



# 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 2021

Volume 19, No. 2

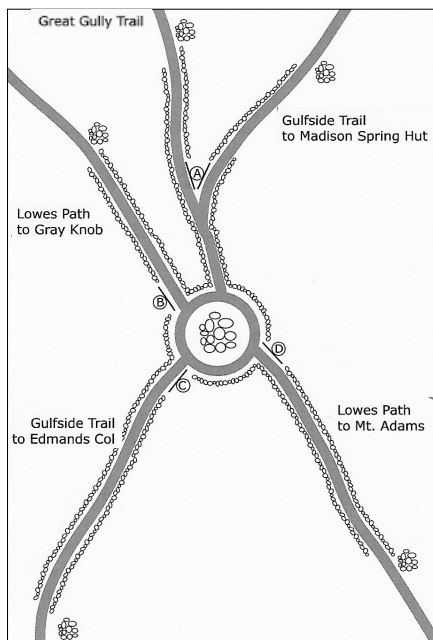
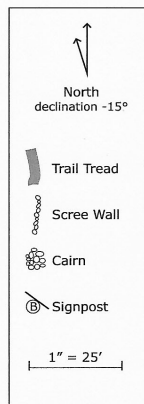


Diagram of the Thunderstorm Junction work begun in 2021. Courtesy of Bob Drescher.

## RMC Trails Projects in 2021

by Bob Drescher and Benzo Harris

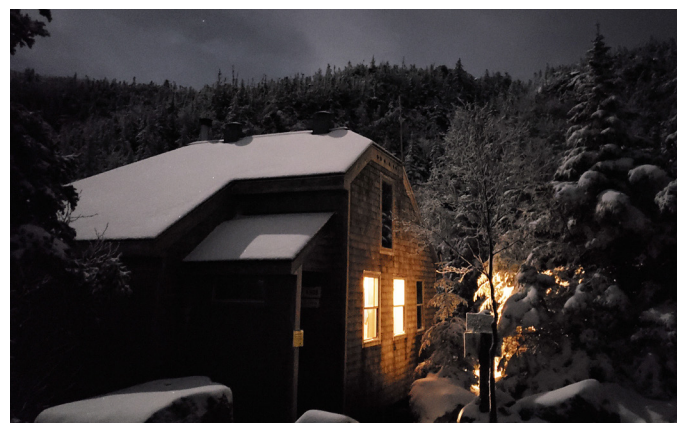
The RMC trail crew completed important work this year in support of our mission of trail maintenance and improvement. Though fewer in number due to Covid concerns, the crew was very productive, accomplishing much more than we expected. Field supervisor Sam Marshall's outstanding leadership enabled the crew to get through training, patrols and complete funded projects on the Gulfside Trail and the Sylvan Way, and also assist with the fall airlift to Gray Knob.

Our Gulfside project was largely funded by a grant from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy as well as the U.S. Forest Service. This year's work was the first phase of a two-year effort to protect the fragile alpine vegetation, by constructing scree walls to clearly define the treadway and connecting two RMC trails to the Gulfside in a way that reduces hiker impact. (See diagram above.) Some of the best education and training available on alpine rigging (for moving and setting rocks) was provided by trailbuilder Jed Talbot of Off the Beaten Path, resulting in a confident crew that worked safely and efficiently. Another key element in the success of this work was the new rigging gear provided by the National Park Service for us to use.

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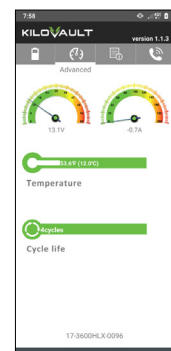
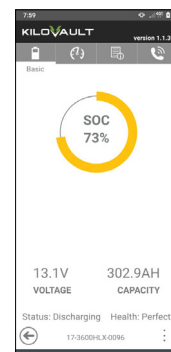


## Solar Projects Completed at Gray Knob

by Jamie Maddock

Our June newsletter featured the story of the RMC's solar project at Stearns Lodge, where we installed rooftop solar panels to electrify the Lodge and a new air-source heat pump for the caretaker's quarters. Generous contributions were received from RMC's members and friends, many made in memory of longtime RMC member and trails leader Mike Micucci. Awards from the Randolph Foundation and other grantmakers, as well as volunteer labor, brought the project to completion. The project's overall budget was about sixty thousand dollars. This included funding for the project's second phase up on the mountain at Gray Knob, which is now completed and operating.

Gray Knob has had a small array of solar panels for about twenty-five years, so the second phase of this year's project was to upgrade it. Since the original installation, the technology of solar panels and batteries has improved greatly. The old system had not been meeting our power needs in the winter, and venting the old lead acid batteries made



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Top, Gray Knob now glows at night (R. Kamman photo); at right, solar battery readings on Jamie's phone app.

