

June 2000

President's Letter

Membership and Dues

It's now June and we have finalized (finally!!) the membership roster for Y2K. Currently we have 87 memberships (Adult, Family and Junior) in our section. Looking over the past history of the club this is an average number although it's down considerably from last year's record of 128 memberships.

So what becomes of your dues? The section keeps 25%, which amounts to \$6.75 for Adult, \$8.75 Family, and, \$1.75 for junior memberships. From this we publish 6 newsletters, buy postage, pay banking fees and buy Dick a new can of white (or blue) paint. The 75% sent to the club is used to support GMC initiatives.

Starting with the 2001 renewals (and new memberships) we will be making changes in the way the section collects dues. In the past we included a renewal form in the January/February newsletter. The dues were then sent to the Secretary, who tallied the renewal on the member roster, then forwarded the check to the Treasurer. The Treasurer in turn deposited the checks, then wrote a check to the Main Club.

Next year we are turning over the collection of dues to the Main Club. Currently we are one of the few (only?) sections that handle their own dues. You will see several changes when we do this. In late November or early December you will be mailed a renewal notice from the GMC. You will send your renewal directly to the club who in turn will send us our 25%. The other change is that your checkbook will balance a lot sooner than it has in the past.

Ken

Mattabesett Trail Maintenance May 8

In spite of an early hot day and temperatures in the nineties, we had 10 workers on this trail maintenance. The main task for the day was to blaze from Reeds Gap to Black Pond.

After breakfast and coffee at Guida's we drove to Black Pond, spotted some cars then drove to Rte. 68. The trail is not difficult to follow. All you have to do is follow the erosion caused by motorcycles. We needed to spend some extra time blazing at the Powder Ridge Ski area because of logging last year. After finishing our work at about 2:30 most went for pizza and beer.

Thanks for all the work-

*Workers: Annmarie Kennedy, Sarah O'Hare, Norm Sills, Sue Spring, Mary Horne, John O'Neill, Dave Chatel, John Bensenhaver, Bob Schoff
Leader: Dick Krompegal*

Seaport Metric Century May 14

The Metric Century was sponsored by the Pequot Cycling Club so it was a really easy event to "lead." I was joined by Allen and his friend Ed, both of whom were gearing up for a ride across Great Britain this June. Needless to say I had concerns, or maybe panic is a better word, that I would never keep up.

Since 62 miles is not "enough" of a ride the decision was made to meet at my house for breakfast and ride the 8 or so miles down to the start. After eating our fill of pancakes and pigmeat we headed out riding on a really great spring day.

The route was excellent, starting off along the coast and through Mystic before heading inland. I had ridden it several times years before but had forgotten a lot of the route. It was good to get reacquainted with it again. We rode inland up through Ledyard, Griswold, Norwich and Voluntown before heading back through North Stonington to Groton.

I was able to exercise some leadership on the ride. Since part of the route was on a section I ride quite often, when we came to the junction of Routes 165 and 201 in Voluntown I was able to lead us to the finest ice cream south of Ben & Jerry's in Vermont. If you are ever in the area, Buttonwoods Farm is not to be missed. In fact it's worth the ride from anywhere in the state. Also volunteered,

June 2000

post ice cream, to lead us to the best donut shop around (Dandy Donuts in Voluntown) but since it was 2 miles off the route we opted to continue on. I think the best thing cycling has over hiking is the vast amount of pastry and ice cream options one has over the course of an outing.

We completed the ride in early afternoon which was good since we still had to ride back to my house. We finished up with either 82 miles (my count) or 84 miles (Allen's count) on the day.

Riders: Ed Bourque, Allen Freeman and Ken Williamson

Trail Maintenance in VT May 19 - 21

The weather forecast for the weekend was wet, cold, rainy, cloudy, windy, damp and a few other conditions which are nasty when spending 3 days out in the forest camping. Add to that the fact that many times at this time of year the "Dreaded Black Flies" can feast all day long pasting little round dots on hikers, it's not surprising there were not too many volunteers for this work trip. However, our group of 5 accomplished a lot.

