



Randolph Mountain Club Newsletter

June 2016

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

NEW ‘RANDOLPH PATHS’ GUIDEBOOK

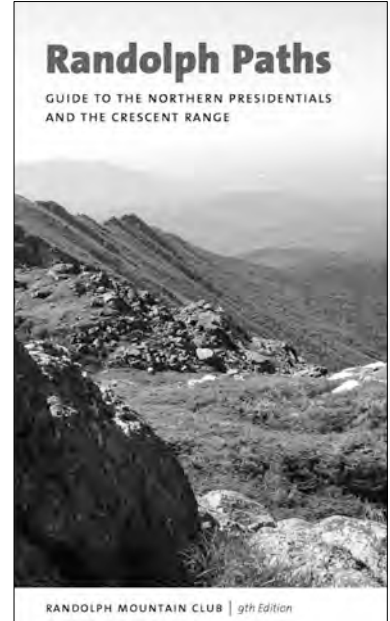
by Judy Hudson

The ninth edition of *Randolph Paths* will be unveiled at this year’s Fourth of July Tea, where copies will be available for purchase. The updated guide describes changes in our trail system over the past eleven years. You will find information on the Community Forest Trailhead and consequent changes to paths on the Hill, and a new section on Trail Running by Doug Mayer. References and website addresses have been corrected as well.

While the format is familiar, new photos and revised articles provide the data you’ll need to plan your hikes. Check out Points of Interest, including Abigail Adams and the Pony Truss Bridge. Jon Hall’s newly designed map will be inserted, as always, inside the back cover. [See separate article about the new map on page 8.]

Many thanks go to Allison Bell. In addition to painstakingly entering revisions, large and small, her design skills have given the guide a fresh new appearance.

All this, and it still fits in your pocket or pack!



Right, on the cover of the new *Randolph Paths*: View from the Randolph Path towards the Castellated Ridge of Mt. Jefferson, and Cherry Mountain beyond. Judy Hudson photo.

RECOVERY IN CASTLE RAVINE: View from the Valley

by Bill Arnold. Camp caretaker Carl Herz also participated in the recovery mission; see his journal article beginning on page 7

On Saturday night, February 28th, during our regular 8:00 PM radio call, caretaker Kevin Ross informed me he had found some apparently abandoned gear at the Log Cabin. He had seen it the day before while checking the Cabin, so Saturday he gathered it together and packed it up to Gray Knob. This was not entirely surprising to me since people occasionally come to our mountains, have an unexpectedly cold and wet night, leave everything and go home never to return.

Sunday morning, I placed a call to NH Fish and Game to report the situation just in case they received a call about a missing person. On Sundays, calls to Fish and Game go to Concord dispatch who then relay to local officers. The report was duly noted and I was told they would call if they needed more information.

Less than five minutes later the phone rang. It was Fish and Game District Chief Wayne Saunders, whom we work with frequently. Wayne told me they had just received a report of a body in Edmands Col. My heart sank; I knew there was a connection. Wayne asked me for some details: how remote is Edmands Col (very), how many people will we need (many), what gear was found at the Log Cabin (sleeping bag, stove, wallet, etc.). He asked me to put Androscoggin Valley Search and Rescue (AVSAR) personnel on standby, which I did. AVSAR eventually had eight members respond. The next call came from the Gorham Ambulance. They had received a call through 911 to respond to Bowman for a fatality in Edmands Col. I left my wife Barbara to handle calls for AVSAR, and headed to Bowman. Gorham Ambulance was there with three attendants and three other young men. I pointed out Edmands Col to the ambulance attendants and we all decided they would not be needed for many hours, if ever. Two of the other men explained that they had camped at Edmands Col on Saturday night. They had decided to descend through Castle Ravine on Sunday morning whereupon they came upon a dead body. Needless to say, it ruined their trip. They attempted calling 911 but they had no reception. They continued their descent and ran into the third man about a mile from Bowman. He used his phone to make the report.

Fish and Game officers responded to Bowman, interviewed the men, and then sent them on their way. It was decided to set up a command post at the Randolph Fire Station as we have with previous rescues in the Northern Presidentials. Wayne Saunders was in

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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 Barbara Phinney, Bozeman MT Jim Shannon, North Reading MA Jeff Smith, Berlin NH Ryan Smith, Lynnfield MA
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Trails:	George Brown
Social Events:	Barb Phinney, Jenn Scarinza
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Historian:	Judy Hudson
Cartographer:	Jon Hall
Radios:	Bill Arnold
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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 ...



I hope you have all had a good spring, and are looking forward to some time in the mountains this summer. I invite you to join the RMC at our events, starting as always with the 4th of July Tea, which this year will feature the premiere of the new *Randolph Paths* and updated map. We will have hikes and work trips starting in July, and the Annual Meeting and the Picnic in August to finish off the summer season.

