



Randolph Mountain Club Newsletter

June 2015

“... sharing the collective knowledge of its members ...”



LEAD A TRIP THIS SUMMER!

by Barbara Cutter and Brian Roberts

Finally, summer is almost here! That means it is time to start planning the RMC Tuesday and Thursday trips, hence this **FIRST CALL** for trip leaders. All are invited to lead a hike (or perhaps a canoe trip, bike ride, bird watching or artistic expedition). If you can hike, you can lead a hike! Trips are scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays between July 4th and the end of August. Traditionally, the Tuesday trips are less strenuous than the Thursday outings.

While many would-be trip leaders wait until the Tea to sign up, we encourage you to sign up as soon as possible, for a couple of reasons. First, you can beat the rush and get your pick of dates and destinations before others snap them up. How many times have you thought about leading a group to Bridal Veil Falls or Puzzle Mountain, only to have someone else volunteer first? Second, you can relax at the Tea and socialize with your friends, free from fear that the trip chairs will accost you with a sign-up board.

To sign up, please contact either of the trip co-chairs: Barbara Cutter, (319) 290-4404 or cutter.barbara@gmail.com and Brian Roberts, (319) 290-4406; or ask us for information about leading a hike or another type of adventure. We are looking forward to seeing you all this summer, and thanks in advance for volunteering!

Above: RMC trip to Mt. Caribou, 2012. B. Cutter photo.

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RMC at THE MUSEUM of the WHITE MTS.

by Judith M. Hudson

The RMC and various Randolphians have contributed to the newest exhibit at the Museum of the White Mountains in Plymouth. Entitled “*Trail Clubs: Connecting People with the Mountains,*” the show features eleven current White Mountains trail clubs, and will run until March 6, 2016. The exhibit is well worth a visit.

Exhibit curators Mike Dickerman and Steve Smith visited Randolph in the summer of 2014 to ask Al and me about materials from the RMC’s archive that might be used. What did we think would interest the general public? We thought newsletter readers would be interested in the history of these items, and how they came to the RMC.

First on our list was the **goatskin register** that had been pinned to the wall of Crag Camp between 1925 and about 1931. The supple skin is roughly 4 feet high and 3 ½ feet wide, with large red letters “CRAG CAMP—Camp Register”; it is covered with partially legible signatures or initials of more than 300 visitors and the dates they were at Crag. We have transcribed the names, although some are too faded to decipher.

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Above: Crag Camp goatskin register. John Hession photo, courtesy of the Museum of the White Mountains.

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Randolph Mountain Club 2014-2015

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committee chairs and life members

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The mission of the Randolph Mountain Club is to promote the enjoyment of the Randolph area through hiking, trail development and maintenance, upkeep of camps and shelters, and the sharing of the collective knowledge of its members.

www.randolphmountainclub.org



From the President ...

Spring turns now to summer as we pass into June, the snow on the high peaks melts away, and we prepare for another season in Randolph. Welcome back! Our caretakers and crew are setting up and training for camps guests and trail projects, and summer events will kick off on the 4th of July, with the Kelleys again hosting us for the Tea. There's more information in this newsletter issue, and on the website, about what is going on in 2015 and how to get involved.

In my February letter I wrote about our participation in the exhibit at the Museum of the White Mountains in Plymouth, "Trail Clubs: Connecting People with the Mountains". The title reinforces the museum's message that much of the value of the trail clubs' work is in the shared experiences of club members – the human capital underlying the mountain recreation and stewardship work that continue today. The people I've connected with at the museum have led to some opportunities and events featured in this newsletter: the "trailhead stewards" invitation by the Forest Service, for the program they would like to expand to the Appalachia trailhead, and our Annual Meeting speaker Kim Nilsen, who is the founder of The Cohos Trail Association, one of the exhibit's other trail clubs. (See also page 3.) I was going through some RMC files recently and came across a 1997 Memorandum of Understanding between RMC and TCTA, outlining protocols for routing of their newly proposed trail on parts of two RMC trails. Fast-forward to April 2015, when we learn that TCTA's work on the Cohos Trail has earned them significant outside grants for ongoing projects, including \$27,555 from the NH Recreational Trails Program, which has been a source of funding for similar trails improvements by the RMC. I'm looking forward to learning more about the Cohos Trail at our Annual Meeting, and I hope you will join me there.

Within the club, we've made some progress with the Planned Giving Committee, which was established in 2011 to advise the board of directors on estate planning or bequests to benefit the RMC. The newly appointed committee consists of directors Jim Shannon and Kate Hudson, along with myself, and former presidents John Scarinza, Jamie Maddock and Ben Phinney. I'm very grateful for the memorial gifts and bequests received by the club since last summer, and at the Annual Meeting we can tell you more about how these resources can help sustain the club in the long term.

