



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 2023

Volume 21, No. 2

CENTENNIAL OF THE MEMORIAL BRIDGE

from interviews by Randy Meiklejohn, editor

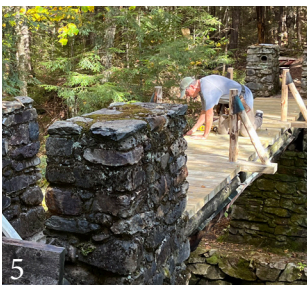
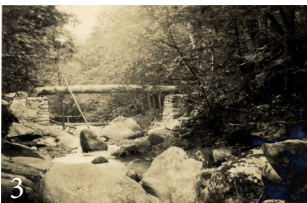
“Easy footing on the Link to one of Randolph’s prettiest waterfalls, and to the beautiful Memorial Bridge; 1.4 mi round trip, 100-ft ascent, 45 min; Trailhead: Appalachia.”

Thus in part reads the entry for Cold Brook Fall [2] under “Easy Walks” in the 9th edition of *Randolph Paths*. It’s a rewarding destination any time of the year, and whether you’re out for a walk, heading up the Amphibrach to the RMC camps, or exploring the woods in winter or spring, it’s the bridge that makes your trip easy, or beautiful, or possible at all. Dedicated to the early pathmakers [8], the Memorial Bridge was the RMC’s contribution to the 1924 centennial of the Town of Randolph [4]. As the 2024 bicentennial approaches, the club has undertaken to restore the bridge [5,6], as it has done more than once before. This is a construction-project story and a stewardship story, one where the people responsible for the work in 2023 understand the bridge’s historical design, know how it’s been repaired in the past, and remember or know about the individuals who worked on it over time.

In researching the story of the bridge, your editor interviewed a number of people in the Club and in the Cutter family, and soon discovered that a few newsletter pages wouldn’t come close to accommodating the stories, opinions, correspondence and images they shared. The article that follows is thus the “Easy Walk” version, leaving the ten-mile hike version to a future writer. The text includes notes selected from the interviews, and numbers thus: [#] where it refers to one of the numbered photographs, maps or drawings.

Cold Brook Fall Reservation, the site of the bridge, is a 2.2-acre public preserve owned by the Town of Randolph, although only since 1947. At its construction in 1924, the bridge, like many of the RMC’s trails at the time, was on privately-owned land: Louis Fayerweather Cutter’s on the west bank, and Laban M. Watson’s on the east. While the RMC raised funds to pay for the bridge, the driving force behind it was Cutter [7], both in design and in persuading Watson [9] to allow it. Before construction, with an eye to the future he asked Watson for a trail easement for the Link (which crossed Cold Brook at this location [11]), and while Watson agreed to the bridge he declined to give the RMC a permanent right of passage over his property. In May 1947 Randolph Town Meeting voted to accept a gift of land from the heirs of L.F. Cutter and from Mr. & Mrs. John Boothman (Watson’s son-in-law and daughter); a bronze plaque acknowledges the two families’ elders [10]. On current maps the rectangle of the Reservation still stands out [12] from the lots on either side of Cold Brook from which it was assembled. As the landowner, the Town of Randolph thus is the legal owner of the bridge also, but over the years the RMC and the Cutter family have remained active stakeholders. Looking over the bridge together, they have preserved year-round access to the trails, safeguarded a special outdoor place, and kept alive the distinct shared history of the club and the community.

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Randolph Mountain Club 2022-2023
Officers, Directors,
committee chairs and honorary members

President	John Phinney, Randolph NH
Vice President	Deva Stekete, Orford NH
Treasurer	Adam Berger, Seattle WA
Secretary	Joel Douglas, Andover MA
Clerk	Sally Micucci, Randolph NH
Other Directors:	Tom Breunig, Albany CA Chris Cross, New York NY Chris Hawkins, Randolph NH Eliza Horton, S. Portland ME Jenna Maddock, Boulder CO Adam Ritchie, Bedford MA Eric Sandin, Freeport ME Thomas Strayhorn, S. Portland ME Ginny Umiker, Randolph NH Howie Wemyss, Randolph NH
Trails	Adam Ritchie
Camps	Deva Stekete, Ben Lieberman, Andy Gallop
Trips	Mary Minifie
Merchandise	Michele Cormier
Events	Ginny Umiker
Planned Giving	Randy Meiklejohn
Membership	Michele Cormier
Work Trips	Wendy Walsh
Stearns Lodge	Howie Wemyss
Revenue Dev't.	Chris Cross
Trail Easements	Randy Meiklejohn
Trail Adoption	Deva Stekete, Sally Micucci
Communications	John Phinney
<i>Newsletter</i>	Randy Meiklejohn
<i>Website</i>	Tom Breunig, Jenna Maddock
<i>Social Media</i>	Lea Giguere, Andi Smith
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 from Randolph! You've heard from Secretary Joel Douglas and me recently, with a summer recap and a contact information survey for a new RMC directory. (As before, the directory will be available to members only and in print only.) We hope our communications will keep you connected to the RMC during what used to be the "off-season"; nowadays, of course, the Club runs year-round. Winter 2023-24 will be no exception as we seek funding for work on Lowe's Path, onboard new directors, enlist new committee chairs, develop web-based tools for trails and camps, and recruit next year's employees--all the while keeping camps open for winter climbers.

