



# Randolph Mountain Club Newsletter

December 2016

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



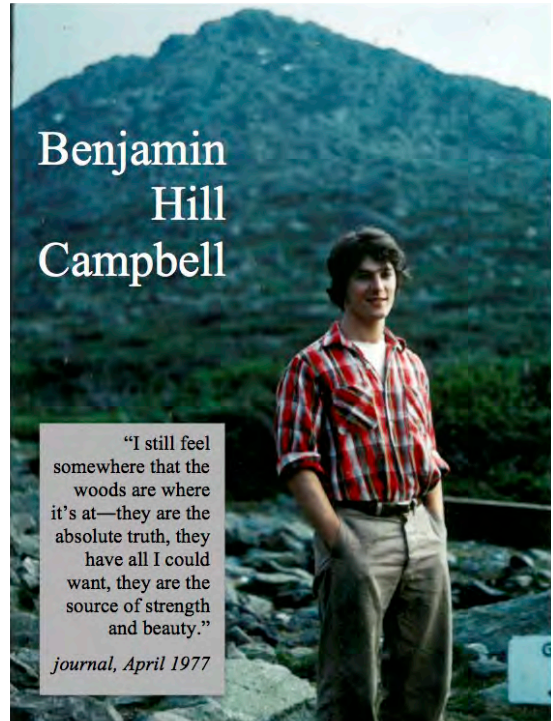
## ASSESSING THE RMC’S TRAILS

by the Trails Committee: Dwight Bradley, Chris Campbell, Bob Drescher, Benzo Harris and Carl Herz

Prior to starting a major project on one of our trails, the RMC undertakes a trail assessment: a comprehensive plan for trail repairs. A trail assessment consists of a list of sites where work is required, specification of the work, site documentation (GPS, elevation, and photographs), and cost estimates. The assessment focuses on the treadway, defined by the Forest Service as two feet of width along the route of a trail. Most of our trail crew’s work is to build features that mitigate treadway erosion, which arises in several ways. Water flowing on the trail removes soil, especially where hikers have disrupted the surface and on steeper trail sections where water flow is rapid. When trails are eroded, wet and muddy, hikers tend to step off the treadway, damage adjacent vegetation, and expand erosion. The most common remedy for erosion of RMC trails is a water bar. The Amphibrach, for example, which is heavily used and crosses slopes with flowing water, has a water bar about every hundred feet. Another common deterrent to erosion when trails ascend slopes is rock staircases. Rock water bars, rock staircases, and other treadway repair techniques are collectively called “trail hardening” because they usually use rocks to limit trail erosion.

*Continued on page 7*

Conditions on the Watson Path, summer 2016.  
Cheryl Byrne photo.



## BENJAMIN HILL CAMPBELL MEMORIAL FUND

by Randy Meiklejohn

In 2016, the RMC board of directors voted to approve the club’s newest named fund, in memory of Ben Campbell (1956-1980) and named the Benjamin Hill Campbell Memorial Fund. Ben’s sister Martha Campbell Gellens has made a significant bequest to the Club in her will, and also an initial donation to establish the new fund. Over several months in 2015 and early 2016, Martha met and communicated with members of the RMC Planned Giving Committee to develop the proposal to the board, which includes a condition that spending from the fund be directed towards capital projects on the RMC trail network and/or capital projects at the RMC camps.

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Above, Ben Campbell in 1977 at Madison Spring Hut, on the front of the card distributed at the 2016 Fourth of July Tea and the Annual Meeting to introduce the new fund.  
Photo courtesy of Martha Campbell Gellens.

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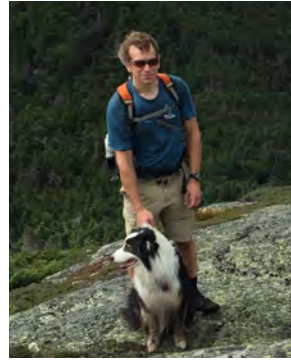
**Randolph Mountain Club 2016-2017**

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committee chairs and life members

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<b>Vice President</b>	Kate Hudson, Pelham MA
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<b>Planned Giving:</b>	Randy Meiklejohn
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<b>Work Trips:</b>	Chris Campbell, Bob Drescher
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<b>Life members:</b>	Bill & Barbara Arnold Paula Bradley Louis & Ann Cutter Al & Judy Hudson Edith Tucker

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](http://www.randolphmountainclub.org)

*From the President ...*

Greetings to RMC members, as the end of 2016 approaches. I'm a few months into my second year as club President, and I want to share some news about the busy summer and fall we've had, some of it described in more detail elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter. I hope you will join us in 2017 on a hike, a volunteer work trip or at a social event, to meet other members of the Randolph community, to learn what the RMC is doing, and to find out how you can get involved in our work.

Please join me in thanking the six new directors elected by club members at the 2016 Annual Meeting in August (*page 4*). The group includes summer residents, year-round residents, former RMC employees and members from outside Randolph, and they bring a great set of skills and experience to the board. Just one example: new director Katie Kelly is very knowledgeable about the finances of non-profit organizations, and she has already been working alongside bookkeeper Sally Dinsmore Baldwin to modernize the club's bookkeeping practices. Thanks to Barb Phinney for leading an extensive Nominating process this spring and summer, and thanks especially to outgoing directors for their service: Bill Arnold, George Brown, Meg Hoffer, Barb Phinney, Nate Shedd and Jim Shannon.

After their launch at the Fourth of July Tea, the new map and guidebook are out and selling well. We have received quite a bit of positive feedback about the new map format, which has north of Route 2 on one side and south on the other side, allowing for more detail in each map. The update also allowed us to include the new Randolph Community Forest trailhead and trail changes on Randolph Hill.