My brother Scott was in Randolph a couple of weeks ago, and sent out a photo of the "7" in the Great Gully (below), looking especially distinct this year. It has always been my favorite giant snow numeral, and this spring I'm taking it as a reminder of my upcoming year off after six as an RMC director, as our by-laws require. I've enjoyed the work and getting to know some of you better since 2009, and as I rest in the seventh year I'll be thinking of how I can continue to serve the club in 2016 and beyond. See you soon in Randolph -



Randy Meiklejohn

Summer Social Events

By Barb Phinney and Jenn Scarinza

Saturday, July 4th: Mark and Katie Kelley have graciously invited us back to their barn at 98 Randolph Hill Rd. for the annual **RMC Fourth of July Tea**. Join us from 3:00 to 5:00 PM for punch, iced tea, and delicious baked goods. Catch up on RMC news, check out merchandise, meet the trail crew and caretakers, sign up to lead a hike, reconnect with old friends and meet some new ones. Accessible parking is available, and assistance with stairs is provided for those who need it.

Wednesday, August 5th: Don't miss the summer **RMC Gourmet Dinner** at Libby's Bistro in Gorham, 6:00 PM. Many thanks to owner/chef Liz Jackson for continuing to welcome the RMC. Great dining, and a raffle to support the club! Space is limited: to reserve, contact the Social Events Chairs (below).

Thursday, August 6th: The **RMC Gourmet Hike**, on Pine Mountain ledges. Meet at Randolph East at 10:00 AM; ascent via Ledge Trail. Thanks to the Horton Center, a shorter ascent will be available for those who wish to take it.

Saturday, August 15th: The **Annual RMC Picnic and Charades**, noon to 2:00 PM at the Mossy Glen Amphitheater off of Durand Road. Bring a picnic lunch and your own cup; punch provided. In the event of rain, the festivities will be moved to the Town Hall. Rides up to Mossy Glen are available.



Bruce Kirmmse, his daughter-in-law Beth Greenleaf Kirmmse, and twin grandsons Peter (l) and Miles (r), at the square dance, August 2014. Jenn Scarinza photo.

A Square Dance to Benefit the RMC will be held also on August 15th, from 7:30 to 9:30 PM in the Beringers' barn at Sugar Plum Farm, 232 Randolph Hill Road. Music and calling provided by "Two Fiddles" Jacqueline and Dudley Laufman. All dances taught, beginners encouraged! Many thanks to Marie Beringer for her sponsorship of this event.

Watch the Randolph Weekly all summer for more details about each of these events. Would you like to help out by volunteering to welcome people or pour punch at the Tea, lead your section of the Charades, or donate a Gourmet Dinner raffle item? Please contact Social Events Co-Chairs: Barbara Phinney (cooper448@me.com) or Jennifer Scarinza (jbarton@ttlc.net). See you this summer!

New RMC Director

Kate Hudson was appointed as a director of the club in January 2015, to fill a vacancy on the board. She is expected to be a nominee for election by the membership to a two-year term at the 2015 Annual Meeting.



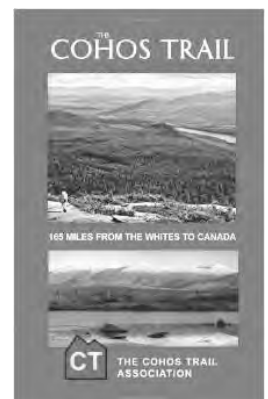
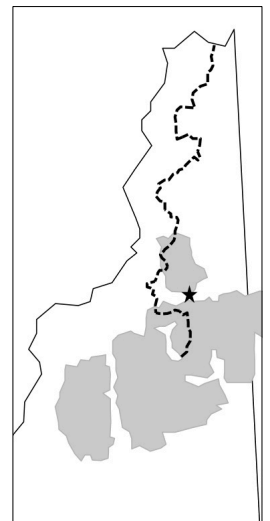
Kate Hudson has deep roots both in Randolph, where her grandparents bought land near Bowman in the 1920's, and in the Randolph Mountain Club, through the involvement of members of her family over many years. Her parents Al & Judy Hudson and her cousin Jamie Maddock have all served as RMC President, and her uncle Steve Maddock was a club director. As a kid in the 1970's, Kate always found the Charades to be a highlight of the summer, along with the lemon sherbet at the 4th of July Tea. When not in Randolph she lives in Pelham, Massachusetts, and is a faculty member in Education Policy, Research, and Administration at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She's passionate about gardening and yoga, and recently began to play disc golf after her husband Gary installed a nine-hole course in the back yard.

2015 Annual Meeting

By Jenn Scarinza, club secretary

The 2015 Annual Meeting of the Randolph Mountain Club will be held at the Randolph Town Hall on Saturday, August 8th at 7:00 PM. Following a business meeting for officer and committee reports, and for election of new directors and a new president, there will be a presentation by a guest speaker. Light refreshments will be served and the public is welcome to attend.

