



Randolph Mountain Club Newsletter

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.

June 2020



RESTORING THE GRAY KNOB ROCKER

by Adam Ritchie

Editor's note: The story of the rocking chair begins here, as Adam Ritchie tells how he restored it; it continues inside with a remembrance of the chair's namesake, Davis Woodruff.

I had known for many years that the caretaker's chair was in bad shape. It wasn't until I took a serious look at it that I saw just how badly it had degraded, and the evidence of countless well-intentioned repairs. I was intrigued to find, on the back, a plaque that read "Davis Woodruff Memorial Rocking Chair".

When I got the chair off the mountain and put it into my car at Stearns Lodge, it started to fall apart in my hands. Unburdened by its duty, it was giving up. It was the first of many moments that challenged my notions about this being an easy fix.

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Above left: Adam Ritchie and Carl Herz on Lowe's Path at the Quay in November 2019, packing the rebuilt chair back up to Gray Knob. Sebby Woolnough photo. Above right: Closure sign at Gray Knob, Taylor Radigan photo.

COVID-19 and the RMC

by Jamie Maddock and Randy Meiklejohn

How to respond to an unprecedented pandemic? Like non-profit organizations everywhere, the RMC had no plan in place for a public health emergency, and we developed ours in real time, while every day brought different news and new rules. We began in early March, when the imminent spread of the virus in the US became apparent.

In the RMC's operations, the first two areas of risk we identified were our four mountain camps (open to the public, and with caretakers on duty all year round) and the arrival of our summer employees from out of town, around Memorial Day. Our early response actions focused on minimizing person-to-person encounters in these two areas.

As a record of the past two months, and to show the context for our response planning within the actions taken by others in the region, we've recreated this timeline below:

- Mar 12** AMC and other mountain clubs close shelters.
- Mar 13** US President declares a national emergency; NH Governor declares a state of emergency.

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Randolph Mountain Club 2019-2020

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committee chairs and honorary members

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Treasurer Kathleen Kelley, Randolph NH
Secretary Randy Meiklejohn, Brookline MA

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 Benzo Harris, Portland ME
 Chris Hawkins, Randolph NH
 Carl Herz, Bedford MA
 Bev Jadis, Randolph NH
 Ben Lieberman, Boston MA
 Jenn Scarinza, Randolph NH
 Franklin Stone Wenk, Brooklyn NY
 Wendy Walsh, Randolph NH

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Trails: Bob Drescher, Benzo Harris

Social Events: Jenn Scarinza, Franklin Stone Wenk

Trips: Mary Minifie

Merchandise: Michele Cormier

Planned Giving: Randy Meiklejohn

Membership: Michele Cormier

Safety: Bill Arnold

Stearns Lodge: Paul Cormier

Work Trips: Wendy Walsh

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www.randolphmountainclub.org

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, gender identity, gender expression, military status, veteran status, income level, political affiliation and familial status.

From the President ...

I hope you are keeping yourselves safe during this pandemic, and right now you are probably staying put wherever you are. Our members live in many places, including year-round Randolph residents, seasonal residents, people who live nearby in New England, and those who make shorter visits to the White Mountains. The past few months have been difficult for many, and I wish we could share our different experiences together in Randolph, say in a conversation on a nice long hike up the Howker Ridge. Not just yet. I look forward to doing that as soon as we safely can.

The RMC has many different resources that keep it going: financial assets, reliable volunteers, generous members, and a good network of community relationships. Right now, those relationships are what's helping us manage this crisis. The questions that arose since March could be resolved only by working with people we know in our partner organizations: the Forest Service, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the AMC, and the Town of Randolph. Our decisions about closure of the camps, for example, were made with the Forest Service supervisor Tom Moore, and with the Randolph police and the Randolph health officers. These last two, Dr. John McDowell and Barbara Arnold (both RMC members), have continued to help us develop protocols for our camp and trail employees. On page 3 there's a message from them for residents and visitors about keeping safe in Randolph during this time.

Our financial resources are reasonably sound – see Treasurer Kathleen Kelley's report on page 10 – but our revenue from overnight fees at the camps will be much lower this year. Our camp expenses, however, are unchanged: we still need to employ caretakers to live up there and patrol them daily during the entire year. Think about what a unique accomplishment this has been, to maintain these high-elevation camps, year-round, decade after decade, offering a warm welcome and traditional simplicity to hikers. It's part of our public legacy. With the reduction of guest fees, we are more dependent this year on member donations to keep the camps in good order, and I hope you will make such a donation yourself if your circumstances allow.