Of course, the RMC has long since transitioned from a summer organization to a year-round one. While this issue of the newsletter contains a preview summer of 2016, it also showcases the club's operations, volunteering, social events and emergency response activities that continue through fall, winter and spring. Foremost among these is the presence of our high-elevation camps, still the only ones open year-round in the Northern Presidentials. In the summer, personnel from the AMC huts can assist with mountain rescues, but once winter weather sets in, the RMC caretakers are the ones there in case of an emergency. Over the years, they have saved many hikers and provided a place of refuge for those in need. Unfortunately, in the past two years there have been two winter fatalities in our area of the mountains. The RMC has played a part in the recovery processes, providing radio support and personnel.

In the spirit of "sharing our collective knowledge of our members", we're featuring those winter emergency operations here and at the Annual Meeting this year. In the newsletter, director Bill Arnold and caretaker Carl Herz share their perspectives on a February mission in Castle Ravine, and at the Annual Meeting, Ty Gagne will speak to us about the 2015 Kate Matrosova tragedy. His talk will explain how extreme the weather can get above treeline, and also how to manage risk on hikes any time of year. There is a fine line between an adventure and a tragedy, and it's important to know how to identify warning signs, so that you can turn back before it's too late.

The volunteer rescue teams in the North Country are a dedicated group of individuals, many of them former caretakers and RMC members. The club (through your dues and contributions) helps support them by keeping Gray Knob open in winter: flying biobricks up to fuel the stove, paying for the caretaker, and maintaining the building itself. Between the moisture and crampons, Gray Knob takes a beating. The board of directors and I will be working in 2016 on a long-range plan for its maintenance, to accompany our proposals to ATC and the National Park Service for funding assistance.

In all seasons of the year, the RMC continues to thrive with the support and dedication of its many volunteers, and I hope you will consider volunteering yourself, to lead a trip, participate in a work day, support a social event or join a committee or project led by the board of directors. Please look for events and opportunities in this newsletter, in the *Randolph Weekly* and on the RMC website, or contact me or another member of the board.

With thanks for your time and efforts,

Jamie Maddock

Above: Jamie out in the meadow on Memorial Day weekend; Castle Ravine in the distance behind him. J. Hudson photo.

Summer Social Events

By Barb Phinney and Jenn Scarinza

Monday, July 4th: We're excited to return to Mark and Katie Kelley's wonderful 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 the latest RMC news, meet this year's trail crew and caretakers, check out our merchandise, sign up to lead a hike and connect with friends, old and new. If you or a friend or family member would like assistance with stairs, a ride up to the barn, or a nearby accessible parking space, please contact Barb or Jenn (phone numbers below) in advance, and help us bring all the RMC's generations together at this event.

Thursday, August 4th: The **RMC Gourmet Hike** returns to the Pine Mountain ledges. Meet at Randolph East at 10:00 AM; we will carpool to the trailhead and ascend via the Ledge Trail. Thanks to the Horton Center, a shorter ascent will be available for those who wish to take it.

Wednesday, August 10th: Don't miss out on the popular 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 our funky raffle to support the club! Space is limited - to reserve your spot, contact the Social Events Chairs (below).

Saturday, August 20th: The 104th **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 very own cup; punch provided. Rides up to Mossy Glen are available. In the event of rain, the festivities will be moved to the Randolph Town Municipal Bldg., Pinkham "B" Road.

A Square Dance to Benefit the RMC will take place also on Saturday August 20th, 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 ongoing sponsorship of this event; additional donations are welcome.

Watch the **Randolph Weekly** all summer for more details about each of these events. Would you like to volunteer to welcome people or serve punch at the Tea, lead your section of the Charades, or donate a Gourmet Dinner raffle item or sponsor a crew member for the dinner? Please contact Social Events Co-Chairs: Barbara Phinney, cooper448@me.com; (617) 276-5905 or (603) 466-2000, or Jennifer Scarinza, jbarton@ttlc.net; (603) 631-0870. See you this summer!



Top: The "Cabin Fever Reliever" RMC Square Dance at Town Hall, on March 12; above, raffle winners Carolyn Coolidge (L) and Margaret and Chris Campbell (R) at the May 7 dinner at Libby's. Jenn Scarinza photos.
Below left: Gourmet Hike to Pine Mtn., August 2015; Barb Phinney photo.

Annual Meeting Notice

By Jenn Scarinza, club secretary

The 2016 Annual Meeting of the Randolph Mountain Club will be held at the Randolph Town Hall on Saturday, August 13th at 7:00 PM. Following a business meeting for officer and committee reports, and for election of new directors and a president, there will be a presentation by a guest speaker. Light refreshments will be served and the public is welcome to attend.

Our speaker, Ty Gagne, will present an in-depth analysis of the February 2015 tragedy in which solo hiker Kate Matrosova died near the Star Lake Trail between Mt. Madison and Mt. Adams. She had set out from the Appalachia trailhead in Randolph, and encountered severe winter weather above treeline. Mr. Gagne, the CEO of Primex, the New Hampshire Public Risk Management Exchange, will discuss risk management practices that can be utilized both in the backcountry and more urban environments.



Trails Report & Meet the Trail Crew

By George Brown, Trails chair



Cheryl Byrne
Wheelock, Vermont
Field Supervisor
3rd year

In 2015, the trail crew spent most of the season above treeline in the alpine zone on the Gulfside and Spur Trails, building screewall and cairns with the purpose of protecting the fragile alpine vegetation and soils adjacent to the trails. This work was generously supported with funding from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Four Thousand Footer Committee of the AMC and the Waterman Fund. The crew also cut part of the new trail to the Crystal Mine site in the Randolph Community Forest, and we are grateful for the Commission's funding for this work.

