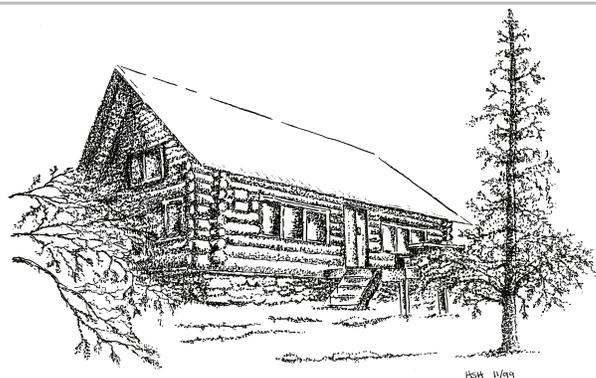


RIDGE LINES

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB
BURLINGTON SECTION

Spring 2017



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

LATE WINTER AND SPRING

GREAT TIMES FOR EXPLORING THE OUTDOORS!

See pages 5-7 for over thirty outdoor outings and adventures: hiking, snowshoeing, overnight backpacking, walking, paddling, wildflower walks and birding. The list includes Young Adventurers Club (YAC) outings designed for families and the youngest outdoor enthusiasts! You can read more about YAC on page 5.

Also in this issue are summaries of the 2016 reports given at the January Annual Meeting. Lots of great stuff happened last year, and lots more will happen in 2017! Read up about:

- How our trails fared in 2016 - on page 2.
- Outings, our website, and our new Meetup Group - on page 3.
- Membership, the Section's finances, what's going on at the Main Club, and our Section's outreach using Facebook and other social media - on page 4.

SAVE THE DATE!

GMC's Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, June 10 at Common Ground Center in Starksboro. Common Ground is a non-profit recreation and retreat center that focuses on arts, education and the outdoors. The grounds are beautiful, perfect for strolling, hiking and exploring.

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.

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

The Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club held its annual meeting on Saturday, January 28. Between 90 and 100 people enjoyed a delicious supper with lasagna and garlic bread from Papa Frank's in Winooski along with potluck appetizers, salads, beverages and desserts.

After supper there was a short business meeting. A slate of officers for 2017 was elected. (See chart on page 5.) Committee chairs reported on progress and activities during 2016. Summaries of their reports follow.

Then GMC Executive Director Mike DeBonis spoke with enthusiasm and pride about the completion last year of the biggest project in the Club's history: the Winooski Footbridge, which now serves as a "great ambassador for the Club". He also described the impressive airlift of logs to Mt. Mansfield for repairs to Taft Lodge - logs that were cut at a farm where Will Monroe, a GMC pioneer, once lived.

Challenges and opportunities in the coming year include a new roof for Butler Lodge (and another airlift of materials) and the completion of the Long Trail relocation in Smugglers Notch. DeBonis praised the volunteers and hikers who make up the trail community and ended his remarks with:

"We each are here for a limited amount of time. GMC is here for a long time."

GMC President John Page reported that the Club is in "unprecedented financial health" having paid off the last dollar of debt. He mentioned that the Club is now reviewing its governance structure and its system of committees, both of which have been pretty much unchanged for decades.

Page also talked about the impressive diversity of the Club's fourteen regional chapters or Sections. Some focus mostly or even exclusively on trail maintenance. Others offer its members and the general public a wide array of hiking and backpacking adventures, while still others emphasize paddling and nature walks. He looked around at the group and grinned as he added, "The Burlington Section has a lot of truly dedicated hikers!"

Section President Ted Albers spoke of the unique need for a continuing commitment to stewardship in a largely volunteer organization such as Green Mountain Club. "After 117 years, we're still having Annual Meetings – because of the efforts of dedicated individuals."

After the business meeting, the assembled GMC members were treated to photos and stories from Kerstin Lange's hikes along the former border between East and West Germany, now a green belt of beauty and nature.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trail Report – submitted by Co-Chairs Pam Gillis and John Sharp

The Burlington Section did 5 trail work hikes in 2016, with 52 worker-days! We had high turnouts (15 volunteers) on the first 3 outings, so we also covered the Frost and Rock Garden Trails and the old Long Trail from Rt. 2 to Bolton Notch Road, as well as the LT from Rt. 2 to Butler Lodge, Nebraska Notch Trail, Butler Lodge Trail, and Lake Mansfield Trail. We had good weather all days, though a little too hot. (Our outings were on Saturdays and most of the Sundays were rainy!) Average turnout was just over 10. Many thanks to our new volunteers and our regular volunteers!

