

Connecticut Section of the Green Mountain Club

VOLUME XXXIV ISSUE IV

EDITOR: CAROL A. LANGLEY

OCT. 2013 – DEC. 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A reminder to all Hike Leaders and hikers we will be sharing the great outdoors with the Hunter for the next few months. Please wear BLAZE ORANGE hats, gloves, mittens, vests protect yourself do not become a target. NO WHITE HATS OR GLOVES. Also leaders it is your responsibility for the safety of all who attend your activity, make wise decisions, it is okay to cancel or turn around and not finish a hike.

Your activity sheet is attached to the back mailer. We had very few activities for this issue. If you would like to hike somewhere but don't want to be the leader let us know.

SAVE THE DATES

June 27-29, 2014 Austin Hawes Campground /American Legion State Forest, Pleasant Valley, CT. For many years in the past the Ct. Section of the GMC held a family camping weekend with hiking, biking, tubing on the Farmington River, etc. If you are interested please let me know. Reservations are open on Jan. 1, 2014 and must be made individually not in a group as in the past. Cost for the site 2012 is \$17.00 6 people. Res. 1-877-668-2267 or www.reserveamerica.com. Contact Carol 860-621-2860 cosmical14@yahoo.com.

SEPT. 10 – 21, 2014 One Hundred Mile Wilderness in Maine, from Munson to Abol Bridge Campground. If interested contact Mandy Brink trekeragb@sbcglobal.net

Thank you to all the leaders who have scheduled activities for this issue. Let's support them and get out and play.

Carol

Club Information
<http://www.conngmc.com>
Officers & Executive Committee

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Please direct all inquiries regarding the Club to the President.

The Trail Talk is published four times a year, Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. 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	\$45.00
Family	\$60.00
Senior (70 or older) or Limited Income	\$25.00
Sponsor (Individual/Family)	\$75.00

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/

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Frederick N. Pettit
Celia Campbell-Mohn
SEE YOU ON THE TRAIL!!

TRAIL TALK – if you are presently receiving your newsletter in the mail and would like to receive an electronic mailing please e-mail me. I will gladly add your name to our list.

Thanks, Carol

Week Day Sunshine Hikers & Backpackers a new group has formed. Unscheduled activities, there is usually a 24 hour notice sent via e-mail. If you are interested please contact Carol Langley at cosmical14@ayhoo.com or 860-621-2860. Thank You!

GOOGLE CALENDAR

If you would like to be added to this site please subscribe to site listed below.

Ct-gmc-activity-reminders+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Allen Freeman will be posting our activities to this site. Please contact him with any questions:

allen@allenf.com

Newsletter – Trail Talk, Looking for someone to help me with producing your newsletter, with option to take over. Position is for 3 year term. Four issues in a year.

Contact Carol for more info. 860-621-2860 or cosmical14@yahoo.com.

Airline Trail Bike Ride July 21, 2013

It was a hot humid day when we arrived at the parking lot for the Airline Trail. I had brought my two grandkids, Amarie (Age 10) and Deondre (Age 7). I was so happy that Sarah and Don decided to join us for our leisurely relaxed ride. The kids did real good riding in the hot weather. We rode out to the cranberry bog area, stopping once in a while for a rest and cold drink. We had lunch by a pond full of lily pads and took a few moments to check out the frogs. The cranberry bog had a population of Canadian geese who were swimming lazily in the shallow water.

On our ride back we had the first and only incident of the day. Don stopped at a trail posting to get a map out of the trail box. It unfortunately had no maps in it but it did have a bee nest and Don promptly got stung on the finger. He promised not to sue the bike leader for pain and suffering. It was really hot when we arrived back at the parking lot just before 1pm. We loaded up our bikes back onto the cars and headed off for the nearest store that would have cold drinks. We did 12.3 miles for the day.

Leader: Mandy Brink - Bikers; Amarie and Deondre Bransford, Sarah O'Hare and Don Hagstrom

Barn Island Paddle July 7, 2013

It was a great day for paddling. It was hot and humid with the sun sparkling on the water. While we couldn't have asked for better paddling weather, being a Sunday morning did prove to have more motor boat activity than I had expected. We hugged the coast, heading towards the left of the boat launch. There among the grasses were several egrets and a lot of other bird activity. We paddled along eventually heading out to where the ocean started to open up a bit more. The boat activity was even greater, so we

turned around and were lined for the cove area. After crossing under the railroad trestle, we pulled to shore for a snack and a swim. The water felt so good.