In this newsletter, you'll read about people who've supported the RMC in many ways, involving stewardship of trails, camps, history, and traditions we've kept alive for over a century. Some people came to the RMC as employees; others moved to Coos County to live, and others are from families who've been part of Randolph since before the Club's founding. Our diverse array of stakeholders is one of its great strengths, and one which helps to identify opportunities for others to help contribute to and build upon our traditions.

During Randolph's bicentennial year it's fitting that we'd undertake improvements to Lowe's Path, a historic route to the summits. As ever, we rely on public- and private-sector grants to fund trail work, and our candidacy for grants is improved with broad community support for what we do. That support can be from dollars and/or volunteer hours on or off the trail (for example, in grant proposal writing, which, along with recruiting and sign-making, is an off-season focus of our Trails Committee). A forthcoming membership questionnaire will help us better understand the skills and availability of members so that we can match them with the range of volunteer tasks that need to be done to achieve the goals of our Strategic Plan successfully. Please review the committees on the RMC's website to help identify where you might contribute, and contact me or another director at any time.

On page 10, you'll see the Treasurer's report by Adam Berger, showing that the overall picture, like the weather, has improved since the Annual Meeting. To build on this improvement, the board is reluctantly considering a proposal to increase Club dues for the first time in a decade, while keeping in mind the RMC's long tradition of affordable membership. We will shift to a rolling twelve-month membership renewal to make the process more efficient and less confusing to members.

2024 will be a special year in Randolph, and I trust you will find a way to participate in the bicentennial celebrations! In this newsletter issue, I hope you enjoy reading about the extraordinary Memorial Bridge. Next season, perhaps you'll want to walk there to celebrate our Club and our Town, look back on our history in this community, and look forward to the volunteer opportunities that bring us together.

John Phinney, President
email: president@randolphmountainclub.org

New RMC Directors

At the 2023 Annual Meeting in August, the RMC membership voted to elect three members to serve three-year terms as Club directors, and in the fall, President John Phinney appointed Eric Sandin, to fill a board vacancy resulting from a resignation. All four are briefly profiled below in excerpts from the report of the Nominating Committee (Keith Dempster, Wendy Walsh, Carl Herz and Deva Stekete).

Eliza Horton has come to Randolph from abroad for most of her life; she was born and raised in the UK and later was based in South Africa. She grew up south of London with her parents Ted and Zoe Horton, and every year joined the extended Horton family for summers in Randolph, spending time at the Ravine House Pool, the old library, and on cottage porches for suppers and sleepovers. Eliza is a great-granddaughter of Douglas Horton, creator of the Mossy Glen amphitheater where the RMC holds its Annual Picnic. Upon graduation from university in the UK with a degree in International Development, Eliza spent five years working in Cape Town in the non-profit sector, and has traveled extensively – thirty countries by age twenty-eight. She continues her non-profit professional work, now closer to Randolph, in Portland, Maine.



Eliza Horton

Adam Ritchie was introduced to the White Mountains and the club in 2012 by Carl Herz, legendary RMC caretaker and recent board member. He fell in love with the Northern Presidentials, and especially with Gray Knob cabin. Initially, he joined the RMC fall airlifts as a volunteer. To make use of his skills in design, fabrication and construction, he then began to work alongside RMC master carpenter John Tremblay. He assisted with camps repairs and learned about the origins of the camps, how they were built and how they should be cared for. Over the years he has completed countless small projects, and assisted with larger scale renovations including window replacements, various building repairs and the GK solar system installation. (He was featured in the June 2020 newsletter, for his restoration of the Davis Woodruff rocking chair at Gray Knob.) Adam has built relationships with RMC members and is always looking for ways to contribute his time and skills. When he's not in Randolph, he resides in Bedford, Massachusetts and works in residential landscape design/build.



Adam Ritchie

Eric Sandin has joined the board by appointment, and in August 2024 he'll be eligible for election to the remainder of a three-year term ending in 2026. Before becoming a director, he had already been serving on the Trails Committee and assisting on grants to support club finances, and joining volunteer work trips on RMC trails. In Randolph Eric has been a lifelong summer resident, staying on the Hill in the 1903 cottage built by his great-grandfather George Flagg. (See page 10 for *Eric's new book*.) He and his wife Kate reside in Freeport, Maine, and love to hike and ski; a highlight of this year was their walk across Britain along Hadrian's Wall. Their daughter Lucy is the current editor of Randolph's quarterly community publication the *Mountain View*.



Eric Sandin

Thomas Strayhorn came to hiking in the White Mountains at a very early age, thanks to his intrepid parents Blake and Dell Strayhorn. Dell was seven months pregnant with Thomas in the 1990s when she hiked to Greenleaf Hut, only to be advised by the AMC hut crew to turn around, given the cost of emergency care should she give birth on the mountain. Thomas went on to finish all forty-eight four-thousand-footers by age eleven, his parents coaxing him up the trails with M&Ms on the rocks. In 2019, after spending the summer in Randolph in the Durand Rd. cottage of his great-great-aunt Elizabeth Walsh, he relocated from North Carolina to Portland, Maine, where he designs buildings, millwork and furniture. In his spare time he writes and performs folk music.



