MT. CRESCENT TRAILHEAD TO OPEN
Compiled from information provided by Doug Mayer, John Scarinza and the Community Forest website

As this issue of the newsletter goes to print in May 2014, construction of the new Mt. Crescent Trailhead is about to begin, and it is expected to be open this summer. It will replace the temporary parking lot just below the Jimtown logging road, at the north end of the access road built in 2010. Members are encouraged to come visit when construction is complete, and to learn more about land stewardship and new recreation opportunities in this part of Randolph.

The design and construction of the new trailhead is a project of the Town of Randolph, through its Forest Commission, which is responsible for the 10,000-acre Randolph Community Forest, established in 2002. Significantly for the RMC, the Community Forest includes the entire area between the White Mountain National Forest boundary on the Crescent Range and the privately-owned properties on Randolph Hill, which is crossed by six of the club’s major “hill-side” trails. The new trailhead, also located in the Community Forest, will provide off-road parking, more convenient entry to this part of the trail network, and access for recreation in the forest in all seasons.

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Above: The wildlife opening in the Community Forest, west of the new trailhead, in 2013. R. Meiklejohn photo.

RMC Volunteer Profile
Club member Brian Roberts is a regular participant in the Volunteer Work Trips (see page 5 article).
He spoke with the editor recently:

How did you become a frequent volunteer at the work trips, and why did you keep coming?

My wife, Barbara Cutter, and I discovered Randolph in 2008. Back then we stayed in Bethel, Maine. When we wanted to see some new trails we bought a copy of Randolph Paths and came out here. We were amazed at what we found. Randolph seemed like Brigadoon, a magical place outside of the rat-race of the rest of America, a place that had somehow maintained a real sense of community. Even better, it was a community built around our favorite pastime of hiking. In 2009 we stayed here for our version of summer, June and July, but found that getting involved locally was harder than we had thought,

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Above: Brian Roberts on the Cook Path volunteer work trip in July 2013. R. Dunham photo.

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From the President …

Spring is a season of reflection and renewal, and that time of year when many of us think about the accomplishments of the past, and look forward to new opportunities and projects in the future.

I am always inspired to recognize and acknowledge the dedication and the hard work of our camps and trails crews, our volunteer board of directors and the important contributions and support of all our members. Being your president over the past several years has made me realize the tremendous amount of work that goes on behind the scenes throughout the year, contributing to the success of the club today as it has for over 100 years. To all of you who help make things hum along so seamlessly, and to all our members who make up the fabric of the RMC hiking community, I want to take a moment to share with you a heart-felt thank you.

Members will be glad to hear that our experiment using Bio-Bricks in the wood stove at Gray Knob has been a pleasant success, especially in light of the very cold weather in northern New Hampshire this past winter. We tried Bio-Bricks to supplement our limited wood supply, traditionally harvested near the camps. Besides providing a more consistent fire in the new soapstone stove (greatly mitigating the moisture problems we have been experiencing in the recent past), Bio-Bricks are a wood-based energy source, unlike the alternative of propane, which the board was considering because of the scarcity of wood at tree line. Propane also requires specialized personnel to install and maintain, all at added expense.

We are also pleased to announce that the State of New Hampshire Recreational Trails Program recently awarded the club a grant, in the amount of $19,713.76, for maintenance work on the Four Soldiers and Underhill Paths, which transit the Randolph Community Forest and the White Mountain National Forest at the western end of the Crescent Range. (See Trails report, page 4, and Volunteer Work Trips, page 5.)

I also want to remind folks to check out our website which we are in the process of updating with such features as videos of some of our annual events, meetings and featured guest speakers. (See also page 12.) Our recently formed Communications Committee is working on protocols on how to best inform our members, near and far, of club activities, hikes and other items of importance in a way that is not intrusive in the ever-expanding world of media and electronic communications.

And most importantly, our summer trail crews and caretakers have arrived in Randolph and are already out patrolling the trails, completing annual maintenance tasks at our camps, and preparing for the busy summer and fall of 2014.

In closing I look forward to seeing our summer friends, and hope everyone has a great hiking season.

