

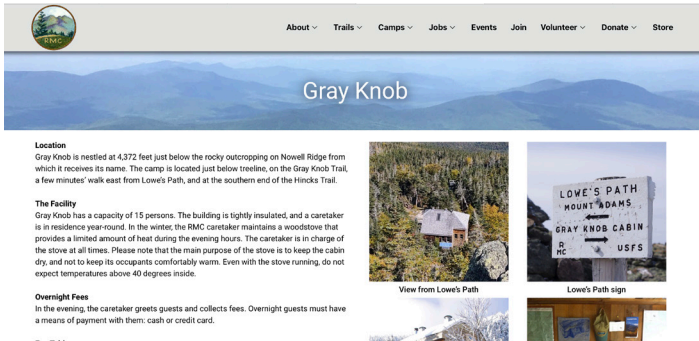


Randolph Mountain Club Newsletter

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 2023

Volume 21, No. 1



Left, part of the new Gray Knob information page; right, a volunteer group featured at the new RMC home page.

The new RMC Website is live! by Tom Breunig

It was a long time in coming, but our new website went online this spring and is packed with new capabilities. The original website, developed by Jeff Smith in 1999, was a major step forward for the RMC at the time. It became a familiar internet stopping point for many, offering club gear and accessories, cutting edge interactivity (through the trails map) and current information. In the past several years, however, the increasing use of mobile phones for site visits, the need to attract a younger set of visitors and members, and the objectives of the club's 2022 Strategic Plan led us to bring the website up to date.

The new version seeks to combine the original site's capabilities with a focus on people and community – sources of the dynamism and commitment that keep our club moving forward. It's intended to engage old and new visitors alike by showcasing RMC events, jobs, the benefits of volunteering, membership, giving, and partnering with us. Take a look! Browse through the site to see friends, family, trails, camps and work opportunities, and spread the word via social media.

continued on page 5



Trail Volunteer Work Trips for 2023 by Wendy Walsh

RMC Trail volunteers taking a break during a work trip on The Link, in August 2022. Amy Patenaude photo.

The RMC needs your help on our trails this summer! In 2023, as in recent years, we are planning a series of work trips where members and friends of the RMC can do trail maintenance, coordinated with the more technical trail work done by our trail crew. One trail we'll work on is the Short Line, a popular route leading to King Ravine. The club has been awarded a grant from the NH Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to fund the trail crew's work on the Short Line, with the requirement that the RMC pay for 20% of the total cost. In the past, we've met this matching requirement with the hours of volunteers working on the same trail, and our match target for 2023 is \$9,894.00. You can both accomplish necessary trail maintenance and help ensure we receive the entire grant amount from the state.

continued on page 5

Also in this issue:

- Summer Event Schedule and Annual Meeting page 3
- Meet the Trail Crew page 4
- Meet the Camp Caretakers page 6

- Remembrance of John Scarinza page 9
- RMC Alumni: Curtis Moore interview page 10
- RMC Merchandise / New Members page 11

Randolph Mountain Club 2022-2023

Officers, Directors,
committee chairs and honorary members

President	John Phinney, Randolph NH
Vice President	Carl Herz, Seattle WA
Treasurer	Adam Berger, Seattle WA
Secretary	Joel Douglas, Andover MA
Clerk	Sally Micucci, Randolph NH
Other Directors:	Tom Breunig, El Cerrito CA Chris Cross, New York NY Maryka Gillis, Providence RI Chris Hawkins, Randolph NH Ben Lieberson, Roslindale MA Jenna Maddock, Boulder CO Deva Steketee, Turner ME Ginny Umiker, Randolph NH Wendy Walsh, Randolph NH Howie Wemyss, Randolph NH
Camps	Adam Ritchie
Trails	Ben Lieberson, Tim Mather, Deva Steketee
Events	Ginny Umiker, Redza Dempster
Merchandise	Michele Cormier
Planned Giving	Randy Meiklejohn
Membership	Michele Cormier
Trips	Mary Minifie
Work Trips	Wendy Walsh
Stearns Lodge	Howie Wemyss
Revenue Dev't.	Chris Cross
Trail Easements	Randy Meiklejohn
Communications	John Phinney
<i>Newsletter</i>	Randy Meiklejohn
<i>Website</i>	Tom Breunig, Jenna Maddock
<i>Social Media</i>	Carl Herz, Jenny Baxter, Maryka Gillis
History/Archives	Judy Hudson, Al Hudson, Steve Chase
Honorary members	Bill & Barbara Arnold Paul & Michele Cormier Al & Judy Hudson Edith Tucker

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 ...



Greetings! The RMC's 2023 summer season will soon begin! Your board was busy in winter and spring, planning the work that will keep the club moving forward. Our Strategic Plan calls for increased member engagement and outreach to prospective members through better communications, and to that end we have now launched a **new website**. Many thanks to the directors, committee chairs, members and others who volunteered considerable time and thought, and to the website development committee of Eric Scharnberg, Tom Breunig, Randy Meiklejohn, and Jenna Maddock.

In addition to the website, the RMC's **social media** now has thousands of followers and has become a valued information service for hikers in the northern Presidentials – especially the growing fall and winter crowd. On Facebook, Events co-chair Red Dempster has created a RMC-only group to connect members, share ideas, and facilitate introductions for hikes and trips. If you're a Facebook user, please join to add to our collective knowledge and to keep abreast of club activities.