At this point we had been paddling several hours. Mandy and Carol headed back to the boat launch around 12:30 as Mandy had to go to work and Carol had yard chores to do.

The guys decided to check out Salt Island before they called it a day. As Dick described it to me in a later email, the boats were lined up as if in a traffic jam. They had to wait for a break in the line to cross over to the island. The whole island was a picnic ground of people. Some of the island was roped off for the piping plovers. The guys walked around enjoying the piping plovers, the Black Backed Gulls and their fledglings. They arrived back at the boat launch at 2:00 p.m.

Leader: Mandy Brink - Paddlers: Dick Hart, Carol Langley, Art Nixon, Jim Hammel and Norm Atwood

Pleasant Valley Hike and Bike July 25, 2013

After weeks of heat wave after heat wave we caught a break this day. The morning was refreshingly cool, almost autumn-like. The first half of this two part outing took Don, George and me on a hike on the short, two mile Henry Buck Trail. The path climbed uphill, at times steeply. We located the remains of the former cheese box mill and later found the Buck Memorial plaque, high in a cliff face. No one was interested in the scramble up the rocks to read its inscription. We paused for a snack atop the ridge with views of the Farmington River Valley. Then descending the north slope, we quickly found ourselves back on West River Road with a short road walk back to our cars.

The second half of our morning was a bike ride. As Don was only interested in the hiking portion, he convinced us to explore another short trail, located nearby. We road walked just a short distance and turned onto unpaved Legion Road. We walked uphill until we came to the trailhead of the Turkey Vulture Trail. This trail was a mere 0.4 mile with a 200' elevation. It passed a stone wall, a split glacial boulder and through Mountain Laurel. We stopped at the top for lunch. The view, now treed in, used to be of the Farmington River, but we could see across the valley to the ski slopes of Ski Sundown. We then retraced our steps, all down hill, back to our cars, adding an extra four miles to our hiking. All were glad to have visited this second trail.

As George and I readied for our bike ride, Don left for home. Our ride north on West River Road was quite pleasant. The Farmington River held our attention with its rocks and riffles. Many fishermen stood chest deep in the water, enjoying this fine day in their own quiet, solitary way. Soon we crossed the river in Riverton, passing the Hitchcock Chair factory and turned onto East River Road. Now we were following the river downstream. The road here was narrower and mostly downhill. At Rt. 318 we turned to cross the river once again, then closed the eight mile circuit with a short ride north on West River Road, back to our cars.

Participants: George Jackson, Don Hagstrom
Leader: Sarah O'Hare

Mattabesett & Lone Pine Trails August 4, 2013

The western portion of this 9.5 mile loop trail was hiked in June. Today we completed the loop by hiking the eastern section. Beginning at the Bluff Head parking area on Rt. 77, we then headed east on the Mattabesett Trail. It was a gradual climb up the Broomstick Ledges. Within a mile or so we passed the junction with the terminus of the Menunkatuck Trail, the more recent addition to the New England Trail system.

With the morning on the cool side, our enthusiasm kept our pace brisk. At times, a powerful fragrance permeated the air. The summer blooming shrub, with its long, white, flowery spikes was the Sweet Pepperbush, as was learned later. The Mattabesett Trail turned north and we soon reached the western portion of the 650-acre Rockland Reserve in Madison, intersecting with the Lone Pine Trail, our exit point. However, the plan was to lengthen the hike by following the Mattabesett Trail to the Mica Ledges and then return. Along the way to the ledges we discovered a recent trail addition called the Maria Schmidt Trail. A little further along we passed another turn off and we surmised that it was a loop trail. We passed the pile of rocks known as the Selectman's Stones, marking the meeting point of the Durham, Madison and Guilford town lines. Steep ups and downs brought us to the open ledges overlooking the Coginchaug Valley. We stopped here, at the Mica Ledges, for lunch.

As we began to retrace our steps the two miles back to the Lone Pine Trail, the Maria Schmidt Trail beckoned to be explored. All in favor, we turned east and followed this trail as it wound around and headed back to the Mattabesett. Coming across a branch of trail with the same blaze had us perplexed. We ended up just completing this loop of a half mile or so, leaving the mystery of the extension to be solved another time.

Back at the Lone Pine Trail junction, we turned here to complete the last leg of our hike. We soon passed the big 'ol pine tree for which the trail is named. As the woods began to thin out, we walked into Siefert's Meadow, with its late summer wild flowers beginning to bud. Here our hike ended at the preserve's parking, with a lone car waiting to take us back to the Bluff Head parking area. Jim and Ed chose to walk, adding another mile to our 7.5 mile hike.

