



Randolph Mountain Club Newsletter

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

December 2015




Attention Hikers

Crag Camp Closed For Repairs

RMC will be repairing Crag Camp from **September 8 through September 19 2015**. Please contact the RMC or check our website for the exact reopening date.

All other RMC facilities remain open.

- About Our Shelters
- Gray Knob
- Crag Camp
- The Perch
- Log Cabin
- General Guidelines



RMC CAMPS by Pete Antos-Ketcham

For the first time since its 1993-94 reconstruction, Crag Camp was closed for about ten days in early September 2015, to allow for removal and replacement of deteriorated parts of the building exterior, including wall framing, sheathing and windows. The need for window repairs at the southeast side of the camp had been recognized since 2014, and thus the construction materials had been airlifted to the camp in fall of that year in preparation for executing the work before the 2015 summer season, and the project costs were included in the RMC’s operating budgets for 2014 and 2015.

Continued on page 4

SPUR TRAIL REHABILITATION by George Brown and Nate Shedd

Summer 2015 saw the trail crew’s execution of a project on the Spur Trail between Crag Camp and Thunderstorm Junction (Lowe’s Path) that was significant in several respects. This trail section lies mostly in the alpine zone, is heavily traveled, and directly serves our camps. The rehabilitation work was technically complex and subject to close review by the U.S. Forest Service, and it was supported in part by grants from the Waterman Fund and the Four Thousand Footer Committee of the Appalachian Mountain Club, as reported in the June issue of this newsletter.

Continued on page 5

Top: John Tremblay on the deck at Crag Camp, in September. C. Herz photo. Above: Closure information on the RMC website, during the repair work period.

Top: Becca Doll and Maryka Gillis, transporting rocks in the alpine zone. Above: View to the Randolph valley along the upper Spur Trail, with cairns. C. Byrne photos.

Also in This Issue:

New directors and new members..... page 3
 Pond of Safety trail project..... page 6
 Mt. Madison Fund & Mt. Crescent Society page 7

Trail Crew alumni in the National Parks..... page 8
 Volunteer work trips report page 8
 Peek Path update..... page 9

Randolph Mountain Club 2015-2016

Officers, Board of Directors,
committee chairs and life members

President	Jamie Maddock, S. Berwick ME
Vice President	Bill Arnold, Randolph NH
Treasurer	Samarjit Shankar, Arlington MA
Secretary	Jenn Scarinza, Randolph NH
Other Directors:	Dwight Bradley, Randolph NH George Brown, Gorham NH Chris Campbell, Belfast ME Benzo Harris, Portland ME Kate Hudson, Pelham MA Meg Hoffer, North Conway NH Barb Phinney, Bozeman MT Jim Shannon, North Reading MA Nate Shedd, Gorham NH Jeff Smith, Berlin NH Ryan Smith, Lynnfield MA
Camps:	Pete Antos-Ketcham
Trails:	George Brown
Social Events:	Barb Phinney, Jenn Scarinza
Trips:	Barbara Cutter, Brian Roberts
Merchandise:	Michele Cormier
Planned Giving:	Randy Meiklejohn
Communications:	Samarjit Shankar
Membership:	Michele Cormier
Stewardship:	Samarjit Shankar
Safety:	Bill Arnold
Stearns Lodge:	Paul Cormier
Work Trips:	Chris Campbell
Newsletter:	Randy Meiklejohn
Webmaster:	Jeff Smith
Archivist:	Al Hudson
Historian:	Judy Hudson
Life members:	Edith Tucker Paula Bradley Bill & Barbara Arnold Al & Judy Hudson Louis & Ann Cutter

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 ...

Hello - I would like to introduce myself to or reacquaint myself with all of you. Since I was last president, in 2007, the club has come a long way. I've enjoyed seeing the progress that has been made on club projects and the work that has been completed by the hard-working directors of the RMC. The Stearns Lodge has been a real success, and by offering housing we have been able to hire and maintain a trail crew that is second to none. It also goes

without saying that the ongoing work of the Trails Committee has made sure that we have hired the best crews; gotten the grants we have needed and made sure the trail work has been done correctly. If you have a chance, take a look at the recent work on the upper Spur Trail or at the Pond of Safety; both are featured in this newsletter issue. In addition, the RMC has repaired and maintained the camps, continuing to improve them, built trails at the new Community Forest trailhead, and kept the traditional social events calendar, along with the newsletter and website. It's a lot of work, and the amount of time and volunteer effort that is poured into the club each year is astounding.