For 2016, our major projects will be on sections of the Watson Path, the Brookside and the Randolph Path, with proposed funding again from the Four Thousand Footer Committee of the Appalachian Mountain Club, as well as from the Fields Pond Foundation and the American Hiking Society. Work will include trail hardening and erosion mitigation with rock waterbars, rock staircases and sidehill management. We hope to replace the two rotted ladders on the Israel Ridge Trail, and to complete the cutting of sections of the new Crystal Mine Trail.



Sarah Allen
Nashville, Tennessee
Crew Leader
3rd year



Brian Behr
Tamworth, New Hampshire
Crew Leader
3rd year



Becca Doll
Louisville, Kentucky
2nd year



Maryka Gillis
Gloucester, Massachusetts
2nd year



Rowan Kamman
Vergennes, Vermont
1st year



Justin Taylor
Framingham, Massachusetts
2nd year



Hailey Vlass
West Newbury, Massachusetts
1st year



Dylan Young
Swampscott, Massachusetts
3rd year

Meet the Summer 2016 Camp Caretakers

... in their own words ...

Peter: I'm from Holderness, New Hampshire, and I just finished my sophomore year at Middlebury College, where I'm majoring in conservation biology. I spend much of the school year sneaking up into the Green Mountains and over to the Adirondacks on adventures, but am very excited to return to old stomping grounds in the White Mountains for a full summer up at Crag Camp. I grew up hiking in the Squam Range and the Sandwich Wilderness. Two summers ago I worked at the AMC's Cold River Camp in Evans Notch along the ME/NH border, and this past summer I worked as a backcountry hiking guide in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. This year, I'm most looking forward to sunrises over King Ravine, and to exploring the vast network of RMC trails in the area. If I'm lucky, perhaps by the end of the summer I can make it onto the prestigious RMC 100 Wall of Fame! If anyone is looking for a running partner in the Presidentials, come on up to Crag!



Peter Howe
Crag Camp caretaker
1st year



Carl Herz
Gray Knob caretaker
4th year

Carl: This summer marks my fourth season caretaking for the RMC. I couldn't be happier to be back!

I'm originally from Bedford MA, and I graduated from Colby-Sawyer College with a degree in environmental science. It was an excellent precursor to living and working in the field. In recent years, I've immersed myself in a number of skilled trades including building, electrical wiring, landscaping, landscape design and home improvement. I also enjoy photography, outdoor recreation and bird watching.

Last May I received my certification as a wilderness first responder, and I've been an active volunteer in the mountain community, including four season search and rescue operations with Androscoggin Valley Search and Rescue. I also did GPS work for the new RMC map. Soon I'll be conducting observational research on the phenology of some of the rarer plant species in the alpine zone of Mt Adams.

This summer I'm looking forward to long days and lots of projects at the camps. Summer is such a busy season for us, and I'm excited to meet guests and hear their stories!

Camps Report

By Pete Antos-Ketcham, Camps chair

Despite the lack of snow this past winter and spring, the RMC camps continued to be bustling scenes of mountain hospitality. Our winter caretakers Mike Joe Jones and Kevin Ross were with us through early March. Kevin elected to stay with us through the spring and was joined by veteran trail crew member and caretaker Carl Herz. Looking ahead to the summer, Carl will stay on at Gray Knob and be joined by new caretaker Peter Howe over at Crag [see their photos and bios on this page]. For the fall, we look forward to welcoming back veterans Hannah Marshall and Maryka Gillis. I continue to be impressed with the caliber and capabilities of our field staff. The hiring process continues to be a challenge, not for a lack of good candidates but rather an abundance of them, and a limited number of openings to offer. It is a good challenge for RMC to have, and speaks well of our program as we compete for talent with the larger New England clubs.

On the project front this summer, we are working with our partners at the U.S. Forest Service to gain approval to construct bark mulch storage sheds at the camps. Ground hardwood bark mulch is an essential ingredient for successful human waste composting. Each season, the four camps toilets consume forty to sixty bags of mulch. Historically this has required a spring airlift to ensure we would have the quantity of dry bark needed to start composting as early in the season as possible. With the need to fly in Bio-Bricks in the fall, recent years have seen the club conducting airlifts in both spring and fall. Storing mulch at the camps through the winter will allow us to consolidate to one fall airlift, and thus reduce cost, environmental impact, and impact on visitors hiking in the area.

In addition to seeking approval, we also sought and were successful in obtaining funding assistance from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) through their Grants to Clubs program to help defray the cost of the shed at the Perch (our closest shelter to the AT and often used by AT hikers). Our thanks to the ATC.

On the multi-year project-planning front, we are excited to have RMC builder John Tremblay working with us to develop five- and ten-year capital plans for the camps this summer. We will visit each facility this season and conduct a thorough structural analysis and review. This will be useful not only for our own planning purposes, but could also be used to inform the capital planning process with our Agency Partners and may lead to additional support for repairing our facilities. In 2010, RMC worked with ATC and the National Park Service as part of a Challenge Cost Share Agreement to renovate the Perch.