Are you interested in **adopting an RMC trail**? We've received a Northern Forest Community Recreation Grant to buy equipment for members to take part in caring for our trail network. At the website, look for "Trail Sponsorship" on the Trails page for program information and sign-up instructions. This new program aims to supplement the work of our volunteer work trips and that of our professional trail crew; on pages 1, 4 and 5 of this newsletter issue you can read about what they will each be doing in 2023 on the Short Line.

In the committee reports in these pages you'll read about volunteers stepping up into new roles. I'm also pleased to announce that long-time camp caretaker and trail crew member Steve Chase will join Judy and Al Hudson's history/archive team. **RMC committees** are the lifeblood of our organization; to join one, please get in touch with its chair or use the email links for committees on the website's "About" section.

Finally, we continue to cultivate and grow connections near and far with **partner organizations**, to exchange ideas and benefit from shared resources. At the Annual Meeting we'll meet leaders of El Camino de Costa Rica, the developer and maintainer of the only hiking trail connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. El Camino is part of the World Trail Network (WTN), whose mission is to connect trail associations, advocates, and professionals worldwide to foster global collaboration and networking for bettering the world's trails. Closer to home, RMC has allied with the Coos Cycle Club. Some hikers bike and some bikers hike, and each organization has the opportunity to grow its membership base with this alliance. Most important, the RMC and CCC are trail builders and maintainers, and the opportunity to collaborate and share knowledge is evident.

See you soon in Randolph, and please be in touch with any ideas about our club.

John Phinney, President
email: president@randolphmountainclub.org

Summer Social Events

by Ginny Umiker and Red Dempster, Events co-chairs

Tuesday, July 4th: Please come kick off the season at Mark and Kathleen Kelley's wonderful backyard at 98 Randolph Hill Road for the annual **RMC Fourth of July Tea**. Join us from 3:00 to 5:00 PM for punch, iced tea and delicious baked goods. Catch up on the latest RMC news, meet this year's trail crew and caretakers, chat with club directors and volunteers, check out our merchandise, sign up to lead a hike and connect with friends, new and old. Help us bring together all the RMC's generations and communities at this event.



Friday, July 28th: **RMC Annual Dinner**, 115 Main St. Gorham at 6:00 PM. A wonderful evening of food, fellowship and fundraising for the club, outdoors under the tents. There will be both a small live auction and a silent auction. Sponsorships, to allow the RMC camp caretakers and trail crew to attend the dinner along with members, are gratefully accepted. Space is limited! Go to the RMC website to reserve your place.

TBD Early August: The **RMC Gourmet Hike** returns to the Pine Mountain Ledges. Meet at Randolph East at 10:30 AM; we will carpool to the Pine Mtn. trailhead on Pinkham B (Dolly Copp) Road and ascend via the Ledge Trail. Three miles round trip; a shorter ascent from the Horton Center will be available for those who wish to take it. Bring a favorite dish to share.

continued on page 9

Top, a Valley charade scene at the 2022 Picnic (the word was "elongates"); above, Keith Dempster, Dick & Caroline Doyle, Red Dempster at the Dinner in August. F. Wenk photos.

Annual Meeting Notice

by Joel Douglas, RMC Secretary

The Annual Meeting of the Randolph Mountain Club will be held at the Town Hall, Saturday, August 12, 2023, 7:00 PM.

Following a business meeting for officer and committee reports, and for election of new directors and a president, we will have a special presentation from **El Camino de Costa Rica**, a partner organization of the RMC that provides a backcountry trail across Costa Rica, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

See www.caminodecostarica.org for more background and a great introductory video.



Trail Easements

by John Phinney, Randy Meiklejohn, Jamie Maddock
(current and former Presidents of the RMC)

Do you own land in Randolph, and does an RMC trail cross it? On behalf of the club we thank you for hosting our trails, some for many, many years. The RMC trail network is a rare and valuable asset in this community, providing four-season recreation, connections between the National Forest and the Community Forest, and a walk-through history of the land in Randolph. Would you be willing to give the RMC a trail easement, to ensure public access in perpetuity? Please contact any one of us to learn more. The Andrew S. Tucker Fund provides support for the legal research and services required to document and record easements at the Coos County Registry of Deeds.

Above, the Burbrae Path trailhead on Durand Road. The southern section of this trail is now protected under an easement given to the RMC in 2021. R. Meiklejohn photo.

Trails Report and Meet the 2023 Trail Crew

by Tim Mather, Trails co-chair

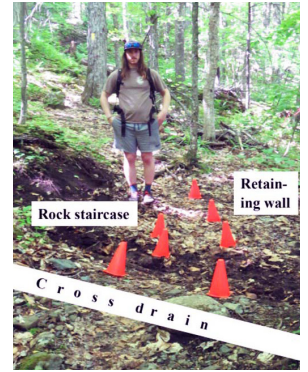


Joey Schilke
Eatontown, New Jersey
Field Supervisor; 5th year

In 2023 you'll see and hear from a new leadership team in the Trails Committee, as we transition to allow longtime volunteer Bob Drescher to step down from his role as co-chair (most recently in partnership with director Ben Lieberson). I just want to thank Bob for his hard work and dedication, leading and co-leading the Trails Committee over the last seven years. You are likely to still see Bob out and about on RMC trails, so when you do, please show your gratitude for his efforts!

