

The Trail Talk

October, 2001

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Grace King
The Green Mountain Club
653 Marrett Road
Lexington, MA 02421



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Club Information: Please direct all inquiries regarding the Club to the President:

Ken Williamson
3 Mill Village Pentway
North Stonington, CT 06359
(860) 535-2622
Ksub@aol.com

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:

Grace King
653 Marrett Road
Lexington, MA 02421
Kangti@excite.com

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>

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VOLUME XXXIII NO. V

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President's Message.....

Along with the leaves falling from the trees this time of year brings the return of hunters to the forest. Be sure to wear your orange when you are out there. Shotgun season is November 14th to December 4th on State and Private Land. Remember that many of our Blue Trails pass through private lands where the Landowner season runs from November 1st to December 31st.

At a recent executive board meeting we discussed the costs associated with printing and distribution of the Trail Talk, which is approximately \$85 per issue. It was decided that we can no longer support 6 issues a year and will change to a quarterly publication. The next edition of the Trail Talk will be published in January.

As I write this leaves are still on the trees and the colors are brilliant. The maintenance trip to Kid Gore this fall was full of color and even featured white stuff falling out of the sky. Must be time to get the snowshoes out of the closet and the skis waxed up. Take some time to join us on a winter outing this year.

Ken



Connecticut Section of the Green Mountain Club

Long Trail / Appalachian Trail
Maintenance in VT
August 24 - 26

Hikers converged on the Long Trail at History Spring Shelter in VT. to begin construction of stone stairs on one of the steep inclines near a beaver pond. Early Friday Dick Krompegal, Marge Hackbarth and Nanette Roina arrived to work around the shelter. We cleaned the fire ring and gathered wood in preparation for a corn roast in the evening. The Brodnitzkis, Bill and Gerry, joined us and the women appreciated Bill's help in sawing up a large log, (Dick was off inspecting the trail).

By the time we were ready to light the fire Ken Williamson, Sarah O'Hare, Jim Robertson and Norm Sills joined us. The secret of cooking corn on an open fire is to remove the silk, replace the husks, dip the ears in water, wrap them in foil then lay them on the coals. Of course, you need leather gloves to pull the ears out of the fire. There was some dispute though on the question of spreading the butter with a knife or rolling the ear over the stick of butter. We spent the evening feasting on munchies and beverages. By the time night had come Frank Maine came into camp, but said he had already eaten.

In the morning the group walked back to the road to help Field Supervisor Greg Western carry in tools. He was accompanied by Cat Eich and Rich Matterson. We re-paired to the work area where Greg conducted a seminar on proper use of tools and how to build a stone stairway. As we took to the woods to hunt for rocks Dave Murphy of the Worcester Chapter joined us. Greg taught us how, with the use of iron bars and picks, to move massive boulders to serve as steps. To discourage hikers from walking to the side of the stairs scree (smaller stones) line the side of the stairs.

When a step was positioned, smaller rocks were pulverized with a sledge hammer and wedged around the stair. A young man wearing a Green Mountain

shirt came up the trail and we all yelled, "Another Worker!?", moving rocks is not an easy job. Poor Ridge-runner Eric Kindig thought he was finished with his duties for the day, but we pressed him into service. Then two more workers arrived, Carol Langley and Henry Smith.

Another hard job was digging a trench in the woods to remove the organic soil to find gritty mineral soil which had to be lugged in pails to the building site and packed around the steps. Even though some of came back Sunday morning we were unable to get more than two and a half stairs in place. At this rate we are not sure how many years it is going to take to finish the project.

Saturday evening, back at camp, we roasted a fresh batch of corn brought in by Frank, roasted hot dogs, ate Sarah's pasta salad and desert plus all the munchies brought in by all. As is our custom we shared our food with the grateful thru-hikers.

Late Sunday the morning the few that were left went to Grout Pond where Norm and Carol went into the water. Now cleaned up a little Carol, Henry, Marge and Dick dined at Poncho's in Wilmington, VT before hitting the traffic on I91.

