



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.

December 2020



RMC GOES SOLAR in memory of Mike Micucci

by Doug Mayer

On October 22, the RMC lost one of its most active members, Mike Micucci. He passed away at his home in Randolph after battling cancer. President Jamie Maddock, the board of directors, and I invite you to join us in honoring Mike with an important investment in solar electricity systems for Gray Knob and Stearns Lodge; details on donating at the end of this article.

Mike's contributions to RMC go back to spring 1976, when he volunteered to serve as the club's first full-time off-season Gray Knob caretaker. Steve Chase, who worked later both as a caretaker and on the trail crew, remarks, "I made a number of spring and winter trips up to Crag Camp in the

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Above left: Gray Knob and its existing solar array, seen from the rocks above in September (Jim Baum photo). Above right, Mike Micucci on a sunny day on the Mt. Washington snowfields above Ammonoosuc Ravine (Dave Metsky photo).

TRAILS PROJECTS in 2020

by Bob Drescher

The COVID-19 pandemic presented some obstacles for the RMC's trails program, but our crew's work is essential to keeping trails open and safe, so we found ways to carry on in 2020. Erosion, storms and safety hazards were not taking the year off, and having a crew working together in the field is the best way to continue training and to transfer knowledge from year to year. We finished a difficult but ultimately successful season thanks to the cooperative efforts of the crew, Club leaders and the Town of Randolph. Working with a crew of four (rather than our usual eight), we finished the projects funded by our grant from the State of New Hampshire, including construction of a new rock staircase and waterbar on the Cook Path and replacing

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Above left: At the Community Forest Road by the trailhead, Jeff Wilson and Jamie Maddock load up Sam Marshall with lumber for bog bridges on the Ice Gulch Path (Bob Drescher photo). Above right, putting the finishing touches on a pair of the many new bog bridges installed this summer (Justin Taylor photo).

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Randolph Mountain Club 2020-2021
Officers, Directors,
committee chairs and honorary members

- President** Jamie Maddock, South Berwick ME
Vice President Kate Hudson, Pelham MA
Treasurer Kathleen Kelley, Randolph NH
Secretary Randy Meiklejohn, Brookline MA
- Other Directors:** Dwight Bradley, Randolph NH
 Tom Breunig, El Cerrito CA
 Bob Drescher, Barnstead NH
 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
- Camps:** Carl Herz, Pete Antos-Ketcham
Trails: Bob Drescher, Benzo Harris
Social Events: Franklin Stone Wenk, Bev Jadis
Merchandise: Michele Cormier
Planned Giving: Randy Meiklejohn
Membership: Michele Cormier
Stearns Lodge: Paul Cormier
Work Trips: Wendy Walsh
Newsletter: Randy Meiklejohn
Webmaster: Jenna Maddock
Archivist: Al Hudson
Historian: Judy Hudson
Cartographer: Jon Hall
Radios: Chris Hawkins

Honorary

- members:** Bill & Barbara Arnold
 Paula Bradley
 Al & Judy Hudson
 Edith Tucker

www.randolphmountainclub.org
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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 ...



With a pandemic going on around us, 2020 has been a different year, for the RMC as well as the world beyond Randolph. Those of us who count on getting together through the club have missed that this year, since we held no trips and events, socializing was only in small groups, and many visitors did not come to Randolph at all. Even our Annual Meeting was virtual. But we had successes this year, both in responding to COVID-19 and in carrying on some of our essential operations despite it. Below are notes about that important work, and more appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

This year's trail crew was smaller than usual, but fortunately very experienced. The four crew members and the Field Supervisor got an amazing amount of work done. They patrolled all of our trails and cleared the winter blowdowns, and still completed our RTP work on the Cook Path. In the fall they did more view clearing, and we even partnered with the Randolph Foundation on a project at Durand Lake.

All employees and volunteers did a great job following the COVID-19 protocols set by Dr. John McDowell, the town's health officer. The isolation and lack of social interaction was tough on our employees, especially up at the camps, but the upside is that we had no cases and did not have to re-quarantine anyone. They all realized how serious the situation was and that everyone had to comply. The board and I are aware that employees and volunteers arriving from other states for summer work in Randolph posed a potential health risk, and I'm proud of the efforts we all made to protect the resident community.

Financially the club, with your help, has been weathering the pandemic fairly well. Our revenue from membership dues and individual donations has been stronger than ever, thanks to all of you. See the report (page 10) by our Treasurer Kathleen Kelley, with her updates through the end of October and news about federal loan forgiveness. Going into next year we are in good shape, but it's hard to know what the future will bring: will we be able to open the camps again in 2021? As we did earlier this year, the board and I will keep you up to date through the newsletters, the dues appeal letter coming in February, and the website.

