



Grace King
 The Green Mountain Club
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Club Information: Please direct all inquiries regarding the Club to the President:

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Trail Talk: Published six times a year in February, April, June, August, October and December. Activity schedules are included in each issue. Reports of activities and articles must be sent to the editor no later than the tenth day of the month of the publication. Send articles to:

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Membership Dues: Annual dues are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Individual Adult | \$ 27.00 |
| Family | \$ 35.00 |
| Junior (under 18) | \$ 7.00 |
| Organization | \$ 35.00 |

Dues are payable by December 31 for the following calendar year. Send annual dues to:

The Green Mountain Club
 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road
 Waterbury Center, VT 05677

Website: <http://members.home.net/gmc-ct-section>

Connecticut Section of the Green Mountain Club

President's Message

It's all over. As you read this in late June it's all over. It's downhill from here. Yes, the longest day of the year, June 21st, has come and gone. And the days are now getting shorter. Pretty soon the leaves will be shriveling up and falling off the trees. It will be dark early in the afternoon. Snow will fall. Freezing temperatures. Ice.

May I suggest a GMC outing while there is still a few a good days left? Check out the activities and join us on the trail.

Ken

Hammonasset Beach Hike/Bike/Cleanup/Sandcastle Building April 21

The early morning weather was iffy; steady rain started as I drove south through Killingworth, but we eventually were drenched in sunshine on the Connecticut shoreline.

At the far southeastern end of the beach is the Meigs Point nature trail. Lori showed us an access path from the parking lot and we headed along the trail, following the rocky outcroppings. The Town of Madison was holding their annual beach cleanup day, too, so some of our group brought garbage bags to collect trash as we proceeded. Kevin was particularly interested in collecting fishing line, which could choke sea birds. Plenty of other trash was also collected. (No decision made as to whether this qualifies as GMC "trail maintenance".)

After returning to the beach, Lori departed, Ken and Sarah went bike riding through the park, and the others took a slow walk up the sand. Richard and Leslie returned to explore the breakwater and the crowd of folks fishing there, while the "kids" broke out the beach toys and proceeded to dig holes and build castles by the water's edge. Shortly after lunch we all packed up and headed home.

Hikers: Kerry, Brenna and Jimmy Robertson, Kevin and Allison Karl, Ken Williamson, Sarah O'Hare, Lori Helm, Richard and Leslie Chandler
 Leader: Jim Robertson

**Airline Trail Bike Ride
April 22**



By the time this is published in June nice days will be a common occurrence. However, today was the first nice day of the year feeling more like summer than spring, or the winter which has lasted way too long.

We rode out of Goodwin State Forest parking lot to the trail head that is several hundred yards down a paved road. I want to emphasize that no Blue Blazed trails were used during this outing or any of the blazed State Forest trails.

The Airline Trail is a multi-use trail that runs from Haddam to Pomfret (54 miles) and is part of the Rails-to-Trails Network. As an old railroad bed it is very flat and the surface, for the most part, packed cinder. There were a few difficult spots mostly where the trail is covered in ballast (large stones). I have done most of the trail and highly recommend it, hiking or biking. The area from Colchester to Haddam is my favorite and something I will lead in the future.

Since the trail is linear we couldn't do a loop so I opted for us to ride 10 miles out, have a little lunch then ride back. The only controversy of the day was where, exactly, was the 10 mile point. Rather than believe the leader's well calibrated odometer the group decided to check each others odometers to find which read the highest. Luckily for someone read 10 miles so we turned around and headed back.

Officially we ended with 19.6 miles on the day.

Riders: Mandy Brink, John Hoefnagel, Mary Horne, Sarah O'Hare, John O'Neal, Jim Robertson, Ken Williamson

**Massachusetts AT Backpacking
April 27 - 29**



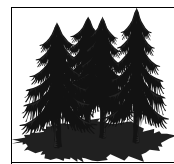
Friday afternoon five of us gathered in Dalton, MA in anticipation of reaching the shelter before dark. As the first mile of the AT led through a residential neighborhood, it eventually brought us into the woods. As we began the ascent of Day Mountain we gradually left civilization behind. Approaching the Kay Wood Lean-to, our night's destination, we were surprised to find the shelter, not only occupied, but overflowing with boy scouts from a CT troop. Not a tent site in view, we had no choice but to look a bit further away for a camping area.

After a chilly night, Saturday morning brought warm sunshine. There were patches of snow left over from winter

which was a pretty contrast to the emerald green moss and ferns. No bugs pestered us. It was a perfect day for hiking. We arrived at the October Mountain shelter at about 3:00 and once again the shelter had been taken over by the boy scouts. Continuing along the trail a short distance we found an appropriate area in which to make camp. No sooner had we begun to set up our tents, Jack strolled into camp. He was able to join us late in the hike and his timing was perfect. We began preparations for supper as the cold air blew in. The temperature dropped significantly and finding we were not in an area where we could safely build a fire, we decided to join the scouts and share their campfire. We needed both warmth and something to do to pass the time. The night was cold! We shivered through the night, except for Mandy who smartly brought a winter sleeping bag. In the morning we arose to frozen water bottles and numbed fingers, the combination of both made for slow breakfast preparations. Not in any hurry to be off and end the weekend early, we set foot on the trail at 9:00. The day warmed quickly as we hiked over Bald Top Mountain. We lingered over lunch by Finerty Pond listening to the spring peepers and hoping for a glimpse of wildlife. We had two more mountains to cross, Walling Mountain and Becket Mountain before the trail descended to Rt. 20, our final destination. Ken waited with our packs while the rest of us drove back to pick up the cars. Afterwards, we went to Athena Pizza in Lee where we celebrated our successful 20 mile weekend.

