Our burgeoning alumni group of former trails and camps employees is continuing to find ways to support and connect with the greater Randolph community. One effort has been the introduction of our web series “Tales from the Trails”. At the August 23, 2021 premiere, Episode 1 was co-hosted by Doug Mayer and Tad Pfeffer. It focused on the accomplishments of Randolph’s own Chris Goetze (trail crew, 1950s) and his runs across the White Mountains, and on the evolution of trail running. If you missed it, fear not! It can be found on YouTube.

We’re coming back with “Tales” Episode 2, on Sunday, June 26. This time around the topic is Trailbuilding in Patagonia National Park (Argentina), with a slide show and discussion led by RMC alum and current club director Deva Steketee, and Maine-based professional trail builder Jed Talbot. You can join the conversation live, or watch later. We will be sharing the Zoom link closer to the date via RMC’s Facebook and Instagram, as well as via the Randolph Weekly.

We are also continuing to look for ways to support our alumni trail crew and to gather from time to time. If you have questions or want to be added to the email list, you can reach us at randolphmountainclubalumni@gmail.com.

As summer begins, RMC leadership is moving along with our work in a process of strategic planning, with the goal of creating a written plan of action for the next three years or so by the end of August. I wanted to provide an update here on what we are doing, and why, and especially to thank the club’s members and friends who participated in an online survey in April. Your responses were quite overwhelming: a high percentage of members completed the survey, your assessments tell us that you’re mostly happy with what the RMC does and how it does it, you offered ideas about constructive changes for the club, and many of you included free-text comments on the value of the RMC in your personal lives, in the Randolph community and in the world of mountain recreation. To my knowledge this survey is the most extensive information-gathering that the club has ever conducted among its members, and the thoughts and ideas we’ve received will contribute fundamentally to the plan for our future as a volunteer-led membership organization.

In May and early June the board and I are reviewing and discussing your responses to the survey, and preparing for an in-person planning workshop to be held at the Town Hall on June 17 and 18. More data and ideas have also been collected continued on page 8
**Planned Giving:**
RMC Newsletter  
June 2022  
page 3

Randolph Mountain Club 2021-2022  
Officers, Directors,  
committee chairs and honorary members

- President: Randy Meiklejohn, Brookline MA  
- Vice President: John Phinney, Basking Ridge NJ  
- Treasurer: Kathleen Kelley, Randolph NH  
- Secretary: Joel Douglas, RMC Secretary

Other Directors:
- Tom Bruzini, El Cerrito CA  
- Maryka Gillis, Providence RI  
- Chris Hawkins, Randolph NH  
- Carl Herz, North Conway NH  
- Ben Lieberson, Boston MA  
- Jenna Maddock, Boulder CO  
- Deva Steketee, Turner ME  
- Franklin Stone Wenk, Brooklyn NY  
- Ginny Umiker, Randolph NH  
- Wendy Walsh, Randolph NH  
- Howie Wemys, Randolph NH

**Membership:**
Members:  
- Honorary  
- Treasurer  
- Secretary  
- President

The Randolph Mountain Club is a diverse organization, committed to equal opportunity in employment and program delivery. The RMC prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, military status, veteran status, income level, political affiliation and familial status.

Greetings at the beginning of another summer season for the RMC. It’s already been a busy year for the club, partly because we’re “back to normal” (size of our trail crew, welcoming guests at the camps without restrictions) but also because we’re busy working on our future, as we’ve never been hearing from our members since last year. (See the strategic planning article on page 1.) But: is anybody really going back to normal? Maybe better to say: “keep moving forward, and keep what’s best about the RMC as we go.”

That is one way to think about our strategic planning: to keep what’s best, what do we change as we move forward? The presumption is that the world doesn’t hold still, and the environment in which we do the work of the club and look for resources to support it has already been changing all along. The past two years of COVID were conspicuously different, of course, but the work that club leaders do has changed plenty in the past twenty or thirty years. One set of changes in that time has been the development of the RMC’s relationships with, and reliance on, sources of financial support beyond the local community of Randolph. In the experience of a Randolph-based member, this broader base of support might not be apparent, but it’s already a reality, and a success. It’s a success because we’ve done it while keeping the traditional ways and community culture that define the RMC, and this is not just my opinion: members have told us so, in the recent online survey.