Sarah O'Hare and I first met up in Greenfield, MA then continued on to Wilmington, VT. A stop was made for several last minute supplies, like wine, before leaving civilization and entering The National Forest. We walked the 3 mile side trail into Kid Gore in a mist and wind. Arriving at the shelter at about 2:00 in a light rain and 37 degrees we quickly grabbed a snack then got working north on the Long Trail. We had to work to keep warm. After more than an hour's work we returned to the shelter where Sarah set up her tent. Shortly we were joined by 4 young ladies out hiking to celebrate graduating from college. Later, around 5:00, Frank Maine arrived carrying a routed sign for the Long Trail pointing to the shelter site. On his walk in, Frank took a short side trip to one of the old beaver ponds where he saw a beaver swimming and cracking his tail on the water warning other beavers of danger.

Saturday arrived cloudy but not raining. Frank started to hang the sign while Sarah and I started our 8 mile round trip to the top of Glastenbury Mountain. All day we sawed, and carried off or made a path, around about 13 blowdowns. We arrived on top of the mountain around 12:45 where, because Sarah was going to, I felt I had to climb the fire tower - not one of my favorite activities.

From the tower one can see into MA, NY, NH and well up into VT. However, on this day the view was a little limited because of clouds. We had just started our walk back when we encountered Frank who was working behind us all morning. We had an uneventful 4 mile return trip. During the day we saw many piles of moose droppings and several bear clawed trees but not many other signs of wildlife.

Toward dinner time we were joined by several of Frank's friends, Mario Santori and Tim Sweeney. Mario and Tim had started 8 miles north and trimmed brush all day. The evening was spent eating Sarah's "Happy Hour Hors D'oeuvres," preparing and eating dinner and later swapping stories around a large camp fire.

We woke early Sunday morning in a mist. Sarah packed up then started the hike back to her car. We later learned she saw her first moose in the wild - always exciting to see one of these huge animals in their natural surroundings. Because it was not good working weather the rest of us took our time with breakfast and packing. Mario and Tim started their 8 mile walk back out while Frank and I took the side trail back to our vehicles.

We never saw a black fly all weekend. Nobody complained but that is unheard of on a May trip in VT. Because of Mario's and Tim's work, unexpectedly all 12 miles of the CT Section was inspected and worked during this trip. The trail needs some touch up here and there but in general it is in good shape for the hiking season. Another trip is planned to work the northern section on June 23 - 25.

*Many Thanks To: Sarah O'Hare, Frank Maine, Tim Sweeney, Mario Santori
Leader: Dick Krompegal*

Heublein Tower Hike June 11

On a warm afternoon with threatening skies we started up the Heublein Tower trail from Route 185 in Simsbury. The air was still and muggy as we trod up the old road that serves as a trail, but soon we felt the refreshing west winds as we reached the ridgeline. Horses and riders filled a field just below the cliffs. By the time we reached the tower and climbed to the observation platform, skies to the

June 2000

north had turned an ugly grayish-blue, forewarning of thunderstorms. Lightning started to crack to the north along the ridge, directly in our return path. We descended the stairs, planning to wait out the storm, but the volunteer staff suggested that the best observation point was at the top of the tower, so we climbed the stairs again to watch some impressive electrical bursts. After the storm cell passed, we headed back down the trail. Unfortunately, we did not reach the cars before the next wave of rain and lightning began. A simultaneous flash and crack, just as we left the ridgeline, hastened our steps. By the time we reached the parking area, we were all fairly well soaked.

Hikers: Jim, Kerry, and Jimmy Robertson, Relver Fernandes

New Members

Aaron Shaw, New London
Douglas & Elizabeth Walker Family, Hamden

CONGRATULATIONS

At the GMC Annual Meeting on 6/10, the Club presented a President's Award (only 3 are given each year) to Dick Krompegal, honoring his exceptional service to the Long Trail. Dick was not at the meeting, so Jim Robertson received it on his behalf. Plans are to make the "real" presentation to him at the Story Spring work weekend June 24. (At least these are the plans at press time - ed.)

ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

July - September 2000

Saturday, July 1 - Day Hike, The Natchaug Trail. Distance about 8 miles. Start time 9:30 a.m.. Contact leader for details.
Leader: Jack Sanga (860) 648-9614, e-mail: jsanga@aol.com

Sunday, July 9 - Cycling, Rail Trail Ride. From Bolton Notch to waterfall. 10 mile round trip. Start time 9:30 a.m.
Leader: Mary Horne (860) 871-6436, e-mail: MHorne@fando.com

Saturday, July 15 - Day Hike, Appalachian Trail in southwestern MA. Climb Race Mountain. This is a very rugged trail and is recommended for experienced hikers only. 10 miles. Contact leader for details.
Leader: Sarah O' Hre (860) 563-7018; e-mail: SEOHARE@aol.com

Saturday - Sunday, July 22 - 23 - Backpacking - AT, southern Vermont. Approx. 20 miles.
Leader: Ken Williamson (860) 535-2622, email: ksub@aol.com

Saturday, July 29 - Climb Mount Monadnock in Jaffrey, NH. Recommended for experienced hikers only. Contact leader for details.
Leader: Jack Sanga (860) 648-9614, e-mail: jsanga@aol

Saturday - Sunday August 5 - 6 - Overnight Backpack at Ten Mile River on A. T. Easy 1 mile walk from road. Large field, pumped water, stream for wading/fishing, outhouse. Good for families.
Leader: Jim Robertson (860) 633-7279 (H) or (860) 285-4688 (W), e-mail: jrobert685@aol.com, or james.e.robertson@us.abb.com, or james.e.robertson@us.westinghouse.com

Saturday, August 12 - Proposed weekend for Maine Kayaking tour. Cost approx. \$220 - \$250 per person. Leave from Bar Harbor, Maine. Check out their web site at <http://www.acadiafun.com>. Contact leader for details.
Leader: Jack Sanga. (860) 648-9614, e-mail: jsanga@aol

Saturday, August 19 - Day Hike, The Regicides/Quinnipiac Trail in New Haven/Hamden. Distance between 8 -10 miles. Start time 9:30 a.m. Spectacular ridge walk with views over New Haven and surrounding countryside. Contact leader for details.
Leader: Brooks Truitt (203) 732-0719, e-mail: jbtruitt@worldnet.att.net

June 2000

Saturday, August 26 - Annual climb Mt. Washington. Recommended for experienced hikers only. Contact leader for details.

Leader: Jack Sanga. (860) 648-9614, e-mail: jsanga@aol

Saturday, September 2 (Labor Day Weekend) - Day Hike, Spiderweed, a Nature Conservancy Preserve, Middletown. 3 - 4 miles

Leader: Sarah O' Hare (860)5637018, e-mail: SEOHARE@aol.com

Sunday, September 10 - Cycling. Riding location to be determined by leader. Start time 9:30 a.m.

Leader: Mary Horne (860) 871-6436, e-mail: MHorne@fando.com

Friday - Sunday, September 15 - 17 - Long Trail Maintenance in VT. Will stay at the Story Spring Shelter, 1/2 mile from where we park. Will work 2+ miles north and south of the shelter. Will combine with a picnic weekend. Good trip to gain experience with backpacking/camping in remote area. Call or e-mail leader by September 13.

Leader: Dick Krompegal (860) 667-4205, e-mail: rkrompy@aol.com

Friday - Sunday, September 22 - 24 - Backpacking, Massachusetts AT. Upper Goose Pond to Benedict Pond. Approximately 18 miles. Recommended for experienced hikers only. Contact leader for details.

Leader: Mandy Brink (860) 535-0744, e-mail: Trekeragb@aol.com

Friday - Sunday, September 29 - October 1 - Long Trail Maintenance in VT. Will stay at the Kid Gore Shelter, 3 miles from where we park. Will determine work to be done throughout the summer. Weather permitting, view a great sunrise from the shelter. This is in a remote area - participants must be experienced backpackers. Call or e-mail leader by September 27.

Leader: Dick Krompegal (860) 667-4205, e-mail: rkrompy@aol.com