At the camps this fall, veterans Hannah Marshall and Cheryl Byrne were our caretakers, and the good weekend weather in September and October brought plenty of overnight guests up the trail. Hannah played a key role in a rescue of an injured hiker on Mt. Madison (*see page 3*). In February 2016 our camps employees had assisted in a hiker recovery (*see June 2016 issue*), at the end of which our already old and well-used Stokes litter was declared ready for retirement. Bill Arnold prepared a grant proposal for replacing it with a lightweight titanium model, and I'm pleased to announce that the New Hampshire Outdoor Council will be providing the funding.

Beyond the current year's operations, more long-term planning continues, through the growth of the Mt. Crescent Society and the establishment of the Ben Campbell Fund, the assessment of future trails projects, and a multi-year plan for maintenance and repair of the camps and our other buildings. I'm very grateful this year to the Campbell family for their generosity, and to Sara Fauquier for the donation in memory of her parents Jim and Harriet Baldwin. Please consider joining them by including an additional donation when you renew your membership early next year.

Wishing you all a Happy 2017 -

Above: Jamie on Goose Eye, August 2016, with Guyot.  
R. Meiklejohn photo.

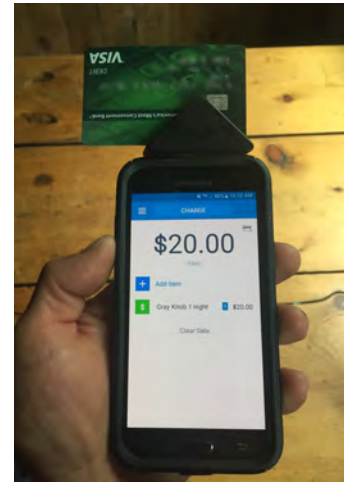


## Please Swipe Now: Credit Cards at the RMC Camps

By Carl Herz

Forgot to bring cash up the mountain? No problem! The RMC is pleased to announce that we can now process credit card payments at the camps, using a PayPal card reader plugged into a smartphone. The club has been experimenting with this capability since spring 2016, with excellent results to date. Even if the physical card is not in hand, we can type in the card number, expiration date and cvv code to validate the card and process the payment.

At the RMC camps, we've always offered overnight space only on a first-come, first-served basis; thus all payments are still received on site by the caretakers, rather than through a reservation system. Credit card payment is a convenient option for our guests, and reduces the amount of cash to be carried down by the caretakers. Better fee collection helps us keep the fees affordable for all! Some guests have decided to become members or buy merchandise while they have their card out, and the club has also used the card readers for merchandise sales at events such as the Fourth of July Tea. Credit card payment has been a win-win-win for the club, our members and our camp guests!



### Mt. Madison Rescue

Press release from NH Fish & Game Dept., noting the participation of RMC fall caretaker Hannah Marshall

October 21, 2016, Low & Burbank's Grant – An injured hiker was helped off of Mt. Madison today after injuring his lower leg the previous day. Officials say that 29-year old Lane Huntington of Lyman was on the 2nd day of a multiday attempt to traverse the northern Presidential Range when the injury occurred. Lane was descending the summit of Mt. Madison Thursday afternoon when he twisted his ankle. He was able to hike down to the Madison Spring Hut where he contacted authorities reporting the injury. He decided to spend the night in his tent and sleeping bag beside the hut (which has been closed for the winter) with the intention of trying to hike out the next day.

Huntington awoke in the morning and could not bear weight on his leg, so contacted family members to call for help. Rescue personnel from Fish and Game, Randolph Mountain Club (RMC), Androscoggin Valley Search and Rescue (AVSAR), Pemi Valley Search and Rescue (PEMI SAR) and U.S. Forest Service LEO were mobilized and assisted in the rescue.

The RMC Caretaker from the Gray Knob Shelter was the first one on scene, providing first aid and determining that Mr. Huntington was still able to walk. With a positive attitude and encouragement she was able to get Huntington on his feet and start guiding him down Valley Way Trail towards the other responding rescuers.

After over 7 hours of steady hiking, Huntington and the rescue crew made it out to the Appalachia trail head parking lot at approximately 7:15 p.m. where he was evaluated by Gorham EMS and signed off not wanting to be transported to a hospital.



### RMC Social Events

By Jenn Scarinza

The summer of 2016 was another wonderful time celebrating our club with friends and neighbors. We were so fortunate to have beautiful weather for all of our summer events! Thanks to everyone who participated, promoted and volunteered to help make our activities successful. From the Fourth of July Tea to the Gourmet Hike and Dinner at Libby's, to the Picnic and Charades and the Square Dance, record numbers of members and guests turned out to enjoy the fun. Thank you to outgoing co-chair Barbara Phinney for her years of dedication, making our events extra-special. Welcome to Franklin Stone Wenk, who has joined me as Social co-chair. Our first event of the new year will be a repeat of last year's popular "Cabin Fever Reliever" square dance, likely in March, so watch for further details!

At RMC social events in 2016: Top, director Benzo Harris, field crew leader Brian Behr and crew member Dylan Young at the Tea. Bottom, Ted May and others on Pine Mt. at the Gourmet Hike; Jenn Scarinza photos.

### nhmagazine.com

BEST OF NH FALL & FOLIAGE CALENDAR BEER FOOD PEOPLE HEALTH ARTS & SHOWS

New Hampshire Magazine - October 2012 10 Great Foliage Hikes in NH

#### 10 Great Foliage Hikes in NH

Tips for a great autumn hike

STORY BY TOM LONG AND STACY MILBOUER



Soon leaf peepers will fill our roads as they flock to New Hampshire to witness the turning of the leaves, but we know a

#### Hike 1: Presidential Visage

Ledge Trail, Randolph

Length: 1.3 miles to overlook

Elevation Gain: 1,000 feet

Time: 1 1/2 hours to the overlook

Highlight: View of the Presidential Range



Did you see more hikers than usual on the Ledge Trail this fall? It could have been because it was listed as "Hike 1" in *New Hampshire Magazine* for foliage hikes, and featured on their website (screen shots above).