To see some of the current structure of our financial support, look at Bob Drescher’s page 4 article about the trails program: there’s local funding from the Community Forest Commission, but more of it from state or national organizations. For our solar projects at Stearns and Gray Knob in 2021, we likewise received outside funding from the NH Charitable Foundation and another NH donor-advised fund; as of this year we have a new source of support in Peter Limmer & Sons. And as we continue to depend on member dues and donations, now there are more members who don’t call Randolph home. Doing the work of the club means maintaining relationships outside Randolph, even as we continue everything we do in the community. That’s the toolkit we’re actually using to operate the club now, and as the strategic planning process holds our focus on what is best about the RMC, it will also let us explore changes in the toolkit that will keep getting the work done.

It’s been a privilege to be President for the second time, over a period starting in 2009 during which I’ve served a total of twelve years on the board while also developing roles in club communications, donor relations and trails protection. As I step off the board in August I hope to continue in these other areas, and I look forward to working with many of you as the RMC continues to move forward.

From the President...

The Randolph Mountain Club is a super fun event that benefits the RMC.

**Summer Social Events**  
by Franklin Wenk and Ginny Umiker

Monday, July 4th: Please come kick off the season at Mark and Katie Kelley’s wonderful yard at 98 Randolph Hill Road at the annual Fourth of July Tea. Join us from 3:00 to 5:00 PM for punch, iced tea and delicious baked goods. Catch up on the latest RMC news, meet this year’s trail crew and caretakers, check out our merchandise, sign up to lead hikes and connect with friends, old and new. Help us bring together all the RMC’s generations and communities at this event.

Friday, July 29: Dinner at Libby’s Bistro at 6:00 PM. A wonderful evening of food, fellowship and fundraising for the club; outdoors under the tents. Space is limited! Payment on the RMC website or delivery of checks ahead of time is strongly encouraged and will save you a wait on line at the event. Sponsorships for RMC camp caretakers and trail crew are gratefully accepted! Please email RMC events co-chairs Franklin or Ginny (contact info below) to RSVP and to hold your spot.

TBD Early August: The RMC Gourmet Hike returns to the Pine Mountain ledges. Meet at Randolph East at 10:00 AM; we will carpool to the Pine Mtn. trailhead on the Pinkham B (Dolly Cpp) Rd. and ascend via the Ledge Trail. Three miles round trip; a shorter ascent from the Horton Center will be available for those who wish to take it. Bring a lunch for yourself or a favorite dish to share.

TBD Mid-August: A Community Picnic, 12:00 noon - 2:00 PM, at the Ravine House Pool. Bring your blanket and picnic and enjoy the camaraderie of an afternoon with other friends of Randolph.

Saturday, August 20th: The 109th RMC Annual Picnic and Charades, 7:00 PM- 2:00 PM at the Ravine House Pool. Bring your own libations and main course to throw on the grill. These events will be our first in-person annual meeting since 2019. Following a business meeting for officer and committee reports, and for election of new directors and a president, our guest speaker will be Adam Lane-Olsen, the new owner of Peter Limmer & Sons (see back page).

**Spontaneous Cookouts**
Meet with fellow Randolphians for cookouts at the Ravine House pool. Grills will be provided; you just bring your own libations and main course to throw on the grill. These events will be weather-dependent. Stay tuned!

Watch the Randolph Weekly for more details about events.

Would you like to help out, by volunteering at the Tea to welcome people or serve punch, leading a section of the Charades, donate a raffle item or sponsoring a trail crew member for the dinner at Libby’s? Please contact Social Events Co-Chairs: Franklin Stone Wenk, (917) 597-1848 or Ginny Umiker, Greenville, SC, ginnyumiker@gmail.com. [Contact info here]

**Annual Meeting Notice**
by Joel Douglas, RMC Secretary

The Annual Meeting of the Randolph Mountain Club will be held at the Town Hall on Saturday, August 13, 2022 at 7:00 PM. This will be our first in-person annual meeting since 2019.

Members at the August 2021 picnic, held at the Ravine House pool pavilion, bullied betting on “Mossy Glen in 2022.” Jess Scarnica photo.

In the community: ‘Porches of Randolph’
by Roze Dempster

Join the inaugural season of this new summer tradition: outdoor gatherings on porches and lawns in July and August. Guest numbers are limited, so sign up in advance. Your donation will benefit three community organizations: the Randolph Foundation, the Randolph Library and the RMC. PM: www.porchesofrandolph.org

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Saturday, August 20th: The 109th RMC Annual Picnic and Charades, 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Mossy Glen Amphitheater off of Durand Road. Bring a picnic lunch and your very own cup; punch provided. Rides up to Mossy Glen are available. In the event of rain, the festivities will be moved to the Randolph Town Municipal Bldg., Pinkham “B” Road.