Thomas Strayhorn

From the RMC Archives

by Judy Hudson and Steve Chase

Judy: We are delighted that Steve Chase has agreed to help AI and me maintain and organize the RMC's Archive. His professional expertise in dealing with archives, especially digital records, will help keep the Club's history alive. We were able to meet with him in August 2023, when we shared our digital archival records with him. The scope of these, including many photos, is vast. He has also spoken with librarian Yvonne Jenkins about preservation of the Town's Archives.



Steve: I'm looking forward to collaborating more with Judy, AI and others in the RMC to protect our history and tell our many stories. I've been part of the Club since the mid 1970s, when the Meiklejohns introduced me to Randolph. My three stints as caretaker at Gray Knob and my summer on trail crew were transformative for me, and these experiences led to a career in Conservation. Currently, I am the Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The NCTC brings 12,000 people a year to our campus for learning and conversation, and includes the US Fish and Wildlife Service Museum and Archives, which houses more than a half a million objects, photographs, and documents from the history of Conservation. In my headshot I'm in front of my *Birds-Eye View of Mt. Washington*, a rare White Mountain object that hangs in our house in Virginia. The second photo shows me at the Quay in 1982, with RMC master carpenter John Tremblay at right.

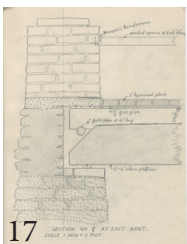
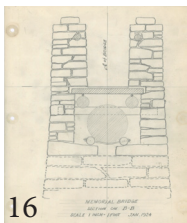
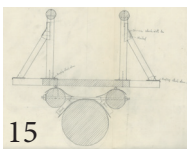
Events in Summer 2023

Members gathered at RMC events in summer, and were rained on at only one! Photos by Franklin Wenk and others. Next year's Club events will kick off with the "Cabin Fever Reliever" dance at Town Hall, on March 16, 2024!

From top left: Joan Ostergren & Jim Alexander at the Tea; Steve Teczar with new members Nate Adams and Kristen Neufelder at the August dinner; Heywood Alexander at Town Hall; John Berry, Bruce Kirmmse in the Valley charade at the Picnic; Lisa May Kelley (center) with her daughter Emily, son-in-law Ryan Bauer and grandson Wilder, on the Gourmet Hike; bicentennialists at the Tea; Jenn DeMarco with the best umbrella at the Picnic; the Gourmet Hike; Square Dance host Marie Beringer and friends in the barn; inside at the dinner; the Amos Moses at the Square Dance.



Memorial Bridge, cont'd. from page 1

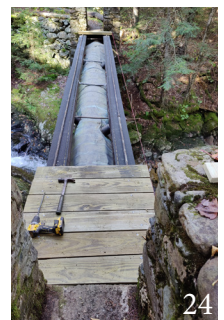
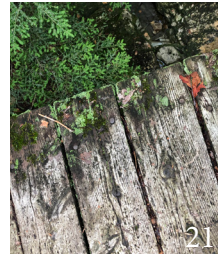


The bridge is made of local materials, carefully chosen and assembled for a long useful life: stone masonry for the piers, a massive spruce log to span the brook, hemlock deck boards, and smaller spruce for the posts and handrails. The original main log [15] and the stone piers remain today, while other elements have been periodically replaced. L. F. Cutter's grandson Stan Cutter [13] recalls working on a bridge repair crew in 1970 (after his military service) under the direction of Freeman Holden, taking up the deck boards to allow replacement of the two side logs above the main log [15]. Holden purchased two creosoted poles from the telephone company, for delivery to Cold Brook Lodge, and hired the capable Morrison Reed to run the horse team that hauled the poles up from the farm, and to maneuver them into place. Stan and the crew then nailed the deck boards back down, found they had too few boards to cover the bridge because they had left no spaces in between, and then took them up and nailed them down again with 3/8" spaces. At the paired stone posts at each end of the bridge, some visitors have noted the narrow gap between [16], just wide enough for a single hiker to walk through, and Edith Tucker [14] shared her mother's recollection about this part of the design. World War I was for many American men the introduction to motorcycles, and some returning soldiers adopted motorcycling as an upper-class hobby—one occasionally at odds with peaceful enjoyment of the outdoors. Edie's grandfather L. F. Cutter may thus have designed the narrow bridge entry as an intentional barrier. The openings in the side railings, in contrast, have always been very large, especially considering the distance to the brook below. Emily Cutter Douglas [19] has fond memories of the bridge and the waterfall, but while growing up she worried about falling through below the handrail. One year she visited the bridge on Memorial Day weekend with her parents Margaret and Joel, and the only mishap came when Joel leaned over the railing. His eyeglasses fell into the raging spring waters, and Emily remembers Margaret having to do all the driving on the family's return to Massachusetts.