This winter and spring saw RMC field staff participate in and support area search and rescue efforts. Our employees continue to be a key component to responding to search and rescue situations in the northern Presidentials. [See related articles in this issue.]

The RMC Camps Committee wants to thank the club's Board of Directors and the membership for their continued support of this program, and we encourage one and all to make a visit to the camps this coming season.

Recovery (Arnold), continued from page 1

charge. AVSAR members as well as other mountain rescue services were asked to respond along with many Fish and Game officers.

Edmands Col is high and remote; there is no easy way to get someone out. We decided to send one group up Lowe's Path to Randolph Path and another group led by Mike Pelchat up the Auto Road (via Sno Cat) and across the ridge by Gulfside Trail to Edmands Col. Kevin would respond from Gray Knob with the litter. Fortunately, the weather could not have been better; temps in the 20s, clear, minimal wind above tree line. The evacuation would be down the Randolph Path and Lowe's Path. All this planning and responding took several hours, so it was midafternoon before both groups started moving. For legal reasons, Wayne Saunders wanted Fish and Game officers first on the scene. Forest Service personnel responded to the fire station and started working on identification based on the wallet Kevin had retrieved from the Log Cabin. For us in the valley, it was time to wait. Coffee was brewing and we had good communication with the teams. Barbara could talk to Kevin on the RMC frequency, and then relay information to me.

It was just getting dark when both teams arrived simultaneously at Edmands Col. After exploring the area and finding nothing, the rescuers descended the Castle Ravine headwall and found the victim closer to the bottom than we had been led to believe. Since he was so far down the headwall, it was decided to evacuate out by the Castle Ravine Trail to Bowman instead of by the Randolph Path and Lowe's Path. The Castle Ravine Trail is long and rough, with several brook crossings, which were not frozen due to the warm winter.

Most people do not realize how many rescuers it takes to get someone out of the mountains. On an easy carry, there are six people on a litter, taking turns, so you need three groups of six – eighteen people. This was not going to be an easy one. More calls were put out for help. As people returned home from work or guiding, they responded, ascending Lowe's Path and crossing over to Castle Ravine via the Emerald Trail or the Cabin-Cascades Trail. The body was placed in an official body bag and started moving, meeting Kevin with the litter at the junction of the Emerald Trail and the Castle Ravine Trail. The victim was placed in the litter. It was a long, slow night. There is a natural rivalry between the various groups but on a rescue, everyone comes together, safely, efficiently, and with compassion to get the job done – climbers helping climbers.

From the Fire Station we lost contact, both radio and cell phone, as the rescuers descended into Castle Ravine. I drove to Bowman and made radio contact with Mike Pelchat, which I then relayed to the Fire Station. It was a beautiful, crisp winter night with the stars shining brightly, but my thoughts were with the rescuers, struggling through ice, rocks and water in the dark and with the unfortunate victim. I had been there many times in my younger years.

The work proceeded well as more people responded. When they neared the bottom, I hiked into the last big Israel's River crossing to help. I carefully tried to balance on icy rocks in order to not get my feet wet. The other rescuers just splashed through the water; their boots had been filled with water all night.

As the group left the woods it was a most impressive sight to see: thirty-plus headlamps bobbing up and down along the last few hundred feet of the old railroad track at Bowman.

Our poor climber was identified as Timothy Hallock, 54 years old, of Orient, NY. An autopsy showed he had some broken ribs, but had died of hypothermia. Perhaps he had fallen, been hurt and just didn't make it out.

Bill Arnold is a director of the RMC and the chair of its Safety Committee, and a longtime member of Androscoggin Valley Search and Rescue (AVSAR), for which he was named EMS Honoree of the Year by the North Country Public Safety Foundation in 2014.



Heading north on the Gulfside Trail, towards Mt. Jefferson. Carl Herz photo.

Recovery (Herz), continued from page 7

kept the weight off of us, and at times we carefully lowered the body with ropes. Finally, we reached the treeline. It was at this time that other responders began trickling in, including a team with the Gray Knob "Stokes litter". Within three quarters of a mile we were joined by about twenty-five other search and rescue operators.

The energy in the group was remarkable. I was highly impressed with the dedication, professionalism and rapid but informed decision-making that safely led us across the many wide river crossings on the Castle Ravine Trail. Everybody had come to do their best, and they all delivered. One AVSAR responder had driven all the way from Boston to help. With over thirty people directly assisting, we took turns in shifts of six on the litter, where we had snugly secured the body. At the larger crossings, we lined up on either side of the river, and passed the litter across; the people in back moved to the front once they passed it off to continue hauling. I lost count of the river crossings eventually. Many loud voices and headlamps dotted the trail. After many hours, the ground leveled out and the going got quicker. At the last crossing, I saw a familiar face across the bank. It was Bill Arnold! We powered through the river one more time, and finally out through the flat thin forest before arriving at a busy Bowman parking lot. When I looked at my watch, it was a little before 2:00 AM. On the ride back to the fire station, I reflected on the effort and sheer magnitude of the feat; I was quite glad to have been in such good company.