Hikers: Jim Robertson, Don Hagstrom, George Jackson, Steve Keri, Ed Shyloski

Leader: Sarah O'Hare

Ireland Trip June 19 – July 2, 2013

It's always wonderful if a trip turns out successful and a real bonus if the trip is even better than you expected. That is what happened in Ireland. It was just a great trip with a great group of people.

We all flew in from different airports, flying into Dublin and then meeting up with each other at the Killarney International hostel. Some of us were hiking, some touring and some a combination of both.

A group of us started out on Friday morning from Killarney National Park to start the Kerry Way. We stopped to see the Torc Waterfalls and the ruins of the Muckross Abbey. Our first village was to be Kenmare. It was a real bonus to meet up with Doreen Scott's relative, Sheila, who had helped us in some of our trip planning. We had dinner with her at her favorite restaurant in Kenmare and then also got a tour of the town with some history. Afterwards she invited us back to her house for some more visiting time. It was truly a delightful evening.

The next day, hiking to Sneem was to be one of our longest days. We thought it was about 19 miles but it ended up being 22.5 miles. We did the last 5 miles in the pouring down rain and wind. Needless to say we were very happy to see Commassig View, our B&B. Maureen was wonderful, taking our wet boots and clothes and sending us all for a warm shower.

Over the next several days we hiked through Caherdaniel, Mastergeehy, Waterville, Cahersiveen and Glenbeigh, all small villages. We met Freddie, the bartender who lived all his life in Caherdaniel and Jimmy Casey, a retired sheep herder who still farms 100 acres with his 100 sheep. Our car team was invaluable in taking our luggage from place to place and a wonderful support team. Mastergeehy is so small, it is considered a hamlet. The hostel forgot about our pre-ordered dinner, so our group who had toured that day, cooked up a wonderful pasta dinner for the hikers. We stopped at wonderful pubs, had

some great ale and enjoyed the remote quiet of the green Ireland countryside. It was not uncommon for some sheep, cows and chickens to hike along with us. If any of the group took a day off to nurse some blisters, we'd just add a cow here and there as to not lose our 10 percent.

The hike from Glenbeigh to Glencar was spectacular as we walked along the area overlooking the Dingle Bay. It was one of the few days that we started out with a sunny day right from the start of the day. We were half way up the mountain, walking along the edge overlooking the beautiful blue water of the bay. Plans were to spend 2 days in the Glencar area, staying at a wonderful B&B called Lough Acoose, named for the lake nearby. Here we met Buster, the Vietnamese Potbellied Pig who was so happy to see us. He was such a happy pig, wiggling his tail and putting up his snout to be petted whenever we came by his pen. We had built in a day to climb Mt Carrauntoohil, the high peak for Ireland, located in the MacGillycuddy's Reeks. The day we headed up the mountain was a bit overcast. We hoped for clearing but unfortunately that was not to be. As we headed up, it got more gray and windy. There were no trails and we were dependent on seeing the ridgeline to find the trail for Mt Carrauntoohil. The weather worsened to a thick fog as we climbed the second highest peak, Beenkeiagh. With winds now so fierce we could barely stand and thickening fog with rain, we decided to turn back. It got so thick with fog we were forced to use our whistles to locate the person ahead of us. Not being able to see any trail, we realized we were lost. After studying the map, we decided to use our compass and head north. We ended up doing a bushwack, down the mountain whenever we saw that it looked safe to descend. We were elated to see sheep way below as it was getting late in the day. Once out of the fog, we saw a dirt road and headed for that. It was another 4 miles out on the dirt road before we reached civilization at a place called Cronin's Yard. There we learned that we had hiked 10 miles the wrong direction. Everyone had wet electronics. No working phones made it difficult to contact our group to let them know we were

safe. A kind gentleman in the tea house contacted our B&B who then sent Jack and another car to rescue us. We were really happy to be off the mountain safely even without having summited Mt Carrauntoohil. Mary, our B&B hostess was the best. She served us a most delicious dinner at 9:00 pm that evening due to our “getting lost adventure”.

The next day we headed for the Black Valley hostel. We had dinner reservations for a famous restaurant, Kate Kearney’s Cottage that evening. Kate Kearney is a legend in Ireland, known for her famous “Mountain Dew” that she shared with many a weary traveler. What an interesting drive through the Gap of Dunloe. It was absolutely beautiful but very windy and twisty, a car sick person’s worst nightmare. Our dinner was special because there were several demonstrations of Irish step dancing as well as an Irish band sharing much of the history of the music and instruments of Ireland.