By 2021 RMC Trails leaders had noticed advancing deterioration at the bridge: rot and loosening at the railings [22], slippery moss on the deck and accumulated organic matter between the boards [21], and a worrisome downstream tilt in the deck itself. Following a temporary splice repair to one railing, in 2022 the club began planning for its longtime master carpenter John Tremblay [23] to do the overall restoration work, and after completing several projects up at the camps in September 2023 (p. 6) he came down the Amphibrach to begin at the bridge. The trail crew helped by locating and signing a temporary crossing for the Link over the brook upstream, and by sourcing new spruce tree stems from Stan Cutter's abutting land, as had been done in 1970. John then removed the deck boards, in order to expose and inspect the structure below [24]. The boards were weathered and mossy on top, but on the bottom side some still showed the brand marks [26] from the Brown Company's mercury chloride preservative application in 1924. Happily, the lower structure was found to be in good condition. After adding a shim on the downstream telephone pole, John then set down new 3x8" boards, using "extreme contact" pressure-treated material from White Mountain Lumber, and increased the spaces between them to 1/2". Replacement spruce railing posts were set on the deck, again on sheet lead flashings, and replacement handrails were fastened to the posts. John re-used the existing sheet copper flashings at the top of the railing's diagonal braces, and added new copper "cuff" flashings to protect the butt joints in the handrails [25]. Thanks to Edie's frequent site visits, we have very good photo documentation of all stages of the work.

A donation to the club for the bridge restoration was made by RMC members Elizabeth Cutter Evert, Henry Cutter and Margaret Cutter Douglas, who are siblings and the great-grandchildren of L. F. Cutter. Elizabeth [18], who also provided photos 21-22, remembers the bridge and the falls as "an old family place", one where the Cutters always went to be together outdoors. During summers in Randolph the far-flung family would walk to Cold Brook Fall, sometimes for a special event like a wedding or christening, at other times just for the grownups to gather and talk about the "drama of the year" while children played by the brook. Later on in her college years, Elizabeth and her father Louis A. Cutter would occasionally take a stroll up to the bridge "to make sure the big log looks OK". Knowing that her father's donations had helped the club maintain the bridge over the years, she and her generation developed a feeling of responsibility for it that led them to pledge their support in 2023.

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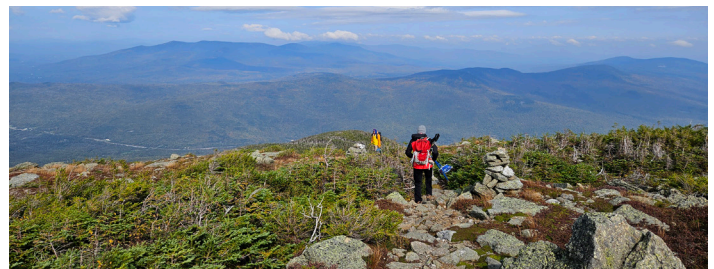


Camps Report

by Adam Ritchie, Camps chair

No one in New Hampshire needs to be reminded of the record rainfall experienced during the summer of '23, least of all RMC Camps and Trails staff. "Departure from normal" is an apt NOAA phrase befitting the experience of those living in Coos County, which saw twenty-two inches of rain, just over 7.5 inches more than usual. The rain was heaviest on the weekends and it impacted our guest numbers, but as weather improved, hikers returned. Lea Giguere, on duty summer and fall this year, recalls: "My rain gear was put to the test this summer. A positive to all the moisture in the air this year meant I was blessed with many beautiful undercasts and even a rainbow over King Ravine." The call of the mountains is stronger than any foul weather. Summer caretaker Patrick Mulready remembers a noteworthy age spread of guests while he was caretaking at Crag Camp: "My grandparents hiked up and visited me in August, both of them seventy-nine years old. On the other end of the spectrum, I had a guest who was three years old, and who (with his father) hiked the whole way up on his own."

Airlift '23 (camps resupply) was a success after two false starts; first a surprise fog bank, and then equipment problems. Our volunteers persisted however, and showed up all three times to finally make it happen. Special thanks to Chris Hawkins for coordinating our motley crew of volunteers and assuring all maintenance and building supplies were transported by Maine Helicopter to the camps. Among the building improvements this year were a new roof for the Perch privy, and chinking added to the shelter there; and new galvanized metal grating for the back stairs at Gray Knob. Thanks to John Tremblay for performing this work and for the assistance of fall caretaker Sarah Young.



From top, four photos of the September airlift: helicopter passengers Adam Berger, Harriet Phinney and Tim Mather; loading up fuel tanks at Kenisons's; the goods aloft; volunteers walking down to Gray Knob on Lowe's Path; Kathy Tremblay and John Phinney photos. Above, the new chinking between the logs at the Perch; above left, the new metal roof on the Perch privy; below left, the new galvanized steel grate stairs at the back side of Gray Knob. John Tremblay photos.

Meet the Fall and Winter Camp Caretakers

- in their own words -

Sarah: Originally from Maine, I first started hiking in the White Mountains when I was eighteen and joined the New Hampshire Outing Club. I fell in love with the strenuous terrain of the trails and the breathtaking views. Since then I have spent many months living in the backcountry with both the AMC and the RMC. After caretaking at Gray Knob in summer 2019, I went back to school to become a nurse with the goal of returning to Gray Knob again one day; four years later, here I am! I love spending time at Gray Knob because of the ethereal beauty there and the many wonderful people it attracts.



Sarah Young - fall



Lea Giguere & Scout - fall

Lea: I am excited to spend my second season as caretaker on the mountain this fall. Summer 2023 brought seemingly never-ending rain, amazing undercast, breathtaking sunsets, and other memorable weather phenomena. It was one of the wettest summers on record, and I got good use of my rain gear. My dog Scout wore her raincoat more often than not, and she even had her own full-sized towel for drying off after hiking around the camps. It is so nice to have a mountain dog for company. Scout is not a typical hiking dog – she’s a chiweenie (chihuahua / dachshund) – but she is impressive on the trail. I met so many amazing guests this summer and am grateful for their kindness to Scout and me. Happy trails!