## New RMC Directors

*At the 2016 Annual Meeting in August, six RMC members were elected to serve as club directors, for new terms of one year (CH), two years (BD) and three years (PAK, KK, RM, FSW). Below are excerpts from the biographies of each, submitted by 2016 Nominating Committee chair and departing director Barbara Phinney.*



**Pete Antos-Ketcham** got his start with RMC at the age of twenty-two when he began filling in as a winter caretaker at Gray Knob. In the following years he worked with the club to help upgrade the camps' composting toilet systems, and was the lead author and editor of the *Appalachian Trail Conservancy / Green Mountain Club Backcountry Sanitation Manual* featuring case studies on the RMC Camps. In 2009 he became an RMC director, began overseeing the historic renovation of the Perch, and then became chair of the Camps committee. Pete has twenty-three years of experience in natural resources planning and administration as well as outdoor education, and is a former SOLO Wilderness Medical Instructor and a certified Leave No Trace Educator. He lives with his wife Katie and nine-year-old twins Bailey and Carter in Starksboro, VT.



**Bob Drescher** spent his first eighteen years on Long Island, NY's South Shore, fishing and clamming with his father on the weekends. After graduating from college, he followed his future wife and her family to Barnstead, NH, where they settled into a 250-year-old farmhouse. While working on the old house, he began to learn the basics of plumbing, electrical and structural work, and later moved into installation and servicing of commercial refrigeration and HVAC systems, a career from which he's now retiring. He has spent a good part of the last twelve years hiking year round in the White Mountains and kayaking in coastal NH and ME. Drawn to Randolph by the local trail network and hiking community, Bob has been an RMC member for seven years and is entering his fifth season of volunteer trail work.



**Carl Herz** grew up in Massachusetts and fell in love with the mountains during his time at Colby-Sawyer College in NH. Graduating with a degree in environmental science, he moved to Waltham, MA to work for environmentally-focused companies and in skilled trade work. After five years of city living, he decided to return to the mountains. During his first season as an RMC caretaker, he became a certified Wilderness First Responder, expanding to become a four-season responder for AVSAR and an Alpine Steward for the USFS. His latest pursuits involve setting up a phenology research program that will provide observational data valuable for climate science. In his spare time, Carl enjoys photography, gardening and hiking. You might also find him relaxing at SAaLT, or busy with paperwork at White Mountain Cafe.



**Kathleen Kelley** first made her way to the mountains after college, spending every weekend hiking in the Whites, Greens and Adirondacks. In 1988, she retired as a CPA and as the University Auditor of Brown University in order to join her husband Mark in a family lumber-manufacturing business, and to begin life with the first of four children in Randolph, NH. She realized that she had a passion for improving the economic opportunities of young women in Northern New England, a region with a long history of under-employed and under-educated women. Kathleen has served as the chair of many economic, community and public school development projects since 1990. She runs a successful development practice dedicated to improving the sustainability of nonprofits in Northern New England.



**Randy Meiklejohn** is a lifelong member of the Randolph community and of the RMC, and his parents and his grandmother served on the board of directors before him. During his two recent terms as an RMC director from 2009-15, he worked on the club centennial in 2010 (including the RMC 100 challenge), served as club Secretary and as President, and currently he continues to be the Newsletter editor and the chair of the Planned Giving Committee. In returning to the board, he looks forward to working on the club's projects in communications, policies, records/archives and long-term planning. In Randolph he lives on Durand Road, and when not in Randolph, he manages an architecture, planning and preservation firm in Boston, where he lives with his wife Diane Sokal. Fun fact: "Randolph" is – literally – his middle name.



**Franklin Stone Wenk** has been coming to Randolph since 1985, when she first hiked Mt. Jefferson with her future in-laws, Martha and Howard Wenk. A transplanted Southerner, she has now come to love the rocky slopes and summit views of the White Mountains. Franklin lives most of the year in New York, and has been involved in many aspects of the city's civic and cultural life. She currently serves as board chair of the NY State Committee on Open Government and CHIPS soup kitchen in Brooklyn. She has worked as an Assistant US Attorney in the Southern District of NY, as a litigation partner with the law firm of Hunton & Williams and as Executive Director of Common Good, a nonprofit legal think tank. In Randolph she lives on Randolph Hill Road with her husband David and daughter Anne.



## Remembrance of Ben Campbell

By Martha Campbell Gellens

My youngest brother, Ben, was born when I was eight, old enough to help feed him and tell him bedtime stories. Despite the gap in our ages, those early years cemented, for me, a strong bond that felt like a thin wire connecting us across time and space. Once I was off to college, we would meet here and there, especially in Randolph. I would look on agape as he consumed huge amounts of fuel after backpacking supplies up to whatever camp he was at that summer, and I would hear about his life in the mountains, and his increasing desire to live among them. So his plans to spend time in the mountains of Scotland, starting in late March 1980, came as no surprise. His sudden, fatal fall hiking down Mt. Bidean-nam-Bian in Scotland's Lost Valley, early on the afternoon of May 16, 1980, his last day there, was devastating to his family and his friends. Even as I write this, the agony of having lost him, of not seeing his life unfold over the last three decades, feels fresh.

