

# Trail Talk



## Seasons Greetings

VOLUME XXXXVI ISSUE I JAN. – MAR. 2015

EDITORS: CAROL A. LANGLEY/ CELIA CAMPBELL-MOHN

### President's Message

Our Annual Meeting will be held at the Cheshire Grange on Sat. Mar. 21, 2015 as stated in our activities we will be sending out a separate flyer with full details and reservation form in Feb. The program this year will be presented by Bill Falconer on Lighthouse's along the Eastern Seaboard from Maine to Florida. Each summer Bill is a volunteer at a Lighthouse in Provincetown, MA., and is a wealth of information on lighthouses. Please save this date and join us for a very interesting presentation.

Included with this flyer will be an updated version of our section By-Laws. Please take the time to review them before the annual meeting as we will be voting on the changes. I would like to thank the committee who spent time in reviewing and making changes, Jim Robertson, Dick Hart and Jim Fritz.

During this past year Bob Michaud helped me to create a letter inviting Green Mountain Members At-Large who live in CT., to join our section. As you can see we have had many people join the CT. Section a special thank you to Bob.

The Annual Meeting this year will be held in Waterbury Center, VT. at the Green Mountain Club headquarters on June 12-14, 2015. During this time the dedication of the Winooski River Bridge will take place please save this date and be part of this great celebration.

Once again our hike leaders have planned a great schedule of activities for us, please get out and support them.

See you on the trail!!!!

Carol A. Langley

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

**Carol A. Langley - President**  
[cosmical14@yahoo.com](mailto:cosmical14@yahoo.com)

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**Marianne Valley, Treasurer**  
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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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[cosmical14@yahoo.com](mailto:cosmical14@yahoo.com)

#### **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>

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Evan S. Griswold**  
**Emily T. Fisher**  
**Barbara Froebel**  
**Keith & Jamie Levinthal**  
**Richard A. Roland**  
**Art Schoeller**

**SEE YOU ON THE TRAIL!!**

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:allen@allenf.com)

### **HIKE LEADERS**

**All reports must be sent in a Word Document in Times Roman 11. Reports sent from I-phones or I Pads will be returned. Thank you!**  
**Carol A. Langley & Celia Campbell-Mohn**

### **Helpful Hiking Hints**

Carry a black plastic bag it can be used:

**To store your wet tent in**

**Door mat for front of tent to keep debris out**

**Thanks: Gear Man!!!!**

**Thank you Lawrence P. Baxter & Daniel B. Rosenthal for your donation to the CT. Section!!!**

## **Bike Ride Sept. 29, 2014**

Dave Chatel was the only brave soul who showed up for my bike ride. It was the best of fall days, sunny, warm and beautiful with the leaves changing. The ride started with a history lesson on Main Street in North Stonington. Our Main Street is historical and quaint so there was a lot to share. We biked many of the country roads of North Stonington, heading out to Hopkinton, RI via the Clark Falls section where we passed the Old Grist Mill.

In Hopkinton we stopped to check out a few historical buildings there as well. Everything was closed but we peeked in the windows. I have a fascination with old small New England churches and there is one in the town center that I wanted to go into but I had to be happy with just the window peeking. We headed back on the Clark Falls/Hopkinton Road but once we got into North Stonington, we took a different route home. We headed up Grindstone Hill Rd. I wanted to show Dave the old Girl Scout camp, Camp Coit, now a private land trust for hiking. We parked our bikes and walked back to my favorite spot, the brook with the Poet's Bench. The water was really low so I was disappointed that the waterfalls were not flowing. I showed him all around the camp, telling him tales of the past when I had camped there with Scouts.

Back on our bikes we headed down Chester Main Rd which is one of the most beautiful roads in town. On our journeys we saw some day old calves being fed a bottle, cows munching on hay and festivities at the winery. We circled back around Main Street and back to my house. We clocked in at 20 miles which was a good ride for the day.

Bikers: Mandy Brink, Dave Chatel

## **The 100 mile Wilderness Hike September 2014**

I think the only time on the trip that I was a popular leader was for the group picture at the trailhead in Munson. The first 6 miles to the Leeman Brook shelter was not that bad for a warm up. We had staged Jim Robertson's car at the KI road as he was doing the first 30 miles to make up for what he has missed with Boy Scouts.