I know that RMC events and trips are normally a highlight of the season, especially for summer residents. (See the 2020 event dates on page 3, and our plan for deciding whether and how they will take place.) Maybe we could do them differently: distanced outdoor dining at Libby's, or spread-out gourmet lunching on the broad ledges of Pine Mountain? Virtual charades—and would the Midlands wow us with elaborate Photoshop props? Within your own household, consider a volunteer work trip on an RMC trail near your home (see page 10). We'll be apart more than usual this summer, but please do what you can to stay connected to each other, and to the club. Stay safe.

Jamie Maddock

Jamie Maddock, President

Jamie at Appalachia, May 2020. Sue Maddock photo.



**Message to RMC members
from the Town of
Randolph health officers**

*by John McDowell
and Barbara Arnold*

May 21, 2020

It's been a long strange spring with late snow and, oh yes, a pandemic. Please will be aware that summer will be a bit different with many traditional events rescheduled or canceled. Have patience, follow guidelines and help prevent any spread. Thanks for your attention to personal and community safety as you plan visits to your Randolph home.

We have been fairly successful in keeping SARSCoVI-2 at bay over the past 9 or 10 weeks (4 cases confirmed in Coos County, one is in Randolph; no hospitalizations or deaths). Our strategy is strict adherence to physical distancing, avoiding public places/gatherings (Town Hall and Library closed early on and remain so) and requesting careful personal and household measures (hand washing, disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces within the home/car, etc.). Masks are optional but recommended for use by individuals with any respiratory symptoms, and when in public places (Walmart, etc.).

As of 5/20/20, NH is under an emergency order until 6/5/20 and a stay-at-home order until 5/31/20. Things are beginning to open up but slowly and currently for NH residents only. Governor Sununu gives a status report each Friday at 3:00 so things may change by the time this reaches you. Please check <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-and-media/emergency-orders-2020>. Emergency order 40, exhibit C may be helpful.

So for your family/visitors, some of whom are coming from high-risk areas: please self-quarantine (no community exposure; outdoor activity OK as long as physical distancing is practiced). Bring all needed food and supplies with you so that shopping and errands can be avoided during the quarantine period of 14 days. We have organized a group of local volunteers (Kathleen Kelley coordinates) who will do shopping/errands for quarantined households if necessary. If any planned visitors are or become sick at the time they plan to travel, it would be in everyone's best interest for them not to come. We would be concerned about the ability of a large group in the house at the same time to maintain safe distancing during their visit, and recommend that you space things out as much as possible. Of course, that is up to you and your family, not really a Town issue as long as you're all able and willing to respect the quarantine request. Be aware that asymptomatic carriers of the virus can transmit infection making it difficult to be safe in crowded situations with individuals from areas with high-exposure risk. Should any family members or guests become ill during their stay, please call your medical provider. In an emergency, call 911.

We're afraid this will not be a "normal" summer in Randolph. It's not possible for us to say if and when things will change, as you know; the situation is in flux day by day. Feel free to contact us for more specific concerns.

John McDowell, Health Officer; (603) 723-0269 / Barbara Arnold, Deputy Health Officer; (603) 466-2438

Summer Events and Meetings*

*by Jenn Scarinza, Franklin Stone Wenk
and Randy Meiklejohn*

Members are asking: What's happening with the RMC's events and meetings in 2020? As this newsletter goes to print in late May, we don't know whether any of them can take place during the ongoing pandemic. The directors will be making final decisions about four weeks before each date. The schedule below is the list of our traditional events and their 2020 dates. *Watch the RMC website and the *Randolph Weekly* to see whether they are cancelled, postponed or held in modified form.

Fourth of July Tea: Saturday, July 4th, 3:00 to 5:00 PM

Gourmet Hike: Thursday, August 6th

Dinner at Libby's: Week of August 10th

Annual Meeting: Saturday, August 8th, 7:00 PM

Picnic & Charades: Saturday, August 15th, 12:00 noon

Square Dance: Saturday, August 15th, 7:00 PM



At the August 2019 concert to benefit the RMC, at Town Hall:
Heywood Alexander, Bill Minifie, Hayden Minifie and Keith Dempster.
Jenn Scarinza photo.



2019 crew leader Maryka Gillis on the Starr King Trail. Bob Drescher photo.