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**Randolph Mountain Club 2021-2022**

Officers, Directors,  
committee chairs and honorary members

**President** Randy Meiklejohn, Brookline MA  
**Vice President** John Phinney, Basking Ridge NJ  
**Treasurer** Kathleen Kelley, Randolph NH  
**Secretary** Joel Douglas, Andover MA

**Other Directors:** Tom Breunig, El Cerrito CA  
 Maryka Gillis, Providence RI  
 Chris Hawkins, Randolph NH  
 Carl Herz, North Conway NH  
 Ben Lieberman, Boston MA  
 Jenna Maddock, Boulder CO  
 Deva Steketee, Turner ME  
 Franklin Stone Wenk, Brooklyn NY  
 Ginny Umiker, Randolph NH  
 Wendy Walsh, Randolph NH  
 Howie Wemyss, Randolph NH

**Camps:** Carl Herz

**Trails:** Bob Drescher, Ben Lieberman

**Social Events:** Franklin Stone Wenk, Ginny Umiker

**Merchandise:** Michele Cormier

**Planned Giving:** Randy Meiklejohn

**Membership:** Michele Cormier

**Trips:** Mary Minifie

**Work Trips:** Wendy Walsh

**Newsletter:** Randy Meiklejohn

**Webmaster:** Jenna Maddock

**Archivist:** Al Hudson

**Historian:** Judy Hudson

**Cartographer:** Jon Hall

**Honorary members:** Bill & Barbara Arnold  
 Paul & Michele Cormier  
 Al & Judy Hudson  
 Edith Tucker

[www.randolphmountainclub.org](http://www.randolphmountainclub.org)  
 Instagram: @randolphmountainclub

*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 ...*

Greetings from your new president. 2021 has been a transition year for the RMC, on top of the other changes in the world around us, and in the long term this is a good thing and an occasion for some acknowledgments. The Annual Meeting was on Zoom this year and we had too little time to recognize those stepping down from leadership roles, including president Jamie Maddock, vice-president Kate Hudson and directors Dwight Bradley, Bob Drescher and Bev Jadis. Many thanks to those five, and in this newsletter you can read about the five new directors now stepping up.

One reason to be confident about transitions within club leadership is the strength of RMC volunteering, our ultimate renewable resource. This newsletter is full of stories about members who find purpose, satisfaction and fellowship in our work: in specialized volunteer roles, trail work trips, participation in search and rescue, technical assistance with construction projects, or custody of our facilities or club information systems. This is a goal even for the new RMC employee alumni association, whose leaders I met with in October. For them, it's clear that finding the right volunteer role will help them sustain and grow their connection to a club and community where many had an important experience in their summer employment.

As you've been hearing since spring 2020, the sources of revenue that typically complement all this volunteer effort in club operations have been disrupted. The board has had to adapt in order to keep an even keel on the trails and camps, the core of our mission. Donations from members have helped close the gap, as has government aid intended for non-profit employers like us. This year again we've made use of a longer-term resource, the Mt. Madison Fund (which receives bequests and memorial donations), to pay for capital repairs at Gray Knob. It was an appropriate use of this restricted fund, and a good idea to undertake construction at the camps while they were closed to overnight guests.

I'm glad to report that the camps are now open, with a new solar energy system operating at Gray Knob. As you've read in the past two newsletters, this was the second phase of the project that began with the spring 2021 solar panel installation at Stearns Lodge. It made use of our entire array of RMC resources, from volunteer time, donations and grants, construction and electrical skills, and know-how about helicopter airlifts. Meanwhile, the trail crew worked steadily through the summer and fall, making significant improvements on different trails in our network. Here too continuity remains important, since it's the hiking public who depend on our camps and trails every day, all year round.

Thanks for being part of the RMC as we continue to adapt and grow. If you'd like to be involved or contribute, I'd be happy to hear from you. See you soon in Randolph.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Randy Meiklejohn".

Randy Meiklejohn, President email: [president@randolphmountainclub.org](mailto:president@randolphmountainclub.org)

### New Honorary Members Paul and Michele Cormier

by Randy Meiklejohn

At the 2021 Annual Meeting in August, RMC members voted unanimously to make Michele and Paul Cormier honorary members of the club, as provided for in the bylaws. In part this was in recognition of Paul's 2021 retirement from years of volunteer work in maintenance and improvements at Stearns Lodge, continuously since its construction in 2007. Michele has been RMC President and Treasurer and she continues to be responsible for the club's membership and merchandise functions. At right, Paul and Michele pause for a selfie during a recent bike ride up Evans Notch.



### Volunteer Work Trips in 2021

by Wendy Walsh

Volunteers play a major role in the maintenance of our trails and we want to thank everyone who came out this year. Last year Covid kept us from organizing volunteer trips, but the brush did not stop growing! This year twenty-nine volunteers came out, some working more than one day, for a total of 250.5 hours. This included twelve first-time volunteers. Two first-time volunteers made significant contributions. Tonya Ring was present for every scheduled workday and added a few of her own that helped reach our Sylvan Way match hours. Edward Clark worked on the Owl's Head Trail, clearing blowdowns and brushing, and has offered to provide materials and labor for much-needed repairs on the trail's lower section.

We had five scheduled trips in July and August, including two on the Spur Trail, two on The Link, and one on the Sylvan Way (an additional two trips were cancelled due to weather).

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Above left, Sylvan Way volunteers (and this shot made the front page of the *Berlin Daily Sun*); Edith Tucker photo. Below left, volunteers on the Spur Trail; Tim Mather photo.



### Summer Events in 2021

photos by Franklin Wenk and Jenn Scarinza



Clockwise from above: New moms at the Tea; the Gourmet Hike; August dinner at Libby's; crew at the Tea; Picnic at the Ravine House Pool.