On a much sadder note, the club community lost Mike Micucci this fall to cancer. He was a great asset to the RMC, really helped out the trail crew, and he was a personal friend of mine. His knowledge of the trails and willingness to help will be sorely missed, and those of us who knew him through the RMC would like to remember him by doing something together, for the club and all who benefit from it. Doug Mayer and I have developed a solar-panel project for Gray Knob and Stearns – see Doug's article (page 1) for fundraising information. We'll plan some work days in 2021 for the installation.

Jamie Maddock

Jamie in the pollinator garden at the Mahoosuc Land Trust's Valentine Farm, in Bethel ME, August 2020. R. Meiklejohn photo.



Maryka Gillis



John Phinney



Tom Breunig

New RMC Directors

by the 2020 Nominating Committee

At the August 8th Annual Meeting, members elected Maryka Gillis and John Phinney as new directors of the club, elected three current directors (Carl Herz, Ben Lieberson, and Wendy Walsh) to second terms, and re-elected Jamie Maddock as President. At the meeting, Jamie acknowledged and thanked outgoing directors Jenn Scarinza and Dwight Bradley. [In September, to fill a position created by a resignation, Jamie appointed Tom Breunig to serve until the 2021 Annual Meeting.]

Maryka Gillis reports that her first hike in the White Mountains was a subzero New Year's Eve hike to Gray Knob. Her second was patrolling for the RMC trail crew the next year. She was a member of the trail crew in 2015 and 2016, and came back for another season in 2019. Afterwards, she had intended to return to Minneapolis but instead landed in Lancaster, NH where she works in the restaurant industry and tends to goats. Maryka maintains a close relationship with the RMC's trail program, and looks forward to engaging with the organization in a broader capacity.

John Phinney first traversed Randolph trails such as Pasture Path and the Diagonal in the late 1950's, on his father's back. His first actual memories were hiking and picking blueberries on Dome Rock and Pine Mountain some years later. John has visited Randolph without interruption almost every year since then and now has a house on Pasture Path down the road from his siblings. John attended Grinnell College, and his first job was helping to construct dog mushing trails outside Talkeetna, Alaska. His post-collegiate dream of never leaving Alaska was short-lived and followed by a lifelong career underwriting construction performance guarantees. John and his wife Yutian live in New Jersey where they raised Sarah and William Phinney, who are avid summer and winter hikers. He is delighted to join the RMC board and to support an organization from which he has benefitted since that first walk up the Pasture Path.

Tom Breunig grew up spending summers in Randolph, where he hung out with friends and with his Horton, Grant and Tibbetts cousins, hiked the nearby peaks, "swam" in the Ravine House pool and Mossy Glen potholes, tried to avoid the black flies in the outfield during the softball game, and danced to the tunes of Dudley Laufman (and Jerry Reed's "Amos Moses") up at the Beringers' barn. He is now based in the Berkeley, California area, where he handles communications for technology clients and scouts for new "clean" technologies for investors focused on mitigating climate change. He has three adult children who also love coming to Randolph. Tom is very pleased to be a member of the board and looks forward to working with many of the Randolphians he has not yet had a chance to get to know.



RMC Photo Scavenger Hunt!

by Jenn Scarinza, Social Committee co-chair



From left:
Jack and Anne
Wenk Cashion, in
RMC headgear on
Glen Boulder;
the view from Broad-
acres (Lizzie Pen-
ney); hikers on the
skyline approaching
a big cairn (Howie
Wemyss).

With an unusual summer of not many events in Randolph (or anywhere!), the Social Committee offered a few alternative activities to try to keep our members engaged and enjoying the area. One of these was the RMC Photo Scavenger Hunt! With the help of many others, we created a list of 40 items and encouraged folks to take pictures of as many of them as possible and post them on the site specific for the event, on DropEvent. The list included objects in nature, RMC memorabilia and locations, and random sights like "a porch swing" and "a stone wall". Several fun ideas were saved for next summer's list! Among the participants Howie Wemyss, Beth Krusi, and Wendy Walsh each accomplished all 40 items, or more! Congratulations, and thanks for joining in! Photos can be viewed at <https://dropevent.com/RMCPhotoHunt>.

Camps Report

by Carl Herz, Camps chair

Life at the RMC camps looked quite different this year. As summer wore on and lockdown restrictions relaxed, more and more hikers began to flock to the mountains. In early July, the club decided, after consultation with the Randolph health officers, to open The Perch and the Log Cabin to overnight guests. The sites were already seeing lots of overnight use by mid-June, and compelling hikers to relocate came with the risk of damage to the surrounding land, from the creation of informal campsites. Overnight use at the two shelters was especially heavy between July and mid-September, with The Perch filling to capacity every weekend and on many weeknights.

Autumn came quickly to the camps, with freezing temperatures and peak foliage by late September and measurable snow in mid-October. Our two caretakers, Joey Schilke of the summer trail crew and veteran Jim Baum worked hard through the fall keeping things in peak shape at the camps, and staying ahead on projects in the absence of guests. Abigail Lown, formerly of AMC's field crew, has joined Jim as a caretaker for the Winter season.