Although Bob made it look uncomplicated in his role, one could argue that it Trails leadership is more than a full-time job for any single person. To cover the workload, we are therefore expanding to a team of three co-chairs, with Tim Mather and director Deva Steketee joining Ben. As many members know, both Ben and Deva were RMC trail crew members and field supervisors for multiple seasons around 2010.

continued on opposite page



A section of the Short Line where the crew will be working in summer 2023.



Emma Brinks
East Lansing, Michigan
Crew leader; 3rd year



Reuben Morris
Maplewood, New Jersey
Crew leader; 3rd year



Maya Barnett
Plainfield, New Hampshire
1st year



Annalise Brinks
Grand Rapids, Michigan
1st year



Max Buttrill
Jacksonville, Florida
1st year



Matt Jaffe
Maplewood, New Jersey
2nd year



Julia Rudlaff
East Lansing, Michigan
2nd year



Ben Scuralli
Newton, New Jersey
2nd year

Trails Report, cont'd.

On our divide-and-conquer theme, we also welcome new volunteers to the Trails committee. Scott Meiklejohn, Eric Sandin, and Joel Douglas have stepped up to work on grant proposal-writing and administration. This will allow some of our long-time members to step back from numerous tasks, and continue to advise after carrying the torch for so long.

We are excited to say we have five returning trail crew members this year. Joey Schilke will be our new Field Supervisor. He will lead the crew, who will focus most of the summer on two sections of the Short Line, above and below the Randolph Path. They will also be “spiking out” (camping on the mountain), reducing their commute time to the trail work.

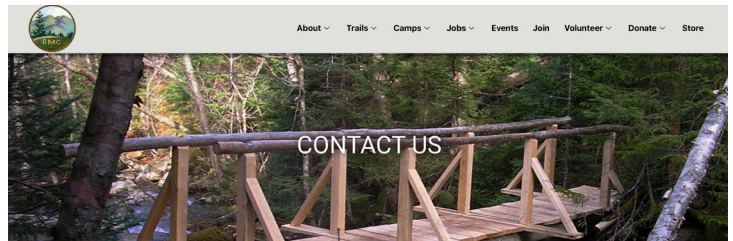
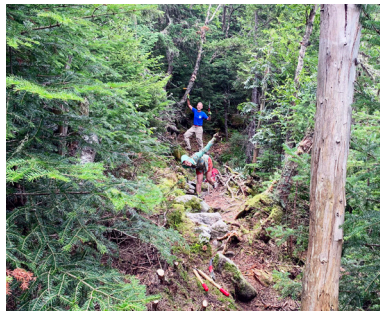
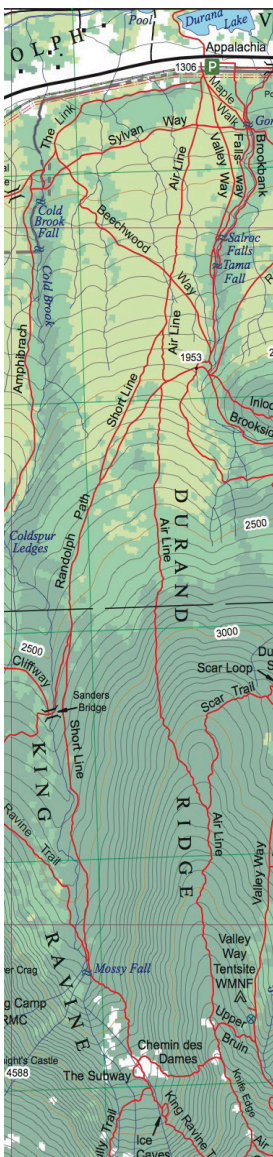
In addition, the crew will begin work to clean, rehabilitate and repair existing water bars and rock structures on Lowe’s Path, which will get the full attention of the trail crew in the 2024 season. We have also slated the bog bridges on the E-Z Way for replacement this season, in summer or fall.

New Website, cont'd. from page 1

Our new site was designed by volunteer Eric Scharnberg (a former caretaker and trail crew member, now a professional web designer based in Vermont), with content and images coming from Tom Breunig and Randy Meiklejohn (and his massive RMC photo collection), infrastructure assistance from Jenna Maddock, events pages from Red Dempster, and critical guidance on objectives and desired look-and-feel from John Phinney and the rest of the board.

We’re still not done. The site offers the ability for easy upgrades and changes, and we will be fine-tuning and optimizing to meet the needs of our multiple audiences and to create greater visibility for the RMC and its work. New content (for example the Trail Adopter program mentioned in John’s letter) will be added over time.

If you have structural or content suggestions for the site, please contact us. We can always use more “people photos”, especially! You can email John at president@randolphmountainclub.org. If you have problems with the site, please email webmaster@randolphmountainclub.org.



We welcome your questions, comments and suggestions about the RMC. Please select a topic from the drop-down menu in the subject field and it will be routed to the appropriate officer or committee chair. If you don't see your topic, please select "other."

Volunteer Work Trips, cont'd. from page 1

Come join us and check out what volunteering on our trails involves... clipping branches, keeping trails clear, blazing trees, and having fun. First time volunteers are always welcome, and if you are a new member or new to the Randolph community, it’s a great way to connect to others who are learning to care for our trails. Work trips generally are held on some Saturdays and Wednesdays in July and August.

Please check out the RMC website and Facebook page for the schedule. All trips start at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. FMI contact Wendy Walsh at rmcvolunteertrailtrips@gmail.com. And if you are aware of an RMC trail that needs some work, or if there’s a trail you’d like to help with regularly, please let us know!