## New RMC Directors

*At the 2021 Annual Meeting in August, four RMC members were elected to serve three-year terms as club directors, and following the meeting, Ginny Umiker was appointed by President Randy Meiklejohn to a one-year director term, to fill a vacancy on the board resulting from a resignation.*



**Joel Douglas** was introduced to Randolph by his future wife Margaret Cutter Douglas in the early 1990s. They were married in Randolph in 1993, and have been enjoying summers there with their children, Ben and Emily, hiking and spending time with the abundance (a possible future Valley charade word) of Cutters. Joel is working on his RMC 100, and enjoys discovering the less-traveled trails. He learned about proper hiking attire on his first trip up the Ammonoosuc Ravine with his father-in-law, Louis Cutter, when, on a beautiful summer day, they had to turn back as the weather turned bad. Joel has previous board experience at both the nonprofit and corporate levels, both with his temple and with the national-security technology company he helped to found in 2011. Joel and Margaret live in Andover, MA, which is just close enough to get up to Randolph for a quick hike on those all-too-infrequent free weekends.



**Jenna Maddock** grew up coming to Randolph for the summer months, acting in charades for the Valley, guzzling punch at the 4th of July Tea, and romping along on many a Tuesday and Thursday hike. She continued to spend summers in the mountains as she got older, growing from being enticed up Dome Rock by Life Savers to running the Presidential Traverse and hiking The Link from end to end (because why not). With family, she also occasionally helped out as a fill-in caretaker at Crag Camp and Gray Knob. In 2011, she officially worked her first of several seasons in the Whites as Hut Croo for the AMC. In 2018, while transitioning back to the US after three years in Japan, she started taking over RMC webmaster duties and has been volunteering to maintain and streamline the club's digital presence and resources since then. She currently works in Colorado as a software engineer, but returns to visit the Whites at least once a year.



**Deva Steketee** came to the RMC trail crew fresh from high school in 2009. Trail work was always going to be just a summer job... until one day it wasn't. After three summers on the crew, and two as Field Supervisor, Deva graduated from Harvard College with a degree in French Literature and moved to Jackson, Wyoming for a trails position at Grand Teton National Park. Despite wide open skies, clear cold lakes, and endless tracts of public land, she never quite shook the magnetism of home and the White Mountains. In 2019, Deva moved back east permanently and took a position working for OBP Trailworks, a professional trail design and building company based in Turner, Maine. In the winters she enjoys time off and works as a college basketball referee throughout New England. She visits Randolph frequently and is excited to get involved again and to help keep RMC trails looking their best.



**Ginny Umiker** has deep roots in Randolph, because both of her parents (Hank and Peeko Folsom) came from families in the community. Her mother's great-grandfather was William Peek, an early pathmaker. The Lion Head Trail on Mt. Washington was built in memory of William Richards, her great-grandfather on the Folsom side. Ginny grew up summering on the Hill, spending idyllic days picking blueberries, hiking, swimming in the Ravine House pool and participating in RMC events. She married Rick Umiker in the Randolph Church, where her parents had married a generation ago. Ginny and Rick recently retired to Randolph after forty-plus years at St. Mark's School in Massachusetts; she managed the campus bookstore and he taught math. They now reside in the Peek family house on Durand Rd. Their three children treasure visits to Randolph, and Ginny can't wait to see her three grandchildren in the Valley charade!



**Howie Wemyss** grew up on the coast of Maine while spending winter weekends in the White Mountains. After college and a stint in the Army, he moved to the mountains in the early 70's and played ski bum, patrolling at Wildcat while driving stages on the Mt. Washington Auto Road in the summer. In 1987 he settled down to full-time employment managing the Mt. Washington Auto Road, and in 1995 was offered the responsibility of running Great Glen Trails, the company's recreational branch. In 2000, Howie and his wife Sue celebrated Howie's 50th birthday by completing the 54-mile, 16,000-foot vertical, "Hut Traverse" in 22 hours. He retired in 2020 but remains active with the Mt. Washington Observatory, Mount Washington Commission and the Glen House Hotel. His daughter Cory and grandchildren live nearby in Fryeburg. Howie and Sue have lived in Randolph along the Short Circuit since 2003.

## Volunteer Profile and Golder Loppers Award

by Wendy Walsh

This Profile recognizes outstanding RMC trail volunteers **Amy Patenaude**, **Bria Clark** and **Danielle Normand**, and I'm pleased to announce that Amy and Danielle are also this year's recipients of the coveted *Golden Loppers Award*. They have been regular volunteers since 2017. Amy's first outing was helping after the October storm clean up that year. 2021 was Bria's first year volunteering on some ambitious trails.

Danielle and Amy led two work trips on the Link in July, when Bria, an experienced trail maintainer, joined them. Below, Amy describes one of the trips. For information about the other one, see the article Amy wrote for the *Weir Times* about volunteering and redlining. [weirs.com/the-link-volunteering-redlining/](https://weirs.com/the-link-volunteering-redlining/)

July 22nd trip: We had another successful workday on The Link. Started up Lowe's Path, The Link to the Castle Ravine Trail crossing of Castle Brook. We brushed The Link up towards the Castle Trail. We brushed the thick trail and it was extremely satisfying to open it up. We cleared up to elevation 3,550. A hiker that did a loop beginning from Madison Hut descended The Link! We were so surprised to see someone on the trail. We brushed like maniacs to get the work done so we could get back on the trail before our turnaround time. Emerald Bluff was wonderful and filled our eyes with the beauty of Castle Ravine and the Ridge and beyond over Bowman to Cherry Mountain. We made it back to our cars at Lowe's at 2:30. Of course it rained on us when we went to Lower Falls to swim! A wonderful day.