Hincks Trail in winter; Carl Herz photo.

Andi: I’m back for a fourth season as a Gray Knob caretaker. After being the summer caretaker in 2020, 2021, and 2022, I’ll be on the mountain for my first winter season! I’m super excited for the snow and the cold, and of course sharing it with other adventurers.



Andi Smith - winter



Abigail Bennett - winter

Abigail: I grew up in western Maine where my family has lived for around twelve generations. My parents and grandparents are conservation-minded, and I was raised hiking, canoeing, and skiing. Currently I dedicate a lot of my time to running, scrambling, and skiing (I like to compete and push my own limits!) and I recently earned a master’s degree in ecology and environmental science. I do some semi-professional photography and enjoy creating - art, photography, and videography. I’m thrilled to get to experience winter in the Northern Presidentials, my favorite place in the world!

Max: I happened upon the RMC by way of a college career advisor who, on learning of my interest in the outdoors, encouraged me to apply to this little mountain club she’d found via rigorous Google searching. I’d never done trail work before and had no idea what to expect. Showing up to Stearns on move-in day, my introduction to Randolph was a game of Truco on the screen porch—the first of many idiosyncrasies and traditions I’ve since had the pleasure of experiencing. The work, as it happened, was both challenging and rewarding in more ways than I could have hoped. But more fundamentally, just living in and getting to know the faces and places of the Whites, the season was characterized by a sense of constant discovery and warmth (despite the admittedly not warm weather). I feel very lucky to have stumbled upon such a unique corner of the world, and I can’t wait to return!

From the Trail Crew

First-year crew members Max Buttrill and Annalise Brinks share some thoughts about their summer season with the RMC.



Annalise and Max, with fellow first-year Maya Barnett at right; Emma Brinks photo.

Annalise: Joining the RMC trail crew was a leap of faith for me. I had spent a couple of years working in a legal office, but I’d listened to my sister tell stories about her summers in the White Mountains. Having never been to New Hampshire and hoping to learn something new, I decided to move from Chicago to the trail. This summer, I climbed mountains with heavy tools on my back, cut my hair into a silly mohawk, and built structures that will last for a hundred years. I feel very lucky to have been introduced to this wonderful place through such an immersive, hands-on experience. All of the energy and effort I’ve put into these paths has been returned to me tenfold in beautiful views, rewarding journeys with friends, and newfound confidence and strength. I have joined the ranks of generations of trail workers who serve a mission bigger than ourselves: building and preserving for the sake of the mountains and all who enjoy them. I am incredibly thankful to my sister for introducing me to this slice of the world, and to all the others who have made it feel like home.

Trails Report

by Deva Stekete, Trails co-chair

The nine-person trail crew in summer 2023 was an extremely cohesive bunch, which translated into good morale (despite the wet weather), strong productivity, and a stated desire of many to return next year. This pipeline of qualified employees points to the success of our efforts to expand applicant outreach, as well as the Club’s commitment to maintain competitive wages, ensuring we can compete with other clubs such as AMC, GMC and ADK.

During the summer, after a week of orientation and two weeks removing blowdowns and clearing drainages, the crew spent most of the season adding drainage and stabilizing steeper sections on the Short Line, funded by a RTP matching grant that has covered approximately 60% of the crew’s labor cost this season. In recent years, increased foot traffic and extreme weather events driven by climate change have led to erosion and widening of this trail. This is a trend across the region, as all trail organizations must figure out how to deal with the compounding effects of weather and user impact.

And—no surprise—the story of this season has been the rains, which the photographs on this page can only begin to convey. The Mt. Washington Observatory recorded a total of 39.3 inches of rain during June, July, and part of August (compared to 25 inches of rain recorded during this period of 2022). Despite these statistics, we feel very fortunate that our crews have managed to produce good-quality, lasting work including waterbars, steps, retaining walls, and steps stones that will harden the trail and divert water off the tread surface for years to come. The weather certainly allowed for some real-time testing of the drainage improvements as they were completed.

For the near future, we plan to make Lowe’s Path--one of our major year-round access routes to the camps--the focus of the next two years. Specifically, we’ll tackle some of the ever-widening “slab” sections above the Log Cabin that have been a perennial problem for hikers, especially during the wet and icy shoulder seasons. Also during 2024 we expect to install 18-22 replacement bog bridges on the E-Z Way, ideally with volunteers supporting the trail crew. The planks have already been delivered and are staged at the Stearns work shed.



On the Short Line, from top left: Annalise Brinks, Emma Brinks and Max Buttrill at work on rocks; a foursome toils through a rainy day; Joey Schilke in deep mud. Above, before and after photos of a stone staircase. Bottom row: Joey and Julia Rudlaff teaming up on a blowdown in the Ice Gulch; trail crew alumni Duncan Lennon, Benzo Harris and Ben Lieberson, who led a three-day rockwork training in June; a section of hardened treadway. Emma Brinks photos, except alumni by Deva Stekete.