Federal and state aid allowed us to move forward with several camps projects including an upgrade of the propane cooking stove infrastructure and a new propane lamp at Gray Knob, replacing the counters in the Crag Camp kitchen, and rebuilding the composting racks behind the outhouses.

While we work through the challenges and adaptations with camps operations, our caretakers have also faced a very different job description in the absence of frequent



Above, the new propane lantern, one of several upgrades at Gray Knob, providing a warm glow (Jim Baum); Justin Taylor at the September airlift (J. Maddock). Below, caretakers Jim Baum (Mt. Airy, NC), Abigail Lown (Portsmouth, NH) and Joey Schilke (Eatontown, NJ). Courtesy photos. Abigail, new to the RMC this season, built and maintained trails for five seasons on the AMC's professional crew. In the off season she works on a family farm in Waldo County, Maine, growing vegetables.

guests at the cabins. In her own words, 2020 caretaker Taylor Radigan recounts the experience of going from open to shut-down status while on the job:

"...Like most of the world right now, things at the camps were different in an unfamiliar way. Even the ability to lock the camps was a unique and uncomfortable contrast to the normal caretaking routine. My job as a caretaker was to welcome people to the backcountry and help them connect to the wilderness in a sustainable way. This season, I told every guest that arrived at the camps they had to leave...."

There was the usual amount of sweeping, shoveling, and keeping the springs flowing. Returning to Gray Knob in the evening was when the routine was broken. I'd usually be entertaining guests most nights, but every night was a zero this season. I kept my usual routine of reading and going to bed early.

There were some unique upsides to the camps being empty too. I've never had the chance to be up in the alpine zone during dinner hours before, and I could start hiking as early as I'd like in the morning. I spent long hours up in the snowfields on Adams and Jefferson without seeing a soul..."

We continue to work closely with the Town on employee and community safety, and have made the decision to keep Crag Camp and Gray Knob closed through the Winter. The Perch and the Log Cabin will remain open. The camps committee will be establishing several operation scenarios for 2021 to best prepare for whatever is in store. We are looking forward to the day we can welcome guests back at all four sites!



Solar / Micucci, continued from page 1



mid to late seventies. Mike Micucci was a pioneer caretaker who ushered in a new era at Gray Knob and Crag Camp--a year-round RMC presence. "I remember when Mike would show up at Crag Camp on his rounds. He would walk into the cabin with his mountain boots, 60/40 parka, wool balaclava and glacier glasses and always an ear-to-ear grin. He treated everyone he met on the mountain as part of a special community and was a role model for initiates like me who wanted nothing more than to follow in his footsteps."

Mike's presence at Gray Knob that spring protected the cabin from damaging behavior by hikers, and the RMC board of directors recognized the need for a wintertime caretaker, a practice that has continued to this day. Later, Mike joined the board in 1996-99 and 2007-13, serving as Vice President and co-chair of the Trails Committee. As a club leader, he strengthened the RMC's connections to the year-round communities of Randolph and Gorham where he lived nearly all of his life. As many members know, this network includes Libby's Bistro (the venue of so many vital RMC social events), owned by Mike's sister and brother-in-law Liz and Steve Jackson.

In later years, Mike supported the club through his recreation-equipment Gorham business, Moriah Sports, making donations of gear and always offering discounts to trail crew and caretakers. He was frequently on the trails, running and hiking with friends in all seasons. He co-founded and co-directed the Randolph Ramble, the annual trail-running event in the Community Forest. During these years, Mike also served as a member of AVSAR, another RMC partner in the northern Presidentials.

A full obituary for Mike will appear in the next issue of Randolph's quarterly community newsletter, *Mountain View*, which can be found online at randolphfoundationnh.org.

To honor Mike's memory the RMC is planning a two-part solar project. The first objective is to improve Gray Knob – where Mike got his start – by replacing its array of solar panels. The power generated by the system will recharge the two-way radio used by the caretaker and will provide 12-volt lighting for the caretaker's private space in the cabin. To support the project and execute it in 2021, the club needs to raise at least \$3,000.

Our second objective is to raise an additional \$12,000 to purchase a new solar array for Stearns Lodge in the valley, replacing electrical power bought from Eversource. The funds would be used only to purchase the equipment. For its installation, skilled volunteer labor valued at an additional \$10,000 has already been pledged by several key club members. In addition to being a green, locally generated source of power, the panels at Stearns would save an estimated \$1,200 in annual electricity costs.

We're sure that Mike would have liked this solar panel project. Just this past year, with the encouragement of longtime friend Jamie Maddock, Mike installed solar panels on his home in Randolph, beginning a solar-power arms race between the two that involved frequent monitoring of kilowatts generated and endless emails.

Mike's presence on and off the trails will be deeply missed. He was never happier than when moving along an RMC path, whether trail running, hiking, or backcountry skiing. There was a lot of laughter on the trail with him. His spirit rarely flagged, and in nearly every photo of him on the trail, he is grinning widely.

