



## Northern Frontier Section of the GMC Summer/Fall 2023 Newsletter

Summer Greetings Everyone!

Our hiking and trail work season has begun and I hope you're able to get out on the trail, on the water, or a bike path this summer. So far we've had an interesting mix of dry weather, wet weather and smoke from Canada. It looks like we'll need to be flexible this year as we plan our work days and outings. The Northern Frontier Section is leading a variety of group hikes and outings this season, so we'll hope for good days ahead.

We had a successful annual section meeting/potluck on May 21st, with 20 of us attending. We heard about and discussed work that's been done on our section so far this season and work that needs to be done. We also voted to keep all our officers in place for the following year. Many thanks to all who attended and shared their good food and company. Thanks Jeff Miller for being our grill master; we all had a good evening!

Due to good weather this spring, volunteer trail and shelter adopters have mostly completed walk through hikes and shelter visits on our LT section. They've cleared blow downs, clipped brush, cleaned water bars on trails and performed maintenance on shelters and privies. During this season, we'll reblaze: part of the LT from Rt. 242 to Jay Peak; part of the LT north from Jay Peak; the side trail to the water source at Shooting Star Shelter. We'll also work with GMC staff to rebuild a privy crib at Laura Woodward Shelter.

On June 17th, the Green Mountain Club had its annual meeting (in person) at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center in Craftsbury, VT. It was a one-day meeting in the assembly hall and several of us from the NFS attended. GMC staff and officers gave excellent talks and presentations, including one on LT corridor protection and monitoring. I was on a question/answer panel along with two other section leaders from northern VT. Bruce Bushey (Laraway Section), Kevin Hudnell (Sterling Section) and I answered questions about our experience and issues as leaders of small GMC sections here in the north. Among our issues are our smaller number of members and volunteers to accomplish our section work on the LT and maintaining our section's organization. A highlight of the meeting was when our former US Senator, Patrick Leahy, was presented a lifetime membership in the GMC in appreciation for his legislative assistance to protect the Long Trail! Afterward we all enjoyed a catered lunch and visits with folks from other sections. The scheduled hikes and outings in the afternoon were mostly canceled due to thunderstorms.



The NFS scheduled five snowshoe hikes last winter, which were mostly well attended. Jane Williams led a hike on Rt.108 (closed to auto traffic during winter) through Smugglers Notch with 3 hikers. The Whiteheads hosted a potluck/hike at their home with 10 hikers. Four of us hiked up Bald Mountain (in the NEK) to the cabin and fire tower. Jeff and Cathy Miller led a hike on the Jay Recreational Trails with 7 hikers. Seven of us hiked on the Canyon Road Trails near Jeffersonville and enjoyed lunch afterward at Martell's Restaurant. Only one of the hikes had to be rescheduled due to bad weather. We all enjoyed each other's company as well as the challenge and beauty of hiking in the winter!

Long Trail Day will be on Saturday August 19th this year. As we've done in previous years, our section will set up a table (under a canopy) at Jay Pass (Rt. 242) to greet hikers as they cross the highway on the LT. We'll give them GMC info, snacks, and water. We'll also give them a chance to sign up for email info from the NFS. Six volunteers will occupy our table in three 2 hour shifts, with two volunteers on each shift from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Like last year, the GMC has created a Long Trail Day fundraising platform on its website, which is organized into fundraising "teams." Walter Pomroy recently started a "Northern Frontier Team" on the website. If you are interested in giving a donation, go to [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org), click Donate, then Long Trail Day 2023, then Join a Team, then Search for a Team and join the "Northern Frontier Team" with your contribution. The GMC is working to close a deficit this year and your donation of any size is greatly appreciated!

There is a proposed ski area chairlift in the planning stage, to be built between Smugglers Notch Resort's Sterling Mtn. and Stowe Mtn. Resort's Spruce Peak. The chairlift will definitely impact the Long Trail. The GMC is reviewing the proposal, but doesn't have a formal statement in response yet. If you would like to express your opinion, contact [gmc@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:gmc@greenmountainclub.org)

Just a reminder to all volunteers who work on trails and shelters: After you do your work, submit a volunteer work report by going to [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org) and click on Volunteer, then Volunteer Report and type in your information. When you submit your report you immediately receive an email copy of it from the club. Please share that copy on email with our NFS Trails and Shelters officers and with me. It really helps if we all know what's being done on the trail. Many many thanks to the volunteers who work on the NFS trails and shelters. The hard work that each of you do is greatly appreciated!