Thank you to the thirty volunteers who came out this year to help maintain RMC trails! Volunteers worked 274 hours on the Underhill Path, Mt. Crescent Trail, Inlook Trail, Kelton Trail, and the Short Line. Two volunteers, Danielle Normand and Amy Patenaude (our 2021 “Golden Loppers” Volunteer of the Year Award honorees) worked an amazing 7 ½ hour day to clear a tenth of a mile on the Chemin de Dames! We had heard this trail was completely overgrown and fortunately they were up to the challenge. We also would like to give a shout-out to Chantal Wood, a first-time volunteer in 2023, who came out three times and was therefore awarded a coveted Volunteer Work t-shirt. In the roster at right, * indicates a first-time volunteer, and a number in parentheses indicates how many trips the volunteer joined.

This year the RMC was granted funds by the New Hampshire Recreational Trails Program, to pay for our trail crew employees to carry out erosion control and establish new steps on the Short Line. If you have not checked out the amazing work the trail crew did—in the wettest summer in recent memory—it is worth a trip. This grant required a 20% match by the RMC, some of which could be covered by volunteer work on the same trail. Volunteers, including four trail crew alumni, met our requirement, working 115.5 hours on the Short Line. With 100 trails to maintain, volunteer trail work is a critical part of the RMC; your participation is much appreciated every season.

Volunteer Work Trips on RMC Trails, 2023

by Wendy Walsh

Roster of 2023 Trail Volunteers:

- Adam Berger
- Austin Black
- Chris Campbell (3)
- Michelle Cormier
- Joel Douglas
- Bob Drescher (3)
- Elizabeth Evert*
- Christoph Geiss
- Lucas Geiss
- Benzo Harris (2)
- Jinsu Kim*
- Duncan Lennon (2)
- Ben Lieberson (4)
- Jamie Maddock
- Tim Mather (2)
- Randy Meiklejohn (2)
- Amy Morneweck*
- Lynn Morneweck*
- Danielle Normand
- Amy Patenaude
- Dennis Pednault
- Ben Phinney
- Eric Sandin (3)
- Deva Skeketee (2)
- John Sleeman
- Rick Umiker
- Wendy Walsh
- Howie Wemyss
- Jeff Wilson
- Chantal Wood* (3)

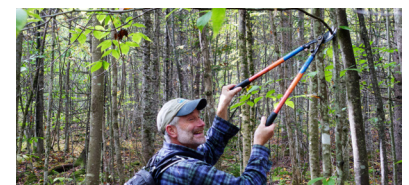
Right, Lucas Geiss paint-blazing, and Ed Clark toting a ladder, both on the Owl’s Head trail in September; Christoph Geiss photos. Below left, Bob Drescher, Tim Mather, Chris Campbell, Chantal Wood, Eric Sandin, Jinsu Kim, Lynn Morneweck, Randy Meiklejohn and Amy Morneweck setting out on the Mt. Crescent Trail in July, from the Community Forest Trailhead; Ben Phinney photo. Below right, Dennis Pednault, Elizabeth Evert, Joel Douglas and Christoph Geiss brushing on the Kelton Trail in August, above Dome Rock; R. Meiklejohn photo.



Stewardship Opportunities, Small and Large

by John Phinney

Keep an eye on our website for new features and ideas that will help members share the work of caring for our trails - and note these will work on your mobile device. Already available is “**Report a Trail**”, with a fillable-form .pdf where you can submit an erosion problem, tree hazard or other issue, with date and trail location. Coming soon, a reporting tool just for damaged or missing signs that you might observe while on the trail. For a longer commitment, consider “**Trail Adoption**”, available on the website since this summer: you’re invited to apply to perform annual maintenance and more on one RMC trail. Much more at the website!



Left, a damaged trail sign (note codes on the back); right, a major blow-down, and overhead pruning. C. Geiss and R. Meiklejohn photos.

Treasurer’s Report

by Adam Berger

	Admin.	Dev’t.	Camps	Stearns	Trails	Trails Grants	Total	Budget
Revenue YTD 10/23/23:	\$42,059	57,494	48,093	0	0	3,622	151,454	210,950
Expense YTD 10/23/23:	\$28,300	2,816	57,914	15,485	37,225	49,231	190,982	208,132
Op. Income:	\$13,758	54,677	(9,821)	(15,485)	(37,225)	(45,608)	(39,527)	2,818

The RMC’s finances are showing a much-improved outlook since the Annual Meeting in August. Camp fees have bounced back after a slow, rainy start to the season and may be close to double what they were at this time in 2022. Merchandise sales and membership revenue are also running ahead of last year, while individual donations have been buoyed by a recent five-figure donation. Notably, we had an almost quadrupling of revenue from events and fundraisers. In total, our operating revenue is currently running about \$25,000.00 ahead of last year.

On the expense side we’ve seen expected increases in payroll and professional fees due to raised wages and higher accounting costs, though the payroll expenses were mitigated by a smaller and shorter fall trail crew season. Insurance costs increased unexpectedly, and we also incurred some larger-than-expected repair and maintenance expenses at Stearns Lodge. Other expenses have either remained steady or increased only moderately.