It started on the second day, my decreasing popularity that is. Mike Shaw drove up late Friday night, and

caught up on Sat morning. We had a few fun river crossings and some gentle ups and downs. We didn't quite make it to our goal which was the Long Pond Stream Lean to. Instead some of us camped right after the Vaughn Stream crossing while others set up camp a bit south.

It happened on the third day. I lost not only my 10% but 20%. Dick, nursing an injury, and Woody decided to hike out a logging road and see other parts of Maine. The rest of us continued on hiking up Barren Mt with beautiful views at Barren Ledges. It was a tough day of going over Fourth and Third Mt. Again some of us set up camp at the West Chairback Pond while others stopped after the Fourth Mt which was a brutal descent.

On the fourth day came the realization that we were losing mileage and were not going to finish at on Saturday at our current pace. We were 7 miles behind. At the KI road, we considered the options. Jim Robertson was leaving here and it was the last chance out before we had no car and 70 more miles of hiking. Larry, Larry and Debbie decided to call it quits and loaded up with Jim. They went on to spend a week seeing some fabulous spots in Maine. I now have a whole new lists of "must do's for Maine" as a result of their adventures.

The four of us that were left decided to buckle down and try to make up the 7 miles and still come out on Saturday. We had a killer day in the rain and did the whole White Cap Mt in one day. It was up every day at 6am and hiking every day till dark. We hiked 13 miles to the Logan Brook Shelter. We were soaked and cold. Some evenings it was as low as 36 degrees. It was dry clothes, a quick dinner and bed because we were exhausted. This shelter has many mice and they didn't hesitate to come visiting the minute we put our packs in the shelter.

On Wednesday the sun came out. Our equipment was wet or damp so we took a break in the afternoon to dry it all on a sunny rock face. We pushed hard and put in a 17 mile day before camping at Cooper Pond. We had a quick visit with Carol's group at the Cooper Brook Shelter.

We thought we'd have it easy on Thursday because it looked so flat on the map but in reality it was so rocky and the roots to the trees so big, it was hard to make any quick time. We just had to pick our way in and

out of tangled massive mess of roots. Nahmakanta Lake was beautiful though as were all the small mountain lakes and ponds we passed. The leaves were starting to change and it was a peaceful backdrop to these remote ponds. We camped along the lake just below the Wadleigh Stream Lean to. There was a small beach to enjoy the evening sunset.

Friday we hiked to Rainbow Spring Campground. It was one of our easier days at only 12 miles. It was a bit of a push over Nesuntabunt Mt but we were in good shape by then so it wasn't that difficult. We enjoyed the views and a rest at the top. We had been in Maine a week and we were starting to see more and more of the colors of autumn. This mountain looks down into the Pollywog Gorge. It was the first night that we actually got into camp before dark and were eating our supper at a decent hour. There was even enough time for our one and only campfire for the trip.

On Saturday the four of us were looking forward to a shower and hearing how everyone else did during the week. In late morning we were stopping for a snack when we saw a helicopter circling around. We watched as it landed on the water. Three people and some equipment came out and headed towards us. We had seen a wisp of smoke and had not thought anything of it other than being the remnants of a campfire. It turns out it was an underground forest fire that had been reported the day before. It was very interesting to see the firefighters in action and to see the degree of area that had been on fire underneath the root system. As we were watching, flames broke out around the base of the tree. They rigged up a pump from the pond and used that to hose the fire. It was a lesson in how careful we really must be about making sure a campfire is entirely out. Another highlight of this day was hiking over Rainbow Ledges. We got into Abol Bridge at 3pm. It actually felt bittersweet to be done. We finished earlier than expected so we waited at Abol Bridge and eventually the others showed up with a cooler full of cold drinks. We had a delightful dinner together and a nice campfire. We shared our tales of the trail and they told us their stories of other adventures in Maine. Even though the whole group didn't complete the whole 100 miles, everyone seemed happy with the adventures of the week. I would say that on Saturday, we were back to 100 % of the group and 100% happy at what they had accomplished.

Many thanks to Tom, Mike and Jim who helped me on this venture of hiking the 100 miles which had been on my bucket list for 10 years.