Written By: Marge Hackbarth
 Workers: Nanette Roina, Sarah O'Hare, Carol Langley, Gerry Brodnitzki, Bill Brodnitzki, Jim Robertson, Henry Smith, Norm Sills, Ken Williamson, Dave Murphy, Rich Matterson
 GMC Staff: Greg Western, Cat Eich, Eric Kindig
 Leader: Dick Krompegal

**Lillinionah Trail
 September 15**

A perfect day for hiking found only a small group in attendance. Hearing gun shots nearby, we were wary of what we may have been getting into. A hunter appeared and informed us that it was squirrel hunting season and advised us to wear orange vests for safety. Having left our gray fluffy tails at home, we felt safe and began our trek with confidence.

The Lillinionah Trail is a 6.25 mile loop. The terrain was varied and half of it was

**Long Trail Maintenance, VT
 October 5 - 7**

Jack was the first to arrive at Kid Gore on Friday. He had a head start, however, as he began the hike in on Monday. Beginning his hike in North Adams, MA, he hiked north, planning to meet everyone on Friday. He was right on schedule. While he worked around the shelter, Dick, Allen and Jodi hiked north to the vista, clipping brush and enjoying the beautiful weather. The foliage was nearing its peak color display. As evening closed in, Jack and Jerry built a fire. We spent the evening hours eating, imbibing and engaging in lively conversation. To our delight, a golden moon rose from behind a mountain and quickly took its place in the clear night sky.



Early morning was still mild, but within an hour the temperature dropped about 20 degrees. The rains came and we all sat in the shelter debating whether to go forth and work. Dick finally led us out, took us on the trail and had us assist in finding a possible path in which a section of the LT could be relocated. We clipped an invisible trail and flagged it for further consideration. The section to be relocated is north of the shelter to Lydia's Rest. The concerns for a new trail are erosion problems and for a kinder, gentler footpath.

Returning to Kid Gore we did our best to dry out and warm up. The rain stopped and soon Carol and Henry arrived. While setting up her tent, Carol found the tiniest of snakes which was barely moving. Henry warmed it in hopes that is could find its way to where snakes go in the cold. Jerry and Henry gathered and cut wood while the others trimmed the brush in front of the shelter to improve the view. Discussion ensued on whether the large spruce should come down. Not everyone was in agreement but it came down nonetheless, was dragged from view and the vista is once again unobscured.

With the rains over for the day we all did our best to keep warm. Socks and gloves were spread out by the fire,

which soon grew to a bonfire. Carol's tent had to be moved in fear of sparks. We all huddled in the shelter to cook and eat and wait for the hour in which to retire. During the night, Ken awoke to the little feet of a mouse scurrying across his sleeping bag. Turning on his light he found it perched on Jack's bag of Gorp, happy to get a midnight treat. After a week on the trail, Jack was tired of Gorp anyway.

After a cold, dry night, we awoke to a mediocre sunrise. After breakfast, we hiked back to our new trail and found it to be invisible no longer. We were able to follow it easily, this time in reverse and made more improvements with clipping and flagging. Continuing along up to the vista we paused for the view which came and went as the fog blew over. Snow showers followed us back to the shelter where the tools were cleaned, the area tidied and we packed our gear for the hike out. Hail, snow showers and sunshine were the conditions for that last Vermont hike of the year. Better weather would have enable us to get more accomplished, but Dick was satisfied with our efforts.

Written By: Sarah O'Hare
 Workers: Jack Sanga, Ken Williamson, Carol Langley, Henry Smith, Allen Freeman, Jodi Silver, Jocelyn Linnekin, Jerry Novick
 Leader: Dick Krompegal

**Wadsworth Falls State Park
 October 13**

Despite fine hiking weather, only President Ken Williamson and Activities V. P. Sarah O'Hare joined leader Marge Hackbarth to view the Little Falls (dry) and the Great Falls. This is a fine area so Sarah is planning a ski trip for winter. Don't miss it next time.

Hikers: Sarah O'Hare, Ken Williamson, Marge Hackbarth