Trails Report & Meet the Trail Crew

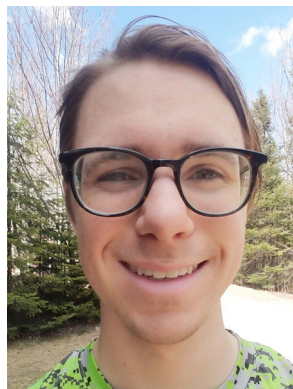
by Bob Drescher and Benzo Harris, Trails co-chairs

All trail seasons have their own unique challenges, but it wouldn't be an overstatement to say that the upcoming season takes the prize. By the middle of March, the RMC camps were closed and we were searching for direction on how to plan our trail work for the summer. Every day seemed to deliver a whole lot of yes, no and maybe. After meetings (Zoom) with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Forest Service, and conversations with the NH Bureau of Trails, it became clear that we should at least consider plans for having a crew. We studied the guidelines issued by the CDC, the State of NH and the Town of Randolph, and realized that we could not engage our usual eight-person crew due to the difficulty of keeping a group that large and the community safe all season long. In collaboration with Randolph's health officers we were able to devise plans that met the requirements to keep the crew, caretakers and the community as safe as possible during this time.

Editor's note: We're expanding our usual June employee two-page spread to introduce all of our camp caretakers from fall 2019 through summer 2020. If you haven't already met them in person, then you won't, now that the camps are all closed until further notice. But we thought you might like to know a little bit about the people who are continuing to take care of Gray Knob, Crag Camp, the Log Cabin and the Perch.



Justin Taylor
Framingham, Massachusetts
Field Supervisor



Sam Marshall
Manchester, New Hampshire
Crew Leader



Owen Desroches
Roslindale, Massachusetts
2nd year



Joey Schilke
Eatontown, New Jersey
2nd year

We'll be having a four-person crew of experienced workers, guided by Field Supervisor Justin Taylor and 3rd year Crew Leader Sam Marshall, and with Owen Desroches and Joey Schilke, both back for their 2nd season. We had made offers to new first-year employees, but there is training required for them to learn the skills needed to perform trail work, and since we cannot offer training safely, we have had to cancel it and not invite the new employees. We'll be skipping Orientation week, and plan to start Patrols in late May or early June, clearing blowdowns and waterbars. With a reduced workforce, it's going to take longer to accomplish this, so we ask for your patience, and any assistance you can provide in helping to clear the trails. (*See Volunteer Work Trips article on page 10 - ed.*)

Our projects list is filled with more than we'll do this year. For a full crew of eight, and for a full season, we had planned work on the Gulfside, bog bridge repairs and rock work on the Ice Gulch and Cook Paths, viewshed clearing and trail repairs to the Howker Ridge Trail and Lowe's Path where they cross the Presidential Rail Trail. We'll be reviewing the crew's progress frequently, and adjusting the work load to keep everyone safe. Although we have secured outside grant funding for some of our trail work, special projects like viewshed clearing (as we did recently at Lafayette View, Castleview Rock and other popular destinations) are dependent on annual member donations. By the fall, we'll have a better idea whether funding is sufficient for re-opening another group of viewpoints.

We are fortunate to have great partners who contribute significantly to our trail work efforts, and combined with the generous support from the RMC membership, keep us very busy. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the US Forest Service, the Recreational Trail Program administered by the State of NHs' Bureau of Trails, and the Randolph Community Forest Commission are all part of the team that enables us to care for our wonderful trail system. In this unpredictable time, they have all made significant efforts to keep funding available, seeing the trails as we do: an essential resource.

Benjy: For me, caretaking was an experience full of contradictions: thrown back and forth between extremes in temperature, social interaction, and tasks that had to be done. Some days were non-stop busy, some weeks were unnervingly quiet. A few things held together a thread of stability and continuity for me: the regular chores of camps life, from the pre-dawn collecting of snow-pack data to my starlit night stroll to Crag Camp. Listening to NPR on slow days, reading a book by the fire, or trying to train my fingers to play guitar while mostly numb. Little compares to the joy of sliding through several feet of powder on the upper parts of Israel Ridge, successfully navigating down from Jefferson in a white-out, or visiting Madison Spring Hut for a last hot cocoa and conversation before they close for the winter. But at the end of the day, the guests were what truly made caretaking worthwhile for me. Welcoming tired groups into a cozy Gray Knob, playing board games, joining sing-alongs, hearing what brought others up to the mountains - these elements of caretaking elevated the job from one of self-indulgent asceticism to something that felt

Meet the Camp Caretakers

... in their own words

Matt: Former rigging expert for the RMC trail crew in the summer and fall of 2017. Master of no outdoor activity, but an avid participant of all that his wallet and nerve allow. Love being a part of the cause (keeping RMC awesome).