Our speaker will be Kim Nilsen, the founder of the Cohos Trail, a hiking route developed in recent years from Crawford Notch to the Canadian border. The Trail's 165 miles includes two RMC trails on Owl's Head and Mt. Starr King, and visits Pondicherry, the Percy Peaks, Dixville Notch, and other locations familiar to RMC members. It is maintained by the Cohos Trail Association; more information at the website www.cohostrail.org.



Trails Report & Meet the Trail Crew

By George Brown, Camps chair



Cheryl Byrne
Wheelock, Vermont
Field Supervisor
2nd year

As this newsletter arrives in early summer, the RMC trail crew is already at work on our trails, again with a great group of employees with significant experience together and knowledge of our overall operations as a club. For 2015 our major work projects are, somewhat more than usual, located in or near the alpine zone, and are supported partly by outside grants from important regional organizations that share the RMC's commitment to the White Mountains. The crew is looking forward to the challenge of working on some of our most heavily-used high-elevation hiking routes, and to learning how to improve these trails while minimizing impacts on the fragile alpine environment.

On the **Gulfside**, in the RMC-maintained two-mile section of the Appalachian Trail between Edmonds Col and Madison Spring Hut, the crew will construct scree walls and cairns, with on-site training and guidance from U.S. Forest Service personnel. This work is supported by an Appalachian Trail Conservancy L.L. Bean grant,

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Sarah Allen
Nashville, Tennessee
Crew Leader
3rd year



Brian Behr
Tamworth, New Hampshire
Crew Leader
3rd year



Becca Doll
Louisville, Kentucky
1st year



Maryka Gillis
Gloucester, Massachusetts
1st year



Carl Herz
Bedford, Massachusetts
1st year; past camp caretaker



JP Krol
Sandwich, New Hampshire
2nd year; past camp caretaker



Justin Taylor
Framingham, Massachusetts
1st year; past camp caretaker



Dylan Young
Swampscott, Massachusetts
2nd year

Meet the Summer 2015 Camp Caretakers

... in their own words ...

Lauren: I grew up in Needham, Massachusetts, a town just outside of Boston. I am very grateful for my adventurous parents, since it was they who exposed me to the White Mountains when I was younger. They took my brother and me hiking every summer, and then when I turned ten my dad started taking me backpacking.

In May 2015, I am graduating from Saint Anselm College with a nursing degree, and starting in October I will be working as a nurse at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Hanover. It was during my time at Saint A's that I decided I wanted to work in the White Mountains during the summers, and I was fortunate enough to find the RMC. I worked on the trail crew during the summers of 2013 and 2014, and I am beyond excited to be returning this summer as the Gray Knob caretaker.



Lauren Anzalone
Gray Knob caretaker;
Trail crew, 2013, 2014



Emily Peters
Crag Camp caretaker
First year

Emily: I grew up in the small town of Hopewell, New Jersey where the mountains were hills and the fields were scattered but quaint. I was fortunate to spend the majority of my summers exploring and adventuring throughout the rivers and mountains of northern Maine, where my love for everything outdoors sprang.

I am now a rising junior at the University of Vermont, where I am an Environmental Studies major and a Vermont Studies minor. I take great pleasure in studying specific places, and the ecological history of their landscapes. In addition, I am a backpacking leader for the UVM Outing Club, among the warmest community of people I've ever known. My interests include going to new places and meeting new people, reading, swimming in the ocean, learning new outdoors skills, sleeping under the stars, and eating ice cream. I am unbelievably excited to be the caretaker for Crag Camp this summer, and to share stories and trails with all the people I've yet to meet.

Camps Report

by Pete Antos-Ketcham, Camps chair



As spring comes to an end, I am working with our seasonal employees, club leaders and key volunteers to prepare for a busy summer season of welcoming hikers to our four camps. Over the fall, winter and spring, our caretakers kept Gray Knob and Crag Camp a welcome destination for the intrepid trappers who visit us during the darker and stormier times of the year. As usual, we kept Gray Knob's indoor humidity in check, through judicious use of the 'Bio-brick' fuel that we have used in our woodstove the past two seasons. Although we have to bring the Bio-bricks in by airlift, their substitution for firewood has significantly reduced our need to gather dead wood (which was in diminishing supply), reducing our impact to the surrounding forest. As we work with the Forest Service on the renewal of our ten-year Special Use permit for the end of this year, we're making this part of our ongoing operating plan for Gray Knob.