Going forward I would like to look at some long range planning for the club. There are no large projects that must be done on the near horizon, so it would be nice to step back now and consider where the club would like to go for the next 100 years. One new long-term initiative has been the Planned Giving committee, which Randy Meiklejohn reactivated this year. Through bequests and memorial gifts we are trying to make the club more independent of the grant process, and enable the trail crew to work wherever we want. Also, as you can see from the Camps article in this issue, bequests help us fund unexpected expenses like the Crag repairs. So please consider putting the club in your will and joining the Mt. Crescent Society; see Randy's article on page 7. (He and Pete Antos-Ketcham, our Camps chair, both finished their second director terms this August and are no longer on the board, but I'm pleased that both will continue volunteering for the club in 2015-16, Pete still as Camps chair and Randy as Planned Giving chair and editor of this newsletter.)

Other projects we are looking at are updates of the RMC guidebook and map, decreasing the energy use of the Stearns Lodge and possibly installing solar, updating the website, and building sheds for woodchip storage at the camps. And recently Community Forest Commission chair John Scarinza met with the board to discuss a proposed agreement between the Club and the Commission for construction and maintenance of new trails on the Forest. The first such trails could be to Rollo Falls and to the Crystal Mine site.

Thanks again for all your contributions and volunteering; it is good to be back.

Jamie Maddock

At top, Jamie on Bondcliff in the Pemigewasset, with Mt. Carrigain in the background. Betsy Dillon photo.



New RMC Directors

By June Hammond Rowan, Nominating Committee chair

At the 2015 Annual Meeting on August 8, members elected two new directors to three-year terms on the board; brief biographies are below. Members also elected director Kate Hudson (a 2014-15 mid-year appointee) to a two-year term, re-elected directors Meg Hoffer and Samarjit Shankar to three-year terms, and elected Jamie Maddock as President. See Jamie's letter on the opposite page, in which he acknowledges outgoing director Pete Antos-Ketcham and outgoing President Randy Meiklejohn.

Jamie Maddock (left) is a lifelong seasonal resident of Randolph and has served the club as a Crag Camp caretaker (1979-81), director (2003-08) and President (2005-07); and his Maddock and Hudson relatives have likewise served and continue to serve the RMC in various capacities. He is an avid trail runner, biker, and cross country skier. When not in Randolph, Jamie resides in South Berwick, Maine and is a pilot for Delta Airlines. His Boothman house in Randolph, on Route 2 west of Bowman, was formerly the summer home of the late Anna B. Stearns, the longtime club member, day hiker extraordinaire, philanthropist and namesake of Stearns Lodge, the RMC employee residence dedicated by Jamie as President in 2007. (Jenn Scarinza photo.)

Dwight Bradley (right) spent his first twelve years in Connecticut, and since then has lived in various corners of Red Sox Nation, including Thailand, New York, Arizona, New Hampshire, Vermont, Colorado, New York again, Maryland, New York again, and Alaska. Randolph was unofficial home base through all the moves. He was a full-time resident of Randolph during the 1970s but, after graduating from UVM in 1978, he left to pursue a career in geology. He went on to spend nearly twenty-eight years as a research geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Alaska, specializing in tectonics, Earth history, and the geology and resources of lithium. Dwight and his wife Lauren raised two kids in Alaska: Alice, now in Boulder, and Dan, now in Seattle. In 2014, the Bradleys returned to Randolph. They bought Cold Brook Lodge, a historic Randolph farm, and are growing or planning to grow organic fruits, vegetables, and hops. Dwight has been an RMC member with few interruptions since the early 1960s when the Bradley family started spending summers in Randolph. He was winter caretaker at Crag Camp and Gray Knob when the camps were staffed only on busy weekends, and he served as an RMC director from 1976 to 1979.