Leader: Mandy Brink. Hikers: Jim Fritz, Jim Robertson, Tom Adams, Mike Shaw, Dick Hart, Don Woodbridge, Larry Keckler, Larry and Debbie Rother

### **Heublein Tower Hike Sunday October 26, 2014**

Continuing a tradition that Dick Krompegal established years ago, we hiked the Metacomet trail from West Hartford Reservoir number 6 to the Heublein Tower on the last day that the tower was open for the season. The cool blustery overcast day did not deter seven GMCers from joining the trip.

Everyone was assembled and ready to hike prior to the advertised 9:30 am meeting time, so we got an early start from the reservoir, walking north along the east shore and up the alternate trail. The blue and red blazes where the alternate trail joins the main Metacomet Trail were quite worn and confused the hike leader a bit, but fortunately Kevin re-assured me that I was leading the group in the correct direction and not to our doom. We did note that the trails could use some Connecticut Section-style expert maintenance, as there were several branches falling across the trail, along with grown-in thorns and the aging faded trail blazes.

Once we hit the ridge and started up King Philips Mountain the northwest wind became quite strong. But we kept moving to keep warm and arrived at the Heublein Tower just after 11:30. The view from the 360 degree observation floor at the top was outstanding. Cloud cover was high enough and the air clear enough that we could plainly see north to Mt. Tom in Holyoke and south to Castle Crag and West Peak in Meriden. We saw a conical distant peak to the northeast that we speculated may have been Mount Monadnock, but at an estimated distance of 80-90 miles as the crow flies, that would have been a stretch. Speaking of crows, from the tower observation deck we observed a lengthy aerial combat scene between two hawks and a crow, with the crow first chasing one hawk, then a hawk chasing the crow over the Farmington River valley to the west. At one point the hawk executed an amazing turn and vertical climb, then came barreling back down at the crow from directly overhead. The last we saw, the two hawks



were flying in close formation and the crow was nowhere to be seen.

After climbing back down the tower stairs Carol and Kevin found a picnic table that was somewhat shielded from the wind for lunch. We swapped stories of preparing for the winter and plans for winter hiking, camping and snowshoeing adventures before packing up and heading down the Metacomet through some nice foliage to the reservoir and our cars. Thanks to everyone for a nice day and hike.

Leader: Jim Robertson

Hikers: Carol Langley, Bill Falconer, Bob & Mel Michaud, Ross Lanus, Kevin Vann

### **Two Maintenance Trips Story Spring August 8-10, 2014**

**Kid Gore  
October 3-5, 2014**

We made an August work trip to take care of the northern end of our section of the Long Trail. We were smack dab in the middle the wave of thru hikers. This was made very obvious when there were 32 campers one night. People were all over the place – many were cowboy camping; including one on the picnic table!

We did the usual brushing and water bar work as well as blazing from Kelly Stand Road to Kid Gore. We also did a significant brushing job at the outlook to Stratton Mountain. The fire pit was so clogged up that we removed six five gallon buckets of ashes to clean it up. We also did some drainage work to the right of the shelter hopefully to channel rain water away from the picnic table. We'll have to wait till the next rainy weekend back to Story Spring to see if it was successful.

The steps to the privy have not yet been re-aligned with the door. I'm told that a possible fix may be to make the steps the full width of the base of the privy.

The gastronomical highlights of the weekend clearly were the hand picked blueberries that Alina brought and the home grown cherry tomatoes that Jim brought. They especially made a big hit with the thru hikers.

We had a work trip to Kid Gore in October. Dave Hardy, Director of Trail Programs, came down from headquarters. He wanted to measure the roof and check out its general condition. He is hoping to replace items that have deteriorated and replace the shingles. This will likely be done during the 2016 season and may be funded by the Gore family. He will be looking for some strong backs to help with the construction.

The privy had been relocated slightly closer to the shelter along the same path. This was done by the Long Tail Patrol.

The weather did not cooperate with us. It rained for part of Friday and most of Saturday. Efforts to do any blazing had to be postponed and our blazing and water bar work were limited. We did cut down the trees from the shelter out to beyond the tent site off the path to the privy. We also cleared out the blackberry bushes and weeds in front of the shelter. This was a major effort and should last a number of years before new growth begins obstructing the views to the east.

Attendees: **Story Spring** – Alina Badus, Jim Fritz, Dennis Himes, Jim Robertson, Mike Shaw (with son Adam) and Kevin Vann. **Kid Gore** – Dave Chatel, Sven Englund, Dave Hardy and Carol Langley.