For ongoing maintenance of the structures at the camps this year, we are planning only relatively minor projects, with the exception of the window-placement project at Crag. The windows, dating from the construction of the building in 1994, had begun to deteriorate and to allow air and water leaks to the inside. There was also a particularly violent windstorm in late April that blew one of Crag Camp's



windows completely out of its frame and into the building, which fortunately was empty at the time. However, caretakers Carl Herz and Justin Taylor quickly

Continued on page 7

Above, Gray Knob in April. Left, interior of Crag Camp after the window blow-out. C. Herz photos.

The Peek Path

by Randy Meiklejohn

In my February letter to members, mailed with the membership dues appeal, I noted that the board of directors had resolved the names of new and modified trails on Randolph Hill that were affected by, or adjacent to, the new Randolph Community Forest Trailhead. The map on this page, similar to the one in the December 2014 newsletter, shows the updated information about the trails, which is also summarized below. The board voted the changes under its new policy, adopted in October 2014, for new trails, trail closures, name changes or significant re-locations. For any of these, proposals may be brought to the board, and must include a map, evidence of the landowner's consent to physical changes, and must allow for reasonable time for input from members where appropriate.

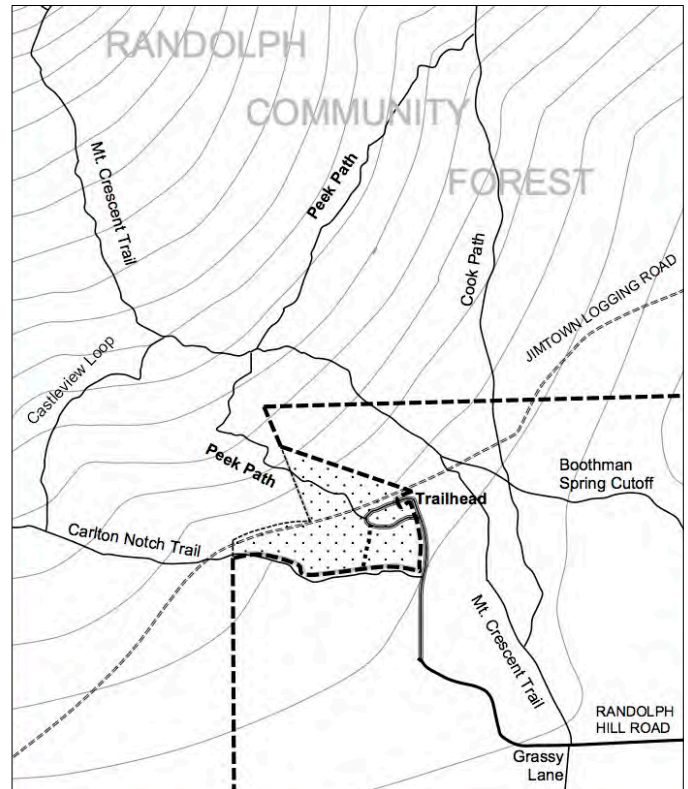
Mt. Crescent Trail: No changes to the route or name of this historic trail, leading from Randolph Hill Road at the top of Grassy Lane. Signs along the trail will be updated at intersection changes, and at the trailhead to advise hikers about where to park.

Carlton Notch Trail: This trail begins at the west side of the new road to the trailhead, and a new trailhead sign will be posted there. In addition, we have arranged with the Forest Commission for mowing a route across the wildlife opening meadow, from the Trailhead parking to the lower section of the trail, and we'll have signage at both ends of this crossing.

Peek Path: This is now the name of the new trail leading from the Community Forest Trailhead to a point on the Cook Path, a distance of about a half mile. Laid out entirely within the Forest, it climbs steeply up the south side of Mt. Crescent, then turns northeast, crosses the Mt. Crescent Trail, and continues on a mostly level route across to the Cook Path, passing above an open area with views to the Carter Range. Prompted by a member's suggestion, the board took the opportunity to name this new trail after William H. Peek, an early Randolph trailbuilder whose remarkable energy and influence in the community are described in detail in Judy Hudson's *Peaks & Paths*. He was a contemporary and collaborator of pathmaker E. B. Cook, and we felt it was appropriate that their two paths connect. I had the pleasure of calling Ginny Folsom Umiker, Mr. Peek's great-great-granddaughter and a lifelong summer resident, to give her the news and to ask her to share it with the rest of the family.



William H. Peek and Eugene B. Cook, nineteenth-century Randolph pathmakers. Photos from Lowe and Peek Archives of the RMC photo archive.



Trail layout around the Randolph Community Forest trailhead. From trailhead road loop, the Peek Path first heads northwest, then it turns northeast and crosses the Mt. Crescent Trail. Forest boundary in heavy dashed line.

2015 Volunteer Work Trips

by Chris Campbell

Again this summer – it's our fifth season doing it – Bob Drescher and I invite members and friends of the RMC to join us for the volunteer work trips series, on four Saturdays in July and August. We've worked with the RMC Trails chair to plan a variety of half-day and full-day outings for volunteers to make a meaningful contribution to our trail work.