John
**RMC Summer Social Events**

*by Sarah Gallop and Barb Phinney*

**Friday, July 4:** The annual **RMC Fourth of July Tea** will take place on the opening of a long weekend this year AT A NEW VENUE! Join us at Mark and Katie Kelley’s barn at 98 Randolph Hill Road from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Don’t miss this kick-off of the summer season with punch, iced tea, and delicious baked goods from Becky Boothman. Catch up on the latest RMC news, check out new merchandise, meet the trail and hut crew, and reconnect with old friends. *(More about the tea in the article at right.)*

**Wednesday, August 6:** The summer **RMC Gourmet Dinner** will be held at Libby’s Bistro at 6:00 PM. This is a fun gastronomical evening not to be missed! Many thanks to owner/chef Liz Jackson who continues to extend her generosity and talent in support of the RMC. Reservations must be made — please contact one of the RMC Social Events Co-Chairs *(contact info appears below).*

**Thursday, August 7:** The **RMC Gourmet Hike** will take place on the Pine Mountain ledges. We will meet at Randolph East at 10:00 AM. This is a wonderful community tradition of shared fun, food, and fellowship. Thanks to the Horton Center, a shorter route will be available for those who wish to take it.

**Saturday, August 16:** The **Annual RMC Picnic and Charades** will be held at the Mossy Glen Amphitheater off of Durand Road from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. All are welcome and encouraged to participate. Please bring a picnic lunch and your own cup. Punch will be provided. In the event of rain, the picnic and charades will be moved to the Town Hall.

**A Square Dance to Benefit the RMC** will be held at the Beringers’ barn, Sugar Plum Farm, 232 Randolph Hill Road from 7:30 to 9:30 PM. Come dance and enjoy the music of fiddlers Jacqueline & Dudley Laufman. Many thanks to Marie Beringer for her annual sponsorship of this great event.

Watch for more details about each of these events in the Randolph Weekly during the summer. Would you like to welcome people or pour punch at the Fourth of July Tea — or lead your section of the Charades? If you would like to help out (and we hope you will!), please contact RMC Social Events Co-Chairs: Sarah Gallop seg@mit.edu or Barb Phinney cooper448@me.com

See you this summer!

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**Annual Meeting Notice**

*by Randy Meiklejohn, club secretary*

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Randolph Mountain Club will be held at the Randolph Town Hall on Saturday, August 9th at 7:00 PM. Following a business meeting for officer and committee reports, and for election of new directors and a new president, RMC member **Tad Pfeffer** will present from his new book, *"The Hand of the Small Town Builder: John Boothman and his counterparts in Northern New England"*. Refreshments will be served and the public is welcome to attend.

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Bob Kenyon receives an RMC trail sign in May, from director Barb Phinney. Ben Phinney photo.

**The Fourth of July Tea moves to the Midlands**

Compiled from information provided by S. Gallop, B. Phinney, J. Hudson, and K. & M. Kelley

The Club is pleased to announce that the 2014 Fourth of July Tea will be held at the home of RMC members Mark and Katie Kelley, at 98 Randolph Hill Road; many thanks to the Kelleys for their offer to host this annual tradition at the start of the summer season. *(More about the Kelleys, and their barn, on page 9).*

For the last such move, we have to go back to 1984, when summer residents Bob and Libby Kenyon first welcomed the club to the barn and lawn at Sky Meadow on Randolph Hill. The tea was held at the Kenyons’ for thirty consecutive years, in the familiar comfort of the historic wood barn and with the spectacular view of Mts. Madison and Adams across the meadow. Mrs. Kenyon died in 2010, and Mr. Kenyon, now age 100, received a visit this May from Ben and Barb Phinney at his home in Providence, at which Barb presented to him the club’s tokens of appreciation for his family’s generosity. Mr. Kenyon had made his first visit to Randolph as a teenager, staying at the Ravine House with his parents. He told Ben and Barb that the farmhouse at Sky Meadow had originally stood closer to Randolph Hill Road, and that both his house and the house at Sugar Plum Farm, now Marie Beringer’s, had been moved back at about the same time.

From a longer-term perspective, the move continues the tea’s eastward migration along Randolph Hill Road over a period of over thirty years. *(Continued on page 9)*

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The RMC is looking forward to another busy and productive season of trail work this summer. Our new Field Supervisor, Cheryl Byrne (see box on opposite page), arrived at Stearns Lodge in mid-May and all trail crew members arrived Memorial Day weekend. Following three days of orientation and training, the crew is first completing last year’s projects on the Cliffway and the Link. Work will include additional drainage and erosion control, and will take approximately two weeks. Traditionally the trail crew’s first activity of the season is its spring patrol, which is removing blowdowns and cleaning drainage, but the Cliffway and Link projects are partially funded by a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant from the State of New Hampshire, and as a condition of the grant we must complete the work in early summer. So if you’re hiking your favorite RMC trail the first two weeks of June and come across a blowdown, don’t be alarmed—the crew will get to it the third or fourth week of the month.