A full memorial to Mike's fifty years in the White Mountains, beginning with his days in the Gorham Outing Club and covering his years at the Mt. Washington Observatory, the Auto Road and the AMC, will appear in the summer 2021 edition of *Appalachia*.

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To help "green the RMC", you're invited to help us reach our ambitious fundraising goal of \$15,000. Donations can be mailed to RMC Micucci Solar Project, PO Box 279, Gorham NH 03581. You may also donate at the website; go to Join the Club, scroll to "Additional RMC Donation" and select *Micucci Solar Project* in the pull-down. For further information, please contact Doug Mayer at doug@runthealps.com.



Mike on the mountain over the years, from top: At Gray Knob, May 1977 (R. Meiklejohn photo), on the Washington summit (Howie Wemyss), and on a family hike on the Gulfside Trail (Sally Micucci).



Viewshed Clearing on Mt. Randolph

by Randy Meiklejohn

The RMC's work of "viewshed clearing" has now completed its fourth season, after an initial campaign in 2017 that re-opened scenic views from four points on the Crescent Range in the Randolph Community Forest. More clearing has followed every year since, including work at sites on Mt. Adams and Mt. Madison in the National Forest. Many of these sites have names that suggest what you can see when you get there -- CastleviewRock, Lafayette View, King Cliff or the Overlook -- but decades of forest growth had obscured or eliminated the wonderful views. In some cases, only the names on the map remained. It was RMC members and pathmakers who had discovered and named these places, many of them back in the 1930s. By about 2014 it had become clear to the board of directors that if the RMC did not restore them, nobody else was going to. As I've visited these sites myself, it has seemed to me that our maintenance of their views is another key part of our custody of RMC history, just as we maintain continuity of our historic trails, camps and community traditions.

Guidebooks, local publications, family logbooks and photographs tell the chronology of these named places. But there were other viewpoints that apparently had no names, and this is the story of how a chance discovery on a hike led to the clearing of the panorama shown above.

"So, where do you think we should walk to?" When I'm part of a group getting together for a day hike, I'm often the one who is asked to answer this question, and it came up among a group of old friends who gathered on an August morning in 2019. Because I'm so interested in the progress of the viewshed clearing project, I proposed that we walk a loop on the Crescent Range to visit our historic viewpoints, starting up the Carlton Notch Trail and then turning south along the ridge towards Lookout Ledge. Out on the trail, we stopped for lunch at the re-opened Lafayette View, where we could now see the steep northeast slope of Mt. Randolph's main south peak, as well as the back side of the knoll that has Lookout

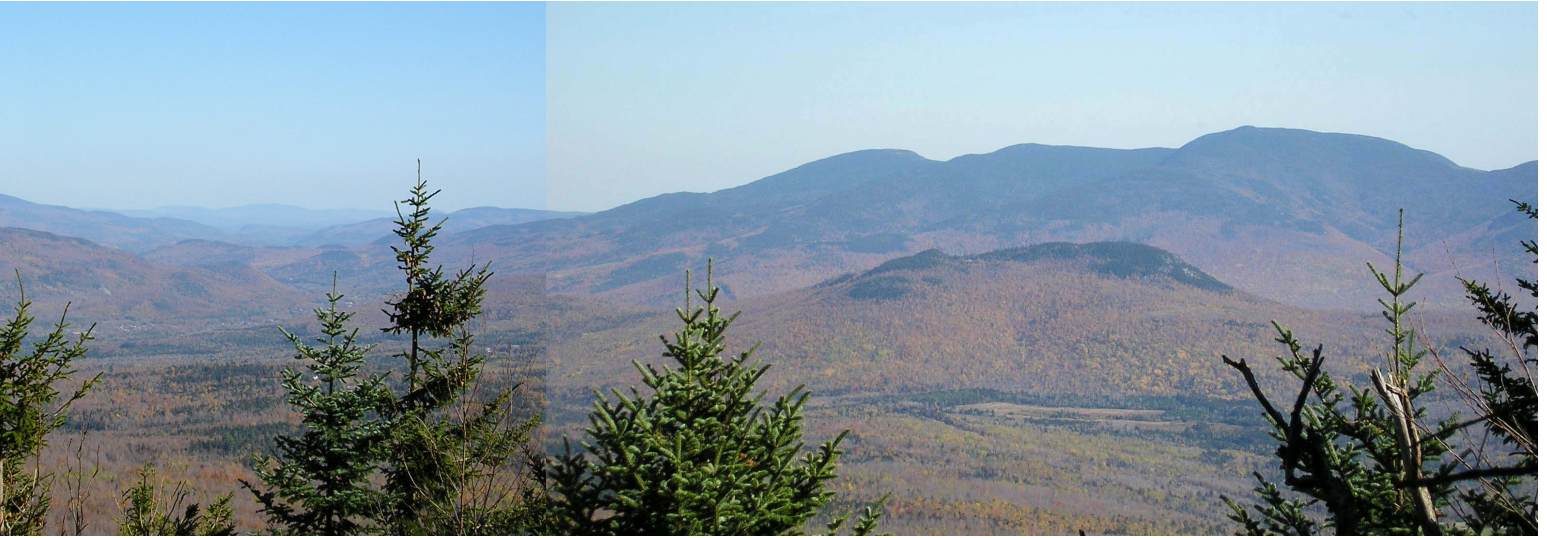
Ledge on the front side. It was great to see the promised view of Mt. Lafayette, and even more interesting to discover "new views" of familiar Randolph topography.