In 2011 through 2014, we worked primarily on "hill-side" trails, doing brushing, blazing and other relatively light work on the trails north of Durand Road, while the trail crew spent their time on heavier work at higher elevations or elsewhere in the National Forest. We'll still have some of those work trips in 2015, but we will also plan for a day of volunteer work on cairns and scree walls marking the borders of the RMC's section of the Appalachian Trail. For the alpine-zone work day(s), volunteers will need to spend the night before at one of the RMC camps so we can get right to work in the morning, and scheduling will be dependent both on weather and progress the trail crew is making in this area.

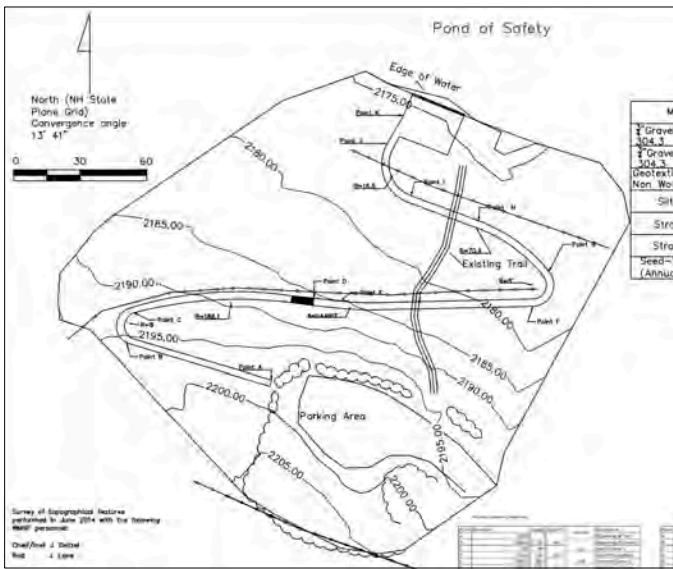
Work trips will start at 9:00 AM on July 11, 18 and 25, and August 8 (no work trip on August 1, Randolph Community Forest Day). For each day's trail and meet-up location, watch the RMC website, RMC Facebook page, and Weekly, or contact Chris Campbell at (207) 356-1123 or campbell@maine.edu.

Trails, continued from page 4

awarded in April 2015 and matched by an equal contribution from the RMC. On the upper **Spur Trail**, between Crag Camp and Thunderstorm Junction, we'll do more scree walls and cairn work, and also erosion control. Grants from the **Waterman Fund** (again matched by an RMC contribution) and from the **Four Thousand Footer Committee** of the Appalachian Mountain Club will support the Spur Trail work.

Separate from the RMC trail network, we have contracted with the **Forest Service** for the construction of a new WMNF trail at the **Pond of Safety**, near the trailhead of our Four Soldiers Path and just inside the National Forest near the boundary with the Randolph Community Forest. The new trail will lead from the existing parking area down to the south bank of the pond, replacing an older, steeper trail. It will have two switchbacks, and will be graded and surfaced to be accessible to individuals with disabilities. [See the map in the box on this page.] And finally we have contracted also with the **Community Forest Commission** to create a new trail leading to the **crystal mine** site, located north of Route 2 in the western part of Randolph near Bowman. You can read more about the crystal mine at the Community Forest website.

I hope members will get to know our 2015 trail crew, either out on the trail or at our social events in July and August. Cheryl Byrne, new in the field supervisor position in 2014, is returning for a second season, and will have two crew leaders in their third years, two second-year crew members, two former camp caretakers continuing with the RMC as crew members, and only two new-to-the-RMC crew members. It's a great group, and I cannot overemphasize the value of their year-to-year continuity to our work on the trails and to our relations with the community and our landowner hosts. I hope you'll come out to see what the trail crew is up to, and to enjoy the trail system that they help us to preserve.



Detail from site construction plan for proposed access path at Pond of Safety. Pond bank at top of drawing; existing parking area at the bottom. Courtesy of US Forest Service.



Above: Spring camp caretakers Carl Herz and Justin Taylor self-assess after boarding up the broken window at Crag Camp in April. Below: Spring skiing at Gray Knob. C. Herz photos.

Camps, continued from page 5

responded, and have put a temporary closure on the opening to prevent damage to Crag's interior. As I wrote in the December newsletter, we had airlifted construction materials to Crag in fall 2014 in order to be ready for the window work there in 2015, by John Tremblay and John Scarinza. Carl and Justin took good care of the camps and our guests over the recent months, and I'm pleased that they will continue with the RMC into the summer, as new members of the summer trail crew.

Transitioning in the opposite direction is our 2015 Gray Knob caretaker Lauren Anzalone, who is a two-year alumna of the summer trail crew. She'll be joined by new caretaker Emily Peters at Crag Camp; see their photos and bios on page 5. We will keep in touch with both of them through an updated radio system, which the board of directors approved for this year's camps budget; the current ten-year old radios will then be handed down to the trail crew.