His journals were copious, the last entry written early on the morning he died. His entry two days earlier was poignant yet practical: *"When I return to Randolph (hmmm—how foreign but distantly, then suddenly bright and proximally that name seems—raw radiant image of the house and field and view of Crescent bright in my mind!) I will clean and fully dry the poor things [Limmer boots] and really wash my stank socks."* These words bring him back clearly to my mind's eye. Like my brothers Ash, Chris, Gord and Phil, Ben started out working on the RMC's trail crew. He was then caretaker at Crag Camp. He was a crew member at Greenleaf Hut in 1977. He was Assistant Hutmaster at Lake of the Clouds in 1978, Caretaker at Carter Notch during the winter of 1978–1979 and Hutmaster at Greenleaf in 1979. He was to have been Hutmaster at Lakes the summer of 1980. Instead, that summer friends constructed four tent platforms in his memory at the Perch, and the Crescent Ridge Trail, one of Ben's favorites, was cleared and maintained. A handcrafted oak door was hung at Carter Notch Hut in his memory; his precious Limmers were nailed up at Lakes. In Pinkham's dining room, high up on the wall of glass windows is a long, narrow stained-glass sculpture my mother, Chen Sun Campbell, created in his memory.

In their December 1980 entry in *Appalachia* in December 1980, Ben's close friends Will Small and David Warren wrote wonderfully of his legacy: "Ben's quest to understand himself created an atmosphere of patience and openness in his dealings with others. He will be remembered for his gentle manner, unique sense of humor, love of the wilds, and service to his fellow man." Now, many years later, I hope the Benjamin Hill Campbell Memorial Fund will help keep the memory of this remarkable, dearly loved young man vibrant in the mountains he loved so deeply.



Above, Ben Campbell at Lakes of the Clouds Hut; center, in Scotland, 1980; left, at a wedding at High Acres in Randolph. Photos courtesy of Martha Gellens.



### Ben Campbell Fund, continued from page 1

This new fund continues a strong club tradition of honoring our members by investing in the future of our camps and trails, and it joins our two other active named funds: the Arthur Stanley Pease Fund (an endowment fund established in 1964) and the Andrew Stuart Tucker Fund (for trails protection and easements, established in 1995).

Ben Campbell's connection to the mountains began with the RMC, and Martha hopes the fund will encourage awareness of his life and generate support for the RMC in ways that he would have appreciated. Members of the Campbell family and others in Randolph have followed Martha's lead in making donations, and the growing fund was first introduced to the membership at the 2016 Fourth of July Tea and at the Annual Meeting.

Contributions to the fund may be sent by mail to the RMC, PO Box 179, Gorham NH 03581, or made online at the RMC website; at the home page, click on Join the Club, then scroll down to Additional RMC Donation and select "Ben Campbell Fund" from the pull-down menu; or contact Randy Meiklejohn, chair of the Planned Giving Committee, at [RMeiklejohn@verizon.net](mailto:RMeiklejohn@verizon.net).

## RMC Trails

*from George Brown's Annual Meeting report*

In summer and fall 2016, the RMC trail crew completed several significant improvements, including trail hardening and erosion control on the Randolph Path where it coincides with the Short Line, and on the Watson Path. The crew also continued to cut another section of the new trail to the Crystal Mine site in the Randolph Community Forest. Smaller projects included work on RCF's Interpretive Trail, native bog bridges on the Cook Path, repairs to a short section of the Ice Gulch Path and some bog bridges on the Randolph Path. Many thanks to for third-year Field Supervisor Cheryl Byrne and her crew of eight, whose diligent efforts and high-quality workmanship continue the club's strong tradition of trail construction, maintenance and repair. As in previous years, we worked closely with our partners in the Randolph Community Forest and White Mountain National Forest, and are grateful for funding assistance from both organizations. In addition, the RMC again received a grant from the Four Thousand Footer Committee of the AMC for our work on the Randolph Path.



Left, trail crew leader Brian Behr at work on a rock staircase on the Randolph Path; below, at another location on the Randolph Path, a completed staircase. Cheryl Byrne photos.



## RMC Camps

*from Pete Antos-Ketcham's Annual Meeting report*

In fall 2016 we undertook two major projects at the camps, one a short-term construction project, and the other a longer-term planning project. The first was to install four bark mulch sheds for the composting toilets at the camps. Because these sheds will allow us to store more mulch, we can go from two airlifts a season down to one, resulting in significant cost savings. John Tremblay built the sheds in his shop this summer, and they were then disassembled and flown into the camps in September (along with more bark mulch and the winter's supply of Bio-bricks). We acquired our mulch for the 2016 - 2017 season this past spring from the AMC, and have been storing it in Dwight Bradley's barn to dry – thank you Dwight! And thanks to Cheryl Byrne, Hannah Marshall, Carl Herz and Becca Doll for assembling and filling the sheds.

For the longer term, we have begun to create a comprehensive list of short-term and long-term projects for the camps. The purpose of this effort is to help us develop a capital plan for the camps that can help us with planning, permitting, and most importantly fundraising. On that last point, this plan will be required if we are to apply for future funding from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) or the National Park Service. We have contracted RMC master builder John Tremblay to assist us with developing the camps capital plan. This fall's task was to tour the camps this fall with John and go through each one thoroughly to develop the plan. Next, we'll work with him to determine anticipated costs for each project.

For 2017, we know that there is additional door and window replacement work to complete at both Crag Camp and Gray Knob. We are also exploring the possibility of additional solar photovoltaic power at the camps that could power some basic lighting for staff and guests, in addition to powering our radios. Adding a few modest LED fixtures could mean less dependence on liquid fuel lamps for lighting inside the camps, which would both improve camp air quality and also reduce risk of fire.