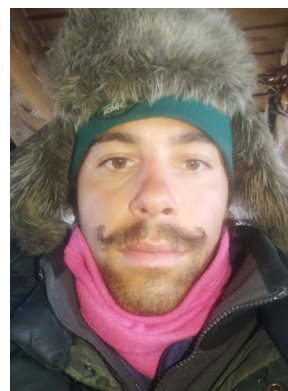
Taylor: I am originally from Long Island, NY. I have previously worked as a caretaker for the AMC and Green Mountain Club. In my spare time, I enjoy backpacking, skiing and watching hockey. In the winter, I work at Copper Mountain in Colorado. I'm happy to be back spending time in the Northern Presidentials, as it is one of my favorite places to be. Mt. Adams and Mt. Carrigain are two of my favorite peaks in the Whites.



Jim Baum
North Carolina
fall, winter & summer



Benjy Getraer
New Jersey
fall & winter



Matt Rebolini
New York
spring



Taylor Radigan
New York
spring & summer

Jim: Born and raised in Mount Airy, North Carolina way back in 1969. Attended Campbell University and the University of Oklahoma. Lived a suit-and-tie life for way too long, then moved home to care for a father suffering from dementia. After losing dad, I rediscovered a love for the outdoors.

Since, I have become an ATC 2,000-Miler, thru hiked the Arizona Trail, worked for the ATC in Central Virginia and was blessed to serve as an RMC caretaker for the 2019-20 season.

Favorite things about Gray Knob: 1) the guests, 2) the warm wood stove, 3) clear, starry nights. What I look forward to: a cabin full of friends, playing the Gray Knob guitar, the sweet taste of White Mountain spring water.

(*Benjy, cont'd*) more like service. Most guests visit the hut during popular seasons or days, and get to experience the friendly bustling atmosphere of the RMC camps in full swing. In the winter these days can be few and far between, but for me they were what made caretaking worth it.

Andi: I'm from Hanover NH, and am currently studying Creative Writing at Emerson College in Boston. I've been hiking in the Whites for years, and have always wanted to live out in the woods and share it with other explorers. I'm looking forward to this summer!



Andi Smith
New Hampshire
summer

Camps Report

by Pete Antos-Ketcham and Carl Herz

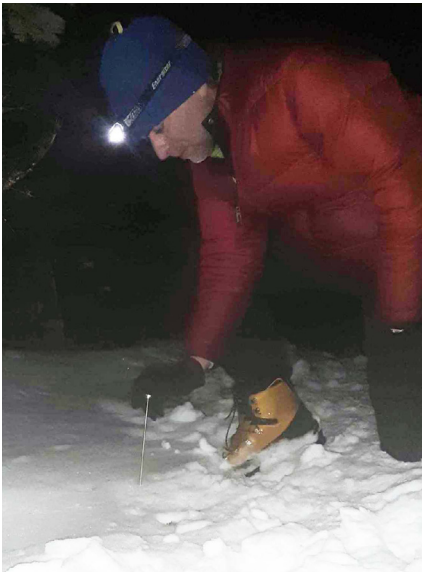
Winter at the camps started out fairly mild for our new caretakers Benjamin Gertraer and Jim Baum in late 2019. Both fully embraced the joys of winter caretaking as the snow eventually stacked up, venturing far and frequently into the alpine zone and engaging with guests and projects all season.

When winter slid into spring, the camps had to prepare for a different reality. As COVID-19 quickly spread and impacted operations everywhere, we were required by the state of NH to close our doors to visitors at the camps until further notice. The protocols we have set up in response are designed to protect our employees, the community and the camps themselves. Matt Rebolini (a former RMC trail crew member) and Taylor Radigan were invited to join on as spring caretakers. They have performed extremely well and have adapted to the rapidly moving challenges we face, balancing safety and stewardship all while still finding time to enjoy what living at the camps can offer.

Taylor will remain with us through mid-July, lending us her experience and expertise a while longer during these demanding times. She will be joined by Andi Smith in June. This summer we will not have a caretaker at Crag Camp, so both will be based out of Gray Knob and maintain a seven-day shift. We will allow no visitors or overnight guests at the camps for spring and summer and possibly longer, so the caretakers' primary responsibilities will be to monitor the four camps, and to advise hikers about the closures.

Owing to the camps closure and the need to reduce costs, the Camps Committee will defer more substantial camps repair and maintenance projects to next season, and focus only on those that are absolutely essential for basic maintenance and safety. This will include staining the log structures and tent platforms and oiling the floors. Other projects may include repairing the ramp access to the Log Cabin outhouse and the railings on the Crag Camp deck.