As always, I hope you will stop in at the camps this season, meet our outstanding caretakers, catch up on the projects they're doing for us, and stay over for a night up on the mountain.



Clockwise from left: Thornton Page at Crag Camp dedication, 1994 (D. Mayer); Peek and Cook puppets at 2013 charades (G. Scott), George Flagg's 1908 sketch of Louis F. Cutter (courtesy of the Sandin family); Cutter's measuring wheel (John Hession photo, courtesy of the Museum of the White Mountains); Miggy Woodard's 1938 portrait of Cutter (Cutter Archive); Pre-RMC Randolph Path trail sign (RMC Archive).

Museum, continued from page 1

Do you have a relative there? We recognize many names: Alan Waterman (Guy's father), Bernard Koopman, Edith Tucker's parents, A. Marston Pinkham, Jane Bridgman and her brother Robert. Judy looked in vain for her parents, who stayed at Crag during the 1920s.

Prominent among them is T. L. "Duke" Page (no date, only "often"). Anyone who attended the dedication of the new Crag Camp in 1994 will remember Thornton Page, who tottered slowly up to the celebration, arriving long after the ceremony had begun. With bright red crusher hat and black eye patch, he was jubilant to have reached Crag one last time. In the mid-1920s while he studied at Yale, he was the self-appointed caretaker at the camp. We presume he was the person who had provided the skin (neither Crag's builder, G. Nelson Smith nor his wife had signed it).

Page's 80+ year-old legs gave out part way down the Spur Trail after he departed from Crag, and a rescue party carried him most of the way back down to Randolph. Some time later, the RMC received a package containing the goatskin, and it has resided in the club's archive ever since.

Next, we thought the RMC should offer the Museum a **trail sign**. About three years ago, we received a large box from Kansas City, containing old trail signs. Harry Adams, who died this past December, had accumulated these as a young man; they had been adorning his walls ever since. We were most taken with an old Randolph Path sign, and as it is not identified as an RMC path, predated the club:

RANDOLPH PATH
FOR WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON
ADAMS VIA DIVERS PATHS
MONTEVIDEO, ISRAEL RIV^R CASCADES,
LOG CABIN

Finally, we also suggested that the exhibit display two other items owned by current Randolph residents: Louis F. Cutter's **bicycle wheel** and Tad Pfeffer's wonderful **puppets** from the 2013 Midlands charade.

Cutter used a modified bicycle wheel, his own creation, for measuring distances as he traversed trails while creating his maps. The wheel in use was sketched by George Flagg in 1908; it has been stored for many years in Louis F.'s attic at Echobank (now the cottage of his grandson Louis and his wife Ann). Judy had borrowed it a few years ago to illustrate one of her slide lectures, and thought it would be a natural for the show. Edith Tucker lent the Museum the wheel, on behalf of Louis F. Cutter's grandchildren.

Tad Pfeffer's huge puppets of Eugene B. Cook and J. Rayner Edmonds add a touch of fun to the exhibit. Midlands' word was "Lowe-commotion," and "commotion" is what occurred as the two early pathmakers (who notoriously disagreed about the proper way to build paths) simultaneously tried to cross Tim Sappington's version of Memorial Bridge. Tad was happy to loan them to the Museum, saying, "Cook and Edmonds will be pleased to be let out of our attic. They've been quietly squabbling up there all summer."

If you visit the exhibit you will also find other RMC materials scattered around: the first register from the Torreys' Spur Cabin, a copy of Charles Torrey's map showing the extent of logging in 1905, some photos, another sign, and several Flagg sketches, courtesy of Eric Sandin and his mother Carol. And Doug Mayer has written a wonderful introduction to the exhibit brochure, which can be viewed online (box below).

The Museum of the White Mountains is located on the campus of Plymouth State University, just off Route 93 sixty miles south of Randolph. Online exhibit, brochure, visitor and membership information at the website: www.plymouth.edu/museum-of-the-white-mountains

Dandelions – Lowland Nuisance, Alpine Menace

By Allison Bell

Hiker Help Requested to Locate Invasive Plants Above Treeline

We are all familiar with dandelions—successful invaders of lowland lawns, meadows and roadsides. These European perennials were introduced to New England by 17th-century colonists and have spread across the continent. Requiring full sunlight to flower and reproduce, dandelions are not well-suited to conditions in spruce-fir forests. Thus, we are unlikely to find them at high elevations below treeline in the White Mountains.