Continued on page 5

The northern long-eared bat. U.S. Forest Service photo. (See page 5.)
Continued from previous page

This year’s main project will be erosion control and trail hardening on the Four Soldiers Path and the Underhill Path, funded partially by the State of New Hampshire under its Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Specific projects will include drainage control structures such as rock water bars and ditching, as well as rock steps, staircases, and scree walls to stabilize soils and prevent further erosion. In addition, the crew will build about thirty sets of bog bridges.

Over the longer term, the RMC has been working with the U.S. Forest Service on a proposal to restore several historic viewsheds in the National Forest. The sites we are looking at are White Cliff, King Cliff, Kelton Crag and Dome Rock. Over the years trees have grown in, obstructing the fine views that hikers had enjoyed for many decades. The Club’s proposal is to restore the views through selective removal of the trees. We met with Forest Service staff on March 18, and learned that due to a declining population of the northern long-eared bat, an environmental assessment is required to ensure that the removal of those trees doesn’t have a negative impact on the bat’s habitat. The Forest Service will be conducting the review this year, and we hope to have their decision by fall 2015.

We hope you enjoy our wonderful trail system this season. If you see any trail conditions you feel need looking into, please let us know.

2014 Volunteer Work Trips
by Chris Campbell

Now in its fourth season and under the leadership of Chris Campbell, the RMC volunteer work trips will take place again on four Saturdays in July and August. Please join your fellow club members and other volunteers for basic trail brushing and clearing; bring hand tools such as clippers, loppers, sickles and small saws.

This year we will work on four trails on the north side of Route 2, two of them old and the other two fairly new. The Sargent Path, c. 1902, leads from Durand Rd. to the Ledge Trail at Lookout Ledge. Nearby arrives the Vyron D. Lowe Trail, also from Durand Rd.; this was originally an old way to the Pond of Safety, and it was relocated in the 1980’s and again in 2004-05. Higher up on Mt. Randolph are the Four Soldiers Path and the Underhill Path, both cut in 2002 to re-connect the Randolph trails to the Pond of Safety.

Although the RMC has kept track, in previous years, of the number of volunteers and the miles of trail-brushing accomplished, 2014 will be the first year in which we record the value of our volunteer work. In his Trails report in this issue, George Brown notes an RTP grant the club has received for trail improvements on the Four Soldiers and Underhill Paths. The grant requires that the club make a matching contribution, and our intention is to make the contribution in volunteer labor. We need a good turnout of volunteers, to make a robust work contribution that will match the outside grant! Some of the work on these two trails is expected to consist of blazing (a new skill for our volunteers to learn), as the existing markings need renewal after the trails’ first decade or so of use.

The work trips will start at 9:00 AM on July 19 and 26, and on August 9 and 16 (no work trip on August 2, the Randolph Community Forest Day). For each day’s trail and meet-up location, watch the RMC website and the Weekly, or contact Chris Campbell at (207) 356-1123 or campbell@maine.edu.

Meet the New Field Supervisor, Cheryl Byrne

On my way down the trail off Wheeler Mountain, mid stride and conversation I exclaimed, “I love the smell of the earth! Spring!”

The Northeast Kingdom of Vermont has been my home base since my first job out of college. This past October concluded my sixth season working for the Green Mountain Club.

A life built on the flip-flop of seasonal work affords me the ability to balance the push and pull I like between work and play. Each November for me begins another harvest season of Christmas trees and wreath making. Life begins to settle down after the New Year, and I revel in the transition to snow sports and indoor activities.

My greatest adventure of recent years is the five weeks I spent during the winter of 2013 mountaineering in Patagonia, before my stint of spring caretaking at Gray Knob (exciting to began a year with so many firsts)! The morning after the spring RMC fundraising dinner I was on the trail up to Gray Knob. From that day, I have felt alert to the large and small, quiet and alive budding transitions of the year. They have me anxiously anticipating the upcoming field season!

Above, Cheryl goes airborne in the Green Mts. Courtesy photo.