Trail volunteers in summer 2022: Top left, Amy Patenaude and the “before” conditions on The (infamously brushy) Link, viewed at the Caps Ridge Trail junction; middle left, Amy and Danielle Normand in the “after” version; Bria Clark photos. Bottom left, Dwight Bradley clearing at a brook crossing on the King Ravine Trail; Wendy Walsh photo. At far left, a detail of the RMC trail map showing the route of the Short Line (where both trail crew and volunteers will work this summer), leading from the lower Air Line to the King Ravine Trail.

Meet the Camp Caretakers for 2023

by Joey, Reuben, Lea and Patrick

Reuben: I am a returning Spring Caretaker from Maplewood, New Jersey. I look forward to returning to the mountains and carrying on with the RMC. There's a lot of winter condition alpine exploring I want to do, and it will be cool to see who comes through the door.



Reuben Morris
Spring 2023

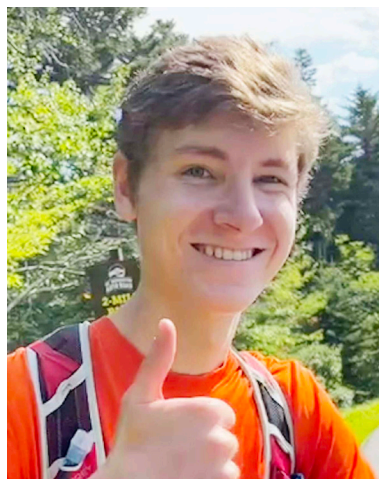


Lea Giguere
Gray Knob, summer 2023

My name is Patrick Mulready and I am from the town of Derry, New Hampshire. I am currently a student at Union College in upstate New York, where I am majoring in English and minoring in Geosciences (ask me about rocks!). I have been camping in the White Mountains with my family since I was only three years old, and ever since then I have developed a deep love and appreciation for the mountains. For the past few years I have been fortunate enough to make the outdoors an important part of my life. During the summer of 2022 I lived in Evans Notch working for the Appalachian Mountain Club as a crew member at Cold River Camp. I enjoy challenging myself in the outdoors, and I have completed such hikes as the Presidential Traverse and Pemi Loop. I am excited to work for the Randolph Mountain Club because I want to give back to the environment and the community by educating and helping



The camps chair keeps an eye on Crag from across the ravine. C. Herz photo.



Patrick Mulready
Crag Camp, summer 2023



Joey Schilke
Spring 2023

other hikers in any way I can. I love connecting with other people that love the outdoors, and there's no better place to do that than in the beautiful Northern Presidentials! The Randolph Mountain Club is a terrific organization, and I can't wait to get out there and do my part!

Hi, my name is Lea, and I am from Sturbridge, Massachusetts. I enjoy a variety of hobbies including trail running, hiking in the White Mountains year round, cycling, climbing, and spending time with my three dogs. As a runner, I have run multiple ultra marathons. I am so excited for the opportunity to spend the summer in the alpine zone as well as getting to experience the unique weather that the area surrounding Mt. Washington is known for. I look forward to meeting other fellow outdoor enthusiasts who have come to Gray Knob to experience the charm of the White Mountains.

Joey: I grew up visiting Randolph and the White Mountains with my family. I began working on the RMC trail crew as soon as I was old enough and I haven't stopped yet. I'm very excited for my second season as the Gray Knob caretaker. My first season was in the fall of 2020, during the Covid camps closure, and I never had the chance to welcome a guest into the cabin. I'm expecting a more typical caretaking experience this spring, hopefully with many visitors. I look forward to seeing RMC friends old and new as I caretake this spring, and throughout the summer as the field supervisor.

Camps Report

by Adam Ritchie, Camps Chair

After Gray Knob measured an ambient temperature of -39°F on February 4th, we are all excited for the warm months ahead. (See caretaker Jim Baum's chronicle of that February weekend below – ed.)

Spring 2023 saw the return of veteran caretakers Joey Schilke and Reuben Morris, who will both be continuing their work with RMC this summer. In addition to their efforts on camps upkeep, weather observation and trail condition reports, Joey and Reuben have been instrumental in getting a new credit card payment system established at the camps. This system will streamline guest payments and financial reporting.

This summer we welcome new caretakers Lea Giguere and Patrick Mulready. Lea will be based at Gray Knob, and Patrick at Crag Camp. Both are avid outdoor enthusiasts and eager to spend time on the trails and at the camps.

Upon hiking down at the end of shifts, caretakers will now use a new electronic reporting system to keep track of weather, maintenance, and guest visits. They'll make their entries into online forms developed by Randy Meiklejohn, giving the RMC a well-organized, paperless means for data collection.

My Coldest Night on the Mountain

by Jim Baum, winter caretaker

After four seasons as a winter caretaker, I had become accustomed to checking the fourteen-day weather forecast on a regular basis. Gray Knob is located about 3,000 feet above Randolph, but at least you get a general idea of the future conditions. And February 3rd, 2023 looked like it would be a very cold night.

Our shift change was on Wednesday, February 1st, and as I hiked up the mountain I knew I had a short window to get a jump on the extreme cold. Fetch some extra water, make sure the jugs are insulated from the cold floor, more wood, bury the spring box in snow to protect it from the extreme temperatures, charge up the radio and phone, and of course I kept checking the weather forecast.