While our closures are necessary during this time, we are all eager for the days to come when we can return to normal operations. We can't wait to welcome everyone back when it is safe to do so. Please watch for updates about the camps at our website, in the newsletter and on RMC social media.



Above treeline; along the Amphibrach in fall; jack o'lantern inside Gray Knob. Benjy Getraer photos.

At night with a snow gauge; shoveling outside Gray Knob; feeding the stove. Jim Baum photos.

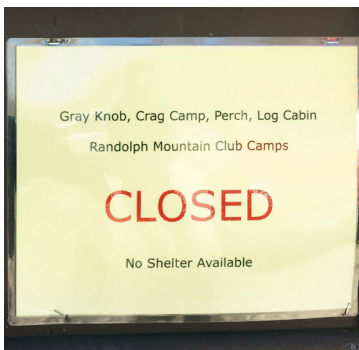
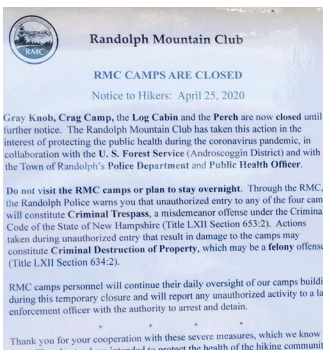


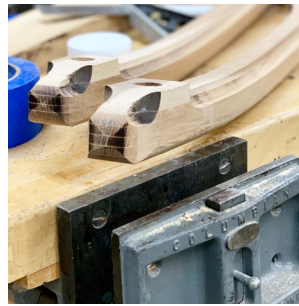
RMC directors meet over Zoom, for the first time ever, 04/26: Kate Hudson, Randy Meiklejohn, Jamie Maddock, Dwight Bradley; Benzo Harris, Bob Drescher, Ben Lieberson, Wendy Walsh; Kathleen Kelley, Franklin Stone Wenk, Bev Jadis, Jenn Scarinza; Chris Hawkins, Carl Herz; and webmaster Jenna Maddock, with Guyot. Below, closure signs and public notices at Appalachia, Stearns Lodge, and the Klaus Goetze workshop. Jamie Maddock photos.

Timeline, continued from page 1

- Mar 13** We decide to tell hikers not to visit our camps.
- Mar 16** Meeting with Forest Service supervisor Tom Moore in Gorham; we get his OK on our camps policy.
- Mar 17** Camp caretaker has a fever. We meet with Dr. McDowell to agree on protocols for any sick employees, and for caretaker shift swaps.
- Mar 26** State of NH emergency order #17, closing most businesses and ordering citizens to stay at home.
- Mar 29** We apply for federal grant money to cover loss of camp revenue.
- Mar 30** Start of planning for modified spring/summer season for trail and camp employees.
- Mar 30** RMC, as a member organization of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, signs a joint letter to USDA/Forest Service asking that the Appalachian Trail be closed.
- Apr 2** Forest Service closes Tuckerman Ravine, Huntington's and Gulf of Slides, after appearance of crowds of skiers.
- Apr 10** RMC lends 4 of our 8 employee cots from Stearns Lodge to Androscoggin Valley Hospital.
- Apr 12** AMC Four-thousand-footer Club disallows ascents of peaks during the shutdown.
- Apr 16** Meeting with Randolph Police acting chief John

- Scarinza, on strengthening our camp closure policy and developing enforcement plans.
- Apr 16** Summer trail crew is reduced from 8 to 4 employees, in conjunction with Forest Service.
- Apr 22** We install locks on Gray Knob and Crag Camp and post formal closure notices at trailheads.
- Apr 26** Board meeting; re-budgeting of 2020 year, review of all operations for spring and summer.
- Apr 27** Forest Service closes trailheads and shelters in the White Mountain National Forest.
- May 5** Trails committee and Dr. McDowell develop final protocols for arriving-employee quarantine, social distancing practices, closure of Stearns Lodge to all others.
- May 7** Forest Service re-opens trailheads.
- May 9** Still plenty of snow on the ground; President skis four miles on the Rail Trail.
- May 10** President's message via e-mail to all RMC members.
- May 11** All trail crew employees and camp caretakers asked to agree in writing to restrictions on movement, socializing and visitors while working for RMC.
- May 14** Trail crew employees begin work.





