfield via Long Trail** We'll head out from the LT up to Taft Lodge, then onto the summit, take in spectacular blue sky views, then descend via Profanity. Difficult hike. Strong pace. 5 miles. 2800' elevation gain. Robynn Albert, robynnalbert@hotmail.com.

11/26 (Sat) **Mansfield via Haselton Trail** From the base of the Stowe Gondola, we'll hike to the summit of Mt. Mansfield via the Haselton Trail. Difficult hike or snowshoe. 7.5 miles, 2600' elevation gain. Peter Hewitt, phewitt21@mac.com.

11/27 (Sun) **Cantilever Rock** From the Underhill State Park (or winter parking area) we'll climb halfway up Sunset Ridge to the Cantilever Rock spur. Last day of deer season so wear something orange! Moderate hike / snowshoe. Moderate to strong pace. 3.5 miles, 1200' elevation gain. David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or 899-9982.

December

12/3 (Sat) **Devil's Gulch** A 3.8 mile loop on the Long Trail that passes a lake and a gulch. Moderate snowshoe. 3.8 miles. Rose Scavatto, rose.scavatto@gmail.com.

12/4 (Sun) **Sterling Pond** We'll hike to Sterling Pond from the top of Smugglers Notch (if 108 is open) or from the winter parking in Stowe on 108 (if it's closed). Easy or difficult hike / snowshoe, depending on whether 108 is closed. Kim Farone, kfarone@yahoo.com.

12/10 (Sat) **Mansfield via Laura Cowles Trail** From the Underhill State Park, we'll climb to the summit of Mt. Mansfield via the Laura Cowles Trail. Difficult hike / snowshoe. 5.5 miles, 2550' elevation gain. Peter Hewitt, phewitt21@mac.com.

12/11 (Sun) **Shelburne Bay Walk** Enjoy this easy walk through Shelburne Bay Park, a small 104 acre park off of Bay Road. The trail hugs the bay with the water to the east. We'll walk this to its end (which includes small Allan Hill) and walk back via a bike path, then continue across Bay Road and walk through the LaPlatte River Natural Area returning on the Ti-Haul trail. Total distance about 3 to 4 miles depending on route taken. Some good birding possible. Dogs allowed. You are all invited to my house for hot chocolate afterwards if it's a chilly day. Easy walk, 3 to 4 miles. Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net.

12/17 (Sat) **Hunger and White Rocks** To Waterbury we go, as all holiday shopping will be complete (right!) and who wants to fight those crowds! Group can decide what summit we'll hit first. Difficult hike / snowshoe. Strong pace, 6 miles. Robynn Albert, robynnalbert@hotmail.com.

12/18 (Sun) **Not-Quite-Solstice Hike** We'll meet at the Stevensville trailhead in mid-afternoon to arrive at Butler Lodge to watch the sun setting over the Adirondacks. Eating of chocolate is mandatory. Singing of Christmas carols is optional. Moderate hike / snowshoe (hiking down by headlamp). 3.2 miles, 1500' elevation gain. Mary Lou Recor, mlrecor@myfairpoint.net or 660-2834.

12/24 (Sat) **Christmas Eve Birding!** Let's walk a dirt road in Addison County looking for Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, Rough-legged Hawks and maybe other raptors, and then stand by the shores of Lake Champlain with a few spotting scopes and ogle diving ducks, loons and grebes. Maeve Kim, 899-4327 or maevulus@surfglobal.net

12/31 (Sat) **Mansfield Ridge** From Underhill State Park we'll head up Sunset Ridge to the Mansfield Chin (summit), then follow the ridge to the Forehead and return via Maple Ridge Trail and the CCC road. Difficult hike / snowshoe. Moderate to strong pace, 9 miles, 2600' elevation gain. David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or 899-9982.

Our June issue featured a poem by trip leader Mary Lou Recor, describing a winter solstice hike to and from Butler Lodge. Here are two more of Mary Lou's trip reports in verse.

April 16 Bike Ride from Vergennes to Middlebury

'Twas a glorious day to pedal.
From Vergennes, we rode like the devil.
But on our return,
Our quads, they did burn,
'Cause Vermont, it ain't hardly level.

May 22 Bike Ride from South to North Hero

From South Hero, eight bikers did went.
Rain predicted at forty percent.
Halfway through the ride,
We lunched at dockside.
And the good news is no one got wet.

Ridge Lines

GMC BURLINGTON SECTION

Green Mountain Club

4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road

Waterbury Center VT 05677

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

BURLINGTON, VT

PERMIT NO. 41