We were in no hurry as we walked south along the Crescent Ridge Trail, and we stopped here and there to look at unusual trees, rock outcrops and sunny clearings, so I noticed when the trail took an unexpected left turn just north of the summit of Mt. Randolph.

As you can see in the map detail on the opposite page, the south-bound trail follows a fairly straight course, and then turns sharply at the 3000-foot contour line, first heading east, and then reversing direction to reach the summit. Turns in a trail are not unusual, but why here? There was no obstacle or slope to work around: it was a right angle in open woods on flat ground.



At right, looking south from Lafayette View, on the Crescent Ridge Trail. Mt. Randolph is in the middle ground on the right, in front of Mt. Jefferson, and two evergreen trees frame the knoll of Lookout Ledge. R. Meiklejohn photo.

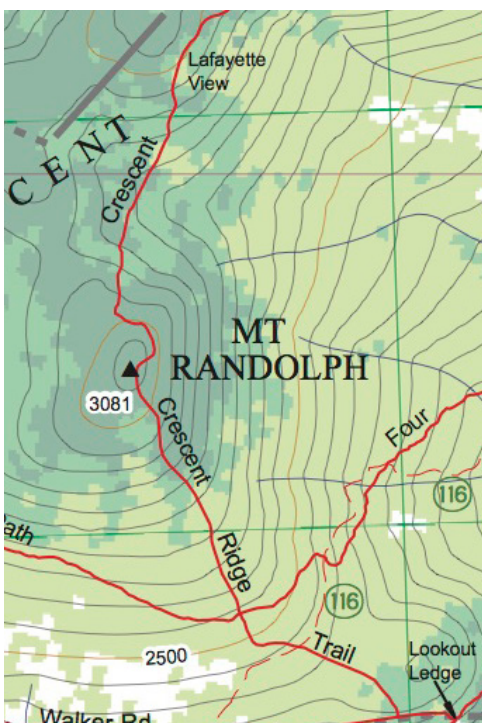


I was ahead of the others in our group, so I turned left off the trail and walked towards a dense screen of spruce trees: might there be a view through them, or beyond them? Soon I came to the edge of a northeast-facing cliff, with evergreens along the top of it and growing up from below. Standing on tiptoe I was able to glimpse part of the Lafayette View location, where we had just been. It felt similar to Along the Brink, on the other side of the valley. Had there once been an open viewpoint here, and was that why the trail included this eastern loop? I tried taking photographs, but there were just too many trees. At this point I looked at my RMC map and, seeing that the trail's turn was clearly indicated, decided I had enough information to pass my discovery along to the Trails Committee.

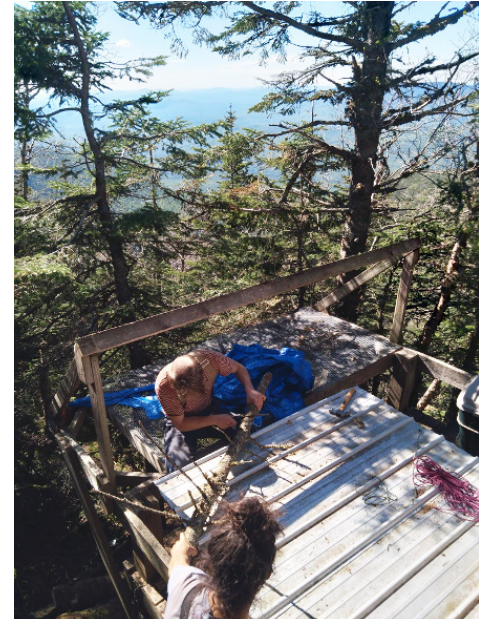
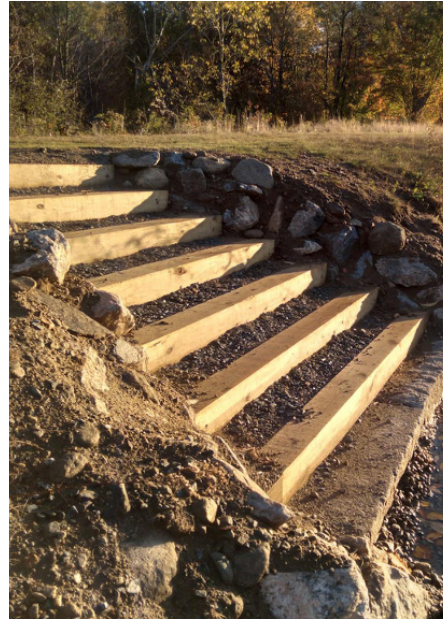
Bob Drescher, co-chair of Trails, was intrigued when I told him about it in October, and he put it on the list of possible projects for the 2020 trail crew. By way of research, he and I exchanged messages with club historian Judy Hudson, who shared an excerpt from her trail notes describing the Crescent Ridge Trail:

