

The Connecticut Section Of The Green Mountain Club

The Trail Talk

VOL. XXXVIII NO. IV

January 2008



New Members

| | |
|---|---|
| Tracey Foreman Westbrook, CT | Sam Molinari Granby, CT |
| Henry Schreiber NY, NY | David Morgan Exeter, RI |
| Marcia Brubeck West Hartford, CT | Jason Nerenberg Trumbull, CT |
| Richard & Aida Cyphers Glastonbury, CT | Jamie O'Connor Cos Cob, CT |
| James Moore Cambridge, MA | Ronald Perham Glastonbury, CT |
| Philip & Ellen Blumberg Hartford, CT | Daniel & Stacey Petruzzella Cheshire, CT |
| Angela Calloway Manchester, CT | Michael Stenz Somers, CT |
| Theresa Coty North Windham, CT | Robert Suttmiller Collinsville, CT |
| Peter Curry Danielson, CT | Edward Swift Chester, CT |
| Jeff Doenges Milford, CT | Richard Watson Woodstock Valley, CT |
| Patrick & Gail Figliola Cheshire, CT | David Westcott Tariffville, CT |
| Jay & Phyllis Lovetere Southbury, CT | |

Farmington River, Connecticut

June 30, 2007

The group met at the Rte. 4 boat launch. We spotted a car at Tariffville Park in Simsbury to extend the trip from last year, which everyone thought was too short. Canoes, kayaks and paddlers launched into water that had hardly a riffle to it. We paddled along remembering the large volume of water and swift current that we had last year.

As we approached the lunch spot there was some concern if we were at the right spot. What we found was a muddy sand bar in place of the water which had let us float into the bridge the previous year. Jumping out into the water and struggling to get through the mud, we reached the bridge leading to the trail to a large dock where we could sit in the sun and have our lunch.



It was time to get back on the river, the flat water continued as we paddled on. We watched swallows dive over our heads and a Great Blue Heron fish the river. A few ducks were seen and heard. We paddled along enjoying ourselves when our paddling turned into a rescue activity. Everyone had passed under one of the bridges when I heard SWOOSH! Now what could that be? Lordy, Lordy, it is me taking on water! Having my granddaughter, Kasidee, along on her first paddling trip, I didn't want to frighten her. I instructed her to stop paddling and I would get us to the sand bar on the east side of the river. It became a flurry of activity for everyone was on hand to help get us off the river and unload my now sad looking water craft. Don Woodbridge, who was paddling a canoe with Sarah O'Hare, decided that we would put my granddaughter in with them, tie the kayak to the canoe and let it float behind them. I got into a canoe with Eleanor Poole and Debbie Listorti. Now the fun really began. Apparently, we had not distributed the weight properly and the canoe kept drifting to one side, then we would straighten it out and it would then drift to the other side. We even changed paddlers and places but nothing helped. Struggling with a canoe that was not responding to our commands and the flat water created some tense moments, such as, let's just jump overboard and abandon this water craft!

Suddenly we had a new problem. Don and Sarah were paddling and going nowhere. Well, once again it was my water craft which had become tangled in some brush. This became a long day with everyone wondering when we would reach the take-out. Seeing that

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Club Information

<http://www.conngmc.com>

Officers & Executive Committee

Carol Langley—President

(860) 621-2860, cosmical14@yahoo.com

Dick Krompegal, 1st Vice President, Trails & Shelters

(860) 667-4205, rkrompy@aol.com

Jim Robertson, 2nd Vice President, Activities

(860) 633-7279, jrobert685@aol.com

Bill Brodnitzki, Director To GMC

(860) 542-5641, wbrodnitzki@snet.net

Sarah O'Hare, Secretary

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Jack Sanga, Treasurer

(860) 648-9614, jsanga@cox.net

Laurene Sorensen, Reporter to the Long Trail News

laurene@modernwriter.com

Please direct all inquiries regarding the Club to the President:

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The Trail Talk is published four times a year in January, April, July and October. 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

When filling out the form to join or renew circle the Connecticut Section on the application to receive, at no extra charge, the Connecticut Section's newsletter and activity schedule.