Welcome new members!

Joined May – November 2015

David Ware, Yardley PA
Dolores Rebolledo, Stratham NH
John Burns, Whitefield NH
David & Maura May, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
Lisa Hart, Concord MA
Dan Ernsberger, Forest Hills NY
Peter Bosco, Old Greenwich CT
Connor Wood, Orono ME
Kyle Shute, Alna ME
Eric Ray, Newton MA
Sarah Hayden, Newburyport MA
Megan Wilson, Deerfield NH
Lisa Rogak, Lebanon NH
Richard Carmen, Quakertown NJ

Kim Richmond, Gilsum NH
Dennis McCarthy, Melrose MA
Bruce & Mary Sloat, Hanover NH
William Steff, Tilton NH
Heather & Gary Newfield, Randolph NH
Katherine Kokko, Milford NH
John Magill, North Kingstown RI
Richard Homenick, Schenectady NY
Michal Senitko, New Haven CT
Rich Citro, Glens Falls NY
Dave Bourque, Altamont NY
Michael Waters, Lexington MA
Alison Davitt & Tim Bartlett, Wakefield MA

Jeff Schall, Gorham NH
Paul Borghese, Ashburn VA
Jim Wilson, Bangor ME
Mark Lantz, Easthampton MA
James Bert, Kettering OH
Noah Brauner, South Orange NJ
Steven Miller, Amherst MA
Mara Huston, Sudbury MA
Kevin Tarpey, Plymouth MA
Lawrence Blood, Waterbury Ctr. VT
Michelle Mercier, St. Johnsbury VT
Steven Ennis, Mattapoisett MA
Steven Toner, Rockland MA
Shawn Buckland, Haverhill MA
Gerry Zickler, Vergennes VT



Summer Social Event photos

By Barb Phinney and Jenn Scarinza

Left: Mark and Katie Kelley, host and hostess of the 2015 RMC 4th of July Tea, at their barn on Randolph Hill Road. Jenn Scarinza photo.
 Right: Sarah Allen, Julia Gallop, Benzo Harris, Vivian Bean and Alan Eusden at the August RMC dinner at Libby's Bistro. Barb Phinney photo.





Camps, continued from page 1

This spring, John Tremblay, master RMC camps carpenter, arrived at Crag and began removing the windows facing King Ravine. However, he soon discovered that the deterioration was not limited to the windows; the wood structure of the exterior wall showed extensive rot below and next to the windows, and thus reconstruction of the wall itself would have to precede the window work. This called for additional construction materials, but these could be airlifted to the camp only after September 1st, in conformance with the RMC's permit with the Forest Service. Fortunately the weather in September was good, allowing on-time delivery of the materials and completion of the work before the end of the month and a very busy Columbus Day weekend. Thanks to our project team and reliable volunteers who helped make this project a success: John Tremblay and his brother James, Pat Hackett, Bill and Barbara Arnold, John and Jenn Scarinza, Carl Svenson and JBI Helicopters, and our caretakers.

Taking advantage of the September airlift, we also flew in a three-ton supply of Bio-Bricks for winter heating at Gray Knob, and propane for the caretaker's kitchen stove and lantern. On the return flight, we sent out trash and miscellaneous items that had accumulated at the two camps, but which were too heavy or bulky for the caretakers to pack out on the trail.

As usual, the end of the summer season brought a change in our camps personnel. Summer caretaker Emily Peters completed her duties at Crag in mid-August, and headed off to Finland to study abroad for the semester. She had a great summer with the RMC and we hope to see her back in 2016. At Gray Knob, Lauren "Elmo" Anzalone stayed on into the first week of October, and then left to start her new job as a nurse at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH. I want to thank Emily and Lauren for all their work for us this season, and for providing mountain hospitality the RMC way to all our guests. The fall caretakers have been veterans Carl Herz and Kevin Ross. Kevin will stay on for the winter, and will be joined by former caretaker Mike Joe Jones.