Saturday, August 20th: We are hoping to hold a Square Dance in the Beringers’ barn at Sugar Plum Farm, 223 Randolph Hill Road, from 7:30 to 9:30 PM, BUT will have to assess the COVID conditions nearer the time. Stay tuned for updates in the Weekly. Many thanks to Marie Beringer and the Beringer family for their ongoing sponsorship; your additional donations are gratefully accepted, to cover the cost of this super fun event that benefits the RMC.

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Typically the trail crew spends approximately 320 hours in training; they will log between 640-800 hours clearing blowdowns during patrols, at a cost varying from $15.00 to $20,000. This sum is largely met by membership dues and donations from individuals, families and organizations. The Club also funds small projects on individual trails and the Fall Crew. Starting in 2021, a generous RMC member family has underwritten the Fall Crew’s expenses.

The major trail projects that we work on each year are primarily supported by grants from our partner agencies and organizations. Preparing for a trails project, writing the grant application, final accounting and invoicing in order to receive reimbursement demands over 300 volunteer hours from the Trails Committee and Treasurer annually. This is especially true if Federal dollars are involved (most of the time!).

The NH Recreational Trails Program (RTP) has been our major funding source for many years. Most recent projects have supported the Ice Gulch/Cook Paths in 2020 at a cost of $17,000; the Sylvan Way in 2021 ($11,000). For each grant awarded, the RTP requires a 20% match—an expense that is covered by our volunteer trail workers, hours that have reached more than 200, and a $5,600 match for those projects.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), our partner for the RMC’s Gulfside Trail section of the AT, has awarded us two grants for re-pairing and improving this trail above treeline—$12,200 in 2021 and $22,700 for 2022. The National Park Service (NPS), the formal funding source for this work, also loaned us specialized rigging equipment and tools needed for these alpine-zone projects.

The trails program is the RMC’s newest adopter of greener technology, following the 2021 “solar projects” for the installation of a new rooftop photovoltaic array at Stearns Lodge, and a replacement of the array at Gray Knob. Above are catalog photos of the two 16-inch battery-powered chainsaws purchased this spring. Although they will not completely eliminate the use of gas-powered saws, they will have many uses, for example on medium-sized blowdowns, bog bridge stringer cutting, and limbing for viewshed clearing. The batteries can even be charged up at Gray Knob from the new solar array, and are interchangeable with the batteries of the Milwaukee hammer drill lent by the National Park Service for the crew’s use on the Gulfside project in 2021 and 2022.

Special thanks to member Edith Tucker for her generous donation to support this step forward in sustainability.
Report from the Camps
by Carl Herz

This past winter was gentle on the camps and staff this year, with mild temperatures and below-average snow totals. Visitation was also below average, likely in part due to the prevalence of the Omicron variant in mid-winter. Staff reported only having a single guest for four straight weeks at one point in February. Caretakers Jim Baum and Rowan Kamman provided detailed trail information for our weekly trail conditions reports on social media, and daily weather and snow plot observations for the Mt. Washington Avalanche Center and NWS. The new photovoltaic system has proven far more efficient, with guests and caretakers alike enjoying the warm glow of the new pull chain lamps. The system can also support tool batteries in addition to radio batteries, so we are excited to explore portable tool platforms which will make future projects far more efficient at the camps. (See chainsaws p. 5 - ed.)

Spring threw a curveball when an unforeseeable caretaker vacancy presented itself on short notice. Reuben Morris of the 2021 trail crew was already on the scene as our shoulder season caretaker, and he stepped up with eagerness to take on several extended shifts. Camps committee member Adam Ritchie and former field supervisor Justin Taylor filled in all the remaining gaps, lending much needed support to a challenging season. Adam brought the resourcefulness and hard work of his experience as a craftsman to better the visitor experience, and Justin reported valuable observations thanks to his tremendous experience at the camps. Meanwhile, spring saw a large uptick in visitors as temperatures in the valley warmed and Omicron receded. We were able to reopen Gray Knob and Crag Camp to full capacity in mid-April, which for now marks an end to all COVID-related occupancy restrictions.