*We asked our three volunteers about their connections to the RMC and why they enjoy volunteering:*

Danielle: I found my way to Randolph through hiking the forty-eight 4,000-footers. Then once I started to look into redlining, I found the area awesome! I had looked into volunteering, as I needed trail work hours for the Trailwrights list. When I had the hours I needed for the list, I continued to volunteer because I enjoy each outing I go on! Such a gem of a place to be.

Amy: I finished redlining the AMC White Mountain Guide in 2015 (and yes, I redlined the RMC trails along the way), and I completed the NH 500 Highest list in 2017. Sometime in between I volunteered with BRATTs--Belknap Range Trail Tenders, I tagged along friends that did trail work in the Belknaps. A few of the BRATTs are also Trailwrights and they got me interested in becoming a Trailwright and tackling the Trailwright 72 Summits Club which requires hiking, bushwhacking and working on trails. Thanks to Danielle's recommendation, trail-work with the RMC was good fun. In 2018, I became the 36th person to become a member of the 72 Summits Club. I like trail work with the RMC so much that I don't plan on stopping.

Bria: I had heard about the RMC through my husband as well as through Amy and Danielle. The girls invited me to do some work this summer, and I was happy to help. I also work with the BRATTs in the Belknap range maintaining a couple of trails in that area (Anna and Goat Pasture Hill), so I am no stranger to a



Amy Patenaude, Bria Clark and Danielle Normand on the day they brushed the Link, at Emerald Bluff with the Castellated Ridge behind them. Danielle Normand photo.

day of work in the woods. I actually met my husband through that group!

*What do you enjoy most about helping to maintain the trails?*

Danielle: I like being able to maintain the trails as I see other trail systems and just know how hard the RMC works at keeping the trails cleared and in good condition. I always tell people about how fun the outings are and how everyone is very nice. Like when can you say 'hey I painted that blaze' or 'I helped put in that bog bridge' or even the 'wow this used to be a carwash'!

Amy: I like hiking, being outdoors and caring for the trails for myself and others to enjoy; and like being part of the tradition of hikers volunteering together.

Bria: I love the feeling of accomplishment after a day of work, and knowing that anyone who hikes the trail will be able to easily navigate and enjoy it for years if they so choose. I hadn't recognized the importance of water mitigation until I began to work with the BRATTs, and now I almost always find myself trying to seep water off the trail when possible when a water bar is clearly clogged or failing.

*What are your favorite White Mountain hikes?*

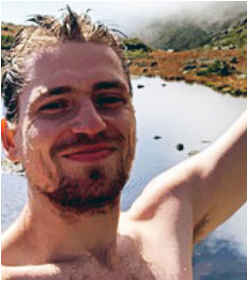
Danielle: I am not sure I have a favorite hike in the Whites... I like so many different areas it is hard to choose. I enjoy the RMC land, the Shelburne area and Evans Notch.

Amy: I know this is corny but the hike I am doing is my favorite. I want to take the paths that are less traveled and the Randolph paths offer many options to reach lovely places and peaks where it is almost guaranteed not to be crowded.

Bria: As far as favorite WM hikes, I am not sure I have one! Although I am very partial to the Mt. Tecumseh trail.

## Meet the fall and winter Camp Caretakers

... in their own words ...



**Benji Getraer:** I grew up in Highland Park, NJ, but have been coming up to the Whites since I was a kid, where climbing Chocorua and Washington became a yearly tradition. After getting involved with the AMC volunteer teen trail crews, I worked for a season as a teen trail crew leader with the AMC's NY/NJ trails program. Memorable White Mountain treks have often involved my twin brother Alec, including hiking the New Hampshire AT section in high school, a full moon overnight Presi traverse in college, and most recently, the Hut to Hut traverse in cold rainy fog. I first became familiar with the RMC after a late Fall trip to Crag Camp, and am now returning for my second season, after Winter caretaking in 2019–2020. I received my B.A. in Geosciences in 2019, and since graduating have worked for the US Forest Service as Wilderness Ranger in Idaho and Colorado. I plan to return to school to pursue a Ph.D in climate science.



Hello! I'm **Jim Baum** from Mount Airy, NC, back for my third season as an RMC Caretaker. In the spring and summer, I am a Ridgerunner for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Most recently I've worked in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area (in southwestern Virginia), the home of the Grayson Highlands wild ponies. I'm looking forward to another winter at Gray Knob, and I feel very fortunate to spend that time working for the Randolph Mountain Club.



Hauling his behind up the Hincks Trail after a three-year hiatus, caretaker **Rowan Kamman** is back for the fall and winter seasons at Gray Knob. A Green Mountainer by birth, he has often spent intervals of time in the neighboring Whites to help rebalance his humours. Familiar with the the RMC from summer '16 trail crew and fall '18 caretaking, Rowan looks forward to eking out a little more time at the finest mountain shelter in the northeast. An avid trail runner, he looks forward to the ankle-strengthening joys of rock-hopping, at least until the snow comes. Once the perils of autumnal snow-covered-trails are buried beneath a solid snowpack, you might find him on skis doing laps around Durand Lake or in the Crescent Ridge glades. Lastly, here's Rowan's tip for staying warm during a winter stay at Gray Knob: "just velcro yourself to the side of the woodstove." He'll be there too, strapped to the other side of the stove and trying to read a book.