We cut about an average number of trees. There was less clipping than usual but plenty of waterbar cleaning.

2016 was the year for equipment malfunction. We had one chain saw stop working the first weekend and then the other chain saw stopped working the second weekend. We had a folding saw jam so it couldn't be opened and a pair of loppers froze!

If you see trees down or other trail work that needs doing, please let us know. On the right side of our web page (<https://gmcburlington.org>), find "*Trail Problems?*" and click. Or just email Pam at gillis1986@gmail.com

COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

Outings Report – submitted by Dave Hathaway and Paul Houchens

Before reporting on last year's outings, we want to announce something new!

NEW MEETUP GROUP

The Burlington Section has always published the schedule of outings in our quarterly newsletter *Ridge Lines*, but to do this we have to ask our leaders to sign up 2 to 5 months in advance. Sometimes trip leaders find that they're unable to lead a scheduled trip (and we try to find substitute leaders), but weather that far ahead is a total unknown. Also, some people are reluctant to sign up for a trip that's going to happen so far in the future. So - We will continue our traditional *Ridge Lines* schedule but, to allow for more flexibility in organizing trips and to provide an additional avenue to get people aware of our activities, we have just started a new meetup group.

Meetup is a site designed to help people form groups that get together for events based on a common interest. Many groups charge members but we've decided to sponsor our group out of Section funds. Anyone can join. GMC members can send messages to group organizer David Hathaway or to co-organizers Cara Nelson or Nancy McClellan to ask to be an event organizer, meaning that they can schedule trips. (Trip leaders must be GMC members.) Once a person joins the meetup group, he or she can control the kind and quantity of emails and notifications received.

Our new GMC meetup group already has 169 members. We had our first event, a hike to Taylor Lodge, on January 17.

Note that the outings listed in *Ridge Lines* won't be posted on meetup unless the trip leaders choose to do so. Meetup trips won't appear in *Ridge Lines* or on our normal website outings schedule.

Want to join the meetup group? Go to:

<https://www.meetup.com/Green-Mountain-Club-Burlington-Section-Outdoor-Adventures/>

Another change this year is that the Young Adventurers Club trips, now organized by Michelle Connor, will be posted along with our regular outings in *Ridge Lines* and on the website outings schedule.

In 2016, we had a strong outings schedule. There were 85 trips scheduled with 23 different trip leaders. We'd like to acknowledge new leaders and leaders of 4 or more trips for the year. They are: David Hathaway with 20 trips, Ted Albers with 8, Phil Hazen with 6, Adam Heckle (6), Pam Gillis (6), Robynn Albert (5), John Sharp (5), Nancy Hankey (5), Mary Lou Recor (5), Sheri Larsen (4), Kim Farone (4), Peter Hewitt (new leader, with 2 outings) and Rose Scavatto (also new, with one trip).

There are trip reports for many outings posted on the website. ***We encourage leaders to send reports and pictures to David Hathaway.***

Finally, we encourage anyone interested in leading trips, for our regular schedule and/or our new meetup group, to contact outings chair David Hathaway. Our only requirements are that you be a GMC member, that you are willing to organize a trip (including communicating with interested participants) and that you are interested in helping others enjoy the outdoors. If you are uncertain, you can co-lead a trip with one of our seasoned leaders to "learn the ropes". We also have a trip leader handbook that you might find useful.

Website Report – submitted by Dave Hathaway

Our section website at gmc Burlington.org had 4810 home page views in the past year. There were 1913 views of trip report pages, including some looks at reports that were over 10 years old. (People really enjoy those old reports!) There were 1312 views of the monthly outings list. Anyone who has suggestions for additions or changes to our website, or who notices errors, can contact webmaster David Hathaway or to gmc@gmcburlington.org.

Our *mailchimp* mailing list has 1399 members and friends, to whom we sent out 14 emails in 2016.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

2016 Facebook and Social Media Report – submitted by Cara Nelson

Note: The old Young Adventurers Club Facebook page is no longer being used.

At the start of the year on January 1, 2016, the FB page had 372 Fans (people who have liked the FB page). This number grew to 494 by year's end. 56% of the Fans are women, 43% are men. The largest age group is 35-44, with 16% of the Fans.