An early blazed line and subsequent trail cutting by Laban Watson is reported by E. B. Cook from "Lookout Cliff" [Lookout Ledge] and the eastern face of the west peak of Randolph Mountain, to Safety Pond." E. B. Cook cut path on the wooded top of Randolph Mt. between its southern and northern peaks, 1891. Randolph Paths 1998 (109) states was cut in the 1930's by H. M. and Ruth Dadourian. In 1931, "a new trail along the ridge from Mt. Crescent to the Ledge,...financed by Mr. Boothman."

There is more history to this trail, and more speculation about conditions in the field is always possible, but what gets us to the end of this story is clippers and a saw, plus the blessing of the Community Forest Commission. At Bob's direction, the fall trail crew spent a day cutting and brushing along the cliff, and uncovered the view above. He reports there is more clearing that could still be done, but the view is already worth a visit. It's taking me some time to get used to this idea. For the last half-century I've been taking short hikes up to Lookout Ledge, knowing there was absolutely no point in going further up Mt. Randolph because it was just another buggy wooded summit. But the 'no-name view' is already on my list for 2021 day hikes.



Above: Panorama from the viewpoint on Mt. Randolph, looking east down the valley of the Androscoggin. From left, you can see Mt. Crescent, the southern Mahoosucs, Gorham, and Mt. Moriah with Pine Mtn. in front (collage of photos by Bob Drescher). Above left, a birch tree double-bent above the treadway of the Crescent Ridge Trail (R. Meiklejohn photo). Left, detail of the RMC trail map, showing the Crescent Ridge Trail and its "loop" on the summit of Mt. Randolph.



Trails, continued from page 1

twelve bog bridges on the Ice Gulch Path, as well as clearing blowdowns from seasonal storms (notably the Hincks Trail). Fall work included more post-storm patrolling, helping with the camps airlift, and cutting trees that threatened Sanders Bridge, at the Randolph Path crossing of Cold Brook.

The crew of Sam Marshall, Joey Schilke, Owen Desroches and Matt Rebolini, led by Field Supervisor Justin Taylor, negotiated a constant maze of safety protocols and social restrictions that tested their mettle, but they proved themselves more than capable. Justin will be moving on, so we thank him for guiding

the crew and caretakers during the last four years. In a special project for Justin's last season, we were pleased to be invited by the Randolph Foundation to assist at Durand Lake. He helped design and install the new steps that will mitigate bank erosion and provide a safer path for swimmers to enter the water.

Continuing our viewshed work, the crew did some further cutting at Mt. Crescent's North and South Lookouts, and installed a bench carved from a recent blowdown nearby. Returning to Cold Brook Fall, we did more tree work to open the sightlines from the Memorial Bridge, and restored a view on the Crescent Ridge Trail (see page 6). A volunteer crew spent a day

Above, Justin Taylor and the crew clearing the Hincks Trail; the new steps built for the Randolph Foundation and the Town at Durand Lake; Joey Schilke and Matt Rebolini rebuilding the drying rack at the Perch. Below, Justin descending the cliff at Mt. Crescent's North Lookout; Matt lunching on the new bench installed there; Sam Marshall at the Log Cabin. Justin Taylor photos.





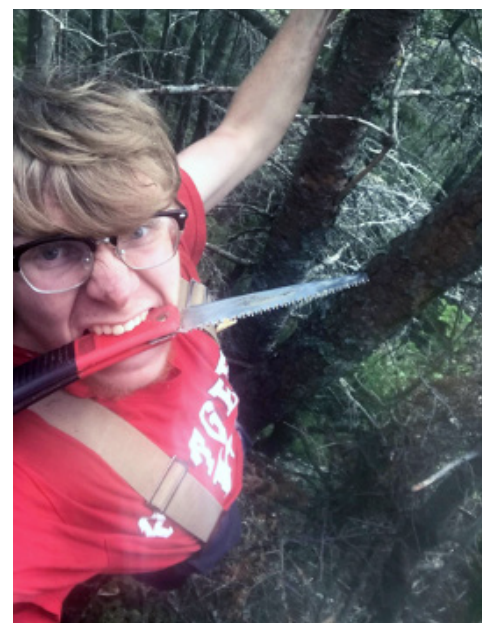
brushing and clearing at the lower end of the Ice Gulch, opening up a view of Peboamauk Fall that had become obscured by forest grown and blowdowns in recent decades.

