



Northern Frontier Section *of the* Green Mountain Club

Section Newsletter

June 2015

President's Report

It was great to see many of you at our Annual Meeting in Montgomery at the end of May. I want to thank everybody for your volunteer work that you do. Everything that you are able to do for the Green Mountain Club and Northern Frontier Section is important, whether it is maintaining trails or shelters, or leading hiking events. Thank you for being a member and supporting the club and our section so the great work can continue to get done.

I am very sad to report the passing of long-time member Don Hill who founded our section with Rolf Anderson. Don was a dear friend to many in the Green Mountain Club. For many years I have always referred to Don as my trail guru as I leaned so much from this amazing man about not only trail work but dedication and a real love of the volunteer work that he did. He has received every award that the GMC has to offer including the dedication of the GMC Annual Meeting sponsored a few years ago by the Northern Frontier Section and the Northeast Kingdom Section held at Jay Peak. One of the hikes that we are planning this year is the 1st Annual Don Hill Memorial/Celebration Hike that we will do with the Laraway Section, another section that Don was connected to. Please read the article that was written in the St. Albans Messenger about Don which is included in this newsletter.

Jane

Annual Meeting Notes

The Northern Frontier Section Annual Meeting was held on Sunday May 31, 2015 at *The Inn* in Montgomery Center. There was a good turnout of Section members and the section now has a renewed sense of activity.

Section Officers Election: All current officers were re-elected for another term except David Burns was nominated and elected as vice president. Section officers and their contact information are listed on the back page.

Trail and Shelter Report: Ferdinand Lauffer was not in attendance at the meeting but information from other section members was reported. After many years of tireless work Ferdinand will be giving up his shelter maintenance work but will continue his trail work. This means that the Shooting Star Shelter and Tilloston Shelter need shelter adopters as well as Laura Woodward. Russ Ford will check on Laura Woodward Shelter this year. Ken and Jane Whitehead have already cleaned up Jay Camp and reblazed part of the northern loop. Kip has conducted trail work from Rte. 242 to the Summit of Jay Peak. Ken and Walter will be working on the section of trail from Rte 242 to Hazen's Notch in the near future. Rolf will repair the roof on the Atlas Shelter this summer. Rolf has also adopted the Forester's Trail and the Post Trail. Some reblazing still needs to be completed south of Laura Woodward Shelter. Randonnée Aventure from Montreal may want to give up responsibility for the section of trail from Eden to Hazen's Notch.

Treasurer's Report: Walter Pomroy reported that it was a quiet year for the section. The last membership count was in the high 60's, about the same as previous years.

Board of Directors Report: Walter reported from the Board of Directors meeting that the Winooski River Bridge project is complete, at a total cost of 3 – 4 million dollars. As part of the trail relocation associated with the bridge, two new shelters will open in the Bolton area. This represents a major milestone for the Club. The GMC also has a new Executive Director, Mike DeBonis. The GMC is also going to accept responsibility for the section of the Appalachian Trail in Vermont that goes from Sherburne Pass to the New Hampshire border.

Website: Rolf will continue to sponsor the website for the Section.

Secretary: Unfortunately our section did not publish a newsletter last year. Kip will forward this year's newsletter to Rolf for mailing and to include on the website.

New Business

The Section would like to host the Taylor Series again this year. If you have any suggestions for speakers and/or topics please call Jane Williams. The Club is asking each Section to participate in the first **Trail Magic Day in the Green Mountains** on August 8th. The Section has decided to sponsor an event at Jay Pass on Rte 242. This event will provide information, company, and refreshments to thru and day hikers in the area. Melissa will order a banner to use at the site and several section members have volunteered to assist, as listed below:

<u>Volunteers</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Other Support</u>
Walter Pomeroy	Jay Peak	
Ken and Sharon Whitehead	Rte. 242	Cookies
Melissa Haberman	Rte. 242	Banner
David Burns	Rte. 242	
Kip Potter	Either location	Cookies and water
Sandy Bullman	Rte. 242	Cookies
Jane Williams	On vacation	will get brochures, etc.