Above, John Tremblay at Gray Knob, replacing windows and making repairs to the outhouse. On opposite page, a window replacement in progress. Carl Herz photos.

## Camps Report

by Carl Herz

I am pleased to announce that all RMC camps are now open again. The Camps committee originally planned an August reopening of Gray Knob and Crag Camp, but the rise of the Delta variant of Covid-19 delayed those arrangements. We opted for a soft open in late September, unannounced, to allow our caretakers to transition into welcoming guests indoors again, and we then announced the reopening October 4th. For the time being, our capacity is reduced; fifteen at Crag Camp and ten at Gray Knob. The cabins were also supplied with masks and a large volume of hand sanitizer for those who wish to use them. At the Perch and Log Cabin, occupancy restrictions that were imposed in 2020 have been lifted.

Fortunately, summer passed without any incidents despite lots of hiker traffic in the surrounding area. A season without guests at the cabins allowed our caretakers to get a lot of work done on trails around the camps, and 'brush in' a few impact sites at the Perch, which continued to see frequent use during weekends. In fall, we were thrilled to welcome back veteran caretakers Benjamin Getraer and Rowan Kamman. Their friendliness, experience, and fluency with the role were assets in the reopening of the camps, and their shift reports detailed an astonishing degree of productivity. For winter, Rowan will remain on the job and James Baum will return for his third winter. The camps will be in excellent hands.

*Continued on opposite page*

*Trails, continued from page 1*

The Sylvan Way saw sixteen bog bridges replaced and several rock structures added, funded by a grant from the NH Recreational Trails Program and volunteer labor to cover our matching portion.

The fall crew (Justin Taylor, Matt Rebolini and Reuben Morris) was equally productive, helping with the airlift and working six weeks on some very important trail repairs and projects. The presence of a fall crew is critical to keeping up with trail maintenance and the never-ending list of repairs. Special thanks to our members Angela Toms and Chris Forman of Meriden NH, whose generous donation helped to fund our fall crew this season.



Top right, the new view opened up this fall along the Four Soldiers Path, less than 100 yards west of the Crescent Ridge Trail junction, and there's also a new bench from which to enjoy the view. Bob Drescher photo. Above: Bog bridges being placed on the Sylvan Way; Thunderstorm Junction, with new scree walls flanking the trails, the rebuilt large cairn, and rigging for rock-flying. Sam Marshall photos. Right, Reuben Morris, Justin Taylor with Winry, and Matt Rebolini, the 2021 fall crew. Bob Drescher photo.

Here's a summary of trail work completed by the summer and fall crews:

Gulfside Trail: quarried rocks and constructed over 1,000 feet of scree walls; rebuilt thirteen cairns, including the large cairn at Thunderstorm Junction; re-aligned trail junctions and installed new sign posts and sign.

Sylvan Way: replaced 16 bog bridges, added rock water bar and side ditch.

Howker Ridge Trail: re-built eight cairns above treeline (damaged by vandalism in 2020); replaced six bog bridge stringers on lower section.

Lowe's Path: repaired edges of trail at Rail Trail crossing.

Four Soldiers Path: restored view and built a bench near the Crescent Ridge Trail junction; replaced 3 native bog bridges at Double Brook Road junction.

Starr King Trail: re-shaped new waterbars and cleaned out drainages.

*Camps, continued*

The annual fall airlift to Gray Knob was again orchestrated by director Chris Hawkins. This year the operation was quite busy, with an extra half ton of wood fuel for Gray Knob and all the materials needed for projects at the camps. Fortunately, we were able to fly a little early and had the help of the summer trail crew to assist on the mountain. Carpenter John Tremblay and Camps committee member Adam Ritchie worked diligently on outhouse foundations, replacing windows at Gray Knob and deck railings at Crag Camp. The new solar project at Gray Knob was the biggest push, as detailed by Jamie Maddock. The most readily evident change is that for the first time in history, an RMC shelter has pull chain lights!



## A Run-In With a Friend Along the Trail

by Carl Herz

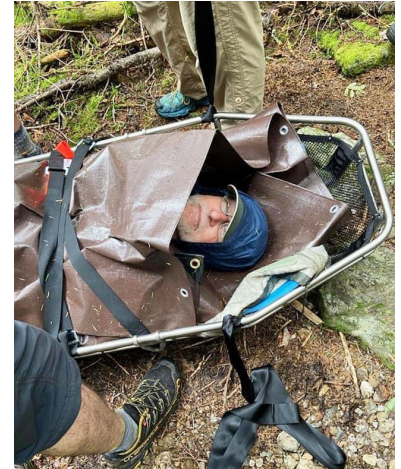
When my brother Alex comes to visit we always try to make the most of it, and this June was no exception. For a nice relaxing day I recommended an ascent of the Great Gully, and the next morning we hit the trail. As we crossed the talus field of King Ravine, I pointed out Crag Camp, locked up and closed at the time. We picked our way up the headwall, and at Thunderstorm Junction we checked the time and decided on a Spur Trail descent.