Dues:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Individual Adult | \$ 35.00 |
| Family | \$ 45.00 |
| Senior (70 or older) or Limited Income | \$ 20.00 |
| Nonprofit or Youth Group | \$ 50.00 |
| Business or Corporation | \$125.00 |

Send annual dues to:

The Green Mountain Club

4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road

Waterbury Center, VT 05677-9904

(802) 244-7037, <http://www.greenmountainclub.org>

Connecticut Section Of The GMC

Post & Receive Messages, Photos, Other Activities

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ct_green_mountain_club/

everyone needed a break, I suggested a rest stop at the Gifford Pinchot Sycamore Tree in Simsbury. After a short break we paddled on, looking for the take-out spot which some of us thought we would never see. The current and the level of the river can certainly determine how pleasurable a canoe trip on the Farmington River can be. We finally reached the park at 5:00. After seven long hours on the river we had only paddled 16 miles.

Thanks for hanging in there everyone! Next year we will do another section.

Paddlers: Eleanor Poole, Debbie Listorti, Doreen Scott, Sarah O'Hare, Don Woodbridge, Dave Wells, Dave Koerber, Kasidee Drivdahl, Carol A. Langley



GMC Connecticut Section Annual Dinner & Meeting Saturday March 29, 2008

At The Grange Hall In Cheshire, CT

Nonmembers & Guests Welcome

See reservation form attached to the newsletter



Backpacking in Vermont Cold River Rd to Vermont Rt 12 Oct 12-15, 2007

Where have all the backpackers gone? Perhaps it's because my name is synonymous with rain. Or perhaps some of you were wise enough to look on the map and check the section we were hiking. In either case, Jack was the only soul brave enough to sign up for the trip. We headed up Thursday late afternoon, staged the cars and stayed at Gifford Woods State Park before heading on a rainy morning on Friday. Our first challenge was to get across the creek by Gould Brook. With all the pouring rain from previous days, it was flowing high. There was no way across except to take off our boots and ford the stream. It was a bit cold on the toes for sure. After that we started the slow and long ascent over Killington at 4235 ft. We checked out Cooper Lodge which was in pretty rough shape. With the windows gone, the wind gusting through there was unbelievable and would have been a bit uncomfortable for an overnight. We were quite excited, after 11 long miles, to see signs that said Pico camp, our destination for the night, was only another 1/2 mile. Umm, we hiked for another hour and a half, discussing how long this half mile was turning out to be when we ran across another hiker with a newer, updated map that showed the new relocation that wasn't on Mandy's map. Pico Camp was no longer on the new relocation and we had missed it. The next shelter on his map was another 3 miles. We certainly didn't

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want to backtrack so we decided to hike towards the next shelter and see how far we got before exhaustion or darkness set in. Now 3 miles may not seem so bad, but when you are backpacking, have a heavy load and your 11 mile day was over a significant climb, well, 3 miles seemed far away. The shelter gods were with us that day though, because shortly after talking to this other hiker, we stumbled upon the Churchill Scott Shelter, not on either of our maps but a very welcomed site. Needless to say, after supper, it was quick to our warm bags. It was cold, wet and we were tired.

We thought our Killington Day was going to be the toughest day. Certainly the other peaks weren't so high so, no sweat, right? WRONG!!!! Day 2 was brutal. It was just a day of up one peak, down the other. We had a nice stop for lunch at Gifford Woods, enjoyed Kent Lake, but otherwise it was a challenging hiking day. The ascent to Quimby Mountain was just straight up. While it didn't outright rain, it was still a damp, gray day. After three peaks across Quimby, we headed to the Stony Brook Shelter, again, a very welcomed site, well, until we started unpacking and Jack discovered he didn't have his sleeping bag. He thought I (Mandy) had hid it on him as a trick. I wish I had. He ended up having to hike back up over Quimby to look for his bag. I cooked dinner and waited in the dark for his return. He left at 5pm, got back to the shelter with the retrieved bag at 7pm, hiking the last hour or so in the dark. He was not back more than about 10 minutes when the skies opened up and it poured down rain.