Thursday was within the 48-hour window for the Mt. Washington Observatory "higher summits forecast". On Friday night the low was forecasted to reach -40°F and C, (in my four years of recording weather data, -39° and -40° is the odd spot where Fahrenheit and Celsius are the same) with winds over 100 mph. Fortunately, Gray Knob is normally protected from high winds, being surrounded in most directions by the mountain. The storm just before Christmas had been the exception. Four visitors and I had spent the good part of that day feeling the gusts of wind shake the cabin. Then, it had been a warm afternoon with rain. Now, if we were to lose a window or part of the roof in -40°F conditions, it would be life-threatening.

The camps are in for some exciting projects this fall. At Gray Knob, we will be replacing the back stair treads with galvanized metal grating, making access and use of stairs far safer in the wintertime. We will also be replacing the five remaining original windows. The Perch is due for chinking, and we'll be using a material (Perma-Chink "Energy Seal") that is both natural in color and impervious to elements and rot.

In the Camps report in the December 2022 newsletter, we detailed the increase in fees and an increase in caretaker wages. So far, the data on overnight camp fees since December shows that increased fees have not caused a decrease in guest numbers. What we have seen, however, is a noticeable increase in employment applications for the caretaker job, from well-qualified candidates.

Special thanks and recognition go to our caretaker Jim Baum who has wrapped up his fourth consecutive winter season at Gray Knob. Along with caretaker Abigail Lown, Jim endured the lonely winter of 2020 / 2021 when our camps were closed to guests and our doors locked for the first time since the beginning of year-round camps operations in 1971. For reasons known only to him, Jim graciously returned to Gray Knob for two more winters. Thank you, Jim, for keeping the stove warm and the spring running, and for your legendary hospitality!

Friday arrived and the temperature dropped and dropped and now the higher summits forecast predicted a low of -50°F . Around 5:00 PM, the temperature fell to -29°F . The coldest I had ever experienced was on January 10th, 2022, when the temperature reached -26°F . Thanks to a large quantity of Bio-bricks, I kept the fire burning. In my first winter at Gray Knob, we hadn't been blessed with as much wood. Water would often freeze inside the cabin at night. The inside temperature hung at around 54°F , while the outside temperature continued to fall.



Jim Baum at a noteworthy temperature: -39°F and C. Courtesy photo.

At some point in the evening, the possibility of a record low temperature on Mt. Washington became an internet trending event. I could no longer easily log into the Observatory for current weather updates. Around 8:00 PM, the Gray Knob thermometer hit -39°F . The temperatures were supposed to start rising around 4:00 AM; I just had to keep the fire going.

I moved my sleeping bag to beside the wood stove and set my alarm to go off every hour. My zero-degree sleeping bag would keep me nice and warm as long as I kept the fire going.

continued on page 8

My Coldest Night, cont'd. from page 7

The Bio-bricks we use are a wonderful product. They produce little ash, burn clean, but the one drawback is they don't hold a hot coal for very long. So, to keep the cabin from getting any colder, I had to add bricks to the stove about every hour.

My plan was working well until I slept through the 2:00 AM alarm. An extra forty-five minutes of sleep had cost me eight degrees. The cabin was now at 46°F and the fire was out. Re-starting the fire and losing no more warmth was a priority. I knew getting the temperature to rise was always going to be a problem. Just holding the inside temperature at 46°F might be difficult. No more lying down; I would position myself in the rocking chair beside the wood stove.

The hours before daylight were the most challenging. I was obviously sleep-deprived. The temperature was supposed to be rising outside, but -39°F never changed. Maybe the thermometer was frozen - is that even possible? I could feel the cold air pressing at the windows. The cabin popped and cracked. But thankfully the extreme winds raging on Mt. Washington were blocked off by the side of Mt. Adams.

Sunrise! But the temperature still read minus 39°F! Finally, around 8:00 AM the temperature began to rise. As the sun and temperature rose, so did my energy level. The news reported a low of -47°F on Mt. Washington and a record wind chill of -108°F.

I finally popped my head outside when the temperature rose to about -30°F. The regulator on the propane tank was frozen and I could smell propane in the air. I shut the tank off before checking the official NOAA/NWS thermometer. It read a low -39°F/C also, and a current temperature of -28°F.

The temperature continued to rise, and after lunch I did the quarter-mile walk to the spring. Would it be frozen? Would we have to melt snow for water until it thawed? As I started digging out the spring box, I could hear water flowing. Burying the box had been the right decision! Hopefully warming weather would solve the propane problem also.

I had earned a nap. No way any guests would show up, tonight. It was still -15°F outside. I had been lying down for maybe five minutes, just long enough to get comfortable, when I heard voices outside the cabin. Impossible; I had to be hallucinating from the lack of sleep. And then I heard the stomping of mountaineering boots on the metal grate. I had company, as Paul Johnson - son of the first RMC winter caretaker Mike Johnson - came walking through the door.

Paul thought his late father would expect an inspection of the cabin on such a cold night. We spent the rest of the evening with great outdoor adventure stories and Paul playing the guitar by the wood stove. The worst was over, and it was good to have some company for sharing the events of the last forty-eight hours.



Left, one of Jim's many temperature readings on that February weekend. Right, Mike Johnson's son Paul, playing the guitar by the wood stove in Gray Knob. Jim Baum photos.