Left, top to bottom: Deteriorated wall framing and sheathing at the southeast building corner; view of King Ravine headwall through the remains of the window wall framing; John Tremblay at work on the deck, on a fine day. Above, top to bottom: These three photos show the progression of work at the south-facing windows, from the removal of old wall framing, to replacement of framing, sheathing and flashing, to installation of fixed upper and double-hung lower windows. C. Herz photos.



Spur Trail, continued from page 1

The project description that follows, accompanying the photographs on this page by field supervisor Cheryl Byrne, is adapted from the two successful grant applications prepared by Trails committee chair George Brown and committee member Nate Shedd.

The proposed rehabilitation of the Spur Trail has several purposes: first, to protect fragile alpine soils and vegetation adjacent to the trail; second, to improve hiker safety on the trail; and third, to improve hiker knowledge of the importance of protecting the alpine zone with properly constructed and maintained trails. To achieve these goals, the proposed work is to repair, reinforce and rebuild existing screewall to clearly define a twenty-four inch wide treadway, repairing or constructing cairns to clarify trail direction, and trail hardening with check steps and rock staircases where appropriate. The trail crew will receive specialized training in above tree-line trail work and low impact work practices. Additionally, the trail crew will be prepared to give brief interpretive talks, when appropriate and safe, on both the work they are performing and its important connection to protecting the alpine area through which the trails pass. An interpretive poster will also be created and displayed at the RMC's Crag Camp, to both illustrate the project and its purpose and provide a basic introduction to above tree-line trail work.

We anticipate an eight-person trail crew spending five weeks on this project. RMC will contribute the balance of funding, including also volunteer time. Our trail crew is very qualified with many years of trail experience and a long history of successful and low impact trail work.



Pond of Safety trail project

by George Brown



The photographs on this page document steps in the construction of the new access trail at the Pond of Safety, built in summer 2015 by the RMC trail crew in coordination with the US Forest Service (funding agency) and the Randolph Community Forest Commission (landowner). Trails chair George Brown provided the project summary below. In the photos by John Scarinza: Brian Behr, Sarah Allen, Justin Taylor, Becca Doll, Auvern Kenison and John Scarinza.

The purposes of the project were to 1) decommission the existing trail, 2) construct approximately three hundred feet of trail with width, grades and slopes to make it accessible for individuals with disabilities, and 3) construct a "beach" and boat launch on the Pond. The new trail leaves the west end of the parking lot, travels west for seventy feet and makes a broad 180-degree turn to run parallel to the Pond, then rejoins the old trail where it continues to the new "perched beach" at the bank of the Pond (see bottom photographs).

Funding was provided by the Forest Service through an amendment to RMC's CSA (Cost Share Agreement) with them. The amendment, signed in July 2014, provided \$15,000.00 of federal funding with a match requirement by RMC. The match was provided in the form of granite blocks, salvaged from the recently demolished Farrar farm house on Route 2 and donated to the project on the RMC's behalf by the Randolph Community Forest Commission.

The project, which combined the skills of our trail crew along with significant earth moving equipment work provided by John Scarinza, was completed in August and has received a very favorable inspection from the Forest Service.



The Mt. Madison Fund & the Mt. Crescent Society

by Randy Meiklejohn

On July 5, 2015, the RMC board of directors voted to establish the Mt. Madison Fund and the Mt. Crescent Society, as recommended by the Planned Giving Committee, itself established through a by-law amendment approved at the Annual Meeting in 2011. The Fund is intended to receive bequests and memorial donations, and the individuals who plan or make such gifts to the club will be recognized through the Society. The board and the committee hope that ongoing communications about the purpose of the new Fund, and about the members of the Randolph community who have joined the Society, will encourage others considering a gift to the Club.

The Planned Giving committee members, in April appointments by the board, include the current president, three former presidents and two current directors: Randy Meiklejohn (chair), Jamie Maddock, Ben Phinney, John Scarinza, Kate Hudson and Jim Shannon.