Now when I walk by Edmands Col, I sometimes pause to gaze into the abyss of Castle Ravine. It reminds me not only of the fragility of life, but also the hard work, dedication and hardness of the professionals who volunteer in these efforts.

Castle Ravine Recovery: View from the mountain

Camp caretaker Carl Herz's journal of his participation in the mission to Castle Ravine.

I first received notice of the recovery at Edmands Col from Androscoggin Valley Search and Rescue (AVSAR) at Pinkham Notch around noon on February 28th. I decided to pack my gear and head to White Mountain Cafe to wait on the word. Around 2:00 PM, I got another call saying the recovery would proceed. I met Mike Pelchat and Fish and Game at the fire station, and waited for instructions. It was decided that our team would go up the Auto Road in the Snow Cat and hike across the Gulfside Trail to Edmands Col, to meet with some conservation officers and RMC winter caretaker Kevin Ross. We started up the road around 4:00, reaching the top before 5:00. We were optimistic that we would reach our destination before dark, but as we walked the sun began to set. The weather was favorable; warmer than average temperature with light winds. We reached Edmands Col after nightfall, and began our sweep of the area after our rendezvous with the other conservation officers. The information we'd received suggested we would find what we came for on the Castle Ravine Trail.



The party on the summit of Mt. Washington, at the end of the afternoon. Mike Pelchat photo.

Mike Pelchat and I scouted in front, following tracks. As we moved, we started hiking down the headwall of the ravine itself. About a quarter mile down, Mike Pelchat spotted the victim on the trail. The other five in our group converged, and we realized our only option for extraction was down the headwall and out the Castle Ravine Trail to Bowman. This was just after 7:00 PM. The trail knowledge Kevin and I shared from caretaking enabled us to help Fish and Game direct other responders down the Emerald Trail to intercept us. Fish and Game secured our hiker into a heavy duty body bag.

Although there were only seven of us at this time, we made decent progress down the headwall. I stayed in front with a conservation officer, with one hand on the straps helping to guide the body down, keeping an eye out for the countless snow-covered holes. It was slow but steady. The other rescuers

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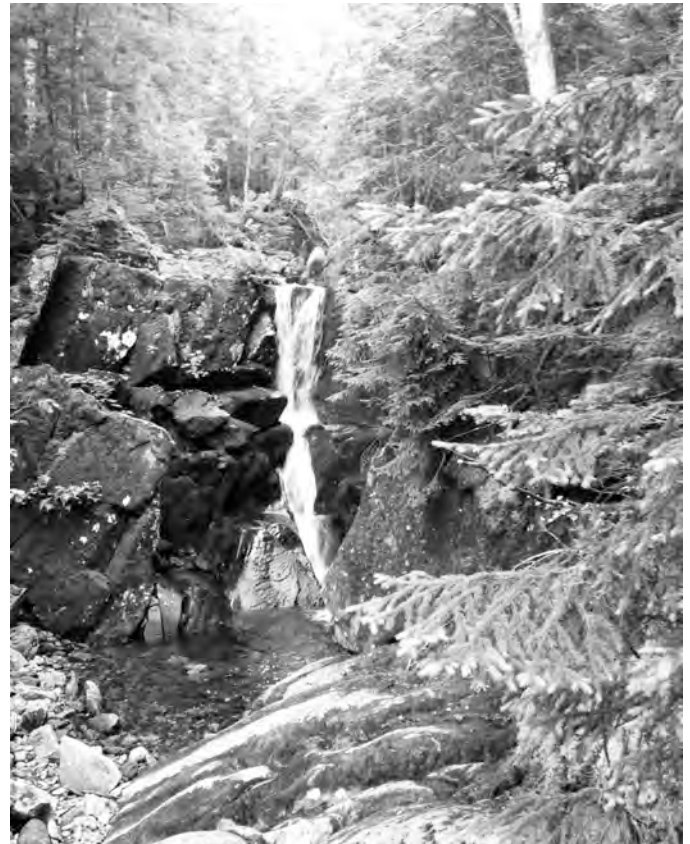
2016 Volunteer Work Trips

by Chris Campbell and Bob Drescher

We look forward to the sixth consecutive season of volunteer work trips on RMC Trails this summer, and encourage you to join us. Below is our tentative schedule; note we are working on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

- **July 13 (Wed.) and 16 (Sat.):** brushing, blazing and possibly some drainage cleaning on the Brookside, if we receive an American Hiking Society grant for work on this trail: the value of our volunteer hours will be part of RMC's matching contribution to the project. President Jamie Maddock has already volunteered to work with us on this trail.
- **July 27 (Wed.):** brushing and blazing the Fallsway.
- **July 30 (Sat.):** brushing and blazing the Vyron D. Lowe Trail (Joanne & Kevin Jones have volunteered to help).
- **August 6 (Sat.) and 13 (Sat.):** brushing and blazing the Cliffway.
- **Aug 17 (Wed.):** a rain date, or work on another trail.