In the Presidential Range, common dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*) have been reported at several sites above treeline: at AMC's Madison Spring and Lakes of the Clouds huts, along the edges of the Mt. Washington Auto Road, and in protected places on the Washington summit itself. At these sites, construction and human disturbance have created microhabitats where dandelions and other lowland plants may gain a foothold. It has generally been thought that the harsh environmental conditions that characterize the alpine areas on the rest of the Presidential Range would naturally limit the ability of dandelions to spread. Until now.

In July 2014, Nancy Slack and I were part of a research team doing surveys above the Alpine Garden on Mt. Washington. We were dismayed to discover several snowbed communities invaded by dandelions. In one area twenty by forty feet, more than two thousand five hundred flowerheads were counted, representing a significant percentage of the area's plant population.

Whenever dandelions invade these special communities, native plants are likely to be displaced, including large-leaved goldenrod, dwarf bilberry, alpine bluets, and the globally rare mountain avens.



High above the Alpine Garden on Mt. Washington, non-native dandelions bloom in a snowbed community. Allison W. Bell photo.

This year, researchers in association with state ecologists will survey other areas above treeline on the Presidential Range to locate any additional dandelion populations. This information will be used to develop a plan for removal.

You can help. If you are hiking here, especially in July when dandelions are flowering, be on the lookout for these plants. Please don't remove or disturb them; please do send me as much information about them as you can. Estimate the number of plants found, note their location as accurately as possible (with landmarks or GPS coordinates), and give a description of the plant community or situation in which they are growing (for example, "5 plants among sedges, Sphinx Col, 20 feet west of Gulfside Trail, 100 feet south of Sphinx Trail junction). If you can, send a photo to support your description. Email your report and any photographs to me at awbelldesign@comcast.net.

Allison Bell is coauthor with Dr. Nancy Slack of two field guides to alpine ecology: *Field Guide to New England Alpine Summits* (3rd ed. 2013, AMC) and *Adirondack Alpine Summits* (2007, ADK). She is a volunteer naturalist for AMC and has led workshops on Mt. Washington since 1995. Dr. Slack is presently conducting a multi-year survey of snowbed communities on Mt. Washington related to climate change.



Connor Wood, here with chipmunk; on page 12, on Mt. Abram. Courtesy photos.

Science, continued from page 12

First, I'd like to understand how small mammals will respond to climate change. While they're not a very glamorous group, small mammals play a very important role in the forest community: they are major seed dispersers and seed predators for many tree species, and they are an essential prey item for many carnivores. Deer mice certainly don't seem threatened by climate change, but changes to their distribution, and to that of other small mammals, could have wide-reaching impacts on the larger forest communities.

Second, small mammals are the "lab rats" of wildlife biology—we study them in order to understand basic ecological principles that would be more difficult to observe in other taxa.

So most broadly, I'm hoping to learn something about how biological communities are structured and how they may respond to climate change. If you see me on the trail, or at Gray Knob or the Log Cabin where I am planning to stay, feel free to say hello and ask questions!



Welcome new members!

Names and locations of new members since Nov. 2014

Albert Notarangelo, Greenfield MA
David Chernock, Amherst MA
Thomas Hinde, North Haven CT
Richard Stainton, Wallingford CT
Francis Bowen, East Hardwick VT
Jay Erb, Sudbury MA
Freddy Torres, Dudley MA
Steve Trafton, Hopkinton NH
Thomas Heisler, Berlin CT
Lawrence Donovan, Rockland MA
Kate Hudson & Gary Malaney, Pelham MA
Ellen Tibbetts, Flagstaff AZ
Mary Tibbetts Cape, Amherst MA
Steve Tibbetts, St. Paul MN
Dorothy Tibbetts, Spokane WA
Jonathan Sherwood, Amesbury MA
Billy Spitzer, Needham MA
Brad Cook, Otisfield ME
Brian Goss, Allentown NH
Mark Connolly, Norfolk VA
Alicia Macleod, Concord NH
Douglas Born, Auburn ME
Lisa & Brad Smith, Bedford NH
Catherine Amidon, Plymouth NH
Robert Janus, Hope RI
David Lawrence, Boston MA
Ken Smith, Brantford ON
Alex Talerico, Worcester MA
Steven Evans, Bedford MA
Edith Ventimiglia, Topsfield MA
Brian Carbone, Melrose MA

Treasurer's Report – 1st quarter, 2015

by Regina Ferreira

INCOME	2015 Budget	2015 1st Qtr	2014 1st Qtr
Dues	\$19,000	1,840	895
Contributions	21,500	3,117	2,126
Interest	300	32	28
Reserves	0	0	0
Camps	43,000	6,897	7,027
Trails	56,124	4,000	0
Sales	7,000	822	378
Misc.	5,000	0	70
TOTAL INCOME	151,924	16,708	10,524
EXPENSE			
Camps	52,550	6,106	5,949
Trails	66,458	574	544
Employee housing	6,985	280	421
Communications	4,700	0	0
Administration	5,337	1,148	1,050
Replace inventory	4,500	0	0
Misc.	6,300	1,148	52
Reserves	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSE	146,830	9,256	8,016
NET	5,094	7,452	2,508

For further information about the club's finances, contact the Treasurer at samarjitshankar@yahoo.com.