Below, left to right: base platform for one of the new bark mulch storage sheds, at the Log Cabin; Becca Doll assembling the side walls of a shed; Carl Herz's pack with the new outhouse hopper for the Log Cabin, in August. C. Herz photos.





## From the RMC Archives

by Judy & Al Hudson

For the RMC's photographic Archive, we are continuing to collect photographs of Randolph's people and places. This past summer we've received items for scanning from the Furness, Cutter, Rising, and Wenk families — gifts to the Archive as well as loans of photographs.

The Furness family gave us some old photos, postcards, and an album beginning with Anne and George's parents on their honeymoon. Married in 1923, the newlyweds apparently "saw the Ravine House with flowers, stopped, turned around, and stayed." A single photo of special interest (*top right*) was "Mt. Washington from Mt. Monroe, NH. Aug 21, 1896 Compliments of Alexis H. French." (French, from Brookline, Massachusetts, was a wealthy man and also something of a mapmaker.) Four gentlemen pose with their makeshift tent on the east side of Mt. Monroe, with the summit of Mt. Washington in the background.



Al has scanned more Cutter family photographs courtesy of Edith Tucker. Among photos taken by her uncle Ammi are views from Lookout Ledge. Shown here is "Louis and Ann at the Ledge, 1941." ("Ann" was a young woman visiting from England.) A same-day photo across to Madison and Adams will be used to support the Club's application to the WMNF for permission to clear some growth around Dome Rock, thus improving the view. We are working our way through the collections of Howard and Martha Wenk, looking for early shots of other view-sheds that need clearing.



To illustrate Al's newest transcription project, the 1882-1912 diaries of Francis Wood, we have also scanned photos from the extensive "Broadacres" archives, courtesy of Nancy Penney.

Please keep the photos and memorabilia coming!

### *Trail Assessments, continued from first page*



Carl Herz on Lowe's Path. Chris Campbell photo.

Assessments of trails in the White Mtn. National Forest are reviewed and approved by the Forest Service. This step is important to the Club's chances of getting funding grants from other organizations, because the Forest Service's approval indicates that the project is "shovel ready". The RMC is heavily dependent upon grants for trail work; from 2010 to 2015, an average of 45% (range 36 to 54%) of RMC trail maintenance costs was covered by grants. Costs of trail repairs are based on the estimated time required by a four-person trail crew; a rock water bar, for example, typically requires about half a week. Over the past three summers, former RMC trail committee chair George Brown, with help from the RMC trail committee, completed trail assessments of the Amphibrach, Brookside, Israel Ridge Path, Short Line, and Watson Path plus a nearly complete assessment of Lowe's Path. These trails are among the most eroded of all RMC trails because they are heavily used and steep.

The Israel Ridge Path assessment calls for twelve rock water bars, eight rock staircases, two wood ladders, and other repairs. This plan was the core of the RMC's grant proposal that was recently funded by the N.H. Recreational Trails Program for \$26,240.00, the largest-ever award for the Club's trail work. The work will be performed in 2017. The RTP grant stipulates an RMC match of \$7,450.00, a good portion of which we hope to provide with volunteer work on the IRP, as we did in 2014 for the Four Soldiers Path. Contact Chris Campbell ([campbell@maine.edu](mailto:campbell@maine.edu); 207-356-1123) if you want to volunteer on this project.

## Welcome new members!

*Joined May - November 2016*

**Carrie Crosby**, Meredith NH  
**Dan O'Connor**, Fairfield CT  
**David Clarke**, Marblehead MA  
**Polly Murray**, Cambridge MA  
**John Lawlor**, E. Providence RI  
**Gary Fraser**, Marblehead MA  
**Eric Plasse**, Conway MA  
**Steven Barbour**, Barre VT  
**Theodore Pratchio**, St. John's FL  
**Cornelia Tarrant**, Marion MA  
**Blake Trocki**, Concord NH  
**Shawn Allen**, W. Whately MA  
**Harriet Perrine**, The Plains VA  
**David Priester**, Ithaca NY  
**Jason Laflamme**, Concord NH  
**Dylan Costa**, N. Kingston RI  
**Heidi Jackson**, Chelmsford MA  
**Arthur Viens**, N. Sandwich NH  
**Polly Herz**, Bedford MA  
**Howard Drescher**, Mansfield Ctr. CT  
**Guy Compagnone**, Waltham MA  
**Thomas Szilagyi**, Taunton MA  
**Philip Walsh**, Cambridge MA  
**Annie Lawson**, Burlington VT  
**Thomas Howard**, Westport CT  
**Jeff Carlson**, Boston MA  
**Raymond & Susan Masse**, Dover NH  
**Jennifer Nefedov**, S. Hadley MA  
**Julie Lepage**, Lorraine, QC  
**Michael Verville**, Brunswick ME  
**Larry Petrillo**, Springfield VT  
**Don Reichler**, W. Simsbury CT  
**Daniel Fontana**, Stoneham MA  
**Jean Lambert**, Norfolk VA  
**Michael Keene**, Ipswich MA  
**Nicole Aucoin**, Somerville MA  
**Anne Post**, South Berwick ME  
**Nancy Rapoport**, Whitefield NH  
**Abby Nourse Van Meter & Ian Benton**, N. Conway NH  
**Carl Herz**, Bedford MA  
**Jim Bidwell**, Worcester MA  
**Mike Myers**, Waterbury Ctr. VT  
**Howard Kay**, Montreal, QC  
**Caitlin Quinn**, Tunbridge VT  
**Stephen Treat**, Dresler PA  
**David & Faith Wood**, Manchester CT  
**Mollie Landers**, Pembroke NH  
**Carolyn Civitarese**, S. Portland ME  
**David Tosten**, Shippensburg PA  
**Chris Brown**, Jericho VT  
**James Walsh**, Clinton NY  
**Andrew Mullen**, Carlisle MA  
**Meri Witzel**, Milford NH  
**Michael Whaland**, Lancaster NH  
**Bob White**, N. Conway NH  
**Robert Hartmann**, Binghamton NY  
**Keith Watling**, Southborough MA  
**Dave Makris**, Poughkeepsie NY



## 2016 Volunteer Work Trips

*by Chris Campbell and Bob Drescher*

In 2016, RMC trail volunteers worked on eleven separate RMC trails.