2023 Sign Auction

by Redza Dempster

A heartfelt thank-you to all who participated in the RMC 2023 Spring Sign Auction, which kicked off on April 14th and closed on April 24th! Events co-chairs Ginny Umiker and Redza Dempster made it all happen. With generous and enthusiastic bidding from forty-three supporters, our gross proceeds from the event came to \$5,664.00! And more good news: because our new auction platform, **BetterWorld**, did not take a percentage—and enabled bidders to contribute to covering credit card fees—over 98% of that total (\$5,593.00) went directly to the Club.

Congratulations again to all the winners! For those who weren't able to bring home one of these treasures this time, we are sorry—but please note that we will be hosting more auctions throughout the rest of the year, both virtual and in-person. Keep an eye on RMC social media for details.



Above, two well-weathered and well-loved local signs from this year's auction. John Phinney photos.
Below, friendly RMC faces at the online space at BetterWorld.



The Randolph Mountain Club

Our mission is to promote 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.



John Scarinza, 1959-2023

by Randy Meiklejohn, editor

John Scarinza, former RMC President (2010 – 2014) died on April 22, 2023. A celebration of John's life will be held in Randolph this summer, with details to be decided and published in the Weekly.

How is the Randolph Mountain Club different now because of John? He found ways to make change in the RMC by connecting it with other important things in his life and his community: land protection, access to mountain recreation, outdoor work opportunities for young people, and family. Readers of this newsletter have seen the results of John's initiatives over the years--at the Mt. Crescent Trailhead, in the Community Forest, and at the Picnic and other events. We've often seen John here through the eyes of his wife Jenn, one of the RMC's contributing photographers. In photos at the top of this page they're on the "most RMC honeymoon ever", organized by John in fall 2013, when a government shutdown steered them away from the Great Smokies and towards a sojourn on our local mountains. The newlyweds helped load Bio-Bricks for the camps, flew up in the helicopter, toured the new RMC outhouses, stayed overnight at Crag Camp, and launched their married life wandering together across the Northern Presidentials.



Top left, Jenn, John and their wedding rings at Gray Knob, 2013; bottom left, the Pond of Safety access trail and boat launch project in 2015 (combining RMC trail crew, Forest Service funding, Community Forest land), left to right: Auvie Kenison, Justin Taylor, Brian Behr, Sarah Allen, and John. Top right, John writing a logbook entry at Crag Camp in 2013; bottom right, John as a cheerful silver prospector in the "Ag" syllable of "aggrandizement", the Hill charade word at the 2013 Annual Picnic. Jenn Scarinza photos.

Events, cont'd. from page 3

Saturday, August 5th: **Geology Hike** with Dyk Eusden, to Star Lake between Mts. Madison and Adams. More information will follow.

Thursday, August 17th: **Songs for a Summer Evening**, Randolph Town Hall at 7:00 PM. Join us for an evening of music with Bill Minifie, Keith Dempster and friends. Concert to benefit the RMC with refreshments served following the performance.

Saturday, August 19th: The **110th RMC Annual Picnic and Charades**, noon to 2:00 PM at the Mossy Glen Amphitheater off of Durand Road. Bring a picnic lunch and your own cup (punch provided). Rides up to Mossy Glen are available. In the event of rain, the festivities will be moved to the Municipal Bldg., Pinkham B Road.

Saturday, August 19th: **Food, drinks and swimming at Durand Lake**, 3:00-6:00 PM. Join us for some après-charade fun, lakeside!

Saturday, August 19th: **Barn Dance**, Sugar Plum Farm, 232 Randolph Hill Rd., 7:30 to 9:30 PM. After a four-year hiatus, the RMC benefit square dance returns! Join us for an evening full of fun and dancing, all ages are welcome! Thanks to Marie Beringer and her family for their ongoing sponsorship.

Saturday, August 26th: **Ornithology Hike** with Anne and David Forysth. More details to follow.

Would you like to help with RMC events? You can volunteer at the Tea to welcome people, bake or serve punch; lead your section of the charades at the Picnic; donate a raffle item; or sponsor a trail crew member for the Annual Dinner.

Please contact the RMC Events co-chairs Ginny Folsom Umiker or Redza Dempster, at events@randolphmountainclub.org

Treasurer's Report

by Adam Berger

	Admin.	Dev't.	Camps	Stearns	Trails	Trails Grants	Total	Budget
Revenue YTD 04/30:	\$20,111	16,729	10,772	0	0	0	47,612	216,450
Expense YTD 04/30:	\$5,864	600	11,300	625	0	0	18,839	208,132
Net:	\$14,246	16,129	(528)	(625)	0	0	29,222	8,318

The Club's financial condition remains solid, with over \$255,000 in liquid (cash) assets, and the year-to-date comparison with last year's revenue and expenses is favorable. Membership, merchandise, and donation revenues are comparable to last year, while camp fees are virtually double, indicating that the increased fees there have not yet shown any negative impact on usage. Expenses are lagging behind last year, despite the increase in caretaker wages. Although some of that is due to variable year-to-year timing of some expenses (like insurance fees and Stearns maintenance costs), overall we're not yet seeing any noticeable increase in expenses. Finally, the biggest news may be the implementation of Square for use at events and the camps, facilitating credit card payments, tracking of revenue by category, and availability of tips for caretakers (a benefit that should help with employee recruitment and retention).



RMC Employee Alumni: Curtis Moore

excerpts from an interview by Doug Mayer

One of the leaders of the RMC Alumni Association, Doug co-chaired the club's Trails programs from 1994 to 2008. He is based now in Chamonix.