For the summer, we are thrilled to welcome back Andi Smith for her third consecutive caretaking season. She will finally be able to explore portable tool platforms which will make future projects far more efficient, with guests and caretakers alike enjoying the warm glow of the new pull chain lamps. The system can also support tool batteries in addition to radio batteries, so we are excited to explore portable tool platforms which will make future projects far more efficient at the camps. (See chainsaws p. 5 - ed.)

Meet the spring & summer Camp Caretakers
by Renée Koma, Andi Smith and Reuben Morris

I’m Reuben, hailing from New Jersey. I have one year of summer and fall crew under my belt, and I’m looking forward to being up on the knob to see the seasons change.

I’m Andi and this will be my third year with the RMC. In the off season I’m a student at Emerson College in Boston, studying creative writing and history. I’m most looking forward to having guests at the camps for the first time!

Renée hails from Haverford, Pennsylvania (and believes that it’s a hoagie, not a sub). She became a White Mountain addict while watching some wick- ed weather come over the Presidentials this summer.

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through a separate survey of the club’s fifteen current directors, and through telephone interviews with other individuals in Randolph and the North Country who are knowledgeable about the club, but who aren’t part of its current leadership (or even, some of them, members). At the planning workshop the RMC directors will be joined by about ten other club stakeholders, including past directors, key volunteers not currently on the board, and past and present employees from the trail crew and the camps. Thanks to all of those who are sharing their time and their ideas with the club through this process; as you can see, it’s a lot of people and there is a lot of information to work with. Guiding us through it all is our professional planning facilitator, Courtney Wringley of CJW Consulting, based in North Conway. When I wrote to members on February 20 about the upcoming strategic planning, we were just engaging Courtney and starting to plan the work to be done over the next six months. Given that the lead-up to summer is a busy time for the RMC every year, with the hiring of seasonal employees, opening of Stearns Lodge, and scheduling of hikes, work trips and events, it has been extremely helpful to have a professional planner at our side, keeping us on track, crunching the data and bringing a fresh perspective to familiar challenges and issues. Thanks especially to the directors who have joined me in a strategic planning subcommittee for week-to-week work with Courtney over this period: John Phinney, Kathleen Kelley, and Carl Herz. In the silver-linings department I just want to note that this committee and Courtney could not possibly have worked so frequently and so productively had we not all spent the preceding two years getting really, really good at online meetings via Zoom. In my February 20 letter, which was part of the annual membership dues mailing and budget report, I shared some of the challenges and questions that the directors and I had identified at the start of the planning process: What are our future challenges? Part of the strategic planning will be to identify these better, but in the notes [in this letter] about 2021, you can see the resources needed for what we do: money and volunteer time. Should we have a different approach to attracting these resources? If volunteer time becomes scarce, could we use more money to accomplish our work? Do we have the right organizational structure and leadership roles for operating what we have built? What could we learn from other non-profit organizations that do as much for the public as we do? What do our members want the club to be in the future, and together how can they help us get there? Below, the survey’s question #6, with a condensed version of the member responses overall, and some of the actual long-form comments.

Q6: What value or contribution does the RMC bring to the Northern Presidentsials and surrounding area?

Themed comments and representative quotes:
- Maintaining a unique, special trail network
- Providing authentic, affordable camps and shelters
- Stewarding recreation opportunities and the rugged environment of the northern Presidentsials
- Grassroots organization strongly connected to the town of Randolph bringing people together for community building and social events
- Strong sense of history and traditions through trails, camps, stewardship, community and individual connections
- Smaller, focused, hiking club and culture in contrast to Appalachian Mountain Club
- “Well organized grass roots club that knows how to maintain trails, and provides good shelter options.”
- “Great trails, trail maintenance and maps as well as excellent cabins and shelters that are comfortable, affordable and accessible.”
- “Evidence of resident commitment to the preservation and appreciation of the natural environment.”
- “A sense of community and tradition that melds both seasonal and permanent residents. A living demonstration of the opportunities for community-based conservation and stewardship.”
- “The RMC works as a bridge from the past to the future in ensuring the Northern Presidentsials and surrounding areas are enjoyed in perpetuity.”
- “Superior trail maintenance, vision and stewardship for the Northern Presidentsials. Expertise and knowledge of the trails and area. A sense of community that is close-knit and authentic.”
- “RMC maintains a vital resource, the trails and camps that are a treasured part of my trips to the Northern Presidentsials.”
Volunteer Work Trips for 2022

by Wendy Walsh

If you’ve been waiting for us to schedule volunteer work on a trail that’s really easy to get to, then 2022 is your year! The Diagonal is one of the connecting trails with Stearns Lodge, and we will schedule a trip.