This schedule may change because of weather or changes in priorities. We will update our schedule on the RMC website and in the *Randolph Weekly*. If you have any questions, please contact Chris: campbell@maine.edu, or (207) 356-1123.

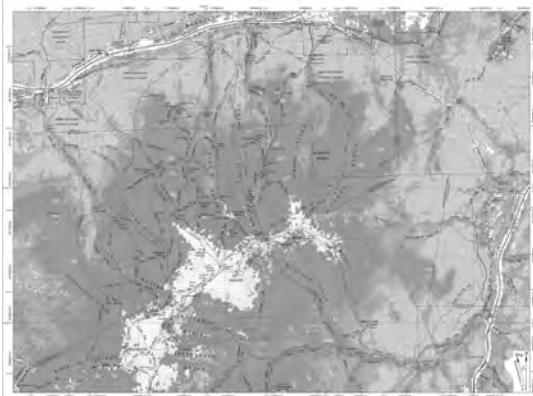


Duck Fall on Snyder Brook, just above the crossing of the Watson Path, where volunteers did trail-clearing work in July and August 2015. Chris Campbell photo.

New Randolph Mountain Club Map

Images and text provided by the 2016 map project committee (members in last paragraph)

Accompanying the 2016 edition of *Randolph Paths* is a new map in the back pocket, now titled “Randolph Valley and the Northern Peaks of the Presidential Range”. While the map (*below left*) includes the guidebook’s updates to trails, land ownership and other geographic information, more noticeable is its overall redesign, in comparison to the editions of 2005 and 1996 (*below right*).



The area traditionally shown on the RMC map has been divided in two, with the “Hill” side (the town of Randolph and the Crescent Range) on one side of the sheet, and the “Mountain” side (Mts. Madison, Adams and Jefferson) on the other. The Randolph Valley, with the trailheads along Durand Road and U.S. Route 2, appears on both sides. Since the map sheet is the same size as the previous editions, the two-sided map is printed at a larger scale and with a smaller contour interval, and displays denser sections of the trail network with more accuracy and higher resolution. Also for the first time, the map uses color to indicate types of forest areas, with a darker green for conifers and a lighter green for deciduous trees; note that this is completely different from the conventional use of graduated colors to indicate changing elevation. This forest-type overlay significantly increases the amount of information on the map compared to the 2005 edition (which differentiated between forest and non-forest only) and the 1996 edition (which had no such information at all).



Updates to man-made features within the map area include the Randolph Community Forest Trailhead and the RMC’s associated new trails and trail changes, the Community Forest’s new interpretive trail current boundaries and logging roads, other protected land areas abutting the RCF and WMNF, the bike trails in Moose Brook State Park, the route of the overhead power lines south of Route 2, and seasonal-use information about the Presidential Rail Trail.

The RMC thanks Jonathan Hall for the many hours he has put into designing and creating the new map. We are grateful also for the collaboration and assistance of Doug Mayer, Jim Anderson, Dwight Bradley, Jamie Maddock, Carl Herz, and Judy Hudson.



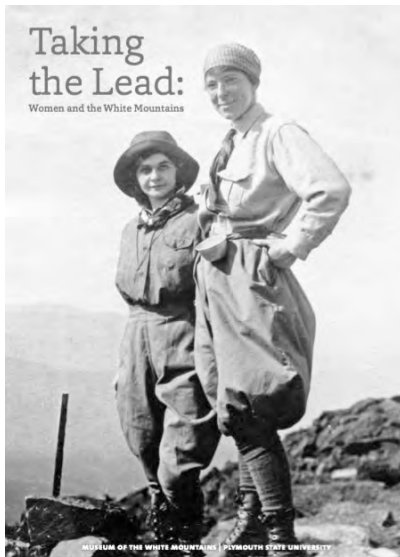
Lead a Trip this Summer!

By Barbara Cutter and Brian Roberts, Trips co-chairs

Again in 2016, the call goes out for leaders of the RMC Tuesday and Thursday trips, between July 4th and the end of August. If you can hike, you can lead a hike! Tuesday trips are traditionally less strenuous; the Thursday ones more so.

To sign up, please contact either of us: Barbara Cutter, (319) 290-4404 or cutter.barbara@gmail.com; or Brian Roberts (319) 290-4406; or look for us at the Fourth of July Tea. Updated information about all trips will appear in the Randolph Weekly and on the “Event Schedule” page of the RMC website.

RMC bushwhackers at Lowe’s Store, preparing for the ascent of Mt. Lowe on July 23, 2015; trip led by Steve Weber. Renee Dunham photo.



On the cover of the exhibit catalog, *Walk of the Range, AMC Walk, 1917*; courtesy of Appalachian Mountain Club Library and Archives.

Exhibit at the Museum of the White Mountains

By Randy Meiklejohn

Following its 2015 exhibit *Trail Clubs: Connecting People with the White Mountains*, the Museum of the White Mountains has now recently opened its new exhibit, titled *Taking the Lead: Women and the White Mountains*. As with last year's exhibit, which prominently featured RMC maps, signs, photographs and other artifacts (and which was the subject of an article in the June 2015 issue of this newsletter), the new exhibit again includes contributions from our area of the mountains, and contains much to interest RMC members and Randolph residents. More information at the museum website, www.plymouth.edu/museum-of-the-white-mountains.