One of the wonderful aspects of being Trails Chair was getting to know the crew as individuals. The crew members who returned are people I came to know well. Among that group, a small cadre stayed with RMC for many years, and became close friends. High on that list is Curtis Moore, who came to RMC in 2000 after doing trail work with the Boy Scouts, then with the Student Conservation Association. In 2005 and 2007 he returned to the crew, and he was Field Supervisor in 2008 and 2009.

Catch us up since your RMC days! You're living in New Zealand! Yes, in New Zealand, at a ten minute walk to a sea wall, surrounded by hills and forest. Kate and I are permanent residents here. [Curtis and Kate Allen met while she was working for the AMC, and the two of them worked seasonally at the US base in Antarctica.] After RMC, I worked in Vermont as a state parks trail crew leader, then went back to Flagstaff and the National Park Service, working for two years on a trail around cliff dwellings.



RMC trail work is pretty traditional in many ways— hand tools in the backcountry. But you've since done some complex projects! Definitely. At the cliff dwellings, we had a crew of thirty and used 600-foot rigging lines. We built dry stone steps. The trail had been built by the CCC in the 1930s and needed to be rebuilt. Now, it's really nice!

From Flagstaff, was it off to New Zealand? Yes, we moved here because of Kate's job. I figured I'd end up in Christchurch on the [2011 earthquake] rebuild, shoveling debris. A month later, I had a job building the Paparao track, on the South Island. It's the country's 10th great walk and goes through mountains with no trails.

When you look back... what did your time at RMC give you? Working with RMC is what made me really stick with trail work. In 2000, with Ned [Green] and others there was a certain work ethic to it. We'd get up in the dark and do a fourteen-hour patrol. At age nineteen or twenty, it gave me direction.

We had great crews! I remember thinking, "I don't want to come back, because next year, it won't be the same crew. And then it's awesome again. I thought, "why would anyone stop doing this?" You could work with someone in an office for ten years and hardly know a thing about them, but do one week of sharpening axes and doing patrols and you know the person really well. ... I'm still in touch with a lot of those people. They were really valuable connections for me. When you're having that much quality fun and work, even without much perspective, you know it's something special. You could just saunter through your twenties, but working trail crew, you realize: "This is something different. This is something good."

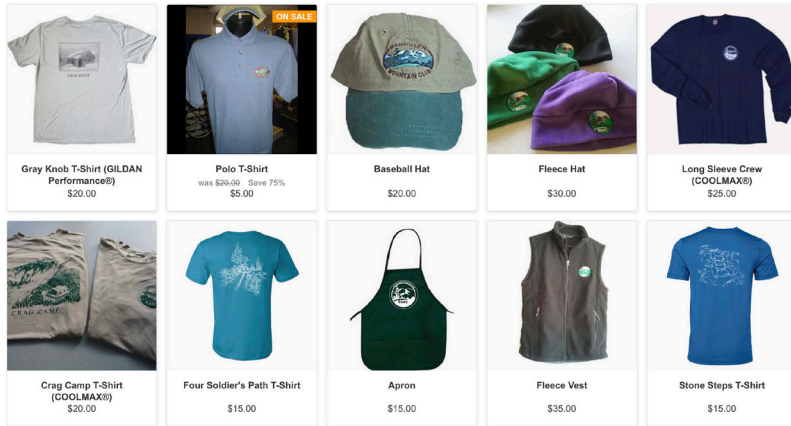
It's really hard work, and you're forty-two now. How's your body holding up? [Laughing] Yeah... things are okay, but I can feel the difference. If I'm hunched over a mattock all day, I need a few days before I can stand up straight. I'm taking graduate courses in ecological restoration now. I want to stay in the field, but do more on the planning side. The physical work has always been so much fun, but I need to taper out of that.



Top / bottom, Curtis Moore (courtesy adventure photos); Doug Mayer in middle (Joe Klementovich photo).



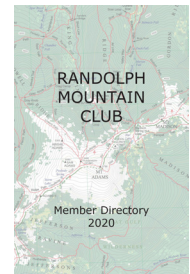
Clothing



RMC Merchandise

by Michele Cormier

New for 2023, look for our classic t-shirt, now with “**Carlton Notch**” artwork on the back (below). You’ll enjoy shopping at our updated online store; at left is a screenshot of part of the Clothing section. Contact me directly to buy the member **directory**, below right (for members only; not sold online).



James Ackman, Coventry CT
Cory Ahonen, Plainfield, NH
Daniel Ballek, Haddam CT
Ethan Banks, Littleton NH
Cole Bates, Portland CT
Chris Beggs, Wilmot NH
Jennifer Benusis, Boise ID
Alana Berger, Seattle WA
Lucie Bergeron, Saint Georges QC
Henry Blanchette
Mahlon Bradley, Berlin NH
Daniel Brown, Portsmouth NH
Joe Cacciola, Winchester MA
Louisa & Frank Carter, Bozeman MT
Alexander Carven, Chelmsford MA
Patricia Case, North Woodstock NH
Joseph Cerino, Middletown CT
Laurent Cloutier
Lawrence Colsell, Montreal QC
Kirk Corwin, Okinawa City, Japan
Kalman Csigi, Sandwich NH
Louis Cutter, New York NY
Alice Cutter, New York NY
Robert Day, Branford, CT
James Delisle, New York NY
Kenneth Dodge, Newmarket NH
Christine Duggan
Alan Dwyer, Rye NH
Corey Eddy
Eric Ellingson, Plainfield NH
Kevin Eschelbach, Plainfield VT
Abigail Evankow, Gorham NH
Nick Evert & Jill Giornelli, Atlanta GA
Lucy Evert, Washington DC
Rufus Faggons, Bangor ME
Carl Faust, Medfield MA
Brendan Fedrizzi