Rocking Chair, continued from page 1

I took the chair to my woodworkers guild at Lexart in Lexington, Massachusetts. The woodworkers guild counts among its members artists and craftspeople from all backgrounds, and in aggregate they have the combined knowledge to solve just about any problem. In particular, Steve McKenna, a retired union carpenter and tremendously talented furniture maker, helped me to understand just how difficult was the task I had undertaken. He and I brainstormed ideas and solutions to come up with a way forward. I am indebted to him for his guidance and kindness and the end result would not have manifested so successfully without him.

In order to keep the most meaningful parts of the chair (arms, front legs, scrollwork back and headrest) I had to extensively repair and stealthily reinforce those parts.

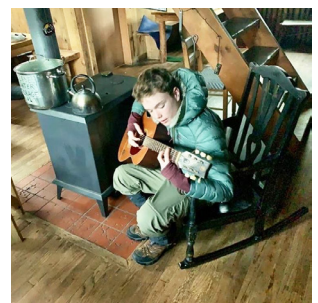
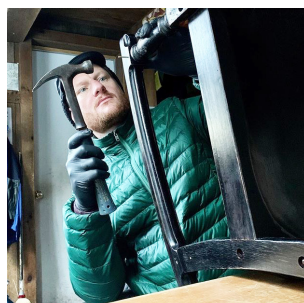
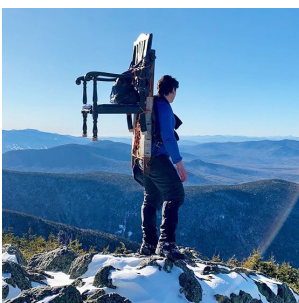
The most challenging part of the chair was the seat. Originally, the chair was made with an upholstered/padded seat. Who knows when the upholstery and cushioning was lost but I think most would agree that soft and plush things aren't well-suited to the conditions and heavy use at Gray Knob. I chose to make a new sculpted seat, and that required the redesign of the structure. The original upholstered chair had been made with a box frame to tie the legs and arms together and distribute loads. The new seat is laminated from five pieces of heavy quarter-sawn white oak and joined using the Festool Domino system.

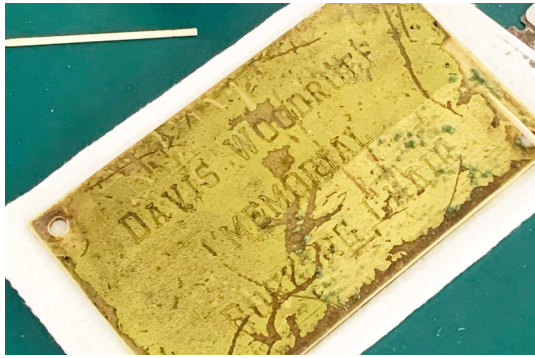
The runners (the curved parts that make the chair rock) had been worn flat through decades of use. To ensure durability in the replacement runners, and to preserve the wood floor at the camp, I roughly doubled their dimensions, using laminated strips of resilient hickory. All components of the chair are joined with marine epoxy, stainless steel bolts, and dowels that are held in place with brass pins. Belt and suspenders.

The black finish isn't paint like on the original chair but rather an eight-step process including ebonizing, dyeing, lacquer and a natural beeswax and tung oil rub. It allows the beautiful grain of the wood to show and allows any future scratches to be easily corrected. The solid brass plaque was badly tarnished but came clean with time and acetone. It's been sealed with a beeswax finish.

As you can see from the photos, restoring this venerable caretaker's rocking chair was quite an undertaking, perhaps more than I bargained for. I think I spent over one hundred hours on the project, and during the work I had time to reflect on how much Gray Knob and the RMC mean to me. I was driven to do the best job I could by the hope that I could give something meaningful back.

A selection of photos from the retrieval, restoration and return of the rocking chair, featuring Adam Ritchie (with hammer), Sebby Woolnough (with guitar) and Carl Herz (with packboard). Some of these appeared on RMC's Instagram. Adam Ritchie and Sebby Woolnough photos.





Remembering Davis Woodruff - and his chair

by Brad Meiklejohn



How did the Davis M. Woodruff Memorial Rocking Chair end up at Gray Knob? Davis carried it there!

Davis Woodruff holds a place in our memories alongside such RMC notables as Jack Stewart, Ben Campbell, and Christopher and Klaus Goetze. His maternal grandfather had the family house in Randolph built, by John Boothman, around 1914; his parents Bliss Woodruff and Marian (Davis) Woodruff were active in the RMC from the 1950s to the 1990s; and his siblings and their children continue to come to Randolph today.