Although volunteer work trips were cancelled due to the pandemic, we did satisfy our NH Recreational Trails Program “Volunteer Match” requirement through the efforts of our reliable volunteer members. Jeff Wilson, Ben and Barbara Phinney, Alana Berger, Jamie Maddock, Benzo Harris, Bob Drescher, Ben Lieberson and Megan Carey came out on our work days, totaling 130 hours. Volunteers also managed to brush and blaze the Notchway and Crescent Ridge Trail. Finally, we’d like to

thank members Dave Tomlinson and Anne Barschall, who sent trail reports and photos of trail issues throughout the summer.

Looking ahead, the ATC and the USFS will be providing funding for alpine zone work on the Gulfside next summer, and the RMC has been awarded another RTP grant for bog bridge work, this time on the Sylvan Way. The ATC is also securing \$3K worth of new rigging gear for us to use on our future projects. As always, we are grateful for the support from our partners that allows our crews to perform the amazing work they do, and we hope that members will take note of the many improvements made in 2020 when they walk our trails next season.

Above, “before”, “during” and “after” photos of the volunteer crew’s work clearing the view at Peboamauk fall; in center photo, current director and former field supervisor Ben Lieberson. Benzo Harris photos. Below, Owen Desroches, a new stone stair that the crew built on the Cook Path, and Joey Schilke. Justin Taylor photos.



Treasurer's Report

by Kathleen Kelley

	Admin.	Dev't.	Camps	Stearns	Trails	Trails Grants	Total	2020 Budget
Revenue								
YTD 10/31/2020:	\$50,105	38,585	6,211	0	1,778	12,602	109,454	148,345
Expense								
YTD 10/31/2020:	\$16,032	2,154	39,587	10,387	31,403	12,742	113,721	142,820
Net:	\$34,073	36,431	(33,376)	(10,387)	(29,625)	(140)	(4,267)	5,525

As reported in the June newsletter and at the Annual Meeting, the COVID-19 pandemic presented financial challenges for the RMC, but with support from many sources, we are in a strong position heading into next year. The federal Payroll Protection loan of \$18,000, received earlier this year, was forgiven by the Small Business Administration in November; this funding allowed us to continue to employ camp caretakers even though the camps have been mostly closed to visitors. The RMC also was awarded a State of New Hampshire GOFFER (forgivable) loan of \$25,900 to cover the additional loss of camp revenue in 2020. The board will apply for forgiveness of this loan as well in December 2020. In the budget table above, the \$18K forgiven PPP loan is already shown in the Revenue figure under "Admin.," while the \$29.5K GOFFER loan remains on the balance sheet outside the 2020 operating budget.

Finally, our generous individual donors have understood the importance of maintaining continuity in our camp and trail operations, and have stepped up their giving in 2020 (thus the \$38K Revenue figure under "Dev't" above, significantly higher than the corresponding donations in 2018 or 2019). In fact, in early November we are even receiving a new wave of donations to support the proposed solar-electricity project for Gray Knob and Stearns (page 1). As we approach the end of the financial year, the forgiveness of the federal and state loans will eliminate our projected operating loss, validating the intent of these programs in sustaining non-profit organizations like the RMC that create employment and strengthen regional economies across the U.S.

RMC 100 Finishers

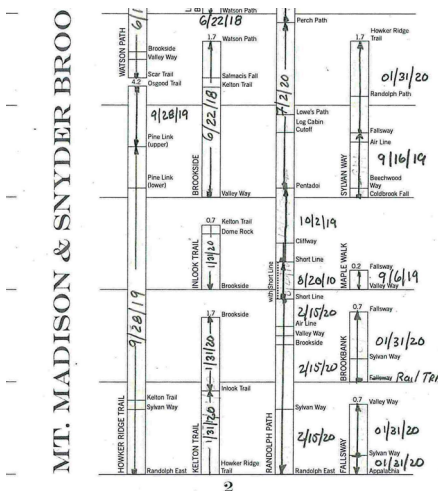
latest in a series...

Summer 2020 was a good time for hiking in small groups or going solo, so it wasn't surprising that we heard from two friends of the club that they had finished the challenge. The RMC 100 was launched at the club's centennial in 2010, and anyone who walks all of the +/- one hundred miles of our trails (starting in 2010 or later) will receive the special "100" patch and be featured in the newsletter. You can read more about it at the website, and pick up a trail logbook at the Randolph Public Library.



Cormac Griffin of Glen, NH was an RMC camp caretaker in spring and summer of 2013. He started the challenge in May of that year. Above left he's seen on a winter hike, and above right he's seen on the Success Trail in the Mahoosucs in October, with Success Pond over his shoulder in the background.