Day 3 finally brought some sunshine. The highlights included checking out the Lakota Lake Lookout. This lookout was built on top of an enclosed shelter. There is a platform on the roof of the shelter with a ladder to climb that gives a beautiful panoramic view of the mountains of Vermont. With it being the peak of the fall colors, this was absolutely beautiful. We decided it would be fun to do an overnight at this spot sometime in the future, just day hiking into the lookout and staying for the night. The hike out to Vermont 12 is very pretty too, with nice views of the farms of Vermont. There really were not many views on this trip except the one at the lookout and the views coming out on our final day. Total miles for the trip with the relocation was 37 miles.

So I'm now looking for someone to finish up Vermont. Jack looked at the map of the next section and threatened not to come on my next trip. I told him, it was much like childbirth, he just needed some time to forget this trip. So when the last section comes out on the calendar, I sure hope to be getting lots of emails from

eager participants to rally with full backpacks and a smile. With any luck, we might even get some sunshine. And if Jack does come, bring some extra rope so we can tie that sleeping bag on really well.

Participants: Mandy Brink, Jack Sanga and Asha (the hiking cattle dog)



Castle Craig and Hubbard Park October 14, 2007

It was a great autumn day to be out. We left the Chamberlain Highway at 10 and quickly reached the first reservoir. The woods at the far end of the dam indicated that ownership of the land had changed hands and we hoped that it would remain available to hikers. The second reservoir brought us out into the sun as we crossed the next dam. We remained true to the blue trail and followed it up the steep climb to the castle just in time for lunch. (A popular decision).



The trail then became very rocky and steep both up and down as we approached West Mt., best known for its radio towers as seen from Interstate 691. On the ledges there were nice views west, towards Mt Southington but it was very cold and windy so we went back into the woods for shelter. Another snack time was called for before we followed the paved road down to reservoir. Two mountains, two reservoirs, and a castle in the sky. Just as promised in the description.

*Jared McQueen, Dick Krompegal, Don Hagestrom
Leader: Dan Zelterman*



Whitestone Cliffs & Jericho Trails Oct. 21, 2007

We met in a parking lot off Mt. Tobe Rd. and then drove to the trail head of the Jericho Trail on Echo Lake Rd. The trail entered the woods and went straight up which we followed for .6 mile to the Jericho-Whitestone Cliff Connector. The connector trail led us to a high point where there were power lines that we could hear humming as we stood still. Bill Falconer, who is retired from NU, assured us that we wouldn't start glowing if we stood under the power lines chatting for a few minutes. Dick Krompegal quipped that he should take a photo of the group to see if we actually glowed. From here, we again entered the woods and started our ups, downs and turn-arounds. Hey, wait a minute! Aren't



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those the same power lines we were under a few minutes ago? Oh yes, we were back to where we started, only about 50 feet lower. The leader looked around and saw the road a short distance away so the hikers followed through tall grass, rocks and bushes. The trail we forged was steep and nasty but everyone made it safely to the road.

Walking along the road we all started talking and yep, once again off the trail. Down by the Naugatuck River we found ourselves. Since we did not plan on swimming across we climbed up the embankment to the road again until we crossed the bridge that had blue blazes. Dick and I stayed on the road but the rest of the group jumped over the fence and walked down by the river on the trail.

The second half was very rocky and up, up to the top and the heat of the day was also rising. We finally came to the Whitestone Cliff Trail where we would have lunch. Everyone set their own pace. Dick, Dan, Sarah and Don rambled up and over the rocks effortlessly as though they had been mountain goats in a past life. Linda and I, with our short legs, had to assess each rock and hand hold to assure our safe arrival at the top. The view was nice and pine trees gave us shade while we relaxed and nourished our bodies with lunch. The trail is turning out to be a lot more of a challenge than what it was 20 years ago. Could age be a factor?