The most popular Facebook post from 2016 was the January ribbon-cutting for the Bryant Camp, which featured a video. Almost two thousand people looked at that posting! Other popular posts were an article about trail life at Montclair Glen Shelter, with photos and description of thru-hikers and caretaker, and an article about lacing techniques that could improve the fit of hiking boots; this also featured a video.

Five hundred or more people viewed or read Facebook postings about getting ready for winter hiking, mud season hikes, and rebuilding the Stone Hut on Mt. Mansfield.

Facebook stats show that people want stories and how-to tips related to hiking and to the Long Trail, and are more likely to interact when there are photos and videos. The best hours to post to FB is between 7AM and 9PM. Using these hashtags helped people find the content: #longtrail, #vermonthiking, #thruhiking or #greenmountainclub.

Membership Report – submitted by Dot Myer

The biggest news from the preceding year turned out to be changes in the way the Main Club keeps track of membership. It required a lot of effort to get up to speed with the new system! The Club now sends a complete list of Section members every month, which has greatly helped me keep our records up-to-date. I can also send welcome letters to new members and reminders to people who have let their membership lapse.

The Section now has 1014 members with 742 memberships. 398 memberships are families.

Director's Report – submitted by Michelle Connor

The Director represents our Section to the Main Club and provides information from the main GMC to Section members.

2016 was another busy year for the Club. A number of renovations were completed on buildings along Burlington Section trails. Repairs at Taft Lodge were completed this fall. The Stone Hut on Mansfield was rebuilt after a disastrous fire. The newly re-opened Bryant Camp was celebrated with a "sledding party" to bring firewood up for the first campers. We're looking forward to starting work on Bolton Lodge during the 2017 field season.

Since the Winooski Bridge completion, the club has been working on relocation for the LT south of the bridge to avoid the road walk. We also launched a new GMC web site, and have seen online donations double in the past year.

Some things you'll see coming up are a few proposed changes to the bylaws (to be detailed in the spring *Long Trail News*) as a result of a governance review by the Board. We're also beginning a five-year strategic planning process, and will be sending surveys out to a sample group of 500 members. (If you receive one, please share your thoughts!) We'll also invite member input during the June 10 Annual Meeting at Common Ground Center in Starksboro. I hope to see you all there!

Treasurer's Report – submitted by Joel Tilley

The Section's finances are in good shape. Our total income for 2016 was \$9004.50. Our total operating expenses were \$4923.59, a little over a thousand dollars under budget. We spent money on chain saw maintenance and bought QuickBooks to help with accounting. The printing and mailing of *Ridge Lines* continues to be our largest operating expense, although we were more than a hundred dollars below budget this year. *(See page 1 for a way you can help!)*

We donated \$3000 to the Main Club for the Bolton and Bryant Camps. We now have a projected 2017 surplus of \$2645, which will be available for other Club projects.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

Young Adventurers Club Report - submitted by Michelle Connor

Young Adventurers Club outings provide an opportunity for families and their youngest hikers to get out and explore the woods at a comfortable, playful pace. Our goal is to encourage and promote children's enthusiasm for playing in Vermont's outdoor spaces. Our trips focus on families getting out and having fun, rather than going fast or far. While the pace may be geared more towards younger adventurers (ages 3-8), everyone is welcome.

We hope to host a trail walk once a month. You can find more details on the Burlington Section Facebook page and at our web site (gmc Burlington.org/young-adventurers-club/). Of contact me (colem2003@hotmail.com) to learn more about the program or be added to the email list. We're working to grow the group!

2017 Executive Committee

President - Ted Albers ted@ted-albers.net Vice President – Nancy McClellan Secretary - Mary Keenan Treasurer – Joel Tilley Membership - Dot Myer <i>Ridge Lines</i> – Maeve Kim Shelters – Linda Evans Marketing & Communications – Vacant	Annual Meeting – Brian and Janette Williams Education – Wes Volk Taylor Series – Vacant Section Historian - Dot Myer Outings – Dave Hathaway, Paul Houchens Young Adventurer's Club – Michelle Connor Trails - Pam Gillis, John Sharp Web Site – Dave Hathaway Facebook and Social Media – Cara Nelson
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Section Outings

Spring 2017

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

3/4 (Sat) **Cantilever Rock** From the winter parking area for the Underhill State Park we'll head up the Sunset Ridge Trail and take the spur to Cantilever Rock. Moderate snowshoe. Moderate pace, 6 miles, 1600' elevation gain. David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or 899-9982.