Leader: Dick Hart

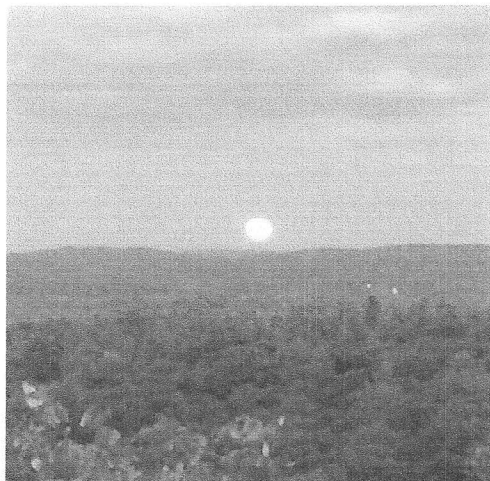
### **Full Moon Hike Sleeping Giant Oct. 8, 2014**

Only two people joined me for this Full Moon, Don Hagstrom and Gary Griffin. Our plan was to hike 5 miles so started out on the Horse Trail then we connected with the Violet Trail which took us over the Left Hand & Leg. Reaching the Red Triangle we hiked to the Tower Path which led us to our destination the Tower. In record time stoves were humming and the food was cooking.

A pale sunset was starting in the west so we moved to the top for nature's show. The sun was sinking and turning the sky and clouds, purple, pink and peach. Looking to the east we saw nothing where is the Moon. After being very patient we suddenly saw an red moon struggling behind a cloud bank. As it rose Gary tried very hard to get a good photo at the same time we hear Gear man "shout look at those tankers in New Haven Harbor".

This was the first time we had such a great view of Oil Tankers and Ships leaving the harbor with their lights on what a sight. All we could say was "WOW". The show was over and it was time to start the journey to our cars. Since Wentworth's Ice Cream was so close we walked over and indulged. Thanks guys for joining me, great hike and good company.

L. Carol A. Langley, Hikers: Don Hagstrom, Gary Griffin



**Mohawk Trail - Barrack Mt.  
Nov. 2, 2014**

A windy, cool but sunny day greeted our group of hikers. A group decision was made to hike from Warren Turnpike and retrace our steps. The trail that I remember from my younger days was not so easy today. Oak and maple leaves under foot, on the rocks and trail made for slow going. Reaching a plateau we could feel the warm sun on our faces but the wind was still sharp and kept us moving.

Reaching Barrack Mt. we took in the breath taking view of the Housatonic Valley. The river was a small ribbon of dark blue winding between the pine trees along Rte. 4. The rock ledge was the perfect place to have lunch in the sun and had a bit of a wind break.

Our return trip was slow and steady. It was brought to my attention that this was not an easy hike but a strenuous one, yes Kevin you are correct.

L. Carol A. Langley  
Hikers: Kevin Burke, Ceclia & Fred Campbell- Mohn,  
Flower (dog) and Judy Kessler

**70 Miles of the AT/MA  
Sept. 12-20, 2014**

We met at 3:00 at the KI Rd. on Sept. 12 where we left Joe's car. Then we parked Sharon's car at our resupply point. We stayed at Ruthie's Motel/Rest. in Millinocket which saved us a lot of time the next day.

Sat. up bright and early we had breakfast then drove to Abol Bridge where we would start to hike. This was a short day of 3.7 miles since our packs were at their heaviest and we did not have our trail legs yet. The afternoon was spent playing cards and hanging out. A group decision was made to be up every day at 6:00 and on the trail by 7:30, lunch would be a ½ hour and stops as necessary.

Sun. our second day we hiked 7 plus miles into Rainbow Springs Campsite near Rainbow Lake. Here we were serenaded all night by the LOONS who sang their mournful song to us.

Mon. Day 3 we hiked 11.9 miles to Wadleigh Stream LT which was filled with thru hikers. Crossing the Rainbow Stream on two logs turned out to be a trial for me since moving water set my stomach in motion. This is where we worked as a true team. Joe returned and took my pack. Sharon came across half way and met me to guide me across. This girl has good balance since she turned around and led me to solid ground. However we lost time and this was the reason that the shelter was filled. We soon found a nice area to tent. This was the only night that we cooked by headlamp. Rain was predicted for the a.m. and as we were packing our last items we heard the light rain.