As we hiked over the mountain and down the other side we were upset at what we saw. The whole area had been torn up by dirt bikes. We jumped from mound to mound following the blue blazes until the trail turned due west and followed an old dirt road. Now why is the trail going up the side of the mountain again for we were doing just fine on the dirt road. Grumbling away, we followed the trail until we reached the connector trail which led out to our cars. At this point Dan Zelterman and Linda Hagstrom thought that they had enough and departed. The rest of the group was out for more hiking.

We drove off to the Hancock Brook Trail which is a loop. Entering the trail by a rock quarry we followed the Hancock Brook for quite a distance. We had two encounters with dirt bikers. The second time around I could no longer be silent and let them ruin our day with their noise. So I made some noise informing them that dirt bikes did not belong on the Blue Trails. We did not see another dirt bike for the rest of the day - looks like those boys didn't want to deal with a little old lady who walked with a big stick! We found a camping area with tents, coolers, fire rings and targets. Our easy road walk was over soon and we climbed straight up to some great views. The trees had good color, the sun felt nice and there was a gentle autumn breeze as we sat on the cliffs overlooking the Waterbury Hills.

Thanks for joining me on this lovely Autumn Day.

Hikers: Dick Krompegal, Dan Zelterman, Sarah O'Hare, Bill Falconer, Don & Linda Hagstrom
Leader: Carol A. Langley

Heublein Tower Foliage Hike October 28, 2007

We all met in the last parking lot of the West Hartford Reservoir #6 with its view of the Hartford skyline. The day was cool and sunny for this, now becoming, annual trip to the Heublein Tower on Talcott Mountain to view the foliage and visit the tower. We hiked north for several miles then hit the Metacomet trail. On the Metacomet we climbed the mountain then turned south toward the tower.

Dan Zelterman has mentioned several times over the years that there is a cave on Talcott Mountain that some residents of Simsbury hid in while Simsbury was being burned by the Indians. We spent about fifteen minutes looking for it in an area that Dan felt was the correct area. No cave here. On to the tower. At the tower we met a Ct Parks person attending the area and answering questions. I asked her about the cave. They don't want to give out the exact location because of potential over use or misuse. But after I told her I used to have a US security clearance, promised not to tell anybody its location, then started to cry, she told me the location. Well Dan was correct, there is a cave on Talcott Mountain and we would have found it if we were on another trail further west. Next Year Dan.

We climbed the tower, took a few pictures, ate a quick lunch then headed back down. After the hike several of us had a pizza, wine and calamari.

*Hikers: Richard Chandler, Sandra Hassan, Don Hagstrom,
Sarah O'Hare, Dan Zelterman
Co-leaders: Jim Robertson, Dick Krompegal*



M&M Trail Sections 13 and 14

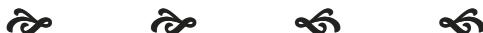
The section 14 trailhead at the Moores Corner Co-Op Store is not easily found in the central Mass. hills. Nonetheless, an unusually large group of hikers assembled at the friendly store well ahead of the scheduled time. After some browsing and meeting an old friend, Bill loaded the nine hikers and gear into the Big Red van and headed southerly to Pratt's Corner. Being forewarned that the trail had been relocated several times in recent years, we set out on the trail north with blazes of many colors. Section 13 is 2.2 miles and originally blazed white. The trail had a few steep ascents but ran mostly along the upper sides of the January Hills. At 1.9 miles a power line offered a grand view to the west. Here also a number of trails met. A white blaze was located which soon led us to Big Red. A new plan was conceived to reload the van and drive to a trailhead at the end of section 13. A reverse hike to make up the last .3 mile led us to the elusive Banfield

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Bridge across Roaring Brook. Having redeemed ourselves and adding an extra 2 miles we embarked on Section 14 strictly following the white blazes.

The Mosher Trail Shelter was located for our scheduled lunch break. After the well-done Sarah cookies and picture taking it was off to our destination at the Co-Op 4 miles away. A long climb up Brushy MT led us to the 1790 cellar hole of Jonathan Glazier. The trail descends and rises amidst old rock walls and remains of an old mill and foundations. To make up some time a strategic decision was made to follow an original trail instead of the relocated one. At some point everyone had a turn at leading or misleading this adventure. Finally on Old Mill Rd, we were treated with an idyllic view along a stream with a roaring waterfall. The last leg was on Rattlesnake Gutter Rd where we were surrounded by three young wood sprites welcoming us with a dance of peace and love. One never knows what will happen along the M&M trail. The next sections will be overnights in the spring. Be there.