Top: View from near the top of the Underhill Path. R. Meiklejohn photo. Above, paint blaze on a birch. B. Meiklejohn photo.
Meet the Summer 2014 Camp Caretakers
Adam Fryska, Crag Camp (1st year)
Hannah Marshall, Gray Knob (2nd year)

Adam Fryska hails from Granger, Indiana. He graduated from Indiana University with a Biology degree, then pursued a master's degree at Jagiellonian University (Poland) with a concentration in European Studies. In 2010 he thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail with fellow RMC crew member John Paul Krol, and then entered Vermont Law School. After Adam got his law degree, he thru-hiked the Pacific Crest Trail and then spent the following winter up at Gray Knob. He is thrilled to be working at Crag Camp this coming summer!

Hannah Marshall: I grew up split between southern and northern New Hampshire, going to school in Manchester and making weekly pilgrimages with my family to adventure in the White Mountains. Since graduating from high school, I’ve lived in a few different places, but after spending last year working and traveling, I am pleased to have a more permanent residence in Colorado Springs. For the next two years I will pursue a degree in environmental science and geology at Colorado College. At school I continue to rock climb, hike, and ski as I embrace the opportunity to explore new activities. I’ve recently taken up the crafts of clay wheel throwing, jewelry making, home brewing, and gardening. I am also part of a sustainable housing collective, where I try to live with as much environmental consciousness as I can- a lifestyle that I plan to expand upon this summer at Gray Knob.

Through all of my travels, Randolph remains a consistent home. This summer will be my third season with the club. I am excited to share the splendor of these mountains with guests, to wander our trails, and, with any luck, finish up that RMC 100. I look forward to meeting the club’s members, so stop by the camps and share a sunset!

Below: Hannah on a tower climb near Moab, Utah; Adam on backcountry ski trails near Flagstaff Lake, Maine. HM courtesy photo; AF photo by Ellie Spellman.

Camps Report
By Pete Antos-Ketcham

After a rollercoaster beginning to the winter (what a friend described to me as a “cruel ying-yang”), we finally had a traditional cold and snowy winter at the camps, which made many exciting memories for the caretakers and guests. As spring arrived in the valley in May, a decent snowpack remained at the higher elevations and is likely to stick around into early June. Probably one of the more exciting stories from the winter was the success of our new Woodstock Soapstone stove and the Bio-Bricks at keeping the moisture levels in Gray Knob low. This new system will help prevent interior rot and extend the life of the building. (See the President’s message for more details on page 2.)

Our winter caretakers ended their season in late March. Mike Joe Jones and Adam Fryska had a great winter season and both are now off exploring warmer climes. In spring, the camps were staffed by returning caretaker JP Krol and trail crew alumnus Jordan Cargill. They did a great job preparing the camps for the busy summer months ahead – especially in taking on the thankless task of opening up the semi-frozen composting toilets.

I am pleased to report that the 2014 summer caretakers are seasoned RMC camps veterans. Over at Crag Camp, RMC welcomes back Adam Fryska, returning after his winter at Gray Knob. At Gray Knob we welcome back Hannah Marshall, the 2013 caretaker at Crag. Hannah and Adam will work alongside our new Field Supervisor Cheryl Byrne to complete many important projects around the camps.

In 2014 we will again largely be focused on general maintenance and upkeep of the camps. We will be staining the log structures, replacing damaged windows at Crag, cleaning the Gray Knob chimney, stacking Bio-Bricks, and oiling the floors. A major focus as always will be operating the composting toilets. We hope to expand the work platform at the Gray Knob outhouse, as well as construct new compost drying screens at Crag. Additionally, our caretakers will be performing area trail work, teaching Leave No Trace, and providing great customer service to our guests.

As always, we encourage you to come up and visit the camps, spend a night (or more), meet the caretakers, and experience the splendor of the northern peaks in the summer.

Late afternoon at Lowe’s Path and the Quay, winter 2014. Photo by winter caretaker Mike Joe Jones.
Lead an RMC trip this summer!
By Jeff Bean

As summer begins, the RMC is now preparing the Tuesday and Thursday summer hiking schedule, beginning after July 4th and continuing until Labor Day. This is our first call of the year to members and friends of the RMC to share their knowledge of unique places to go, knowledge of history and/or of the forest or fauna. Hiking is the primary activity but other opportunities to socialize and enjoy the outdoors (such as a canoe trip, water coloring, or bird watching) are welcome possibilities. Generally, Tuesday trips are supposed to be easier, designed for all ages, while more challenging ventures are planned for Thursdays. Please contact Jeff Bean at (203) 565-1597 or jeffbean3@yahoo.com to help us continue this long-standing tradition, and check the RMC website and the Weekly during the summer to learn about trips each week.