Overall, operating expenses are currently exceeding revenue by approximately \$39,500.00. However, this shortfall will be mostly covered by our RTP grant from the State of New Hampshire, which will be paid by year’s end. The approved grant amount is \$38,300.00 with a good chance of receiving up to \$3,600.00 more. Barring any unanticipated large expenses over the last two months of the year, the continuing flow of donations, memberships, and camp fees for the remainder of the year should leave us in the black or close to it.

On other matters, implementation of the digital payments app Square to track and collect payments at the camps and at events has gone very smoothly. We are now exploring the possibility of using Square to set up a partial reservation system for the camps in the coming year. We are also looking to open an investment/brokerage account for the RMC in order to increase the return on our cash reserves, in light of the current interest rate environment.

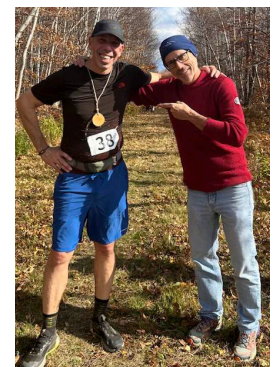


Randolph Ramble

by John Phinney

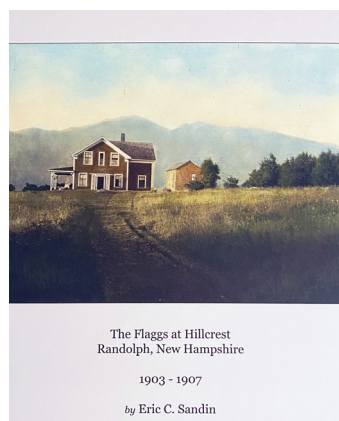
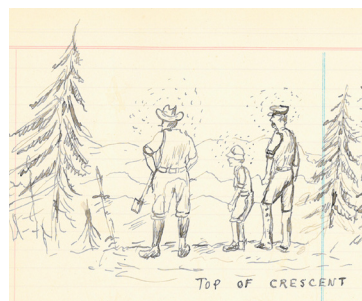
On a sunny October 28, this RMC-benefit event returned to its annual 10K loop on the RMC’s Crescent Range trails.

At right with Doug Mayer, #39, from NY, the irresistible Randolph Randolph, finishing in 1:29:16. G. Umiker photos.



The Flags at Hillcrest

A new publication; photos and summary by Eric Sandin.



Eric Sandin, a new RMC director (p. 3) recently self-published a book of Flagg photos and sketches from 1903-1907; (copies are in the Randolph Public Library) and is working on subsequent years. They provide rich insight into hiking expeditions and early Randolph summer life.



RMC Merchandise

by Michele Cormier

They grow up so fast - make sure they're doing it in RMC apparel! At left, Ethan Scarinza proudly models his I'll-be-three next RMC tee; photo courtesy of his mom Jenn. At right, clearly comfy and happy in her all-cotton RMC onesie is Ruth Evert, born May 2023; thanks to parents Nick Evert and Jill Giornelli for this September photo. For children's and adult sizes, visit the [Store](https://www.randolphmountainclub.org) page at [randolphmountainclub.org](https://www.randolphmountainclub.org). For the onesie, contact President John Phinney (*his e-mail p. 2*) to submit your on-demand order.



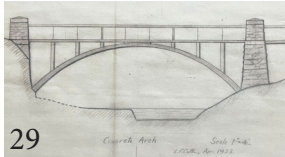
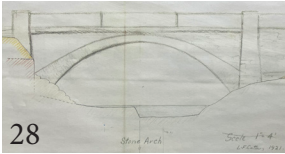
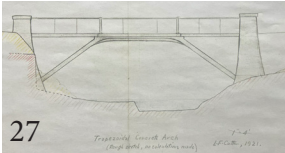
Sharad Aggarwal, Durham NH
Jonathan Allard, Montreal QC
Amy Aloe, Brunswick ME
Justin Amenta, Bristol CT
Stephanie Arnold, Fatima QC
Bridget Austin, Greenfield NH
Gerri Aviza, Durham NH
Jesse Beecher & Lyra Burch,
 Arlington VA
Marielle Bergeron, Cap Rouge QC
Caroline Boiteau, Quebec City QC
James Bowlin & Andrea Dale,
 Cincinnati OH
Peter Brooks, New London NH
Matt Budzik, West Simsbury CT
Rick Bunt, Middlebury VT
Joseph Bylund, Watertown MA
Wyonegonic Camps, Denmark ME
Marielle Caron, Whitehorse YT
Evan Carroll, Portland ME
Joseph Chambers, West Hartford CT
Stephen Clark, Middletown CT
Woodams Clark, Randolph NH
Patricia & Marc Clement,
 New London NH
Stephen Cohen, Canterbury NH
Stephanie Costello, Bennington NH
Sebastien Cote, Mascouche QC
Alberto Crisosbono, Ludlow MA
Tim Cummings & Hannah Muehl,
 Pittsburgh PA
Etienne Rene de Cotret, Terrebonne QC
Arnaud Delagrave, Montreal QC
Jacob Dextradeur, Coventry RI
Oonagh Doherty, Florence MA
Julie Dubois, Montreal QC
Kai Dude, North Conway NH
George Elkhoury, Salem NH
George Evans, Randolph NH
Joseph Falconeiri, Marion MA
David Fatula, Arlington MA
Michael Ferreira, North Kingstown RI
Chris Forcino, West Greenwich RI
Kara Fuller, Boston MA