*Hikers: Sarah O'Hare, Henry Smith, Carol "the younger"
Bucholz, Georgiana Bourdeau, Carol "the elder"
Langley, Jack Sanga, Mandy Brink, Don Hagstrom
Leader: Bill Falconer*



Mattatuck Trail Northfield Road to Reynolds Bridge, Sunday December 2 About 5 miles.

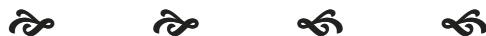
The day started clear and cold, though not the arctic chill that had been predicted. However, the sky was an ominous shade of grey as we began our hike at 9:30.

First problem of the morning was that the access road where we had intended to park (Northfield Road) was closed, so we had to walk an extra half mile to get to the trail head. As we started out, it started to flurry, though fortunately this soon stopped. The initial sections of trail were steeply uphill and we worked our way up to the Black Rock overlook for a beautiful view. We then climbed and slid our way downhill into Black Rock State Park, skirting the edges of the park as we continued along the Mattatuck.

We reached Crane's lookout at about 11:30 and had a brief lunch shortly thereafter at the junction of the Mattatuck and Jericho trails. We then went on to one of the Leatherman's caves. This one was quite impressive, involving a 20 foot walk between two rocks and then down into a very sheltered area that had, unfortunately, been used as a campfire by some thoughtless individuals.

From here we continued on to the point where the trail passed under route 8. The guidebook noted that Branch Brook might be too high to cross, and discussed an alternate route. However, when we reached the brook we realized that not only was the water too high to cross, but also the way "around" would add about 2 miles to the hike. Not being willing to take such a long detour (especially since the snow was beginning in earnest) we instead hiked up under route 8, got onto the highway, and crossed the brook that way. Then, in order to be "pure", we spent another 20 minutes going back down to the river and hacking our way through the vines and underbrush to rejoin the trail. From there it was only about 0.2 mile to the final road-walking portion of the hike.

*Hikers: Don Hagstrom, Ken Williamson
Leader: Lora Miller*



New Year's Day Hike Gay City State Park Jan. 1, 2008

The weather man was right this time. It was snowing by 10:00 just as we met in the parking lot. A little snow wasn't going to stop these GMC hikers, so dressed for the weather off we went to find the Red Blazes for the Outer Loop Trail. This is a very easy 5 mile loop on an old dirt road for the most part. There were several connecting trails to various sites. Our group of hikers checked out old cellar holes, the site of a mill from a community of Methodists who lived here in the early 1800's.

The Methodists were part of the industrial development of the early 1800's, harnessing water-power. This water power was used to mill lumber for building ships and homes. The community was started by the Summers, who apparently were known to be strange and rowdy folks. Because of their behavior they were not allowed in Hebron Center. The community did very well until the War of 1812 ended and trading with England began. The name of this community was known as "Factory Hollow".

We had several wet areas to hike over. Anyone who has hiked with me before knows that I love to play in water and clean out the leaves and debris, I even got Jim Robertson involved at a bridge that was leaning to one side and needed help with the removal of leaves so the water could flow under the bridge and not over it. Thanks, Jim, for your help. Sometimes Mother Nature needs a little helping hand.



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As we hiked the snow turned to sleet, rain and then stopped for a few minutes. We saw a picnic table along the Blackledge River and decided to stop to have lunch. We couldn't use the table as it was too wet and soon had to move on as the rain starting falling and we were getting wet also. We checked out the Old Mill Site and then walked back to the parking lot on the Park Rd.

Thanks for joining me on this New Year's Day!!