The **Mt. Madison Fund** is a new permanent fund for bequests and memorial donations, and its purpose is to provide long-term financial support for the RMC and its camps and trails. The board of directors may approve spending from the Fund. The balance of a bequest by Eleanor Barschall, which has been held separate from other RMC assets, established the initial value of the Fund, and by policy adopted in July the following will now be directed to the Fund: any unrestricted bequest or planned gift, any unrestricted "in memory of" contribution, and any other unrestricted contribution directed to the Fund by its donor. As of the 2015 Annual Meeting, the balance of the Fund was \$55,977.42.

The **Mt. Crescent Society** lists the names of those individuals who have made bequests or planned gifts, or in whose memory donations have been made. The club, through the Planned Giving Committee, will recognize and communicate with living members of the Society, to thank them and to encourage others to express their commitment to the club by joining them. As of the date of the 2015 Annual Meeting, the members of the Society include: Jim Baldwin, Eleanor Barschall, Doug Mayer, Jim Meiklejohn, Ben Phinney, and Jan Wiranowski.

Information policies: Public information about the Society will include only the names of members, except those wishing to remain anonymous. Annual reports on the Fund will state the total value of funds received, funds spent and the balance, and will exclude the value of future gifts. Planned Giving Committee members and the RMC officers will have access to information about the Fund and the Society, and are responsible for its confidentiality.

For more information or to make a gift, contact any member of the Committee, or e-mail preserve@randolphmountainclub.org.



View of Mt. Madison and the other peaks of the Northern Presidentials, from Mt. Crescent. D. Mayer photo.



Above: The RMC Gourmet Hike to the Pine Mtn. ledges, on August 6th. Franklin Stone Wenk photo. Right: Caretaker Carl Herz keeps busy, making a kindling rack (top) and a glove/sock drying rack (bottom) at Gray Knob this fall. C. Herz photos.



Duncan Lennon
Glacier National
Park, MT



Tyler Self
Effigy Mounds Nat'l
Monument, IA



Ben Lieberson
Acadia National
Park, ME



Curtis Moore
Walnut Canyon
Nat'l Monument, AZ



Deva Steketee
Grand Teton
National Park, WY

**RMC Trail Crew Alumni
in the National Parks**

compiled by Curtis Moore

Field Supervisor (2009) Curtis Moore keeps up with his fellow trail crew alumni from the past decade, and sent this report last season about where they have gone on to work in the National Park System.

Photos (2007-13), clockwise from top left: E. Tucker, J. Smith, B. Lieberson, D. Steketee, J. Smith.