Welcome New RMC Members!
Names and locations of new members since Nov. 2013.

Sally Brassill, Gorham NH / Jessica Connolly, Norwood MA / Carolyn Coolidge, Laramie WY
Ben Dodge, Aspen CO / Josie Gage, Medford MA
Chris Garby, Nottingham NH / Eric Greene, W. Greenwich RI / Denis Grieser, E. Setauket NY
Nancy Gwizkowski, Greenville RI / Art Gwozdz, Westford VT / James Huebner, W. Hartford CT
Ari Jackson, Gorham NH / Brooke Libby, Bethel ME
Gretchen Loeffler, Albany NH / John Loscocco, Natick MA / Richard Maynes, Unity NH
William McDonald, Whately MA / Jared McIntire and Sam Martin, Barrington NH / Bob Murray, Scituate MA / Brian Pierce, Concord NH
Philip Preston, Ashland NH / Doug Rogers, Manchester NH / Gwen Selleck, Lyman NH
Amy Tolman, Amherst MA / Keja Valens, Somerville MA / Warren Wagner, Arlington MA
Liz Wyman, Lancaster NH

Renee Dunham, at the Fourth of July Tea in 2013, soliciting leaders for the Tuesday and Thursday trips, sandwich-board style; with Judy Hudson. Jenn Scarinza photo.

Trailhead, continued from page 1

After the construction is complete, two RMC trails, the Mt. Crescent Trail and the Cook Path, will start from the new trailhead rather than from Randolph Hill Road, as described in a preview article in this newsletter in June 2012. The relocations of these two trails were cut by the trail crew in 2013. The Carlton Notch Trail, shown on maps as starting from the Mt. Crescent Trail, can now be entered from either of its road crossings, on the trailhead access road or on the logging road west of the existing parking area and gate.

Look for more news about the trailhead this year on the RMC website, and in the Randolph Weekly and the Mountain View. See also the Randolph Community Forest website: www.randolphforest.org.
Volunteer, continued from page 1

because our summer was ending just as the Randolph social season was starting in August.

In our second summer in Randolph, in 2010, we jumped at any chance to take part in RMC events. We started joining the club hikes. Then we saw an announcement in the Randolph Weekly that we could do volunteer trail work on the Howker Ridge Trail. On the announced day, we dashed over to the Goetze Workshop and met the rest of our volunteer crew. This consisted of one person: regular trail-crew member and that day’s volunteer supervisor Caitlin Johnson. We were the crew. The day turned out to be one of the best ever. We met all of that summer’s RMC trail crew members, Deva Steketee showed us how to make water-bars, and we did some brushing on lower Howker.

Since then I have tried to join all the work days, for several reasons. First, it makes me feel like I’m giving something back to Randolph, something more tangible that the dues and donations. Second, I’ve met great people. Because of the work days I probably know more people in Randolph than I do in my year-round home in Iowa. And finally, the work is pretty easy and there is plenty of time for goofing off and having conversations. Over the years, I’ve learned more and more about the tasks of the regular RMC trail crew. I’m in awe of how hard they work, so the least I can do is show up for five or six days, and do my part to keep the trails in nice condition.

Do you have a favorite tool or technique that you use on the trails?

My favorite tool depends on my mood. When feel sociable I want the loppers. Loppers are great for conversations. I can go into one of my rants about the ubiquitous loud motorcycles, make some point that I think is good, and then snap a branch as a kind of exclamation point. I like the swizzle stick for my more anti-social days. When I’m swizzling, no one dares get within fifteen feet of me. As I swing this terrifying tool my fellow volunteers scatter away like a pack of spruce grouse, gathering the children and dogs for safety. What I lack in effectiveness with the swizzle stick, I make up for in pure frenzy.

My main technique seems to be to get as dirty as possible. The volunteer trail crew is not allowed to use power tools. I happen to think this is a good idea; I’m not coordinated when it comes to power tools. At the same time, this means a lot of the really dirty work is done by hand. I’ve cleared a lot of drainages and made a number of mini water-bars, and all have involved getting incredibly muddy.