Hikers: Mandy Brink, Jack Sanga, Ken Williamson, Dave Murphy (GMC Worcester Section), Steve Kerry (AMC)
Leader: Sarah O'Hare

**Tunxis Trail
May 5**



This northern section of the Tunxis Trail is reported to be one of the most beautiful and remote woodland trails in Connecticut. Five hikers met at the trailhead on Rt. 219 to learn this for themselves. Our first highlight was reaching the top of the Indian Council Caves where we paused for photos. A steep descent brought us to the bottom of this huge rock wall with large recesses. Above, a large bird nest sat on a ledge but no occupants showed themselves, so the species of bird was unknown.

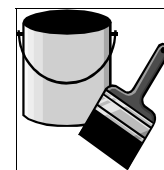
We hiked at a brisk pace as we anticipated reaching Rt. 20 by 3:00. Dave left his car there because of a prior commitment. This gave Dave a good ten mile hike for the day. We said our goodbyes and continued northward, as we had as our goal reaching the Massachusetts border. A short time later, the leader was privileged to see a bear

loping through the woods but it disappeared before the others could see it. We arrived at the drop car, left some gear behind, and set out for what we thought was short walk to the border. There was a concrete marker for the CT/MA state line to look for and was remembered to be only a short distance away. The trail became a rugged ascent and followed a stream with small waterfalls and glacial boulders. Already fatigued from five hours of hiking, we determinedly made our way to the top and found the marker. At this point, Ken, who was in the lead during the ascent, had disappeared. The leader continued along the trail and found him in his glory at the northern terminus of the Tunxis Trail. The leader, exhausted and not in good humor, was encouraged to reach the end also. So many miles on this trail, one had to make it to the very end, Ken pointed out. He was so right.

After a 14 mile hike we were all tired and hungry. Dick opted for a home cooked meal while John, Ken and Sarah enjoyed the offerings at Kent Pizza in Winsted.

Hikers: Dick Krompegal, John Bensenhaver, Ken Williamson, Dave Amidon
Leader: Sarah O'Hare

**Long Trail Workparty, VT
Moose and Bear Signs Galore
May 18-20**



Eight people worked around Kid Gore Shelter on May 18 - 20. While hiking in the three miles on the unmarked side trail we could hardly walk a hundred yards without seeing moose prints or their droppings, or seeing bear-marked trees. Bears claw trees, and maybe scent them also, to mark their territory. Leader Dick Krompegal joined by Bill Brodnitzki, Marge Hackbarth and Sarah O'Hare arrived early Friday afternoon. The men went to inspect Caughnawaga Shelter which is in poor shape. Sarah and Marge gathered and cut wood for the evening hot dog roast. The crew dined on munchies and hot dogs washed down by beverages. Jack Sanga arrived and spurned our hot dogs. He had brought steak and potatoes! He also told us of spotting a moose on his walk in.

The dreaded black flies didn't show up, the air was dry and when we got up Glastenbury Mountain the next day, the snow was confined to small patches in the woods. All in all conditions were perfect so lots of work was accomplished. Bill, Sarah, Jack and Dick kept taking turns with the paint brush and blazed up and down the mountain, about an eight mile round trip. They also clipped brush while Marge cleaned the waterbars.

About midmorning Frank Maine and friend Jim Kincaid arrived with Frank's Xmas gift, a chain saw. They made short work of removing blowdowns that were blocking the trail. By evening another friend of Frank's, Dean Dickensin arrived. The three friends stayed at Caughnawaga with two hikers. Back at Kid Gore the others enjoyed Dick's pasta with clam and oyster sauce.

Sunday morning, unlike the previous foggy morning, the rising sun colored the sky pink. Kid Gore has one of the best vistas on the Long Trail. Bill and Sarah had to leave early for home. Dick, Jack and Marge went over to Caughnawaga to work with Frank, Jim and Dean on repairs. Frank crawled up on the roof and coated all the leaky nail holes with tar. Jim and Dean cut some blocks and a pole to lift up the sagging shelter. Frank, Dick and Jack positioned rocks, a block and a piece of board to cover the hole in the floor. Hopefully, these repairs will prolong the life of this historic shelter which dates back to 1931. There is talk of eliminating it. When we left late Sunday morning Dick expressed his satisfaction with a most successful workparty.

Workers: Sarah O'Hare, Jack Sanga, Bill Brodnitzki, Frank Maine, Jim Kincaid, Dean Dickensin
Reported By Marge Hackbarth.
Leader: Dick Krompegal

Volunteer Service Awards

In the past two years the following people have been presented with the CT Section Trail Crew Award for their volunteer hours working on trail maintenance in VT and CT:
Bill Brodnitzki, Bill Healey, Sarah O'Hare, Jack Sanga, Norm Sills and Ken Williamson.

This year the following people are being presented with the Green Mountain Club's Roy Buchanan Service Pin for 10 consecutive years of work on The Long Trail in VT:
Frank Maine, Jim Robertson and Art Runnels.