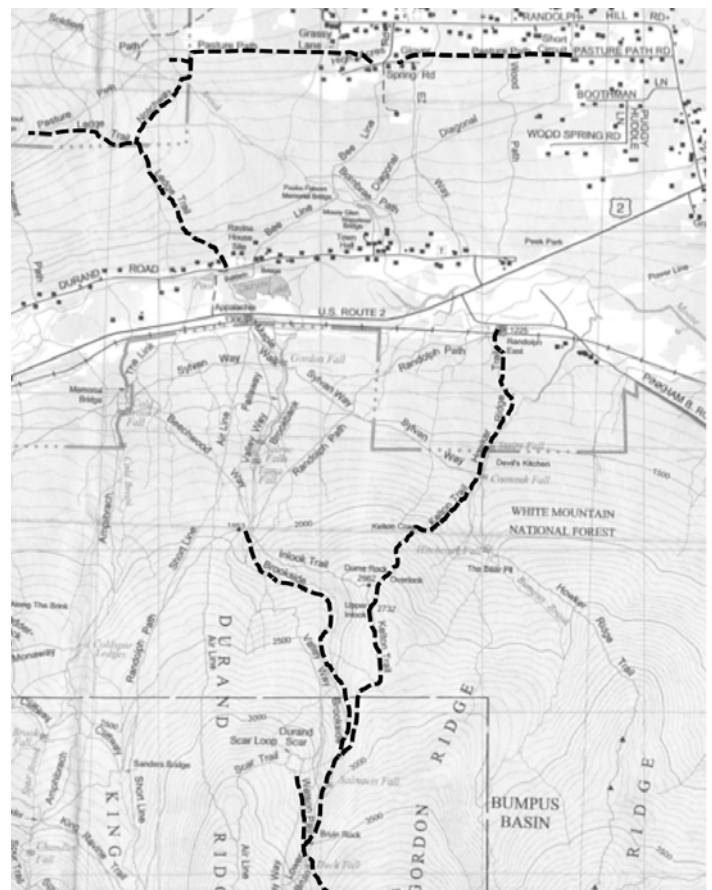
2015 Volunteer Work Trips Report

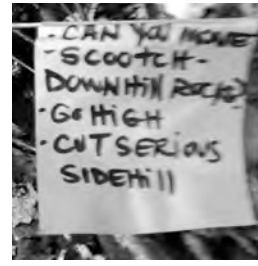
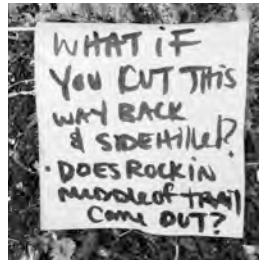
by Chris Campbell

Chris Campbell and Bob Drescher co-led the 2015 RMC volunteer trail-clearing efforts on about 7.7 miles of trails. On planned volunteer workdays, we and two other volunteers cleared (brushed) the vegetation on Ledge Trail and Notchway (11 July), Howker Ridge Trail (up to junction with Kelton Trail; 18 July), and Kelton Trail (8 and 22 August). We also cleared Watson Path from Brookside to tree line, Pasture Path up to Carlton Brook, and Brookside up to Kelton Trail.

We prepared trail condition reports consisting of GPS coordinates, photographs, and flagging where work by the RMC trail crew is needed on 7.3 miles, including Brookside, Ledge Trail, Notchway, Israel Ridge Path (up to Perch Path), and Watson Path (up to treeline). These reports include photographs for signs that need to be replaced or added.

RMC trails are a remarkable resource, providing access to wonderful sites and hiking, running, and relaxing in the mountains. This trail system is the product of considerable effort over many decades. The RMC trail crew undertakes large projects requiring strength, training, and expert leadership. They do the heavy lifting. Volunteers use light hand tools to clear and blaze trails, important tasks in keeping RMC trails in good condition and preserving past efforts. We enjoyed our trail work this year and hope others will join us next year. If you think an RMC trail needs clearing, please contact Chris (campbell@maine.edu).





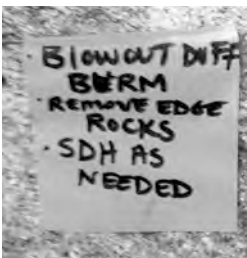
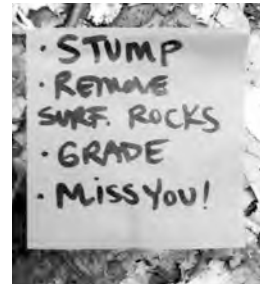
Peek Path Improvements

by Randy Meiklejohn, with Cheryl Byrne

In summer 2015 the trail crew worked on the treadway of the lower section of the Peek Path, the newly-named trail that leads from the Randolph Community Forest trailhead to the Mt. Crescent Trail and the Cook Path. (See the December 2014 issue of this newsletter.) This section of the trail was laid out entirely within the Community Forest, and the slope it ascends is, in parts, steeper and rockier than the route of the Mt. Crescent Trail, just



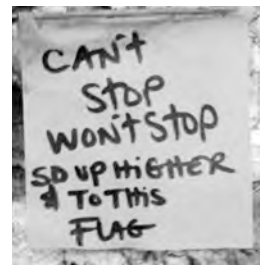
to its east. After the Peek Path opened in 2014, several members contacted the club to ask whether some rough parts of the new trail could be smoothed out.



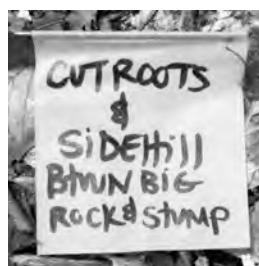
In July, field supervisor Cheryl Byrne walked the trail and began to develop the work for the trail crew, with a general objective of re-grading the treadway where possible. She noted that there were many loose surface rocks or pointy rocks in the middle of the trail that could be removed, to make stretches of easier walking between the steeper sections of scree.