We brushed 7.0 miles of trails:

- Brookside (July 13 and 16)
- Fallsway (July 27)
- Vyron D. Lowe Trail (July 30)
- Wood Path (July 20)
- Cliffway (August 6)
- Ledge Trail (September 22)
- Notchway (October 3, 9).

We blazed 7.3 miles of trails:

- Brookside (July 13 and 16)
- Fallsway (July 27)
- Kelton Trail (August 27, Sept. 4)
- Vyron D. Lowe Trail (July 30)
- Ledge Trail (September 22).

We also worked on a section of Lowe's Path (August 17) where hikers, in response to icy trail conditions last winter, formed new side trails that are eroding and degrading the adjacent forest. We helped complete trail assessments (*see article on trail assessments in this newsletter*) of the Amphibrach (1.9 miles) and Short Line (1.9 miles) and nearly completed an assessment of Lowe's Path (3.2 miles). These assessments are important components of successful proposals for funding work by the RMC trail crew. Finally, we repaired the Peeko Folsom Memorial Bridge on the Bee Line (Oct. 21-29).

We thank also these twelve other volunteers:

- Dwight Bradley
- George Brown
- Dorothy Corey
- Renee Dunham
- Joanne and Kevin Jones
- Jamie Maddock
- Barb and Ben Phinney
- Tom Straub
- Jeff Wilson
- Zack Urgese.

Together we gave over 300 hours of work to maintain RMC trails and continue a long tradition of volunteerism in the Club. It's an important aspect of RMC culture, and it's also an essential to our efforts in seeking outside grants for trail work, since these often require a match which we can sometimes contribute as volunteer labor.

Former RMC trail crew members also have volunteered their expertise to support RMC trails this year. As RMC trail crew field supervisor for several years, Ben Lieberon has considerable trail-hardening experience, which he voluntarily contributed to train this year's trail crew. Ben, Jenny Baxter, Andy Gagnon, and Tad Pfeffer worked for a total of 24 hours out of the Community Forest Trailhead in an RMC trail crew alumni work day. If you are a former trail crew member and you'd like to participate in future alumni efforts, please contact Andy: ([andrew.gagnon.89@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.gagnon.89@gmail.com)).

Above left: Jeff Wilson and Bob Drescher replacing the wood decking on the Peeko Folsom Memorial Bridge in October; at right, President Jamie Maddock blazing on the Brookside in July. Carl Herz and Chris Campbell photos.



## Crag Camp and Gray Knob, 1964 - 65

By Chris Campbell

During the summers of 1964 and 1965, Crag Camp and Gray Knob underwent major renovations, and for the first time Gray Knob had its own caretaker. Jon Frueh and I had been the RMC trail crew in the two previous years and eagerly moved up to these camps, with Jon at Gray Knob and me at Crag for those two years. We both had connections to Nowell Ridge. Jon's grandfather, Charles C. Torrey, and George F. Moore owned Spur Cabin and cut the Spur Trail and other trails on Nowell Ridge. Jon's mother, Nancy, was RMC president in 1964. My father hiked Nowell Ridge to the summit of Adams at age four or five and the Great Gully Trail on its opening day about ten years later.

Major renovation of Gray Knob (1964) and Crag (1965) included roofs, exterior walls, floors, stoves, and many other internal upgrades. By 1964, Gray Knob had not changed much externally from the early days (*see photo*). The 1964 renovation was a transformation, not only in having a caretaker but also in becoming the best winter camp high in the White Mountains. Its original walls of small trees were evident on the inside but covered in boards and shingles on the outside, and it is where I later stayed on many winter nights. These two camps had been maintained over the years by the RMC and the Town of Randolph, but the 1964 and 1965 repairs were significantly larger and more costly. Also, at that time there was not the potential for grants that there is now. Funds for building material and paying carpenters were raised by appeal to the membership, by performances of *The Reluctant Dragon*, and by a lobster dinner at Gray Knob.

RMC members had packed material for repair of the camps before 1964, and this strong volunteer tradition had to be ramped up in 1964 and 1965 to engage many volunteers. The primary building materials were rolls of roofing (90 pounds), oak flooring (50-pound, eight-foot bundles), cedar shingles (35-pound bundles), doors, stoves, nails, roofing tar, and many other items. Before the packing began, Jon and I made pack boards that were lighter (about 8 pounds) than those used by AMC and had waist straps that were helpful when bending forward to get the flooring under branches. Memorable pack trips were Bill Arnold carrying up the Gray Knob kitchen sink, well pump, plus other items; Nancy Frueh with two badly needed bundles of shingles; and Jon's and my tricking Freeman Holden into thinking that we had each packed 190 pounds up to Crag.

In both years, the work was overseen by Freeman Holden and fellow carpenter Ernest Sampson and was completed in four weeks. Freeman was essential to these renovations because he had worked on Crag and Gray Knob prior to 1964 (including 1962 with my brother at Crag). He knew what was needed, and he was remarkably skilled with simple hand tools. Jon and I helped the carpenters, cooked their meals, starred in *The Reluctant Dragon*, and packed building materials, supplies, and food to the camps. During renovation, our daily routine started with breakfast at 6:00 AM, where Freeman, Ernest, Jon, and I consumed a dozen eggs, a pound of bacon, and a loaf of toasted bread. Freeman showed us how to use and care for tools, and helped us learn some basic carpentry. He had skills that are not common today, like those of the men who built houses for John Boothman and could make a square cut by eye. Each day we worked until 6:00 PM, when Jon and I prepared dinner. After dinner we played the card game casino, which usually involved beer and spirited interchanges.