Also at the website you can find a downloadable copy of the 64-page exhibit catalog, which acknowledges RMC members June Hammond Rowan and Judy Hudson for their editing and research contributions. Both the catalog and the exhibit include photographs, artwork, correspondence and objects from many other RMC and Randolph sources past and present, including Eldena Leighton Hunt, Mary Perkins Osgood Cutter, Miriam O'Brien Underhill, Peter Rowan, Ginny Folsom Umiker, and Alan Lowe, and images from the Guy L. Shorey Collection of the Mount Washington Observatory. A copy of the catalog is available at the Randolph Public Library, along with those of the Museum's other yearly exhibits since its opening in February 2013.

The Museum is located on the campus of Plymouth State University in Plymouth NH and is open Monday to Friday from 10:00 to 5:00, and Saturday 11:00 to 4:00. The exhibit is open from April 7 to October 7, 2016, and admission is free.

I grew up on the North Road in Shelburne, NH. My dad worked as a chemical engineer at the then Brown Company, and I am the oldest of four children. After my siblings and I had entered high school, my mom taught English and later was a journalist/column writer for the Berlin Reporter and Conway Daily Sun.

Our whole family have hiked and skied since we were old enough to walk. My father was one of the founding members of the Gorham Outing Club, and they had a rope tow and small base lodge at a small ski hill just east of the Town & Country Inn for quite a few years. He taught ski lessons there, and later when I was in high school I taught also. I went on to attend the University of New Hampshire and raced on their alpine team.

I worked at Pinkham Notch Camp in the late 60's...a natural for someone from a hiking family. This was before girls were on hut crews, and I expect there weren't any female RMC caretakers then either. [*She's right!* - ed.] We of course hiked a lot of the RMC trails over the years too. While working at Pinkham I met my husband Ned Baldwin, a former AMC hutman, and we continued the hiking and skiing tradition with our son.

Ned and I moved to North Conway in 1979. I had studied art at UNH, and in 1980 started a custom picture framing shop and art gallery for my landscape paintings in North Conway. I loved all the elements of running a business, including teaching myself bookkeeping and tax preparation. We lived there until 2006, when we sold the business and moved back to my parents' house to take care of my mom.

My connection to RMC? Well, my brother Page was in the same class as Paul Cormier. They learned to rock climb together, and later Ned and I crossed paths with Paul and Michele many times. Recently, Michele asked me if I would consider a bookkeeping job for the RMC, as I had done all the books for my business and did a short stint at the Randolph Town office to help them out for a few months.

I don't hike as much as I used to, since I've had to use a cane ever since an operation on my leg in 1992. I still downhill and xc-ski a bit, and do short hikes. My two Welsh Corgi dogs get me out into the woods a lot, and hiking Mt. Crag in my back yard is one of my favorites. I also love going up the Fallsway and down the Valley Way for a short taste of Nature's best. Currently I volunteer for the Forest Service, giving trail information at the Gorham Ranger Station, and I continue to do landscape paintings. Working for the RMC gives me a welcome connection to those who live in, visit, and love the mountains and this area.

Meet the RMC Bookkeeper

Sally Dinsmore Baldwin spoke recently with the editor.



Sally in winter, on top of Mt. Crag in Shelburne. Courtesy photo.

Science field work along Lowe's Path - update

University of Maine graduate student Connor Wood gave a preview of his field research project in the June 2015 issue of this newsletter; here, he reports on his findings.

After thirteen great days on Lowe's Path last July—part of two summers along the AT from Mt. Adams to Avery Peak in Maine—I've completed the field component of my Master's research. The project, which was based at the University of Maine-Orono, had two major questions: first, does dietary variation in small mammal populations increase community stability, and, second, what drives the abundance of the most common species?

The connection between diet and stability may not be obvious, but imagine if everyone in your town ate nothing but pizza. That sounds great...until the pizza place closes. Some people might make pizza from scratch, but most people simply pack up and leave. If everyone had eaten different things, the closing of the pizza place would not have affected the town's population nearly as severely. The same is true in the natural world: if mice have very similar diets, fluctuations in their food sources—like beech nuts—may cause dramatic changes to their populations.

My technicians and I collected hair samples from the Deer Mice and Southern Red-Backed Voles we captured, and subsequent laboratory and statistical analyses allowed us to compare the levels of variation in the two species' diet. We found that the voles had greater variation than the mice and, consequently, had more stable populations. Furthermore, the stability of these two species, which are highly abundant, influenced the stability of their entire small mammal communities.