Just below treeline along the trail, we ran into my friend Guy Jubinville and his companion Gary. Guy was sitting on a ledge in the middle of the trail, chatting on the phone. He quickly said: “Carl’s here - I gotta go” and hung up, and after we greeted one another his next words were “I can’t stand up”. A quick assessment indicated that Guy had severely injured his knee. The irony is that Guy and I are both on Androscoggin Valley Search and Rescue (AVSAR) and had previously worked together at the summit of Mt. Washington, where we also assisted in rescues. We knew Guy’s knee injury meant a long carry out.

The situation was serendipitous, since I was one of the only individuals who had the keys to the locked camps where the SAR cache is, in addition to a personal radio with the RMC and AVSAR channels. I gave Guy the mylar bivy from my first aid kit and raced down to Gray Knob with my brother, where we assembled gear, grabbed the litter, and called the valley on the radio. On the way back up, I heard that the RMC trail crew was now heading up, making good time up the Amphibrach as they passed the Monaway. We arrived back at the scene and flagged down two hikers who agreed to help us evacuate, and I carefully loaded Guy into the litter and secured him.

Progress was painfully slow. Typically, there are six on a litter, and teams are changed out every five or ten minutes, but we started with only the five of us. In addition, the Spur Trail is very steep, narrow, and rocky, and it was a damp day. We made it to just below Knight’s Castle when five RMC trail crew members showed up, and progress became much faster. It was then that I was informed that the larger AVSAR response was forthcoming, and that a few volunteers had also begun the hike up. At Crag Camp we had a quick bite and a drink of water before repackaging Guy in the litter for more comfort. By then there were AVSAR members available to help, and more on the way.

A lot of things went right that day, and worse outcomes were averted due to the quick involvement of the RMC trail crew and rapid access to the SAR cache. The total time elapsed under these optimal circumstances between Guy’s injury and arrival at the parking lot was over six hours. This was a good example of how folks without rescue experience can be very helpful, as well as the power of collective effort bolstered by optimal communication.



Clockwise from top left: The injured Guy Jubinville on the Spur Trail; and Guy in the litter ready for transport; volunteers Justin Taylor, Bradley Panto, Carl Herz, Alex Herz and two helping hikers, on the Spur Trail above Crag Camp, from below and above. Photos 2, 3 by Gary Tompkins, 1,4 by Alex Herz.



## Great Gully Light Show

by Rowan Kamman

As my stew simmered, I stood by the stove watching it with a hollow, predatory expression. It exerted a gravitational pull, hard to resist by any bipedal sentient mammal who’d just spend the day out and about and now occupied Gray Knob. This stew was not long for the world.

Just then, the caretaker phone rang, and “BARBARA ARNOLD” displayed on the screen. Now that Bill has retired from evening radio call, there’s really just one reason why the Arnold household would be calling at 8:30 on a Tuesday evening.

Sure enough, it was a search and rescue (SAR). Barbara said that two young men had called Fish and Game after getting lost without headlamps off the side of the Great Gully Trail. No injuries, just lost. We agreed on a time when I would meet two Madison Spring Hut crew members at Thunderstorm Junction, then hung up. I scarfed down some stew, left the rest in the pot, and headed off up Lowe’s Path.

*Continued on opposite page*



*Gray Knob, continued from page 1*

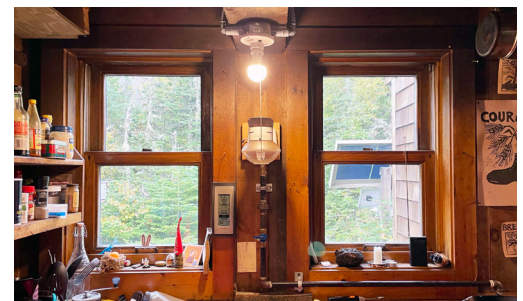
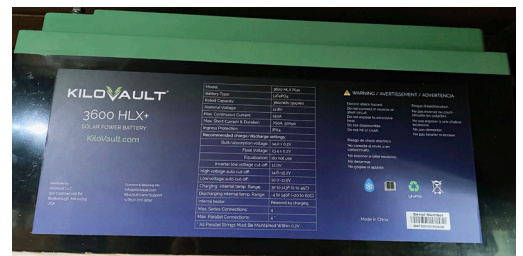
the caretaker's quarters quite cold. Finally, the old panels were ground-mounted behind the cabin and did not receive any direct sun during December, requiring us to charge the batteries using a gas generator in that month.

The roofing and solar installation at Stearns had been relatively straightforward as a construction project, with a site you could drive a truck up to, and a level lawn all around to stage the materials. At Gray Knob the conditions were quite different, and contractors whom we spoke with suddenly lost interest when we mentioned there was a three-mile uphill hike to the jobsite. We therefore decided to design and install the system using volunteers. Dave Evankow, responsible for many of the AMC hut solar systems, was instrumental in planning and executing the design. We were able to draw on his knowledge and practical experience of what works in a high-altitude, unheated, off-grid system. Mark Gensamer, a local electrician, advised on compliance with applicable codes.

The bulk of the materials were flown up during our fall airlift. On Labor Day weekend, a crew consisting of Dave Evankow, Chris Hawkins, Carl Herz, Benjamin Getraer, Rowan Kamman, Jamie Maddock, John Tremblay, and Adam Ritchie hiked up and spent two days installing the new system. Of course, the roof work was done on the wettest day, with John Tremblay looking like a giant spider clinging to the roof as he screwed in the panel mounts. Another challenge was finding a place to drive the grounding rod in without hitting ledge. That took several tries. The first night we were able to eat dinner by the light of a bulb hanging off a temporary wire. Carl finished up the rest of the lights the next day using his previous wiring experience to neatly install the cable and fixtures.