We hiked the Amphibrach, Hincks Trail, and Spur Trail many times in those summers. Jon enjoyed descents of the Spur and Hincks, in great jumps with never a fall. He also descended the landslide into King Ravine. I almost hiked to Crag in fewer minutes than pounds of pack board plus two bundles of shingles and a six-pack of beer in 85 minutes. One day I did the four trails in King Ravine and six in the Great Gulf.

Some time in those two years, Jon and I thanked our mothers with a special dinner cooked on the Crag wood stove. I remember roast beef, potatoes, fresh salad, and a cake. Inspired by Freeman's teachings, Jon and I both bought basic carpentry tools. Later, in 1973, stalwart RMC volunteer Bill Arnold organized replacement of the Crag oak floor, which had been badly damaged by crampons. As before, RMC volunteers packed the flooring, and Bill, Jon, and I enjoyed a few days together installing it.

Jon and I talked about hiking to Crag and Gray Knob into old age. After he died in 1986, I was saddened by the loss of one I'd expected would be a lifelong friend -- someone to reminisce with about those two halcyon summers. Jon's special place was the Quay, looking west from Lowe's Path near Gray Knob. For me it was Crag's front porch in late afternoon, air still and cool, a white-throated sparrow's singing, and the vast space of King Ravine. I understood why some called Crag the "house of the gods".

*RMC director Chris Campbell recalled his experiences on the trail crew in 1962-63 in a related article in the Dec. 2014 issue of this newsletter.*



Left: Early photo of Gray Knob. RMC Archive. Right: Jon Frueh at the Quay, 1960s. Nancy Frueh photo, courtesy of Carol Gourley.



## RMC 100 Finisher

*latest in a series ...*



*Member Rudy Bourget, of Weare, NH, started the RMC 100 challenge on October 3, 2015, and finished on July 20, 2016. He is currently redlining the entire White Mountain National Forest, and as of September 2016 he had only twelve trails remaining. Above, he's pictured at Garfield Falls in Pittsburg, NH. Courtesy photo.*

For information about the Challenge and other finishers, click on the "Our Trails" sign at the RMC homepage.

## Treasurer's Report – 3rd quarter, 2016

*Prepared by Sally Baldwin and Kathleen Kelley*

INCOME	2016 Budget	2016 Q3 actual	2015 Q3 actual
Camps	\$48,000	\$39,748	\$39,081
Contributions	\$19,500	\$36,540	\$15,804
Dues	\$18,500	\$20,365	\$16,340
Fundraisers-Events	\$5,000	\$6,800	\$4,715
Interest	\$0	\$88	\$111
Reserve Fund Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$0
Trails	\$37,700	\$19,647	\$14,941
Merchandise	\$9,000	\$7,190	\$5,448
Less cost of goods sold	-\$5,200	-\$3,890	\$0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$132,500</b>	<b>\$126,488</b>	<b>\$96,440</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Administration	\$5,537	\$17,842	\$11,280
Camp	\$44,700	\$20,542	\$31,161
Trails	\$58,160	\$38,507	\$44,746
Communication	\$4,800	\$3,031	\$2,795
Employee Housing	\$6,235	\$2,719	\$4,346
Events-Fundraisers	\$3,655	\$3,576	\$3,535
Payroll Expense	\$13,000	\$17,645	\$0
Radio	\$800	\$99	\$1,084
Sales Admin Expense	\$700	\$2,182	\$666
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$137,587</b>	<b>\$106,143</b>	<b>\$99,613</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$5,087</b>	<b>\$20,345</b>	<b>-\$3,173</b>

## Remembrance of Crag Camp, and of Gay Johnson

*By Rob and Luke Dewees*

Two summers ago, RMC member Gay Johnson invited us again to visit her in Randolph. On earlier visits we had climbed Mt. Madison twice; this time our destination was Crag Camp. We began with the long and arduous Air Line trail up to Madison. The Air Line includes what we think is one of the most amazing experiences in the White Mountains: passing the "many have died" weather warning sign while still below tree line, and then shortly thereafter breaking out to the stunning view of Mt. Madison, Mt. Adams and King Ravine. Over a long day spent above treeline, we ascended Madison, then Adams, and as the daylight began to fade, hurried anxiously through Thunderstorm Junction.

Arriving at Crag as darkness fell, we found it empty, and we quickly made beef stroganoff on our old grasshopper stove. The caretaker from Gray Knob stopped in for the camp fees and a brief chat. We marveled at the organ in the corner and read the plaque on the wall thanking the contributors to the rebuilding of Crag in 1993-94, including Gay and her husband, Eric. We went to bed reading accounts from the camp library of the early days in the Randolph region. In the morning, we awoke to sunrise over a fabulous fog inversion that filled the valleys below with dense white cloud. As we hiked back to Gay's house in Randolph, we knew we had found how magical a trip to Crag Camp can be.

Gay had first come to Randolph as a child, and she spent parts of almost every summer there with Eric and her children from the 1970s onward. On July 7, 2016 she died at age 91 in Philadelphia, surrounded by her family. She had climbed her last mountain in Randolph in the summer of 2015. We'll always remember Gay for her love of Randolph and the mountains, and for introducing us to Crag Camp and the Randolph Mountain Club.