What is the most interesting conversation you’ve had on the trail?

One such conversation has to do with a conspiracy theory: I believe Randolphians enjoy talking about the Ice Gulch Path as if it’s the most enjoyable trail in the Whites. Then, of course, they get a kick out of the tales of horror and woe from the people they trick into hiking this maze of blow-downs with dagger-like branches, boulders covered in the world’s slipperiest moss, and weird creatures like the blood-sucking owl I once saw there. To be fair, I don’t know if it sucked blood; I only know I was bleeding from several trail-made wounds by the time I saw it.

All conversations on the trail have an intensity that makes them seem interesting. Once I get home, however, and the post-hike or post-work endorphins kick in, I find I’ve forgotten most of them. On our second work trip, for example, Barbara and I were supposed to clear the Watson Path from the tree-line down to the intersection with the Valley Way. We were working with Caitlin Johnson and Benzo Harris, and I don’t remember what we were talking about, but we became so engrossed in the conversation that we got lost. We turned off Watson without knowing it and brushed almost all of the Brookside. We were right next to Snyder Brook, shouting above the sound of Salamacis Fall, and still thinking we were on Watson. It was only after we had merrily brushed and talked for a couple of hours that we began to think the short section of Watson seemed awfully long.

Planning any hikes to new destinations this summer?

Toward the end of last summer, while I was going through the table litter of various White Mountain maps, I realized I was very close to “red-lining” the RMC map. Aside from snowmobile and ski trails, which I’m not counting, the only ones I have left are those in the Great Gulf. So this summer my plan is to hike these trails: Buttress, Six Husbands, Sphinx, Chandler Brook, Wamsutta, and Great Gulf to Weetamoo Cascade (or past Spaulding Lake and up to Gulfside). I want to hike up Huntington Ravine while I can still make it. For this one I may need a hiking partner, for Barbara says she won’t go on this trail. I’m also determined to hike from Grafton Notch back to Randolph, a four-day hike that requires a squirm through Mahoosuc Notch. This would allow me to claim that I’ve thru-hiked part of the AT. Finally, I’ve been thinking about trying the “old man dash” up to Crag Camp, the one where you try to make it to the camp in under your age in minutes. I’m pretty sure I can’t do it, but still I was inspired by Paul Cormier’s completion of the feat last fall.
Fourth of July Tea, continued from page 3

of some eighty years. As recorded in these excerpts from Judy Hudson’s Peaks & Paths, the tradition of the Fourth of July tea arose in the early decades of the club:

The first written records about the RMC tea date from 1932. On April 24 Louis F. Cutter wrote to John and Edith Boothman:

Apropos of the library, it has occurred to me that it might arouse interest in it if the R.M.C. should have a tea there some afternoon in July or August. The Club, of course, could not pay anything for the use of the building, but I think all other expenses of the tea might be provided for, and that such an arrangement would be for the mutual benefit of the Club and the Town.

There is no evidence that this plan was implemented, but Cutter’s blueprint schedule of RMC summer events for 1932 included “July 4, Monday: Tea at Echobank.” The following year, in her treasurer’s report for 1933, Miss E. E. Jones listed for July 13, 1933: “John Boothman, supplies for 4th July tea, $9.07.” … Since the Boothmans were being paid for supplies, it is probable that the event was moved in 1933 to the lawn and porches of the Mt. Crescent House...

Those of us who were part of the post-World War II era recall that the tea was held on the Mt. Crescent House lawn from 3 PM to 5 PM on the Fourth of July. Catered by the Boothmans, the tea heralded the official arrival of the summer season. Well-dressed members stood around exchanging pleasantries, greeting old friends, and trying to remember names of casual acquaintances. Jack Boothman dispensed lemon sherbet with great showmanship, and elderly hotel guests rocked on the front porch.

Once the hotel had closed and was razed in the fall of 1971, the tea was held on the lawn of the Mt. Crescent Shop, adjacent to the old hotel site, or in the Playhouse. In 1984, when the Shop’s lawn was torn up because of renovations to the house, the tea was moved to Sky Meadow ... Rampant black flies, if not the weather, generally drove the crowd into the barn. Becky Boothman, famous for her lemon squares, mostly continued to cater the event and serve the traditional lemon sherbet.