The new system has three panels mounted up on the roof, capable of generating 1 kilowatt of power that goes to a charger controller which in turn can provide up to 100 amps to a 300 amp-hour lithium battery. There is a new panel to house the breakers for various circuits, and the battery is specially designed for cold weather use. The system charges the radios, and powers seven lights downstairs inside the cabin. So far we have been getting rave reviews from the caretakers and guests. We are also planning on purchasing some battery-powered tools that can be charged from the system.

In an effort to reduce waste, we plan to install the old photovoltaic infrastructure at Crag Camp as a summer-only system. This will allow Crag's summer caretaker to charge radios and also have a few lights in the cabin. We'll shut it down in the winter to prevent problems associated with inadequate sun during that season.



Top to bottom: The roof, and its three new panels; the lithium battery; bright lights in Gray Knob's kitchen. J. Maddock photos.

*Great Gully Light Show, cont'd.*

If nothing else, these hikers had picked a gorgeous early-fall night to get lost. A bit of adrenaline got me up to Thunderstorm Junction right on time to meet my two co-rescuers - but they weren't there. I sat down on the cairn and turned off my light to watch the stars and wait. Soon enough, two incoming headlamps appeared, then went up and over Adams summit. Eventually my AMC partners arrived, in good spirits and ready to head down the Great Gully.

We made slow progress, stopping frequently to scan with our headlamps and yell for the lost hikers. Bantering all the while, we had a great dynamic between the three of us. Finally, a distant yell! Just in time, as my voice was getting hoarse. (Perhaps a shofar would be a good addition to the SAR kit.) We eventually echo-located our hikers maybe thirty feet off trail. After finding a way in below some cliff bands, we climbed back up to find them. Neighbors in the valley reported quite the light show in the Gully during all this.

Though cold and a bit sheepish, the two hikers were happy to see us. They were especially jazzed about the hot chocolate brought by the Madison folks. I passed out the spare headlamps and we headed up and out. Progress was slow since the hikers were exhausted from their adventure, but we three rescuers made sure to keep a positive attitude and not make the hikers feel guilty. Arriving back at Thunderstorm Junction, I waved goodbye to the group as they headed back to Madison Spring Hut. Those hikers got a pretty good deal, not having to pay the fee to stay the night! I ambled back down to Gray Knob, feeling properly tired now. Before flopping into bed at 12:45 AM, I beelined to the stew pot for a second dinner.

**Treasurer's Report***by Kathleen Kelley*

	Admin.	Dev't.	Camps	Stearns	Trails	Trails Grants	Total	2021 Budget
<b>Revenue</b>								
YTD 10/31/2021:	\$48,793	54,366	6,619	0	0	24,337	144,116	120,345
<b>Expense</b>								
YTD 10/31/2021:	\$15,854	2,490	43,370	10,030	40,487	24,337	136,570	146,538
<b>Net:</b>	\$32,939	51,876	(36,751)	(10,030)	(40,487)	0	7,545	(26,192)

The first three quarters of 2021 have followed both the capital and operating budgets approved by the board. Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers and committee planning, the capital solar projects at Stearns Lodge and at Gray Knob came in under the budget. In a separate capital project, the board had authorized spending from the Mt. Madison Fund for repairs at Gray Knob and its outhouse, and we expect a few more expenses for that project to be submitted before the end of the year. In our report to members in early 2022, we will share the final costs of both projects and the board-restricted and/or reserve funds used.

The board approved a fall opening of the camps, as reported in the Camps article in this newsletter. During the time the two main camps were closed, visitors discovered and enjoyed the Perch and Log Cabin in more significant numbers than in past years. For now, Gray Knob and Crag Camp have temporarily lower overnight capacity limits, and this results in lower-than-normal camp revenue, but we see positive trends. Trail grant reimbursement requests have been completed but have yet to be received; therefore, the Accounts Receivable balance is higher than usual.

During the year, generous donors made it possible to keep the club operating as usual with caretakers at the camps 24/7, an entire trail crew achieving the work planned for the summer and fall seasons, and cooperative work with the USFS, WMTC, ATC, and other organizations protecting and improving access to the RMC's trails in the Northern Presidentials and the Crescent Range.

*Volunteer Work Trips, continued from page 3*

This year we offered both all day trips and half-day trips. In addition, we had a few independent work trips on especially challenging trails (*see Volunteer Profile*) as well as an RMC alumni work trip (*see RMC alumni group article*).

This year the RMC was granted funds by the NH Recreational Trails Program for our trail crew to carry out erosion control and trail hardening on the Sylvan Way. This grant required a 20% match, some of which could be covered by volunteer work on site. On the July 24 trip on the Sylvan Way, an amazing fourteen volunteers came out to help and this made the front page of the *Berlin Daily Sun*! In total, volunteers worked 78.5 hours on the Sylvan Way that accounted for over \$2,000.00 towards our match for the grant.