For the RMC, Davis served on the summer trail crew in 1975 and 1976 and as a Gray Knob caretaker in 1977 and 1978. During his stint at Gray Knob, Davis commandeered the chair from the family home in Randolph and strapped it atop one of the mammoth loads that he regularly humped up the mountain. As the story goes, Davis stopped along the way up Lowe's Path and kicked back in the rocker.

Davis is remembered by friends and family for his outsize presence, infectious exuberance and a booming laugh. Ensconced in his rocker at Gray Knob, Davis warmly welcomed all who walked through the door with a hearty "Hey bub, take a load off!" The Quay and the deck at Crag Camp were both tees on Davis' White Mountain Driving Range, his deep "Fore!" warning hikers and wildlife of incoming golf balls. Long days patrolling the RMC cabins were routinely followed by evening Mossback softball games and a moonlight return to Gray Knob.

The plaque honoring his memory was placed on the Gray Knob rocker after Davis was killed in a gold-mining accident in Alaska in 1980.

Davis at Gray Knob, New Year's Day 1980. Peter Rowan photo. Below: Davis above treeline, about 1974. Marian Woodruff photo, from RMC Archive, Woodruff collection.



6/29/78
 What Does one say in the last entry?
 Well, this book is full of wild + Willy Woods
 of Truth, Wisdom and Bullshit! As one thumbs
 through these pages, a diversified accumulation
 of stories are written in ~~steps~~ various styles
 that denote many characteristics people have
 stayed in this ~~in~~ ~~and~~ ~~s~~ Hostel.
 As I look over the many entries from
 people all over the world, I can only wish I could
 have met and partied with those people.
 May Gray Knob exist forever for those who
 seek good company, comfortable accommodations
 and fine memories.
 Davis Woodruff, caretaker sum 77

Gray Knob log book entry from his last day as caretaker. Courtesy of Charlotte Woodruff Winchell.

Treasurer's Report*by Kathleen Kelley*

	Admin.	Dev't.	Camps	Stearns	Trails	Trails Grants	Total	2020 Budget
Revenue								
YTD 04/30/2020:	\$14,030	15,865	6,321	0	0	0	35,776	148,345
Expense								
YTD 04/30/2020:	3,048	830	11,769	4,307	0	0	19,954	142,820
Net:	10,982	15,035	(5,448)	(4,307)	0	0	16,262	5,525

The board of directors approved revisions to the 2020 operating budget due to the expected impact of the COVID pandemic; the camp, grant and donation revenue has been reduced. In addition, the payroll-related expenses for the remainder of the year have been reduced by 30% even though we have new working requirements.

As of April 30, 2020, RMC received more donations than projected. On the other hand, our membership and camp revenues are 14% lower than budgeted. At this point we believe we can weather this economic downturn, because of the prudent financial management of the club and because of members who have continued to make annual donations.

The RMC applied for a federal \$18,000.00 Payroll Protection Plan loan through Northway Bank and received the proceeds on May 18, 2020. (This is not reflected in the budget.) If we can maintain our pre-crisis level of average full-time equivalent employees or rehire back to pre-crisis levels by June 30, 2020, we are eligible to have the entire PPP Loan forgiven. In addition, we have submitted an application to the State of NH economic relief grant program for those impacted by the COVID pandemic. We have not received notification of this award. Last year the club received over \$170,000.00 in revenue, but this year the revenue could be as much as 40% lower depending on how long our camps are closed.



Volunteers brushing the upper reaches of the Howker Ridge Trail in 2019: Amy Patenaude, Beth Krusi, Rudy Bourget, Paul Jadis, Dennis Pednault, Jeff Wilson, Maryka Gillis and Wendy Walsh. Amy Patenaude photo.



Steve Weber and Patty Watson working on the Crescent Ridge Trail between Mt. Randolph and Lafayette View. Wendy Walsh photo.

Volunteer Work Trips*by Wendy Walsh*

This summer, due to COVID-19, we are not scheduling volunteer work trips. Usually we have them Saturdays all summer, except when other community events are scheduled, and on alternate Wednesdays in July and August.

For those of you who enjoy getting out and doing some light work along the trails, we'd still appreciate your help. How to do this safely during the pandemic? Consider going to a trail near your home, with members of your own household only, to trim back brush and remove any fallen limbs blocking the trail. If you encounter large blowdowns or other hazards, please take a photo, note the approximate location and e-mail Trails co-chairs Bob Drescher and Benzo Harris at trailchair@randolphmountainclub.org. The RMC has a smaller trail crew this summer, so your efforts will help us keep up with basic trail maintenance. Please check the RMC Facebook page and RMC website for updates.