Fred Wijnen-Riems, of Medford MA, chipped away at the challenge for a decade, as you can see from one page of his logbook at right: some of his trips date from summer 2010. His last trail was the Glenside on Sunday, August 23, 2020, and he commemorated the event with the photo at right, standing at the Groveway trailhead (at the Hortons' driveway) along Durand Road. (Courtesy photos for both.)





RMC Merchandise

by Michele Cormier

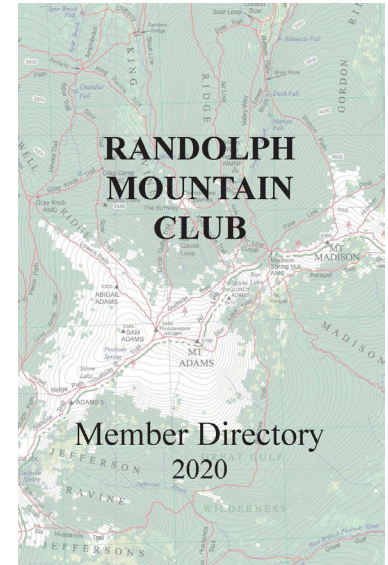
Head to the RMC website year-round for merchandise, paying membership dues, making a donation, or setting up an automatic payment plan for dues or donations.

www.randolphmountainclub.org

Featured on this page: Our zip fleece vest, with the RMC logo patch (available on the website) and the 2020 Directory.

The directory is available in print only, to members only and not via the website.

To purchase, contact Michele Cormier directly at (603) 466-5841 or pcormier@ne.rr.com.



Dan & Margaret Adams, Norwalk CT
Brendan Ahearn, Warwick RI
Michael Angel, Bedford MA
Carol Auerbach, Brattleboro VT
Jon Blatt, Rumson NJ
Angela Campbell, Merrimack NH
Jim Casson, Bluffton SC
Jeremy Clark, Ashland NH
Elizabeth Dillon, Randolph NH
Deviant Entertainment, Salem NH
John Fillmore-Patrick, Denmark ME
Christopher & Sara Haskins,
 New Bedford MA
Sara Haxby, Harpers Ferry WV
Amalia & Walter Haycock,
 Cambridge MA

Welcome new RMC members!

Joined May - November 2020

Bruce Hill, Gorham NH
Jamie & Nancy Horton, Etna NH
Steven Howell, North Woodstock NH
Colin Jager, Highland Park NJ
Sue Jick & Dan Groher, Acton MA
Jeremy Johnson & Christine Magee,
 Randolph NH
Christopher Kerry, Brooklyn NY
Jerry King, Yarmouth ME
Paula Kitchel, Randolph NH
Patrick Leblanc, Wilton NH
James Machinchick, Hooksett NH
Andrew MacLeod, West Roxbury MA
D'Arcy MacMahon, Dartmouth MA

Barbara Marino, Reading MA
Ted & Laura May, Oakton VA
John Micalizzi, Sugar Hill NH
Lynn Morneweck-Fuld, Fair Lawn NJ
Nick O'Connor, West Lebanon NH
Gregory Pishko, Lowell MA
Brian Post, Jackson NH
David Ricker, Lancaster NH
Elizabeth Rising Segura,
 Randolph NH
Mark Skillin, Fall River MA
Vincent Soltani, Epsom NH
Michael Sullivan, Rochester NH
Glenn Tassej, Gorham NH
Lee Waterhouse, Waltham MA
Rachel Whelton, Newfields NH

Members out and about in 2020, from left: A small group at the Pond of Safety, headed on an autumn walk to Lookout Ledge, with Pat & Laurie Archambault, Caesar Bryan and David Wenk (Franklin Wenk photo); the no-picnic sign and masked members at the merchandise sale along Durand Road on August 15, the date when the picnic would have been held (R. Meiklejohn photos).



Letters from the Mountain: Call for Submissions

by Steve Chase and Brad Meiklejohn

If you served as an RMC camp caretaker, we are seeking your submissions for a book project titled Letters from the Mountain. This anthology of writing will offer an inside look at the experience of being a caretaker at Crag Camp and Gray Knob.

Since the 1940's, the Randolph Mountain Club camps have been cared for by young women and men who spent months, sometimes years, at these mountain outposts. For many who served as caretakers, the experience was transformational, setting a trajectory for their lives. This book will allow writers and readers to share in the challenges, rewards, traditions and humor of mountain camps.

We are seeking contributors from across the decades to recount stories from your time at the camps. We anticipate having two to three selections from each decade across roughly seventy years, totaling approximately twenty essays or "letters".

We cannot do this book without you. We invite former and current caretakers interested in contributing to contact us at the e-mail address below for additional information and submission guidance. Proceeds from this book will support the RMC.

Thank you for your interest.

Steve Chase & Brad Meiklejohn - RMCNHCaretaker@gmail.com



RMC camp caretaker alumni at a get-together atop a spring snowbank at Gray Knob in 1985. Phil Knight photo.