On our final day of hiking we completed the loop back to Killarney National Park. We were able to witness a sheep herder and his dog working to bring the sheep off the mountain and to their pens below. It was quite interesting. Those sheep lined up as if recess was over at school. The Kerry Way totaled 140 miles and our MacGillycuddy hike added another 10 miles. We headed to the visitors center where we had started many days before for our group picture.

Our touring group also had some interesting adventures. In addition to exploring the many villages with their castles and stone fortresses, they took a day to drive to see the Blarney Castle. The line was over an hour wait to kiss the Blarney Stone so they decided to pass on that adventure. Another day they took a boat out to Skelligs Michael. This is an island in the Iveragh Peninsula where a Christian monastery was founded somewhere between the 6th and 8th century. The remains of the monastery are available to explore. The island is also known for the Puffins who migrate there in April and stay until August. They come to mate and the island is

plentiful with this beautiful bird. Regina had some excellent pictures of the Puffins.

Our last day was a down day to tour. We enjoyed Ross Castle and the Muckross House, historical places in Killarney. Our group departed in bits and pieces, back to Dublin and back to home. The group who came on this trip was just a fantastic bunch. We enjoyed a lot of exploring, laughter and Irish culture. It truly was a team of great travelers who worked to make it a great trip for everyone.

Ireland Travelers: Dave and Regina Chatel, Rob, Marianne and Alice Valley, Jack and Olivia Sanga, Tom and Patty Adams, Jim and Kerry Robertson, Mandy Brink, Jim Fritz

Maintenance Trip to Kid Gore May 19-21, 2013

We had our usual work trip in the peak of black fly season. All trips should be so lucky – there were virtually no black flies! This was a good start to a great weekend.

Most of the work was the typical stuff. There was the brushing (there is always the brushing), the blazing, the water bars and the typical blow downs.

We brushed the lower veranda in front of the Kid Gore Shelter. This is necessary every three years or so in order to keep open the view out to the east.

The trail was blazed from the shelter south to where the VAST snowmobile trail crosses the Long Trail north of the Glastenbury fire tower.

One of the blow downs was a big, 18” wide one. We also cut and split a good supply of fire wood. In all likelihood, it was all burned up within three days. We needed to leave a widow maker leaning over the path to the outhouse because it wasn’t noticed until Sunday after the saw had already been taken down the trail. Maybe, it will be down

by the time of our October maintenance trip back to Kid Gore.

We deepened and cleared out the water source just north of the shelter. Because it had become quite overgrown in the last few years, many of us have gotten our water west of the shelter near the Long Trail. This is a much closer source.

Quite a bit of trash had accumulated at the base of the Glastenbury fire tower. It was all hauled out.

Maintainers: Kevin Breton, Sven Englund, Allen Freeman, Frank Maine.
Leader: Dick Hart

Maintenance Trip to Story Spring August 16-18, 2013

Six of us made the second work trip of the year. It was quite productive and enjoyable with touches of humor and Good Samaritan help.

Brush, water bar and blazing work was completed between Kelly Stand Road and Lydia's Rest in both northbound and southbound directions. There were no blowdowns north of Lydia's Rest.

The weather was perfect. That plus the good work and camaraderie made for a very enjoyable weekend.

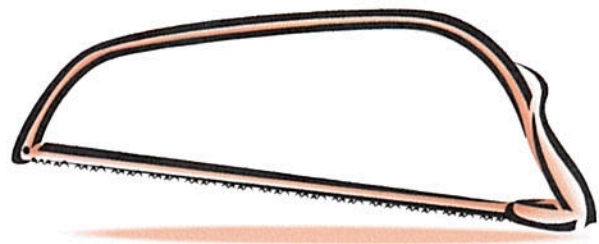
The steps up to the outhouse still do not lead directly to the front door. We tried to see if we could move the steps but were not able to do so. For the first time ever, there wasn't a supply of wood shavings in the outhouse to help the decomposition process along.

On Saturday, Larry was doing blazing work to the south and Dick to the north. At the shelter that night Larry mentioned that a northbound gal in her early twenties asked him if he would paint a white 2x6 blaze on the back of her pack. Not wanting the responsibility of "ruining" her pack or mispainting the blaze, he said no. Dick chuckled and said the same gal had also asked him to blaze

her pack. He also refused but offered her the brush to let her paint it herself. On Sunday, a man saw us blazing. He thought it was so odd that he wanted us to pose while he got a photo of us painting. I'm not sure how he previously thought blazes got on the trees. I guess people get their souvenirs in different and humorous ways.