Think trail work is not for you? Come and check it out… clipping branches, keeping trails clear, blazing trees, and having fun. First-time volunteers welcome. This year we will be offering both shorter work trips from 9:00AM ‘til noon as well as our regular work trips on some Saturdays and Wednesdays in July and August.

Please check out the RMC website and Facebook page for the schedule. All trips start at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

Net:

YTD 04/30/2022: $16,276 17,427 (3,398) (1,739) (3,087) 1,000 26,479 13,346

At Stearns Lodge, electricity consumption was higher in Dec.-Feb. because of the heat pumps which have mostly replaced the use of gas for heating. By March however we were already generating more energy than we were using.

Trail grant revenue will be higher than expected this year due to the extraordinary advocacy of the Trails Committee. They were able to increase the labor rates accepted by the Appalachian Lakeside Advisors, who is already providing accounting services to the club. We will be deploying more technology to make the accounting and payroll process timely and efficient.

The first quarter is going smoothly, according to the board-approved budget for 2022; revenue from membership renewal and camps is higher than usual for this time of year. Voluntary donations are a bit lower than in 2021, as expected. Our bookkeeper of two years retired, and we have sent out a request for proposals. From the three firms who submitted we have selected Lancaster-based Cohos Advisors, who is already providing accounting services to the club. We will be deploying more technology to make the accounting and payroll process timely and efficient.

Welcome new RMC members!

by Joel Douglas, RMC Secretary

Joined Nov. 2021 - April 2022

Bennett Edgar, Falmouth MA
Jacqueline Finstyk, Somerville MA
Nancy Francis, Campton NH
William Gambell, Camden ME
John Gambell, New Haven CT
Alexander Getraer, Somerville MA
Caroline Girard, Montreal QC
Steven Glazer, Thetford Center VT
Jonathan Gregory, Windsor CT
Eric Hansen, Uncasville CT
Jason Hoyle, Wilder VT
Andrea Hrynychuk, Stratham NH
Don Ingersoll, Lebanon NH
Keith Kastelec, Portland ME
Benjamin Keller, Scarborough ME
Alyssa Kessler, Gifford NH
Declan Kiley, North Woodstock NH
Carolyn King, Lenox MA

You’ll look great and be up to date in your RMC cotton tee in one of our four new colors for 2022; from left, Aqua, Cardinal, Columbia Blue and Burnt Orange. On the front, our classic logo; on the back, a drawing of bog bridges on the Four Soldiers Path by long-time member Tim Sappington, and a drawing of stone steps built by our trail crew.

RMC 100 Finishers

... latest in a series ...

Lauren and Rob Gilgen of Bethlehem, New Hampshire started the RMC 100 this year on September, 27, 2014 on the Ledge Trail, and completed it on August 3, 2021 on the Castle Ravine Trail. Here, she’s on Howker Ridge, he’s on the Castle Trail. Learn about the RMC 100 and download a logbook: www.randolphmountainclub.org/trailsinfo/hikerslogbook.html

RMC Newsletter

June 2022

Treasurer’s Report

by Kathleen Kelley

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Peter Limmer & Sons and the RMC

by Randy Meiklejohn

At this year’s Annual Meeting we will be delighted to welcome as our guest speaker Adam Lane-Olsen, the new owner of Peter Limmer & Sons in Intervale NH, and hear how this former boot-making apprentice is now leading his renowned company into the future. Limmer boots are esteemed by hikers around the world, and also by many RMC members. Join me in showing some love for Limmer: wear or bring your own boots to the Annual Meeting!

There is much for us to learn about the past, present and future of this legacy outdoor business that has been rooted in the White Mountains for over a century, just like our club. Adam will also speak about the new partnership with the Randolph Mountain Club that he announced on Earth Day, April 22. Peter Limmer & Sons has joined “One Percent for the Planet”, the global network of businesses that each give 1% of their sales to a non-profit environmental organization, and he has designated the RMC as the recipient. As this newsletter goes to print in May, the club and the company are starting to get acquainted and to exchange information and ideas, and by August we’ll have more to share with members.

www.onepercentfortheplanet.org
www.limmerboots.com