In addition to the list below, we are missing the names of three new volunteers. Some volunteers came out for more than one trip, as indicated by a number after their name:

Sarah Allen	Jackson Gordon
Jenny Baxter	Benzo Harris
Ben Brown	Debra Hodgkins
Chris Campbell	Beth Krusi
Margaret Campbell	Tim Mather (3)
Edward Clark	Danielle Normand (2)
Bria Clark (2)	Amy Patenaude (2)
Jen DeMarco	Ben Phinney
Nathan DeMarco	Tonya Ring (5)
Caiden DeMarco	Michael Scire
Bob Drescher (6)	Steve Weber (3)
Renee Dunham	Howie Wemyss
George Dunham	Sue Wemyss
Jeff Wilson (5)	

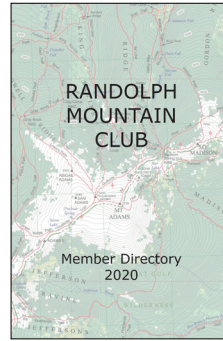


The Castle Ravine Trail, before (left) and after (right) volunteer brushing. See "Volunteer Profile" article on page 5. Danielle Normand photos.



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

Featured: Our zip fleece vest with logo patch, baseball cap, directory, and button-down shirt. Apparel modeled by members David and Doreen Roy. Michele Cormier photos. For the 2020 Member Directory contact Michele directly at (603) 466-5841.

**Linda Alexander-Cowdery**, Hartford CT  
**Tim Anderson**, East Haven CT  
**Brian Aust**, Moretown VT  
**Gregory Baldwin**, Provincetown MA  
**Abigail Brown**, Natick MA  
**Benjamin Brownell**, Freedom NH  
**Michael Byerley**, Chapel Hill NC  
**Brian Carney**, New Paltz NY  
**Thomas Carr**  
**Ned Connelly**, North Kingston RI  
**Robert Corsaro**, Newburyport MA  
**Matthew Craig**, Cape Elizabeth ME  
**Peter Crow**, Canterbury NH  
**Isabella DiBianca**, Watertown MA  
**Nadine Dyskant-Miller**, Watertown MA  
**Mark Evans**, Berlin NH

## Welcome new RMC members!

*Joined May - November 2021*

**Debra Fife**, Portland OR  
**Christoph Geiss**, Wethersfield CT  
**Emily Gesner**, Marshfield MA  
**James Haskell**  
**Patrick Hummel**, Gorham NH  
**Alyssa Leclerc**, Canaan NH  
**Jeremiah Macrae-Hawkins**,  
 Randolph NH  
**Jim Maddock**, Randolph NH  
**Melissa and Eugene McHale**,  
 Hanover Township PA  
**Jonathan Miller**, Sanbornville NH

**Monique Roy**, Cambridge MA  
**Mark Rollinson and Wolfco Inc.**,  
 Bozrah CT  
**Tim Sheahan**, Dracut MA  
**Matt Snyder**, Abbott ME  
**Mark Stier**, Newfields NH  
**Timothy Sullivan**, Lebanon NH  
**Patricia Suzanne and David Gardner**,  
 Norway ME  
**Michael Trocchi**, Colchester CT  
**Ben Umiker and Holly Ponichtera**,  
 Watertown MA  
**David Vogt**, Berlin CT  
**Elizabeth Webster**, Hampton Falls NH  
**Bill White**, Weare NH  
**Kathy Wommack**, Richmond VA



**RMC 100 Finisher**  
*latest in a series...*

Our latest reporting finisher of the challenge is Greg Russell of Littleton, NH. He started in June 2010, and finished on August 20, 2018. At left, he and his sister Andrea Binan are atop Mt. Madison, with Mt. Clay and the Great Gulf behind them.

*Interested in exploring the RMC's trails, and getting fame and a free patch? Search for "RMC 100" at our website.*

On October 23, many members and friends of the RMC were among those gathered at the RCF Trailhead for the return of the **Randolph Ramble**, again on its 10k trail run over the Crescent Range. More at [randolphramble.com](http://randolphramble.com).

At right, runners amid the crowded field at the starting line; Tim Mather photo.

## The Ramble Returns!

by Randy Meiklejohn



## RMC Alumni “Homecoming”

*by Jenny Baxter*

The last couple years have left many of us taking stock in the importance of the communities that matter most to us. For folks who have had the privilege of wearing the hat of trail crew member or caretaker over the years, the RMC community is especially dear and has been a key part in making us the varied and capable folks we are today. Thus, it always feels like a homecoming when two or more RMC employee alumni are able to assemble in the same place. We were afforded the treat of having a baker’s dozen or so of us gather in Jefferson this October, after many had spent the morning of the 23rd at the Randolph Ramble. We shared stories, food, drink, and the next morning a few of us logged some volunteer hours for the club brushing the Kelton Trail.

RMC alums, if you’d like to hear about upcoming events, opportunities to lend a hand, and a chance to reconnect and swap old RMC stories from your era, drop us a note, at [randolphmountainclubalumni@gmail.com](mailto:randolphmountainclubalumni@gmail.com).

Gray Knob and Crag Camp were closed for over a year in 2020 and 2021. Reflecting on the time gladly spent on the mountain and at the camps, it is not lost on us that for many, visiting the cabins feels like going home. We are glad the camps are now open again, and hopeful this will be the year that things finally get back to normal in the mountains.

Above right, alumni association members (and some 2021 employees) gathered in Jefferson. Below, Benzo Harris, Jenny Baxter and Sarah Allen heading for the Kelton Trail. Jenny Baxter photos.