Carol had said she needed to leave Saturday mid-afternoon to get home for another obligation. She had been working in the south and, upon heading back to the shelter, came across an older gentleman and his friend near Lydia's Rest. The older man seemed to be in need of medical help. She offered to help get him to a hospital once they got to the shelter. He left his pack on the side of the trail and they went back to the shelter. When they got to the shelter, she persuaded another hiker to go get the pack and bring it back to the shelter. Upon resting and getting the pack back, Carol and the two men hiked to Kelly Stand Rd where they ran into two local GMC's who offered to take them to the hospital in Manchester. Way to go, Carol!

Maintainers: Larry Keckler, Carol Langley, Frank Maine, Jim Robertson, Kevin Vann.
Leader: Dick Hart



AT/PA. GREENPOINT-BOILINGSPRINGS SEPT. 8-13, 2013

After spotting 3 cars from Boiling Springs to Rte. 443 we started our hike into Rausch Gap. It was only 4.7 miles but seemed much long because of the long ride down. The shelter had just been renovated and was built on a nice stone foundation. Water was coming out of a pipe that filled a tray right in front of shelter. Hiker's midnight came fast and lights were out.

What is that racket it ZERO DARK HOUR?? Gear Man is rustling up some grub for his breakfast. The sun was barely over the horizon and he was ready to hit the trail. This was the last we saw of him till we reached the next shelter. Around 2:00 we arrived at Rte. 325 after many ups and downs. Tenting along the river we had a quiet night. A Bard Owl sang in the early morning and was our wake up call. The weatherman said it would be a hot one 90+. By 11:30 we reached Peter's Mt. Shelter for lunch, now let's move on to Rte. 225 where we had clean clothes, water and food. Plans were to hike a couple of miles then tent but we were hiking on the side of a mountain that was covered with rocks and poison ivy. There was not a bit of air stirring so we took many breaks and finally dragged our bodies into Clark's Ferry Shelter at 5:00. 13.1 miles. This was Don's birthday so we celebrated with brownies but I couldn't find the candle. We hardly slept since the shelter was an inferno. Thunder rumbled in the distance with the promise of storms.

Up early once again, plans were to hike into Duncannon, PA. The descent down into the town was steep, crossing the Susquehanna River it looked very inviting since the temp was 95 as we crossed on the hot pavement. Lunch and shower at the Doyle Inn, we were out the door at 1:00 and back into the HOT and HUMID weather. A slow but well graded climb brought us to Hawk Rock. Packs off, a nice breeze what's that sound in the distance, more thunder. Only 4 miles to Cove Mt. Shelter let's move it. Another sleepless night.

Morning dawned with dark heavy clouds and more storms predicted by 10:00 a.m. This shelter has a long side trail and just as we reached the ridge the storm hit. Lightning bolts danced in front of us, thunder crashed overhead but very little rain. The valley was all fog so there were no views. We hustled and reached Darlington Shelter by 12:30 p.m. Then the hikers started to come in no one wanted to be on the trail. Five of us slept in the shelter a couple used a tent than was tied down for a hurricane and one gal from Florida slept in her hammock. Pack Rat made a nice fire but everyone just wanted to sleep most were hiking to Duncannon where their cars were parked. We were hiking to Boiling Springs.

At 5:30 a.m. headlamps were everywhere and it was time to get moving. Someday I am going to hike into a shelter, carry in a book and a chair and just chill out!!! Well we had miles to do so before 7:00 we said our goodbyes and started towards Boiling Springs. It was a long but easy hike. Again Gear Man put it in 2nd gear and took off. Many steps and Turtle Man just pattered along. At this time I was pain with a wounded big toe that just got worst with every step. Thank heavens it was a cool day with a lovely breeze as we hiked through corn and soybean fields. After 14.8 miles I passed Gear Man who was sitting on the swing in front of the ATC office. Turtle Man dropped his pack and joined him. Many Steps continued on to the car while she still had a FEW Steps left to get there. Boots off what a relief! Next stop Days Inn, Carlisle. Sixty miles we covered this time many more to go.

After a nice breakfast at the Motel we started our journey to collect Don's car at Rte. 225 and Joe's car at Rte. 443. By the time we finished we drove to the diner at the I-81 interchange and had another breakfast, then started the 5-6 hour drive home to CT.

Backpackers: Don Hagstrom, Joe Kekacs, Carol A. Langley