RMC Merchandise

by Michele Cormier

This season's new offerings include truly handsome RMC apparel: the short-sleeve button-down shirt (L), and the zip fleece vest (R). Both with distinctive RMC logos and in understated, outdoorsy colors.

Want to send a friend some RMC happiness through the mail? Consider a hat, mug, patch, t-shirt, guidebook, or Judy Hudson's *Peaks & Paths* or *Trails or Timber*.

Head to the RMC website year-round for merchandise, paying membership dues, making a donation, or setting up an automatic payment plan for dues or donations.

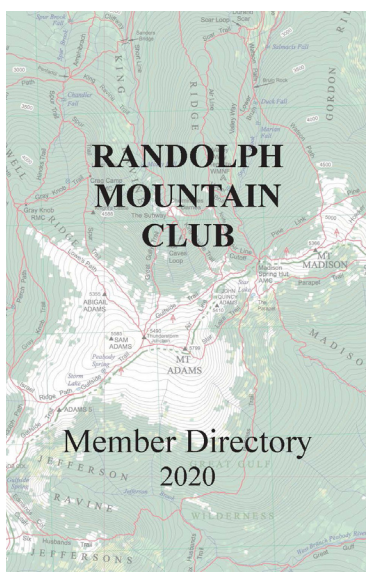
www.randolphmountainclub.org



New RMC Directory

by Randy Meiklejohn, Secretary

In summer 2020 we might all see less of each other face-to-face; how to keep in touch? Consider buying a new directory of RMC members. The directory is available in print only, for members only, and sold in Randolph only (ordering instructions at right). It includes postal and e-mail addresses and mobile and land line phone numbers for all member households who did not 'opt out' of the directory in our membership data update in 2019. Thanks to Michele Cormier, Bev Jadis and Franklin Stone Wenk for research and production assistance.



Directories will be sold at \$10/each, plus shipping cost where applicable.

How to order: Because this year we might not hold the summer events where we're offered the directory in the past, our membership and merchandise chair Michele Cormier has agreed to receive your orders directly (and not through the website).

Contact Michele at (603) 466-5841 or pcormier@ne.rr.com. She will work out a pickup or delivery plan for you, and tell you how to pay, and how much.

Thanks Michele!

Kevin Armbruster, N. Brookfield MA
Jessica Arnold, Worcester MA
James Baum, Randolph NH
Mikayla Bittner, Turlock CA
Marc Blanchette, Lowell MA
Peter Boudreau, Strafford NH
Tim Bray, Pepperell MA
Barney Brown, Topsham ME
Ben Bulkley, Durham NH
Greg Burri, Lancaster NH
Jeffrey Carter, Bedford MA
Kimberly Coburn and Nicolas Hutchinson, Cambridge MA
Konstantin Derman, Bedford MA
Sara Dorsey, Phillipston MA
Madrid Fatima, Dedham MA
Paul Flaxman, Portland ME

Welcome new RMC members!

Joined November 2019 - May 2020

Cura Gauriau, Boston MA
Emily Hannigan, New York NY
Cynthia Hiatt, Providence RI
Jonathan Hudak, Ctr. Tuftonboro NH
Michael Knet, Colonia NJ
Bonnie Lathrop, Bozrah CT
Philip Lyman, Gambrills MD
Rosemary McInnes, Cambridge MA
Elizabeth Meiklejohn, New York NY
Henry Meiklejohn, Tacoma WA
Brooks More, Portland ME
Dennis Morse, Mystic CT
Anthony Plante, Hookset NH

Spencer Ringwood, Ipswich MA
Ethan Rosen, St. Louis MO
Larry Rush, Gilford NH
Scott Sanders, Dover NH
Brian Scott, Colorado Springs CO
Julie Smith, Hanover NH
Jon Staid, Lawrence MA
Patricia Suzanne, Norway ME
Alex Tan, Medford MA
Winifred Ward, Jefferson NH
Douglas Weiskopf, Lowell MA
Mark Wiggins, Miami FL
Catherine Wiley, San Francisco CA
Luke Winne, Georgetown ME
Jake Woloschin, Remsenburg NY
William Wy session, New Orleans LA
Elizabeth Wy session, St. Louis MO

Looking back: RMC Events of Summer 2019

Clockwise from top left: The 4th of July Tea; the charades; the Gournet Hike, the square dance. Jenn Scarinza photos.



New Signs for Old Trails

thanks to Jeff Wilson (our 2017 Volunteer of the Year) for posting these in spring 2020! Jamie Maddock photos.