Welcome new RMC members!

by *Joel Douglas, RMC Secretary*
 Joined Nov. 2022 - April 2023

Jeremy Fennell, Manchester NH
Emma & Laura Folsom,
 Woodstock CT
Eric French, Westborough MA
Ashley Furness, Jackson NH
Marcus Gay, Braintree MA
Laren Giovaniello, Hampton NH
Sylvain Gomila, Montreal QC
Marc-Andre Gratton, Senneville QC
Zach Haber, Portsmouth NH
Nicholas Hardy, Bromont QC
David Heja, Belmont MA
David Hellewell, Westmoreland NH
Ray Howard
Lang Hoyt
Avelar Jardim, Medford MA
Michael Jolin, Sharon MA
Daniel Keller, Concord NH
Tuckerman Kennedy, Meredith NH
Denise Kimball, Thornton NH
Sarah Klimkowski, Springfield VA
Debbie Koch, Greene ME
Yves LaFrance
Jessica Lipman, Lexington MA
Jiri Majdloch, Lexington MA
Daniel Manning, Auburn NH
Loic Marchand, Lac Beauport QC
David & Kristen McDermott,
 Fryeburg ME
Riley McGurn, Plaistow NH
Michael McLaughlin, Amesbury MA
Mary Moon, Meredith NH
Terence Morrissey, Lincoln NH

Shane Morse, Colchester CT
Barbara Odenwald, Gatineau QC
Sabine Pelton, Lewiston, ME
Mike Perkins
Marc Perry, Plymouth MA
James Phinney & Ale Monroy,
 Washington DC
Sam Phinney & Lisa Prince,
 Denver CO
Warren Phinney, Littleton MA
Fred Phinney, Cummaquid MA
Faye Poon, Stoneham MA
Alexandre Provost, Montreal QC
Nancy Quevillon, North Adams MA
Greg Rehm, Bedford NH
Maria Ricalton
Mark Rollins, Storrs CT
Don Romano, Worcester MA
Priscilla Russo, Manchester CT
Thomas Ryan, Ipswich MA
Jane Sender, Glen NH
Patrick Shanholtzer, Simsbury CT
Kristina Sheahan
John Sobetzer, Rumney NH
Pepper Sobetzer, Rumney NH
Andre Sofair
Luke Sofair
Elizabeth Spink, Somerville MA
Christian Stumpf, Marblehead MA
Kristen Tagg, Hermon ME
Regina Trumbull, East Brookfield MA
Charles Umiker, Memphis TN
Julia Umiker, Randolph NH
Donald White, Tewksbury MA
Newell White, Valrico FL
Michael Whitty, East Hampton CT
Kevin Zona, Rumford, RI

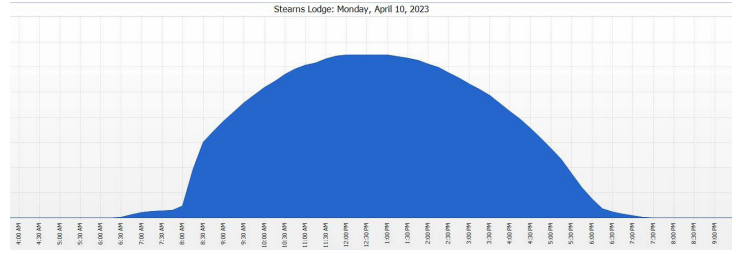
Solar Electricity Generation update

by Jamie Maddock

In 2021 the RMC completed the installation of solar panels at Stearns Lodge and the replacement of the panels up at Gray Knob. This project, originating as a memorial to former Trails chair Mike Micucci, ultimately received broad support from members and the community as well as from NH foundations. It continues to pay dividends, reducing what we pay for electricity, improving safety and the guest experience at Gray Knob, and demonstrating good environmental stewardship.

At Stearns, the system has been operating for twenty months now, producing 10 megawatts of electricity and reducing our CO₂ emissions by 1,555 lbs. in that period. Our electricity bills have gone from \$1,200/year to about \$200/year, and we are also using less propane because the caretaker apartment is now heated with an electric heat pump. We do still buy some electricity in December and January, when the apartment needs heating and the panels are generating the least.

For Gray Knob’s solar array we have less quantitative data, because that shelter has never been connected to the electrical grid and we don’t have online monitoring of the electricity generated there and stored in a battery. What we learned in the first winter, 2021-22, is that you need a long-handled roof rake to keep up with snow clearing so that you don’t lose battery charge (and have to boost it with the generator). So we bought a great big rake, and in 2022-23, we were able to keep the panels clear and maintain battery charge all winter. In the sunnier seasons of the year, there is more than enough power for lights, radios and tool charging, both for construction projects at the camps and for the trail crew when they’re working on the mountain using rechargeable chainsaws and rock drills.



Above, a graph of electricity generated at Stearns Lodge on one of our best solar days in early April. The full curve shows that it was sunny, and that there is no shade on the roof. Below, generation for each day in April. J. Maddock photos.