Above left, Gay Johnson on a family hike about 1990. Right, Luke Dewees, on Mt. Massive in CO. Courtesy photos. Above right, Crag Camp; C. Herz photo.



*Occasional visitors to Randolph, Rob Dewees and his son Luke are longtime friends of the Johnson family, and came to know the White Mountains and the RMC through them. Luke, age 17, is a high school student in Massachusetts, and has followed his love of the mountains to the High Mountain Institute in Leadville, CO where he is spending a semester this year. - Editor*

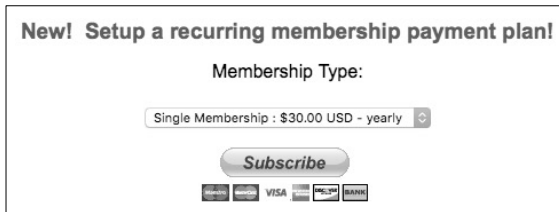


**RMC Website**

*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!

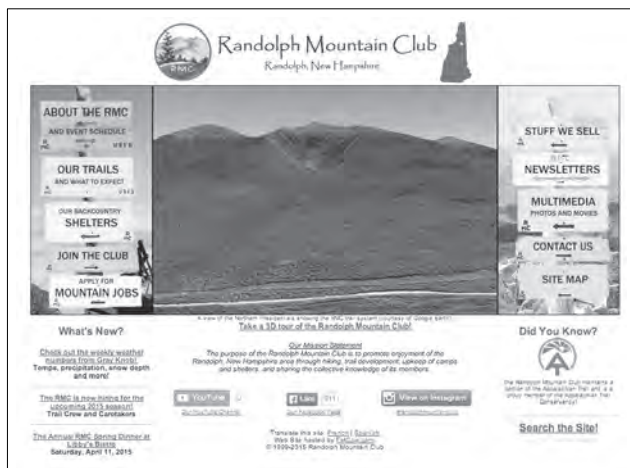
Below is the website homepage; navigation is by the trail signs at left and right. Go to **JOIN THE CLUB** to join or renew; go to **STUFF WE SELL** for merchandise; look for events and trips under **ABOUT THE RMC / EVENT SCHEDULE**.



**Recurring Memberships and Donations**

*By Jamie Maddock and Jeff Smith*

Many RMC members have already been using the website to pay their membership dues, instead of writing a check and mailing it to our postal address. In 2016 we expanded our web payment options, to allow members to subscribe (via PayPal) to make recurring annual dues payments, or recurring monthly donations. Set it and forget it! Visit the website to find out more, at the **JOIN THE CLUB** page, or use this link: <http://www.randolphmountainclub.org/renew> (and look for the membership options shown in the screenshot above).



Our website: [www.randolphmountainclub.org](http://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.*

**10k of Snow and Sweat: The Second Annual Randolph Ramble**

*By Doug Mayer*

What's leaf-and-snow-covered, extremely challenging, and loved by all? This year's late-fall Randolph Ramble 10 kilometer-long trail race along Crescent Ridge!

This last October 30<sup>th</sup>, seventy-four trail runners and nine hikers took part in the event, which went along the Community Forest logging road, up the Carlton Notch Trail, then over Castlevue Loop, up the Mt. Crescent Trail and along the Crescent Ridge Trail. The runners descended from Mt. Randolph to the Four Soldiers Path, and along the Community Forest logging road back to the trailhead—exactly 10 km in total. Organized by former RMC Trails Chairs Doug Mayer and Mike Micucci, and Randolph's Jeremiah McCrae-Hawkins, the Ramble adheres to Leave No Trace recommendations for group events and is capped at 100 participants.

Notable competitors included Tristan Williams, with a winning time of 1:04:00; Kristina Folcik, winner of the women's division at 1:13.47; and the youngest Rambler, 13-year old Soren Monroe-Anderson from Randolph and Lyme, NH, who finished in 1:31:14. Nine "Limmer Division" participants hiked the route, including former RMC President Laurie Archambault and six other Randolph residents. Rowan Kamman and JP Krol represented the RMC's trail crew alumni.

All of the proceeds of the race are donated. This year, we raised over \$500.00 for the Randolph Mountain Club and an equal amount for the Friends of the Presidential Rail Trail. The RMC had a table at the event, to offer club merchandise and sign up new trail work volunteers.

You can follow the race on Facebook ("randolphramblerace") or visit the web site at [randolphramble.com](http://randolphramble.com). We look forward to 2017 and year #3!



Ramblers on the 10K course. Fletcher Manley photos.



John and Jenn Scarinza on Mt. Jefferson,  
with the Great Gulf and Mt. Madison behind them;  
on their honeymoon in September 2013.

## Mt. Crescent Society Profile

*The RMC's Mt. Crescent Society recognizes those individuals who have made a bequest or other planned gift to the Club; among them are John and Jenn Scarinza of Randolph. John was RMC President from 2010 to 2014; Jenn has been a director since 2014.*

For John, growing up in Randolph, the trails and camps of the RMC were always an important part of life. He spent most of his free time hiking the trails and enjoying the forest and natural resources of the Crescent and Presidential Ranges. Fortunately, when Jenn moved to the North Country, she also discovered the RMC and the community of friends and neighbors who enjoy the mountains and all that the RMC offers. The two were married in September of 2013, and they chose to spend their honeymoon at Crag Camp, hiking the trails in the mountains that they so enjoy. With an eye to the future, John and Jenn have made the RMC a part of their estate planning, so future generations can experience the same pleasures that hiking and visiting the camps of the RMC hold for them.

Have you included the RMC in your estate plans?

For more information:

[www.randolphmountainclub.org/preserve](http://www.randolphmountainclub.org/preserve)