Welcome new RMC members!

by Joel Douglas, RMC Secretary
 Joined May - October 2023

Alexis Gagnon,
 Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan QC
Thomas Gajeski, Wenham MA
Noah Gardner, Sutton NH
Jameson Giamo, Gorham NH
Alice Goldfinger, Falmouth ME
John Gowac, Middletown CT
Russell Green, Sudbury MA
Greg Hanley, Worcester MA
Thomas Hesler, Steep Falls ME
Rachel Hestrin, Deerfield MA
Darren Hewson, New Boston NH
Eliza Horton, South Portland ME
Thomas Howe, Quincy MA
Barbara Imperiali & Sam Stockwell,
 Cambridge MA
Nicholas Jean, Montreal QC
Kirsten Jeppesen, Putney VT
Brian Johnson, Milton MA
Matthew Katsenes, Moultonborough NH
Nicholas Kershbaumer, Manchester NH
Fred Kniffin, Middlebury VT
Anna Kowalczyk, Quebec City QC
Martin Lambert, Bromont QC
Eve-Marie Lambert, Bromont QC
Martine Lapointe, Quebec City QC
Gabriel LeVoie, Montreal QC
Dominic LeGault, Saint-Colomban QC
Dan Lilledahl, Groton MA
Gary Linehan, East Sandwich MA
Benjamin Link, East Walpole MA
Bruce Lowry, Tenants Harbor ME
Chris Macdonald, Beverly MA
Remi MacDonell, Dartmouth NS
Maryann Makosiey, Clark NJ
Josh Mastin, Mont Vernon NH
Molly McCahan, Plymouth NH
John McCluskey, Kennebunk ME
Emylee Menard, Nottingham NH

Matthew Mercier, Germantown NY
John-Paul Mial & Michelle Roy,
 Thornton NH
Ezra Milby, Medford MA
Michael Murphy, Sparks MD
John Myers, Nantucket MA
Kristen Neufelder & Nate Adams,
 Randolph NH
Suzzy Nichols, Groveton NH
Carla Palmer, Acton MA
Brian Patrone, Glenside PA
Mathieu Person, Montreal QC
Julian Phan, Needham MA
Jeff Piamplano, Brunswick ME
Brian Pilcher, Melrose MA
Benjamin Poirier, Gorham NH
Gregory Pouliot, Franconia NH
Don Quenneville, Attleboro MA
Sebastien Reynaud, Montreal QC
Isabella Risitano, Colchester VT
Alexandra Roberts, Gorham NH
Florence Roy, Etang-du-Nord QC
David Rozene, Marlborough MA
Mark Saccoccio, Amesbury MA
Thomas Safford, Portsmouth NH
Stephen Sargent, Jefferson NH
Ethan Shaw, St. George VT
Stephen Shaw, Whitefield NH
Edward Simpson, Centerport NY
Janet Steinert, Waterford VT
Nick Stevens, Berlin CT
Chris Stevens, Belmont NH
Katherine Stokes, Lyme NH
Thomas Strayhorn, South Portland ME
Peter Thorne, Campton NH
Peter Tingley, Newbury MA
Jennifer Uhlman, Somersworth NH
Robert Vettese, Cape Elizabeth ME
Kenneth Viera, Rochester MA
Kevin Vincent, Milton MA
Jason Wadsworth, Arlington MA
Liz Westner, Waltham MA
Terri Wilson, Lebanon NH
Larry Yetter, Nashua NH



Thanks for interviews & photographs: John Tremblay, Stan Cutter, Emily Douglas, Elizabeth Evert, Edith Tucker, John Phinney, Michael Evert; historic images & maps by Mary Osgood Cutter (via RMC Archive), Guy Shorey (via Scott Meiklejohn), RMC Young Archive, RMC Cutter Archive, Brad Meiklejohn, and Town of Randolph.

Memorial Bridge, cont'd. from page 1

Could the bridge have turned out differently in 1924? Thanks to Emily, we know this was not just a theoretical possibility. The great-great-granddaughter of L.F. Cutter, she is a graduate student in Library & Information Science and Children's Literature at Simmons University, and has a special concern for family books and records. In 2018 she went into the tool room of Echobank [20], the family house on Durand Road, in search of a glue brush to repair an old book binding. Cutter's workbench and files are still there, and in a box on a high shelf she found a set of papers containing earlier designs for the bridge [27-29] in his familiar neat lettering, dated from 1921 to 1924. They show a variety of structural systems, including a stone arch and a concrete arch, and different options for the bridge's overall length. A 1923 drawing showing the "big log" design [30] recognizes Eldredge H. Blood as the author of this scheme and Cutter as its later "modifier"; notably, the length of the log span was then shortened in a 1924 drawing [31] by Cutter, where the east stone pier is shown in the brook bed rather than on the bank. More rock fill was added at the banks. The records in Echobank, now in the RMC Archive, include Blood's letter to Cutter (in Massachusetts) during construction in May 1924, where he reports on the peeling of the logs, the laying of the stones, and the Kyanizing of the lumber, closing "*Wish you might be here to enjoy the fine days.*" His P.S. likely refers to the footbridge visible beyond the log in photo #3: "*Osgood (Cutter)'s [32, far left] bridge over Cold Brook has gone off one of its supports but the wire held at the other end*".