3/11 (Sat) **Moderate to Difficult Mystery Trip** Contact trip leader for more information. Wes Volk, wesvolk@gmail.com or 355-4135.

3/12 (Sun) **Mt Elmore** We'll hike a moderately trafficked out-and-back trail located near Wolcott VT – with a lake view. There's also a fire tower at the summit for an even better view. Moderate snowshoe, 4.3 miles, 1250' elevation gain. Kim Farone, kfarone@yahoo.com.

3/18 (Sat) **Mt. Hunger & The Reservoir** Post-St Patrick's Day ascent of Mt. Hunger, followed by a side trip to The Reservoir in Waterbury (for lunch). Moderate snowshoe, 4.5 miles, 2250' elevation gain. Phil Hazen, 355-7181 or philhazen@comcast.net.

3/19 (Sun) **Stowe Pinnacle** Stowe Pinnacle Trail is a moderately trafficked out-and-back trail located near Stowe. Views of Mt. Hunger and Camels Hump. Trail starts out fairly flat, then a section of steep approaching the Hogback Trail junction and for a short distance after, then the trail levels out until just before the rock summit. Easy to moderate snowshoe, 3.6 miles, 1600' elevation gain. Kim Farone, kfarone@yahoo.com.

3/25 (Sat) **Buchanan Mt. & Bruce Peak** From Jay Pass at VT Route 242 we'll take the Long Trail south over Gilpin Mt. and Domey's Dome to the summits of Buchanan Mt. and Bruce Peak, and then return. Difficult snowshoe, moderate to strong pace, 7.8 miles, 3000' elevation gain. David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or 899-9982.

March Outings – cont.

3/26 (Sun) **Little River State Park XC Ski** We'll loop through the state park, ascending on narrow hiking trail and descending on wider roads. The route is just hilly enough to make it interesting. Easy to moderate XC ski. 5 miles. Mary Lou Recor, 660-2834 or mlrecor@myfairpoint.net.

April

4/1 (Sat) **Shelburne Farms Loop** We'll take a walk around Shelburne Farms. Easy hike. Wes Volk, wesvolk@gmail.com or 355-4135.

4/8 (Sat) **North Country Trail in VT / Moosalamoo** Let's explore low-lying x-country trails and forest roads during mud season in a National Forest. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 8 miles, 1000' elevation gain. Group limit 8. Contact leader by 4/1. Adam Heckle, 802-233-8091 or theheckle@hotmail.com.

4/9 (Sun) **Mansfield Forehead** We'll head up Butler Lodge and Wampahoofus Trails to the Mt. Mansfield Forehead. Difficult hike, 6 miles, 2600' elevation gain. Wes Volk, wesvolk@gmail.com or 355-4135.

4/15 (Sat) **Young Adventurers Club** The Young Adventurers Club will meet in a location TBD for play and exploration of local trails at a family-friendly pace. Please contact the leader for more details. Michelle Connor, colem2003@hotmail.com.

4/22 (Sat) **Map & Compass** Learn how not to get lost in the woods. Easy workshop. Phil Hazen, 355-7181 or philhazen@comcast.net.

4/23 (Sun) **Lake Iroquois Trails** We'll explore the trails around Lake Iroquois. Easy hike, 2 miles. Beth Ruskai, ruskai@member.ams.org.

4/23 (Sun) **Bike the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail** Starting from Cambridge, we'll bicycle the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail to Route 15A in Morrisville, with a stop at Lost Nation Brewing in Morrisville on the way back. A fairly long ride, but with very easy grades. Moderate biking at a moderate pace, 35 miles. Group limit 10. David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or 899-9982.

4/29 (Sat) **LaPlatte River Paddle** Get ready - this is the day that historically Lake Champlain is at its highest for the year. Let's hope that means a nicely flooded LaPlatte River Natural Area in Shelburne. Great outing for your canoe or kayak. I will have a canoe and will try to not dump; the water will be chilly! The water moves slowly in the LaPlatte and going upstream is easy until we are faced with the inevitable logjams at which point we turn back and head into the open waters of Shelburne Bay where we can paddle to our heart's content. Good birding. Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net.

4/30 (Sun) **Wildflower Hike at Niquette Bay State Park** We will hike the trails on the perimeter of Niquette Bay State Park while looking for early spring wildflowers. Easy hike, moderate pace, 3.5 miles. Group limit 15. Contact leader by 4/28. Sheri Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com.