Katie and Mark Kelley, active members of the Randolph community, have been year-round residents since 1988. Mark is the co-owner of White Mountain Lumber in Berlin, a family business established in 1945; the chairman of the board of trustees of the Androscoggin Valley Hospital, and a member of the Town Forest Commission. Katie supports many non-profit organizations in the region. Construction of their barn was mostly completed by 2006, and it has been a successful venue for many gatherings and events in town ever since. Mark writes:

“This barn started out as a birthday present from Katie to Mark, because we have had a ten-year plan when we moved into the Blacks’ house that has taken us twenty to complete! We have enjoyed two weddings (Eoghan’s and Al Sochard’s), several rowdy game days, some quiet movie nights, local soccer team overnight events, Miss New Hampshire Outstanding Teen Scholarship Program events, a few political events and now we are very excited to host the Tea.”

Thanks again to the Kelleys for their hospitality, and please join them and the RMC at the tea on the Fourth of July.
Diagram view of the RMC-maintained section of the Gulfside Trail, part of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT); in a 3-D model image of the Northern Presidentials from Google Earth. Composite by R. Smith.

ATC, continued from page 12

tireless efforts in supporting the A.T. and its future.” It was a fitting message to close a productive 8-hour meeting.

After the meeting adjourned I took a walk around Occom Pond on the outskirts of Dartmouth College’s campus. Janssen’s words were still fresh in my head, and I felt an immense sense of purpose. It’s not every day that a volunteer such as myself can sit down with a talented committee of men and women, who possess a deep passion for maintaining a trail of great cultural and economic importance, and feel able to make a difference. Clearly, Janssen would beg to differ.

As the RMC representative to the RPC, I work alongside 30 other trail clubs under the direction of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and National Park Service (NPS). The committee meets twice a year, thus our meetings are chock-full of planning, reports, and zealous discussions.

The RMC’s partnership with ATC has already borne fruit. During the summer of 2010, utilizing $16,000.00 of ATC and NPS funding, the club refurbished the Perch shelter with a new floor, sills, roof, and rock foundation wall. Located just below treeline, the Perch offers one of the few camping options for thru-hikers as they traverse the northern ridge, and, after construction was completed, will continue to do so for years to come. Completed four years ago, the project stands as one of RMC’s greatest successes with ATC and underscores the benefits of being an A.T. management club. In a time of shrinking trail budgets and grant funding, our association with ATC could not have been timelier.

With 31 clubs actively maintaining the A.T., each region has its own unique management style—New England being no exception. RPC meetings strengthen the A.T. through the diversity of each club’s stewardship and management practices. So, for example, a club in Virginia can glean valuable advice from a club in New Hampshire and learn from the success and failures each club has had.

Of the 102 miles of trail RMC maintains in the northern Presidentials, 2.2 of those miles are part of the 2,180-mile A.T. The section we manage, the Gulfside Trail from

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<tr>
<td>Camps</td>
<td>42,000</td>
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<td>4,258</td>
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<td>Trails</td>
<td>23,000</td>
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<td>Sales</td>
<td>7,000</td>
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<td>Misc.</td>
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<td>70</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>$132,900</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,524</strong></td>
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<th>EXPENSE</th>
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<td>Camps</td>
<td>48,500</td>
<td>5,949</td>
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<td>Trails</td>
<td>42,496</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>703</td>
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<td>Employee housing</td>
<td>14,023</td>
<td>421</td>
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<td>Communications</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Replace inventory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc.</td>
<td>5,800</td>
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<td>Reserves</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$125,156</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,016</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12,432</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,744</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,508</strong></td>
<td><strong>$(4,635)</strong></td>
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</table>

For further information about the club’s finances, contact the Treasurer at samarjitshankar@yahoo.com.

Edmands Col to AMC’s Madison Spring Hut, is notable in that it is entirely above treeline. The trail itself is durable, mainly free of drainage issues, and rarely requires any form of brushing. The fragile alpine plants that inhabit this area are more at risk than the trail itself. Every hiker that walks on this section has a role to play in maintaining this vulnerable alpine environment, and has the opportunity to educate others beyond RMC’s small section of the trail.

As I finished my walk around Occom Pond, I realized that Janssen’s message was certainly true: Every drainage, every step stone, and every teaching moment shared with a hiker makes a difference.