1st Annual 'Randolph Ramble' Trail Race

by Doug Mayer

A first-ever trail race will take place on RMC's paths on the Community Forest, on Sunday, November 1st at 10:00 AM. The 'Randolph Ramble' will start at the Community Forest trailhead, and will cover about six miles: up Mt. Crescent, along the ridge, and back via Community Forest roads. Those not interested in running can participate in the Limmer Division of the Randolph Ramble. Proceeds will benefit both the RMC and a new youth mountain biking effort in the community.

The night before will feature the international Trails in Motion trail running film festival, at Gorham's Medallion Opera House, with award-winning short films from Patagonia to Vermont.

For more information, "like" the Randolph Ramble page on Facebook, check the web site at Randolphramble.org, or contact any of the three Race Co-Directors below. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mike Micucci: mjmicucci@gmail.com, 466-2824
 Jeremiah McCrae-Hawkins: bullfrog_03584@yahoo.com, 631-1988
 Doug Mayer: doug@runthealps.com, 466-5395



Trail running in Randolph, fall 2014.
Joe Klementovich photo.

RMC Website

By Jeff Smith, webmaster

Head to the RMC website year-round for **new memberships** or **membership renewal, merchandise** and more. Some popular items appear at right on this page; more at the website!

Below is the website homepage; navigation is by the trail signs at left and right. Go to **JOIN THE CLUB** to join or renew; go to **STUFF WE SELL** for merchandise; look for summer trips under **ABOUT THE RMC / EVENT SCHEDULE**.



Our website: www.randolphmountainclub.org.

For **membership** or **merchandise** you may pay online with Paypal, or download a printable form that you can complete and mail to us with your check.

The Randolph Mountain Club is a diverse organization, committed to equal opportunity in employment and program delivery. The RMC prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political affiliation and familial status.

'Trailhead Stewards' Wanted for Appalachia

By John Marunowski, US Forest Service

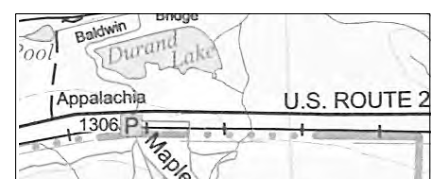
Backcountry / Wilderness Manager, Pemigewasset District

The White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) is currently seeking applicants for the role of **trailhead steward**. The trailhead steward program is a new program designed to equip forest visitors with information they need while travelling in the backcountry. The information is intended to help users protect the fragile resources of the WMNF and stay safe. This will be accomplished by hikers interacting with the trailhead steward in the parking lot. The steward will be positioned at some of the busiest trailheads on the White Mountain National Forest, during peak use. The Forest Service will provide a pop-up canopy style tent for shelter as well as visual aids (maps, photos, etc.) to draw forest visitors. The steward will provide forest visitors with critical information they need before they hit the trail. Information will be focused around Leave No Trace principles and other education messages, to include: how to travel lightly on the land, proper food storage in bear country and general hiker preparedness.

During the summer-fall of 2014, interns and volunteers contacted over 16,000 hikers, at trailheads on the Pemigewasset District. Nearly 1,000 of those went back to their car for more gear or changed their plans due to advice from volunteers! The Forest Service would like to expand the program to the Northern Presidentials, and asks RMC members to consider participating at **Appalachia**, the busiest trailhead in Randolph. For more information or to apply, please contact John Marunowski at (603) 536-6106, jmarunowski@fs.fed.us or visit a link to the volunteer opportunity at <http://www.volunteer.gov/results.cfm?ID=13995>.



Volunteer trailhead stewards in the Pemigewasset District, White Mtn. National Forest, 2014. Photo courtesy of U. S. Forest Service.



Science field work along Lowe's Path

A graduate student contacted the club to ask about staying at our camps during his 2015 summer field work, and we invited him to share more via the newsletter.



Hi everyone, my name is Connor Wood, and I'm a graduate student at the University of Maine, in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Conservation Biology. For about two weeks this summer, in late July and early August, I'll be working along Lowe's Path, so I'd like to introduce myself to the RMC and explain the research project I'll be conducting in your area.

I grew up outside Chicago, but completed my undergraduate degree at Middlebury College in Vermont, and have called New England home ever since. Currently, I'm studying the small mammal community of the northern Appalachian Mountains, and I have two broad objectives.

Continued on page 9

Preserve RMC Camps and Trails



Have you included the RMC
in your estate plans?

For more information:
www.randolphmountainclub.org/preserve



2014 RMC benefit dinner at Libby's; Jenn Scarinza photo.