Hikers: Jim Robertson, Sandra Hassan, Don Hagstrom,
Dick Arnold.
Leader: Carol A. Langley



Paugussett Trail December 8, 2007

This nine mile hike on the Paugussett Trail had a time restriction due to a 3:00 executive committee meeting at nearby Shelton Pizza Palace. After a shuttle to the trailhead on East Village Road, we stepped onto the trail and headed north towards Lake Zoar. Following the trail description in reverse proved to be confusing for the leader. Therefore, the points of interest early on were, unfortunately, passed by without notice. We missed both the pile of rocks that was an old silver mine and the foundation remains of an old hoop skirt mill. After our first three miles the Stevenson Dam and Lake Zoar were in view. Here, we turned southeast where the trail followed the Housatonic River.

The Paugussett Trail offered many major rock scrambles on which snow and ice provided fun challenges. Challenging, too, were the many brook crossings on which snow covered rocks and icy leaf mounds made for slippery stepping. To our amazement, there was not one mis-step into the icy waters. A section of this blue-blazed trail had a series of short loop trails. The maps posted at the intersections of these loops were an Eagle Scout project from Troop 63 in Shelton. They were quite impressive for the maps were etched metal and detailed with paint. At first glance, the main line blue trail and red and yellow loop trails were obviously clear to us but a green trail gave us pause. The map's key solved the mystery for the green trail was actually a brook. So, hereafter, each and every brook crossing (and there were many) became known as the "green trail."

With the lunch hour upon us, we stopped along a green trail

(actually White Hill Brook). After our quick lunch break, we crossed the green trail and a steep climb brought us up to a residential area on Princess Wenonah Drive. Turning onto Thoreau Drive a short road walk became way too long for the blazes were faded and the leader missed the turn. Retracing our steps, and after inquiring of a homeowner as to where the trail went (we asked directions?!?), we once again entered the woods. Dave, however, was determined that the trail was elsewhere and spent a considerable amount of time looking for the elusive trail before giving up and returning to us. Once out of the suburbs and into the woods, we came upon a short and steep blue/yellow side trail that supposedly led to a vista. However, from our vantage point, the trail appeared to lead to a newly built McMansion, so we decided to skip this opportunity. A good choice, for shortly afterwards Don spotted five deer running along a ridge.

With our time restriction closing in and with just a short distance remaining, there was an option to shorten the hike. A white-blazed trail could lead us to a road for a quicker return to our cars. But with only a half mile of trail remaining we all picked up the pace and arrived at our cars at Indian Well State Park at 2:50. We had ten minutes to change into dry shoes and drive to the Shelton Pizza Palace. Arriving a mere five minutes past the hour, we found the non-hiking members of the committee patiently waiting. Over pizza, we held our meeting and then a birthday cake was presented to Madam President Carol, for she was to celebrate a milestone birthday very soon.

Hikers: Laurene Sorensen, Don Hagstrom,
Dave and Regina Chatel
Leader: Sarah O'Hare
Non-hiking committee members present at meeting: Carol Langley, Jack Sanga, Bill Brodnitzki, Jim Robertson



Reservation Form

G.M.C. Conn. Section

Annual Meeting, Dinner & Guest Speaker

Nonmembers & Guests Are Welcome!

Saturday, March 29, 2008
Cheshire Grange Hall
44 Wallingford Road, Cheshire, CT

Agenda:

5:00 pm: Social Hour
6:00 pm: Dinner - the famous Grange roast beef (vegetarian option will be available)
7:00 pm: Business Meeting
7:30 pm: Slide Presentation -

“Beyond The Day Hike”
Hiking England’s Cleveland Way,
Backpacking Glacier National Park and
Canoeing The Connecticut River.
By Mandy Brink

Price: \$12.50 per person



The price for dinner is \$12.50 per person. Please return the reservation form below and payment, checks made payable to “CT Section, GMC” by March 15 to:

Jim Robertson
720 Hopewell Road
South Glastonbury, CT 06073
Phone: 860-633-7279 home, 860-918-5086 mobile; email: jrobert685@aol.com

Name

Phone Number

E-mail Address

Total Enclosed = no. persons _____ X \$12.50 = \$ _____



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The Green Mountain Club
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