Top: a small mammal trap, with Mt. Jefferson beyond. Above: A deer mouse with an ear tag and hair clip. C. Wood photos

Treasurer's Report – 1st quarter, 2016

by Samarjit Shankar, RMC Treasurer

2 Year Profit & Loss Comparison '15 - '16 January through April 2016

	Jan - Apr 16	Jan - Apr 15
Income		
CAMPS	8,495.60	9,177.00
CONTRIBUTIONS	2,507.00	7,132.00
DUES	1,170.00	5,840.00
FUNDRAISERS - EVEN...		2,250.00
INTEREST	40.71	55.90
Over	38.00	
SALES	1,790.31	837.00
TRAILS INCOME	8,322.23	4,000.00
Uncategorized Income	1,357.00	
Total Income	23,720.85	29,291.90
Cost of Goods Sold		
Cost of Goods Sold	9,900.00	
Total COGS	9,900.00	
Gross Profit	13,820.85	29,291.90
Expense		
ADMINISTRATION	1,823.00	1,340.00
CAMP	8,206.31	8,964.19
COMMUNICATIONS		1,092.22
EMPLOYEE HOUSING	851.45	328.07
EVENTS - FUNDRAISE...		1,275.00
Payroll Expenses	597.57	218.62
RADIOS	65.70	1,028.80
SALES EXPENSES	1,334.88	129.57
TRAILS	4,723.34	772.96
Total Expense	17,602.25	15,149.43
Net Income	(3,781.40)	14,142.47

At the same time, we also recorded detailed measurements about the animals' habitat. When we combined that information with the number of animals of each species we captured at each site, we were able to identify the factors that determined the abundance of each species.

We found that overall the availability of potential of food sources (plus, to a lesser extent, habitat structure -- things like canopy cover or number of downed logs) determined abundance. Although food and habitat structure were a common theme, they played out differently for different species. For example, Deer Mice and Woodland Jumping Mice both increased as the number of large deciduous trees increased—suggesting that they both rely on tree seeds like beechnuts. However, Deer Mouse abundance decreased slightly as the number of large coniferous trees increased, while Woodland Jumping Mice increased slightly. This kind of information, as well as the results from the population stability part of the project, can help managers plan for changes in the small mammal community. This is important because the small mammal community has a big influence on plant communities—through seed predation and seed dispersal—and on many different carnivores. More broadly, small mammals are the “lab rats” of wildlife biology: other researchers can use these results as a basis for studying animals that are much more difficult to capture.

Thanks to everyone who shared the trail and the cabins with me! If you have any questions about this research, or would like to see the results when they are formally published, please contact me at: connor.wood@maine.edu. And to learn why ear tags are important, google “wood mckinney canadian field naturalist record movement”.

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.

Welcome new members!

Joined November 2015 – April 2016

- Gary Coyne**, Poestenkill NY
- Paul Godin**, Sandown NH
- Eric Shoag**, Jamaica Plain MA
- Amy Patenaude**, Henniker NH
- Emma Jenkins**, Medford MA
- Dylan Young**, Worcester MA
- Geoffrey Caldwell**, Ashland MA
- Ryan Eyestone**, Portland ME
- Rudolph Bourget**, Weare NH
- Mike Cherim**, Intervale NH
- Peter Cammalleri**, Califon NJ
- Dan Clifford**, Onset MA
- Trisha Mombourquette**, Waltham MA
- Frederick Morin**, Burlington VT
- Will Strouse**, Lakeland FL
- Richard White**, Bolton CT
- Ted Alber**, Huntingdon Vy PA
- Stuart Klein**, Island Park NY
- Mark Rollison**, Bozrah CT



Mike's last step, at the Sylvan Way. Barb Roundy photo.

RMC 100 Finisher

Member Mike Cherim, of Intervale NH, writes:

"I started the RMC 100 inadvertently during a solo Presi traverse by completing the Mt. Jefferson Loop on Aug. 16, 2012. I had done a handful of these trails in the 70's, but for redlining purposes I repeated everything. My final trail was the 0.4 mile section of the Sylvan Way from the Brookbank to the Randolph Path, which I completed on Oct. 25, 2015 with my girlfriend, Barb Roundy. It was at the same time that I closed the "Northerns" section redlining the WMG.

My favorites, for what it's worth and in no real order, are Chemin Des Dames, Subway, Ice Caves Loop, Brookside, King Ravine Trail, Cabin-Cascades, parts of The Link, everything with the word Castle in it, Caps Ridge, the Clay and Jefferson Loops, Scar Loop, Kelton, Inlook, and Ice Gulch Path."

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 challenge and photos of other finishers, click on the "Our Trails" sign at the home page of the RMC website.



Three generations of Phinneys on the trail:
Jamie, Ben and Fred, on Dome Rock in 1990.
Barbara Phinney photo.

Mt. Crescent Society Profile

Established by the board of directors in 2015, the RMC's Mt. Crescent Society recognizes those individuals who have made a bequest or other planned gift to the Club. Among them is Ben Phinney, lifelong member of the Randolph community and President of the club from 1996 to 1999.

“The Randolph Mountain Club has played a very important role in my family’s life for three generations. I cannot think of a better investment in my children’s and grandchildren’s future than to ensure that the RMC will continue to thrive for a very long time.

Accordingly, I have made the RMC a priority in my estate planning and I hope that many others will do the same.”

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Have you included the RMC in your estate plans?

For more information:

www.randolphmountainclub.org/preserve

Or contact a Planned Giving committee member:

Randy Meiklejohn (chair), Kate Hudson, Jamie Maddock, Ben Phinney, John Scarinza or Jim Shannon.