May

5/6 (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 work trip. Slow-moderate pace, 4-10 miles, 1000-2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com. Or John Sharp, 862-3941.

5/7 (Sun) **Mills Riverside Park** We'll explore the trails of the Mills Riverside Park in Jericho. Easy hike, moderate pace, 3-4 miles, 300' elevation gain. Group limit 15. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com

5/13 (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 work trip. Slow-moderate pace, 4-10 miles, 1000-2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com. John Sharp, 862-3941.

5/20 (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 work trip. Slow-moderate pace, 4-10 miles, 1000-2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com. John Sharp, 862-3941.

5/21 (Sun) **Pease Mountain** We'll climb Pease Mountain in Charlotte. Easy hike, 3 miles. Beth Ruskai, ruskai@member.ams.org.

May Outings – cont.

5/21 (Sun) **Young Adventurers Club** The Young Adventurers Club will meet in a location TBD for play and exploration of local trails at a family-friendly pace. Please contact the leader for more details.

Michelle Connor, colem2003@hotmail.com.

5/27 (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 work trip. Slow-moderate pace, 4-10 miles, 1000-2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com. John Sharp, 862-3941.

5/27 (Sat) **Spring Birding Extravaganza!** May is THE best time of the year to enjoy the birds that have stuck with us all winter and to welcome back the birds that spent the summer in the balmy southland. Join Maeve Kim for a leisurely walk at a Chittenden County park or nature area. Under 4 miles, gentle hills or flat. maevulus@surfglobal.net or 899-4327.

June

6/3 (Sat) **National Trails Day** 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 work trip. Slow-moderate pace, 4-10 miles, 1000-2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com. John Sharp, 862-3941.

6/4 (Sun) **Camels Hump via Monroe Trail** Starting from the Couching Lion Farm in Duxbury, we will climb the Monroe Trail to the summit of Camels Hump and return the same way. Difficult hike at a moderate pace, 6.8 miles, 2700' elevation gain. Group limit 10. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com

6/11 (Sun) **Champlain Trail Network, NY** We'll take the ferry from Charlotte to Essex and walk on a trail (to be determined later) in the Champlain Area Trail network in NY. Easy hike. Beth Ruskai, ruskai@member.ams.org.

6/17 (Sat) **Appalachian Gap to Stark Nest** From the Appalachian Gap we'll climb steeply to the Stark Nets and return. Moderate hike, 6 miles, 1200' elevation gain. Lee Wrigley, leerwrigley@myfairpoint.net.

6/17 (Sat) **Young Adventurers Club** The Young Adventurers Club will meet in a location TBD for play and exploration of local trails at a family-friendly pace. Please contact the leader for more details. Michelle Connor, colem2003@hotmail.com.

6/18 (Sun) **Camels Hump via Bamforth Ridge** We'll take the Long Trail from the Winooski River to the summit of Camels Hump, and then descend via the Monroe Trail. Difficult hike, 9.6 miles, 4000' elevation gain. Wes Volk, wesvolk@gmail.com or 355-4135.

6/24 (Sat) **Waterbury Reservoir Paddle** Enjoy an easy two to three hour paddle on the Waterbury Reservoir near Waterbury Center. We will access the reservoir via the boat launch at the dam, from the less-used access off Little River Road and Rt. 2. Contact trip leader for meet-up time and directions (but please take note: this outings leader is not an early riser!). Perfect weather guaranteed or double your money back. Easy paddle. Group limit 8. Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net.

6/25 (Sun) **North Country Trail in New York - Possible Overnight** Let's carpool to New York and explore access points to the NCT in designated wilderness areas. Lean-to's available for overnights! Moderate hike, moderate pace, 10 miles, 500' elevation gain. Group limit 8. Contact leader by 6/15. Adam Heckle, 802-233-8091 or theheckle@hotmail.com.

The Burlington Section's own Poet Laureate, Mary Lou Recor, reported in verse about the **Not-Quite-Solstice Hike** scheduled for Sunday, December 18, 2016. The plan was to meet at the Stevensville trailhead in mid-afternoon and then hike up to Butler Lodge for watching the sunset, munching chocolates and maybe singing carols – but, alas ...

To hike on the solstice is rad,
except when the weather is bad.
The temperature fell.
The rain it did gel
into ice and I cancelled. So sad.

Ridge Lines

GMC BURLINGTON SECTION

Green Mountain Club

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Waterbury Center VT 05677

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