Because she was going to be away from Randolph during the crew's work days on the Peek Path, she had to leave them her direction in writing. How to do this? The photographs on this page show some of the dozens of two-inch square pink plastic flags she placed along the trail, with her spot-specific instructions, questions and words of cheerful encouragement.



R. Meiklejohn photos.

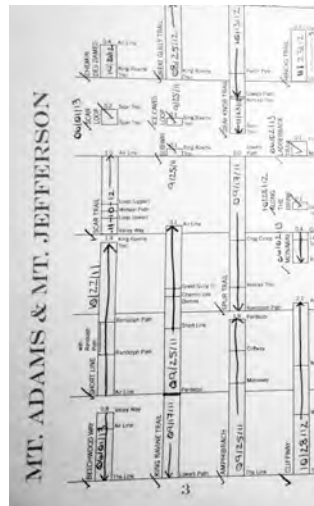


RMC 100 Finisher

... latest in a series ...

Katherine Kokko, of Milford NH, is the latest to complete the RMC 100 challenge. She sent a photograph, below, taken as she completed her last mile, on the Owl's Head Trail on Cherry Mtn., on July 18, 2015. To celebrate, she has now also become an RMC member!

The RMC 100 challenge recognizes those who have hiked all of the approximately one hundred miles of RMC trails, starting in the club's centennial year of 2010. For information about the RMC 100 challenge and to see photos of other finishers, click on the "Our Trails" sign at the home page of the RMC website.



Member Katherine Kokko on Cherry Mtn., July 2015, and a page of her completed logbook. Courtesy photos.

Treasurer's Report – 3rd quarter, 2015

by Samarjit Shankar, and bookkeeper Regina Ferreira

A key expense item in Q3 related to the Crag Camp repairs which turned out to be more extensive than what had been budgeted at the beginning of the year. However, our Camps Reserves stand at a healthy \$10,603.40 – if the shortfall in the Camps income less expenses exceeds this amount at the end of the year, the Board will consider a transfer from the Mt. Madison Fund. *For more information about club finances, contact the Treasurer at samarjitshankar@yahoo.com.*

	Jan - Sep 15	Jan - Sep 14	Budget
Income			
CAMPS	39,080.70	36,298.73	43,000
CONTRIBUTIONS	20,854.00	18,987.15	21,500
DUES	16,340.00	15,470.00	19,000
FUNDRAISERS - EVENTS	4,715.00	4,900.00	5,000
INTEREST	111.18	235.00	300
RESERVE FUND TRANSFERS		8,000.00	
SALES	5,448.28	5,157.92	7,000
TRAILS INCOME	7,344.25	2,089.60	56,124
Total Income	93,893.41	91,138.40	151,924
(-) Cost of Goods Sold	0.00	0.00	4,500
	93,893.41	91,138.40	147,424
Expense			
ADMINISTRATION	5,038.66	4,531.37	5,337
CAMP	34,231.44	28,422.89	52,550
COMMUNICATIONS	2,795.01	2,279.32	4,700
EMPLOYEE HOUSING	4,346.18	13,308.23	6,985
EVENTS - FUNDRAISERS	2,837.00	3,399.26	3,700
TRAILS	48,120.46	50,705.05	66,458
Miscellaneous	1,750.49	308.80	2,600
Total Expense	99,119.24	102,954.92	142,330
Net Income	(5,225.83)	(11,816.52)	5094

Volunteer, continued from back cover

warm, sunny day, meeting RMC members and working up a good sweat learning how to brush a trail and clearing waterbars. I couldn't wait for the next work trip, and I've tried to do as much trail work as I can since. This year I was able to spend a day with the RMC trail crew, George Brown and Chris Campbell learning how to build scree walls and cairns in the alpine zone. I'm in awe of how hard the trail crew works and how much they accomplish.

On rainy days, I found myself in the Randolph Library, reading *Randolph, Old and New* and *Randolph, NH 150 Years*, soaking up the exploits of the early pathmakers and learning about the interesting mix of folks summering in Randolph. The dedication and devotion of the RMC in re-clearing the trails after the logging period, and after hurricanes and ice storms, made me realize how special these trails are and how it is both a privilege and responsibility to maintain them.