We give special thanks to Howard Van Benthuyzen who just completed a very productive term as President of the Green Mountain Club. He used his expertise and love of the Long Trail to make long lasting improvements to both the GMC and the LT, especially during the difficult Covid years! We look forward to seeing him on the trail or at the shelters he adopts. Thanks Howard!

I wish you good hiking and good health this season and hope to see you on our outings and on the trail.

All the Best,  
Ken Whitehead - President NFS

## 2023 Outings

Saturday July 8	Hike and Potluck at the Whitehead's. Easy hike to be announced. Bring a dish to share! Contact Ken at <a href="mailto:kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com">kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com</a> or 802-933-5352
Thursday July 20	Work Day reblazing LT Rt. 242 to Jay Peak. Contact Ken at <a href="mailto:kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com">kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com</a> or 802-933-5352
Saturday July 29	Hike Mt. Elmore and swim afterwards if you like in Lake Elmore. Moderate hike, 1470 ft ascent, 3.4 mi. Round trip. Contact Brooks at <a href="mailto:brooks24@gmail.com">brooks24@gmail.com</a> or 802-285-2217
Saturday August 12	Paddle your canoe or kayak with us on Green River Reservoir. Contact Ken at <a href="mailto:kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com">kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com</a> or 802-933-5352
Saturday August 19	Long Trail Day. Trail Magic table at Jay Pass (Rt. 242). To volunteer contact Ken at <a href="mailto:kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com">kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com</a> or 802-933-5352
Saturday August 26	Hike from Rt.105 to Journey's End and back. Moderate hike, 5.2 miles round trip, Contact Jeff and Cathy at <a href="mailto:mill48@comcast.net">mill48@comcast.net</a> or 802-528-6785
Saturday September 9	Hike the Jay Rec. Area Trails with the Northeast Kingdom Section (and the NFS) and have a Bring Your Own Barbecue meal afterward. Easy hike. Contact Ken at <a href="mailto:kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com">kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com</a> or 802-933-5352
Saturday September 23	Hike Mt. Pisgah (near Lake Willoughby). Moderate hike, 1530 ft. ascent, about 4 miles with great views. Contact Byron at <a href="mailto:edennotch@gmail.com">edennotch@gmail.com</a> or 802-744-0404
Saturday October 7	Bike Ride on Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. Johnson to Morrisville and back. About 15 miles. Contact Melissa at <a href="mailto:melissa.haberman1@gmail.com">melissa.haberman1@gmail.com</a> or 802-326-6003
Saturday October 21	Hike Brewster River and Canyon Road Trails near Jeffersonville. Easy hike and lunch afterward at Martell's (at the Red Fox). Contact Ken at <a href="mailto:kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com">kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com</a> or 802-933-5352

## **GMC Board Meeting Notes by Kip Potter**

- The staff worked hard to close the budget gap (\$45,000) for the fiscal year that ended in April 2023. However the GMC ended with a deficit for the first time in 9 years. The economic challenges will certainly continue for the next few years, but with a solid base, bolstered by the very successful Long Trail Legacy Campaign, the Club's work will continue strong and we will be able to weather the challenges.
- The FY24 budget has been approved for 2.54 million. This includes some reductions based on the current fiscal conditions. It does still include three field crews for the summer.
- Efforts to replace the old Herrick building are continuing on schedule and on budget.
- The new draft Strategic Plan for the Club will be brought to the Board meeting in September for approval as the draft Code of Conduct.
- One priority for the summer is Long Trail day which will be held on August 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The current list of officers was voted back in, with Nancy McClellan elected as president. Election of a new vice president was postponed.

### **NFS Officers:**

President: Ken Whitehead 802-933-5352

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Northern Frontier Website

[www.gmcnorthernfrontier.org](http://www.gmcnorthernfrontier.org)