Tues. Day 4 we hiked 10.1 miles to Potaywadjo Spring LT. We Past many lakes and beautiful camping spots but we kept moving. This was an easy day. It was windy so we dried out damp tent fly's and socks. Dave and Sharon found a nice sheltered spot for our night. Temp. in the morning was 26 degrees the coldest day on this trip.

Wed. Day 5 We hiked an easy trail to our car spot on Jo May Rd. where we resupplied food and clothes. The group took an hour's lunch

break as planned. The sun was nice but we had to move on to Cooper Brook Falls which we reached around 3:00. After hiking 11.4 miles, we tented again since the shelter was full. Here is where we met Mandy and what was left of their group.

Thurs. Day 6 a grey glooming day we never left camp till 8:00. We hiked 11.7 miles into Logan Brook Falls. We arrived early in the day but stayed put because of the wind and cold knowing that White Face Mt. was ahead of us. The afternoon was gathering firewood and relaxing. Dave was the only one who hiked on for a bit to see what was in store for us in the morning. This shelter faces west and the wind blew in all night.

Fri. Day 7 This was our first day of not stay close as a group. Everyone seemed to have set their own pace. Joe took off to conquer White Face like he had been shot out of a cannon. I seemed to fall in the middle and Sharon & Dave slowly hiked together. When I reached White Cap there was a short blurb of backpack on the top of the mountain which I believe was Joe. The wind was unbelievable and a heavy mist rolled in. It was a disappointing crossing. Since we had gotten split up I used the TRAIL PHONE to pass messages along to Dave & Sharon and inquiry where Joe was. This seemed to work well and we all were safe. Stopping at the Sidney Tappan Campsite for lunch I waited for a bit wrote a note to Dave & Sharon and moved on. Just as I reached the top of another mountain I heard, "Carol where are you?" Trying to be a good leader I answered up here but I'll come back down. Joining Dave & Sharon for their lunch break I didn't last long and needed to move on. About a 1/2 mile from Carl A. Newhall LT I heard a Moose and then sighted one to my left side coming towards the trail then here comes another. Not knowing what their plans were, I decided to change their plans. Standing very still I blew my whistle and heads went up next my banged my walking sticks together. After making a little more racket the pair decided they would turn around and come back later. Good choice so I hiked on to the shelter. Joe was there in his sleeping bag resting.

Outside a young local had a raging fire burning with sparks flying everywhere. There wasn't any tent sites left around the shelter so I ventured across the stream but they were all taken. Looks like I will be sleeping in the shelter but need to convince this young woman that Granny doesn't want her sleeping to go up in smoke. At night we all had two dog escorts when we visited Mother Nature.

Sat. Day 8 5.5 miles and we are done. We enjoyed the trail which followed old woods road. All of our river fords were nothing because of beaver dams but the Pleasant River was a different story. Time for those sandals and get those tootsies wet. All crossed and were dry when we reached other side. Sharon crossed first reaching the other side she shouted I did it with her poles in the air. This was Sharon's first every backpacking trip and she was a trooper!!

Next year plans are to complete the 30 miles to Munson, Abol Bridge to Katahdin. At the present I am tentative planning to do this part next July.

Thanks to Sharon Logan, Joe Kekacs & Dave Wells for making this a memorable trip.  
Carol A. Langley

**Is there somewhere that you would like to hike but don't want to be the leader? Please contact myself or any of our hike leaders to help you plan your trip!!!!!!**

**JOIN THE CONNECTICUT SECTION OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB**

The Connecticut Section offers a wide range of outdoor activities all year around: Hiking, backpacking, canoeing, snowshoeing and work parties in VT to maintain our section of the Long Trail. Members will receive Trail Talk our section newsletter and The Long Trail News, a quarterly publication of the Green Mountain Club, published four times a year, and discounts on GMC items such as books and shirts, etc.

ANNUAL DUES		NAME: _____
Individual	\$45.00	ADDRESS: _____
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Lifetime Membership	\$1000	E-MAIL: _____

Please make checks payable to the Green Mountain Club. Mail your payment with form to:  
Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd., Waterbury Center, VT. 05677



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