In 2011, I had the wonderful experience of learning more about trail maintenance, working with Cristin Bailey of the USFS and the RMC in a special session commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Weeks Act. We worked on the Monaway, Ladderback, Along the Brink, and Cliffway, so these trails remain among my favorites.

The first time I reached the summit of Mt. Adams via King Ravine, I was pretty pumped up. Alone on the summit for awhile, I was soon joined by a fellow from Randolph, who, after listening to me extol the virtues of my climb, asked me what I thought the goal of hiking really was. As I pondered some type of Thoreau-like response for a while, he turned to me and said, "To get back to your car". Noting my surprise at this simple explanation, he then said, "so you can get to the SAaLT Pub".

Obviously, I take this advice seriously and make it to the Pub whenever I'm in Randolph, along with a visit to Lowe's Store to catch up with Alan, Lucille and their family. After most hikes, I can be found resting on one of the benches at the Ravine House site.

I live with my wonderful wife, Sue, in Center Barnstead, NH, near the Belknap Range, where I hike frequently, and I also spend time sea kayaking in Portsmouth, NH and Kittery, ME.

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 events and trips under **ABOUT THE RMC / EVENT SCHEDULE**.



the new green-on-green shirt!



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, sexual orientation, political affiliation and familial status.

'Randolph Ramble' Trail Race
by Doug Mayer

Early November saw the first-ever "Randolph Ramble" trail race on the Randolph Community Forest, following a route mostly on RMC trails. Runners started at the Community Forest Trailhead at the end of Randolph Hill Road, climbed up Mount Crescent, ran along Crescent Ridge, and descended via the Four Soldiers Path and the Jimtown Logging Road, back to the start. The event was organized by two former RMC Trails Chairs, Mike Micucci and Doug Mayer, along with fellow Randolph resident Jeremiah McCrae-Hawkins. Seventy runners took part, and another eleven hikers entered in a unique "Limmer Division". Runners ranged from casual local trail runners to some of the best in the Northeast. Finishing first, with a time of 58:07, was internationally-recognized trail runner Josh Ferenc, of Saxtons River, Vermont. The first local finisher was Jordan Cargill, a former Trail Crew member, who came in third in 1:03:59. All finishers received a log with an orange blaze on it, and the position of their finish painted on the bottom.



The Ramble route; Josh Ferenc on the logging road. D. Holmes photo.

Over twenty volunteers, most from Randolph, lent a hand along the course. Several local companies supported the event, including SAaLT Pub, the Top Notch Inn, Garland Mills, and the White Mountain Cafe. What was the response? Jim Graham, a founder of North Conway's White Mountain Milers running club and a resident now of Concord, perhaps said it best: "Truly a superb weekend among kindred spirits in the heart of the gorgeous mountains." Ramble proceeds were split between a Coos County youth mountain biking effort, and the RMC, with each group receiving over \$500.

Volunteer Profile

After several seasons volunteering on RMC trails, member Bob Drescher reflects on his discovery of Randolph and his experiences on the trail network.



Bob Drescher; Sue Drescher photo.

In 2005, I was fairly new to hiking, and the Northern Presidentials presented quite a challenge. After a long day up and down Mt. Madison, I wearily made my way over to Lowe’s Store, where I asked Alan and Lucille Lowe about these amazing trails, and they persuaded me to buy the latest edition of Randolph Paths. As I read the guide cover to cover the next day, it became clear that Randolph and the RMC were unique in the world of hiking. That same summer, I joined the Club and soon ran across Benzo Harris posting notices of a volunteer work day. Summoning up a little courage, I called Michele Cormier to ask about this trail work, letting her know that I had no experience. She simply said, “just show up and we’ll show you what to do”. That first session was just amazing -- a

Volunteer, continued on page 10

Preserve RMC Camps and Trails



Have you included the RMC in your estate plans?

For more information:
www.randolphmountainclub.org/preserve



The RMC in ... Arizona? See what our trail crew alumni have been up to, on page 8.