Upcoming Events

July 18, Saturday, Short Hike and Potluck Dinner

Ken and Sharon Whitehead will host an easy hike and potluck dinner at their house in Montgomery. The hike will start at 3 PM on an abandoned road through the woods, about 2 hrs roundtrip. The potluck dinner will start 5 PM, a grill will be available. Call Ken or Sharon at 802-933-5352 for further information and to RSVP.

July 25, Saturday to July 26th, Sunday – Overnight Hike

Meet at 3 PM at the Frank Post Trail. We will stay at Tilloston Camp for the night, then hike to Belvidere Mountain and fire tower in the morning. We will hike back to the cars on the Forester's Trail. Contact Remi Gratton at remigratton@gmail.com or call at 802-309-5801 for further information and to RSVP.

Aug 2, Sunday, - Hike Stowe Pinnacle

This is a moderate hike with a total distance of 2.8 miles (about 2 hours) with a vertical rise of 1,520 ft. Call Ken about meeting arrangements or with any questions, 802-933-5352.

August 8, Saturday – Trail Magic Day in the Green Mountains

Meet at Jay Pass on Rte. 242 from 9 am to 4 pm. Volunteers for this event will provide information, company, and refreshments to thru and day hikers. We will pass out information, educate hikers and hopefully recruit a few new members. Trash bags will be available for hikers to use. Please come and join the fun at the Rte. 242 parking lot or up on the summit. Call Dave or Melissa at 802-326-6003 or email Dave at davidbrule@gmail.com for further information.

August 17, Monday – Hike or Drive to Upper Parking Lot on Mt. Mansfield

Hike or drive to the chapel for a discussion of St. Francis/St. Claire and what we are doing/being. Stay for supper at the Green Mountain Inn/The Whip where a veggie meal is possible. For more information call Dave and Louise Ransom at 802-644-8144 or email at spoons@sover.net.

September ?? - 1st First Annual Don Hill Memorial/Celebration Hike

Hike to Spruce Ledge Shelter which is dedicated to Don Hill. This hike will be in conjunction with the Laraway Section. The date has not been determined and a postcard will be mailed to our Section members announcing the hike which is about 6 miles round trip.

September 27, Saturday – Laraway Mountain Foliage Hike

Hike Laraway Mountain from Coddington Hollow Road to Laraway Lookout. This is a moderate hike and is a distance of about 4 miles round trip with impressive cliffs and a lovely lookout. Contact Jane Williams for meeting place and time at 802-827-3879 or email at janeWilliams@surfglobal.net.

Northern Frontier Section Officers

President – Jane Williams (802-827-3879)

Vice-President – David Burns (802-326-6003)

Treasurer – Walter Pomroy (walter@pomroycpa.com)

Regional Trail Coordinator – Ferdinand Lauffer (802-933-4252)

Secretary and Newsletter Editor – Kip Potter (802-868-3125)

GMC Board Member – Walter Pomroy (walter@pomroycpa.com)

Website Coordinator – Rolf Anderson (rolfanderson@hazensnotch.org)

Don Hill, 87, Outdoorsman, Poet has Died

Swanton- Don Hill, 87, died Jan.1. The soft-spoken environmentalist and poet, a printer by trade, was a more than 50 year member of the Green Mountain Club and a tireless worker for preservation and improvements to the Long Trail.

Mr. Hill was well known as a model for man's responsible presence within the wilderness and as such was the subject of a short film, "Don Hill and the Long Trail." The film was shown at a Swanton Historical Society gathering where he was honored in March, 2013.

Hill, who had many friends in the outdoor community, will be remembered for his writings in a book of poetry, "45th Parallel," published in 2010 and for the more than 2,000 signs he crafted over the years to assist hikers. Many of those were placed and still remain within his most familiar part of the Long Trail – from Hazen's Notch in Vermont to Journey's End at the Canadian border.

Family members, including his wife, Pixley Tyler Hill, survive Don.

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