RMC plans to do trail work on the A.T in the future. Funding is never a sure thing, but yet on and off the trail, every member can make a recognizable difference by supporting RMC’s work in many ways.

As a new trail work season dawns, my heart flutters with excitement to see RMC’s trail crew take to the hills; for axes to be hung and sharpened with precision; and for trails to get the attention they deserve once again. I won’t come close to working all the hours our trail crew will log this year, but knowing that I’m making a difference at every RPC meeting has made me feel closer to the crew and the A.T. than ever before.

Treasurer’s Report – 1st quarter, 2014

By Samarjit Shankar, Treasurer

For further information about the club’s finances, contact the Treasurer at samarjitshankar@yahoo.com.
RMC Merchandise
By Barb Phinney and Michele Cormier

For summer and fall 2014, we offer some perennial favorites and popular new additions to the RMC’s array of merchandise for home and for the trail. Many items will be available at the Fourth of July Tea. Ordering information below.

Top row: Look smart, be smart and stay warm in our popular fleece hat, with RMC embroidered patch. One size fits most. Four handsome colors: red, purple, navy and periwinkle. $20. Window stickers ($1.50) and sew-on patches ($3.00) are the perfect stocking stuffers.

Center: High-quality color reprint of Roy Woodard’s ‘Randolph’ poster takes you back to a vision of King Ravine in 1938. Unframed 12” X 15”, $15. Remember 2013’s spectacular Centennial Picnic and Charades by ordering an 18” x 24” poster (unframed), paying homage to many of the great Randolph thespians. Limited edition – when they’re gone, they’re gone! $15. Everyone loves our new best-selling hot beverage mug with the RMC logo in dreamy colors. $10.

Bottom: Pure and simple - the classic 100% cotton RMC T-shirt, in new colors for summer 2014. $15. Back by popular demand, the long-sleeved performance T-shirt. In COOLMAX® fabric, it features a Tim Sappington drawing on the back, in white graphics on navy blue. Available for sale also at Crag Camp and Gray Knob. $30.

Order merchandise on the website: www.randolphmountainclub.org; click on “Stuff We Sell”. To order by mail, download the printable order form at the website.

For membership also you may use the website, or the form at the bottom of this page; complete it and send with your check in U.S. dollars to Randolph Mountain Club, PO Box 279, Gorham NH 03581

Membership Form

Name: ______________________________________

Please choose:
( ) I am a new member
( ) I am renewing my membership

Please choose:
( ) $30.00 for single membership enclosed (1 year)
( ) $60.00 for family membership enclosed (1 year)

How many adults? _______ Children under 18? ______

( ) I’d like to make an additional donation of $_________.

Postal address and preferred phone number:
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
________________________________________________

E-mail address:
________________________________________________

Check below if you would like to:
( ) Receive the newsletter by e-mail only.
( ) Receive occasional RMC e-mail announcements.

The Randolph Mountain Club is a diverse organization, committed to equal opportunity in employment and program delivery. The Randolph Mountain Club prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political affiliation and familial status.
RMC and the ATC
By Ryan Smith

In 2010, RMC assumed maintenance responsibility for a section of the Appalachian Trail on the Gulfside Trail, and became an organizational member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), as described in this newsletter in 2011. RMC director and former camp caretaker Ryan Smith reports on a recent ATC regional meeting.

On a snowy weekend in March—a day that would make Robert Frost grin from ear to ear—newly appointed Superintendent of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Wendy Janssen wrapped up her first New England Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) meeting in Hanover, N.H., with a few words of inspirational gratitude: “I’m in awe of all the work each trail club completes every year. Please return to your board, staff, and members and thank them for their

Continued on page 10

Website Update: During the Randolph Mountain Club's Centennial Celebration in 2010, Steve Chase and Mark Madison arranged for visiting RMC alumni to be interviewed. Each former caretaker and trail crew member who participated had the opportunity to share his or her experiences and favorite memories. Look for the YouTube video “Reminiscing with RMC Alumni” at the multimedia page, and featuring Bill Arnold, Beth Beringer, Ginger Beringer, Peter Bowers, Steve Chase, Michael Field, Rolf Goetze, Jonathan Gourley and John Tremblay: http://www.randolphmountainclub.org/multimedia/multimedia.html.

Preserve RMC Camps and Trails

Have you included the RMC in your estate plans?

For more information: www.randolphmountainclub.org/preserve